

**12th September
Edinburgh**

**OXYMORONS: DEVOLUTION
& EXCELLENCE IN A
VACUUM**

NORTHERN IRELAND 2018

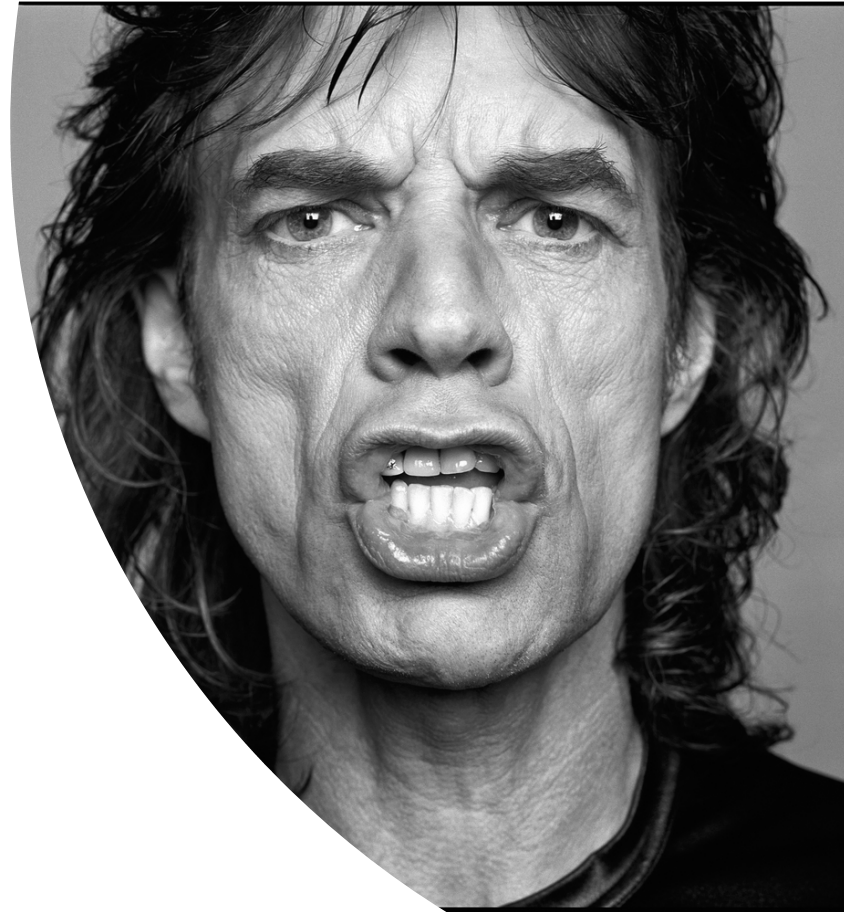


Derek McCallan, NILGA Chief Executive

the voice of local government

**YOU CAN'T
ALWAYS GET
WHAT YOU WANT**

**LOCAL COUNCILS IN
NORTHERN IRELAND –
THE BEGGAR'S
BANQUET?**



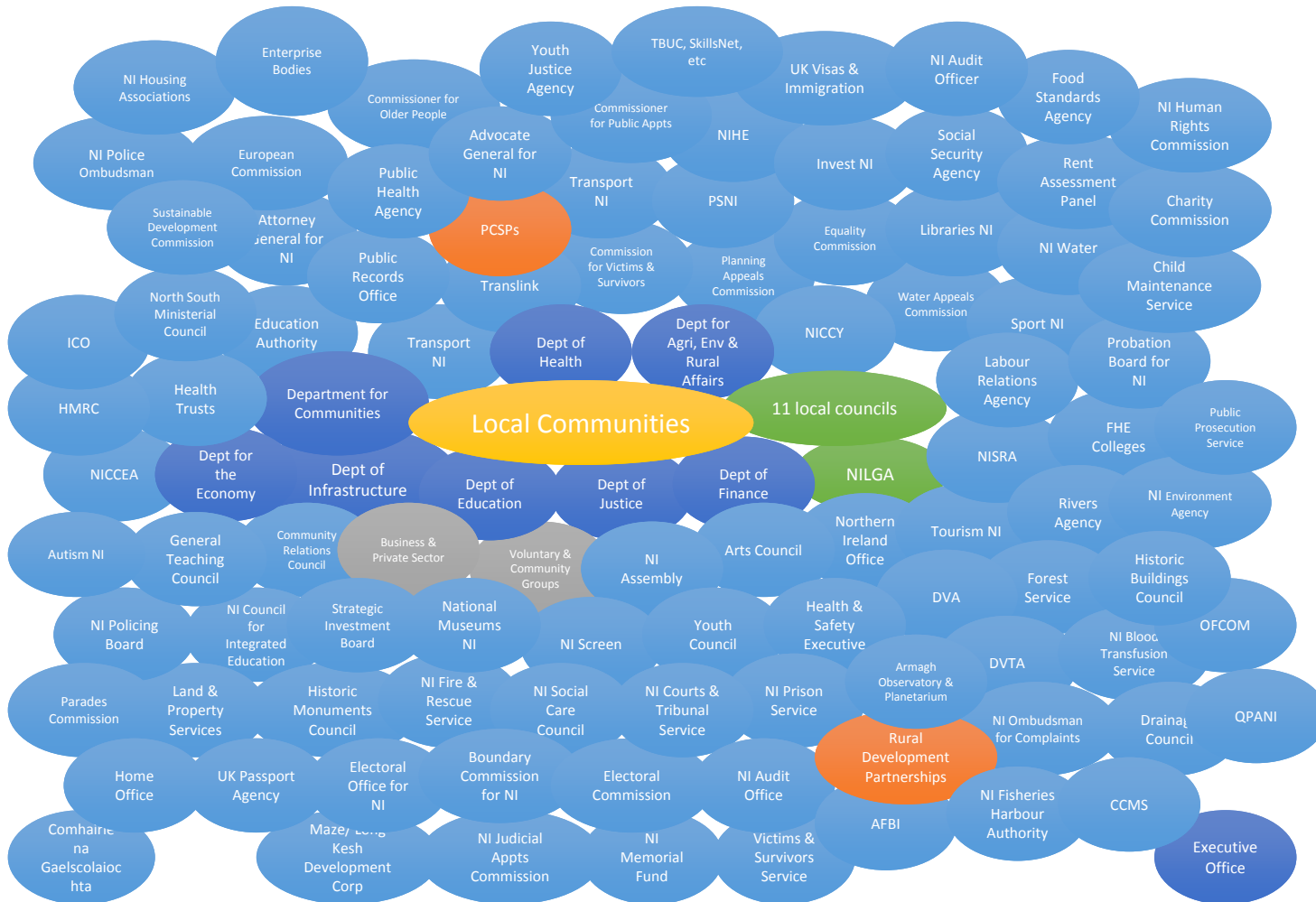
All (Quite) New, All (Mainly) Working



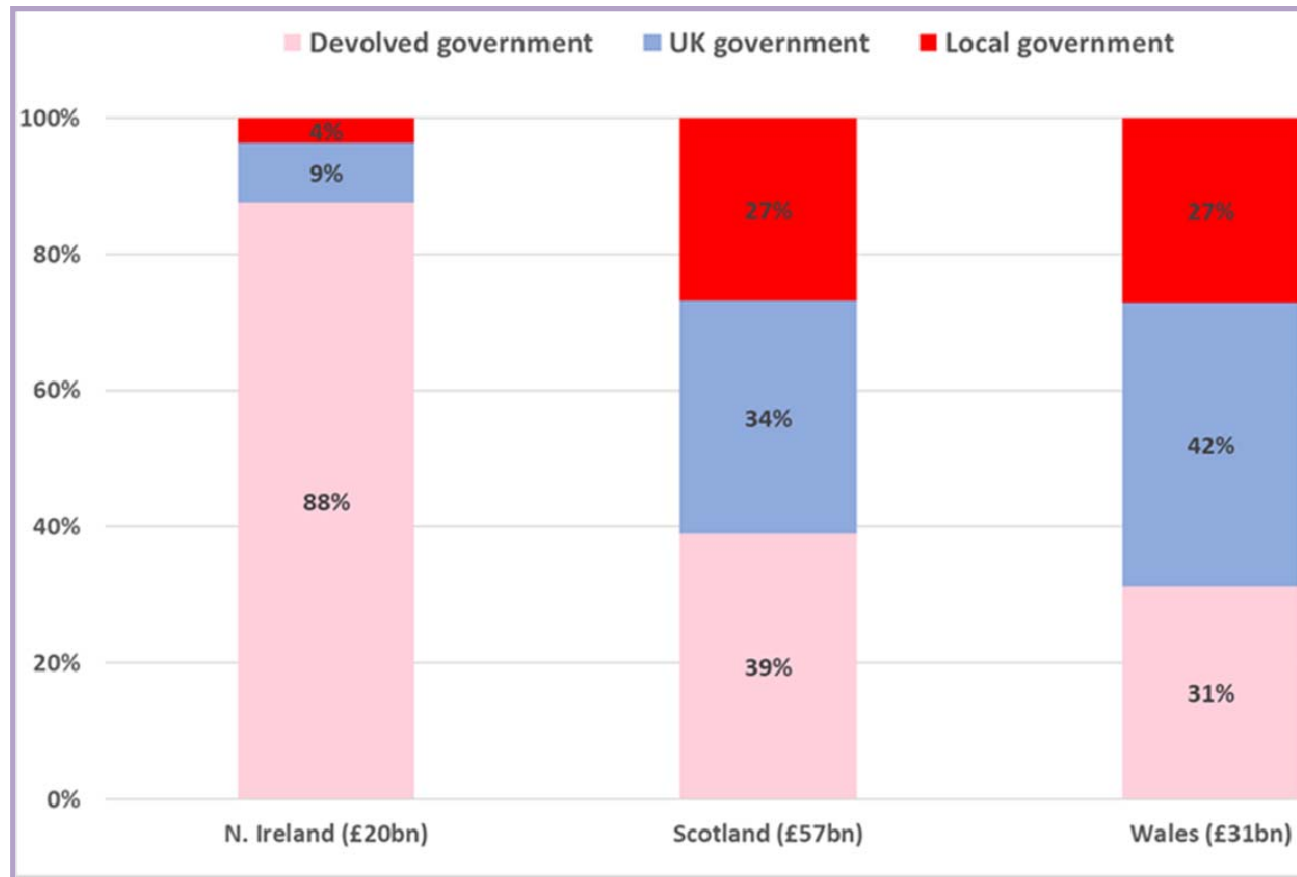
Today

- Consideration of what's been done to unfetter councils
- How we practically meet expectations of citizens and partners
- How councils civic, investor and public service roles can be an antidote
- How we provide political scrutiny and impetus to TWO strands of government amidst a crisis and a half
- How we've designed a means to achieve (SOME) success regarding Brexit locally, despite political and institutional constipation & complexity.

PITY THE CITIZEN



How much do different levels of government spend?



A democratic deficit even with the Assembly

Local Democracy Matters

- Councils are a £2 billion p.a. investment
- Conveners of local people
- Shapers of local places
- Strategic, informed development & community planners
- Investors and representative
- Scrutineers, entrepreneurs, custodians
- Three productive but constrained years
- Innovators and integrators (not about money)

What's to Come?

WHEN? Now

WHO? NILGA, COUNCILS, SOLACE, GOV DEPARTMENTS, PARTNERS

WHAT?

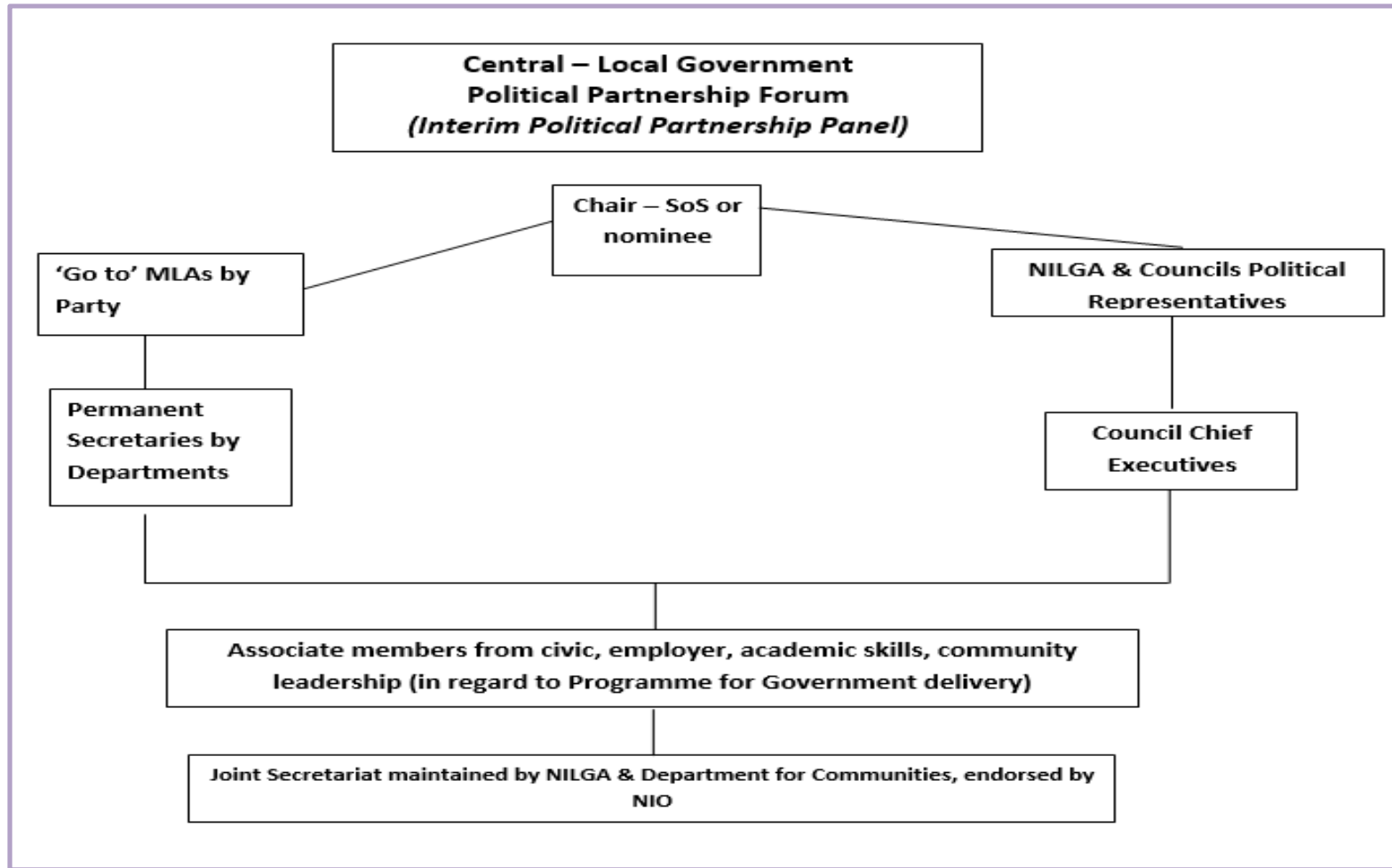
- (i) UK Parliament - completed 2018 Inquiry into “Devolution & Democracy in NI – Dealing With the Deficit”.
- (ii) NILGA has
 - Programme for **Local** Government
 - New Burdens Framework
 - Elected Member Strategic Training Programme (2018 – 2023)
- (iii) Devolution Bill must be considered, here or in Westminster.
- (iv) Devolution = strengthening democracy & responsibility, its not just about money
- (v) An APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) has been approved.

WHY? Neighbouring jurisdictions are moving ahead = new powers, incentives & “localism”. City & Region “deals” are at proposal stages. Brexit is leading to fundamental shifts in governance and policy delivery terms in NI. The NI Assembly whilst suspended means numerous barriers to resources and progress exist and are legally and fiscally increasing. Local Government’s trajectory is upward. It gets things done. It is good for legislators.

Removing Barriers for Councils and the Public

Realising the full potential of the limited devolution to date has been exacerbated by gaps in the delivery of the 2014 Local Government Act and failure to complete the intended policy direction:

- **Preventing necessary actions** e.g. Emergency / Contingency Planning, Paying Teachers
- **Preventing effective council working** e.g. failure to deliver Standing Orders Regulations, call-in
- **Preventing/hampering modernisation activity** e.g. limits on councils exercising general power of competence
- **Preventing review/necessary amendments to existing legislation** e.g. code of conduct, performance management
- **Failure to complete anticipated/unsatisfactory transfers** e.g. Regeneration Bill
- **Drip-feed of new functions without resources** e.g. HMO & landlord registration
- **Inability to progress the proposed 'augmentation review'** - to deliver NILGA Programme for Local Government, new financial tools (NBD etc)



Excellence in NI LG:

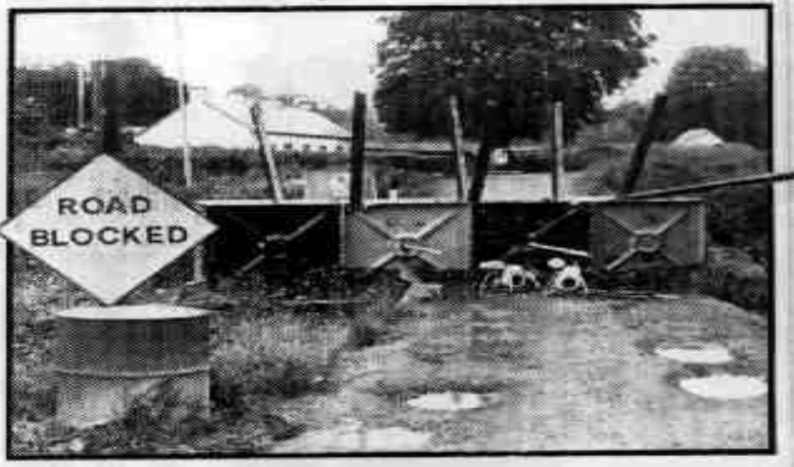
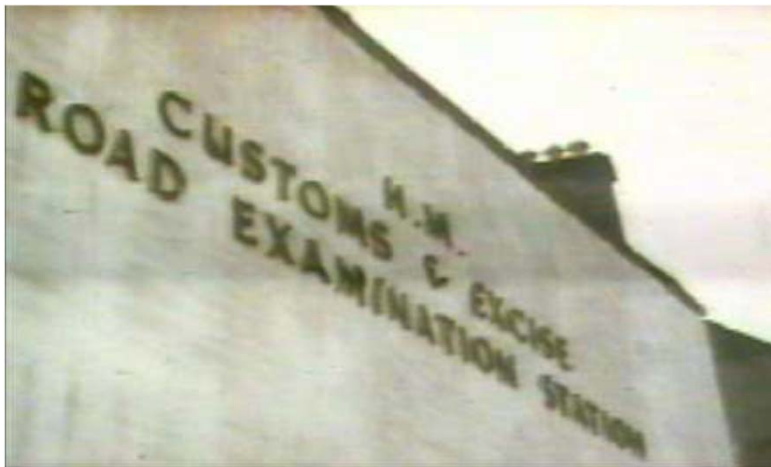
Integration, calm crisis management and being a David amongst Goliaths

- NPI Evidence of June 2018
- City and Region Deals
- Devolution within Northern Ireland
- Politics Reconnecting with communities and businesses
- Local Government Elections of May 2019 >
- Regional Leadership and Accredited Learning for all Councillors.....but what about

Global politics become **LOCAL**



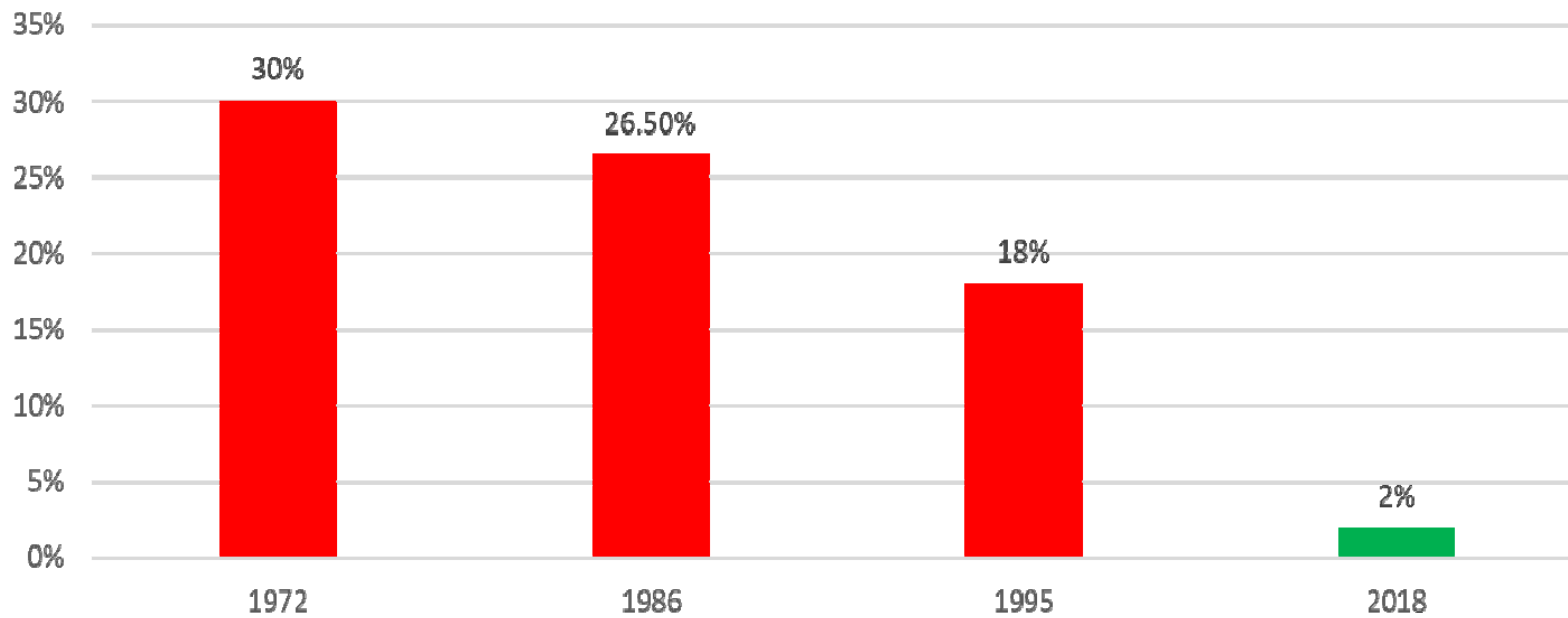








Newry's transformation journey: Unemployment figures 1972 - 2018



The NILGA Response

- **Economy & Growth WG** – pragmatic assessment & knowledge hub
- **Sustainable Communities & Demographics WG** – migration & skills needs for the future
- **WLGA, COSLA, LGA** – Brexit preparedness, Shared Prosperity Fund – should remain devolved
- **Maintaining EU links** - EU Week of Regions & Cities, iEER / EER, CoR
- **Building relationships with international partners** – CLGF trade & investment

**THANK
YOU**

**NILGA
Conference
2018**

**Have you
booked
your place?**



The poster features a vibrant illustration of a diverse community of people of various ages and ethnicities walking along a path in a green park. In the background, there are colorful houses and a city skyline under a purple sky with white clouds. The overall theme is community and sustainability.

nilga
northern ireland
local government association

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES,
DELIVERING A BETTER NORTHERN
IRELAND FOR EVERYONE**

NILGA 2018 Annual Conference, Exhibition & Gala Awards
Thursday 11th October 2018 | Armagh City Hotel

Supported by **apse** **RiverRidge** **Invest Northern Ireland**