

The Local Government Challenge in NI: Making Sense of it All

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7th September 2017

the voice of local government

Jan – May 2016: All New, All Working



June 2016: All Politics ARE Local



January 2017: Inertia & Turmoil, Please



March 2017: More Inertia & Turmoil, Please



June 2017: New Deal...

London Evening Standard
Monday 26 June 2017 | FREE | standard.co.uk

Fitness & Beauty SUPERHERO WORKOUT
Reboot your body with Wonder Woman's fitness guru
Starts on Page 29

WEST END FINAL EXTRA

I DEMAND THE SUM OF ... ONE BILLION POUNDS

MAY AGREES HUGE PAYOUT TO UNIONISTS IN DEAL TO SAVE HER GOVERNMENT

Austin Powers-sharing a mock-up of DUP leader Arlene Foster as Dr Evil with Theresa May as Miss M from the Austin Powers film series, as which Dr Evil holds the world to ransom and demands millions of dollars.

Joe Murphy, Kate Proctor and Pippa Cresser
THERESA MAY today spent £1 billion of taxpayers' money on a deal with the Democratic Unionist Party to prop up her wobbly government. As smiling

Prime Minister welcomed Arlene Foster, the leader of the Northern Ireland party, to Downing Street this morning to shake hands on the agreement. The headline sum is understood to be worth about £96 million for each of the 10 Northern Ire-

land MPs promising to back Mrs May in certain key votes. But the full cost to UK taxpayers will be far greater because the deal also includes dropping Tory manifesto plans to means-test winter fuel payments to pensioners and scrap the "triple lock",

which ensures above-inflation state pension rises. In addition, some £183 million of farming subsidies for Ulster are also guaranteed after Brexit. The
Continued on Page 2

Our outstanding new cancer hospital. Now open.

One of the few private hospitals to be awarded a CGC rating of Outstanding, London Bridge Hospital has just opened a brand new cancer facility, giving patients access to specialist consultants and the full range of cancer services.

To find out more search
Private Care at Guy's

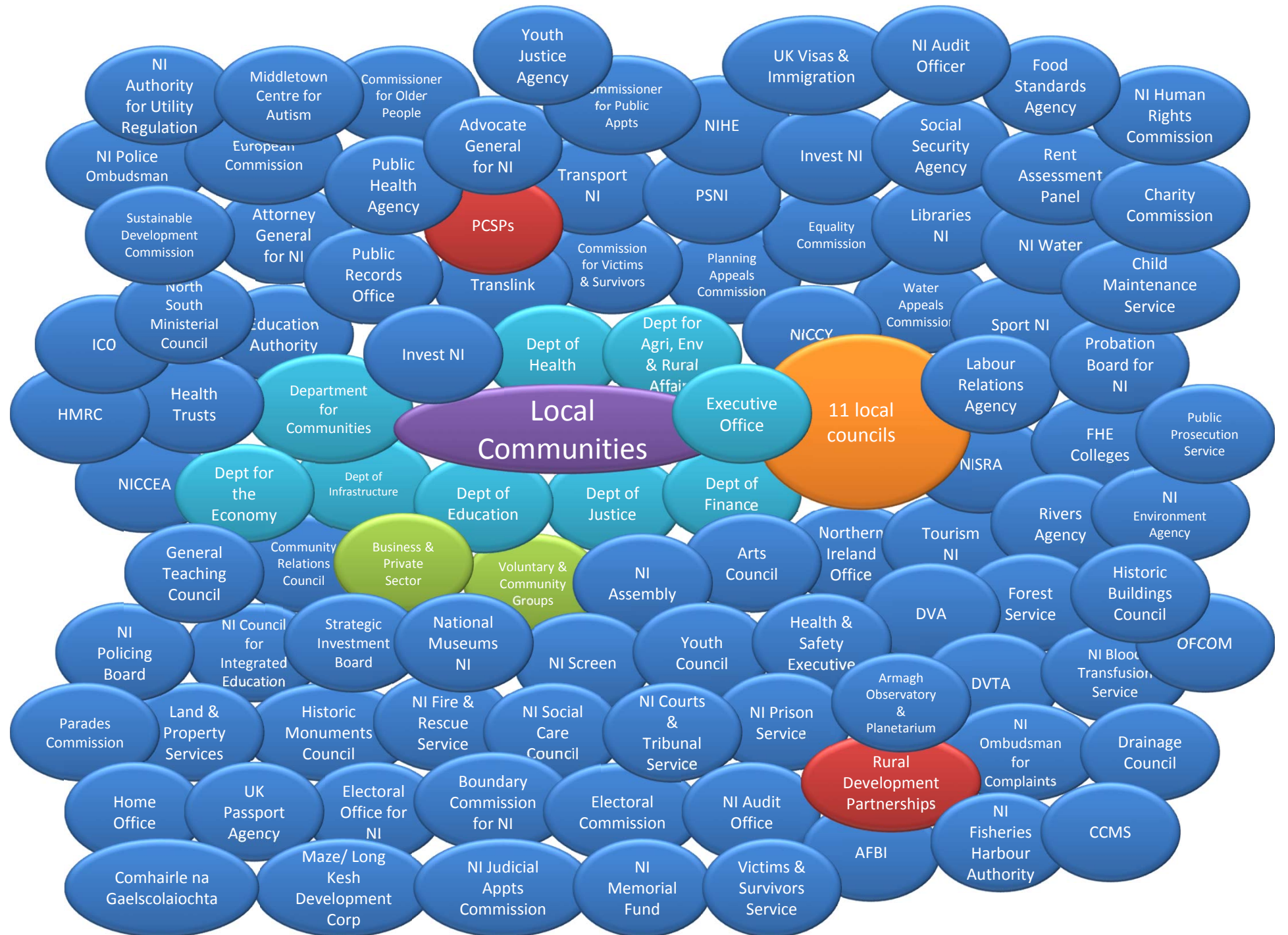
London Bridge Hospital
Private Care at Guy's
part of HCA Healthcare UK

May 2015...Or Old Deal?



**Northern Ireland = £19 Billion
P.A., or £10,270 per capita**

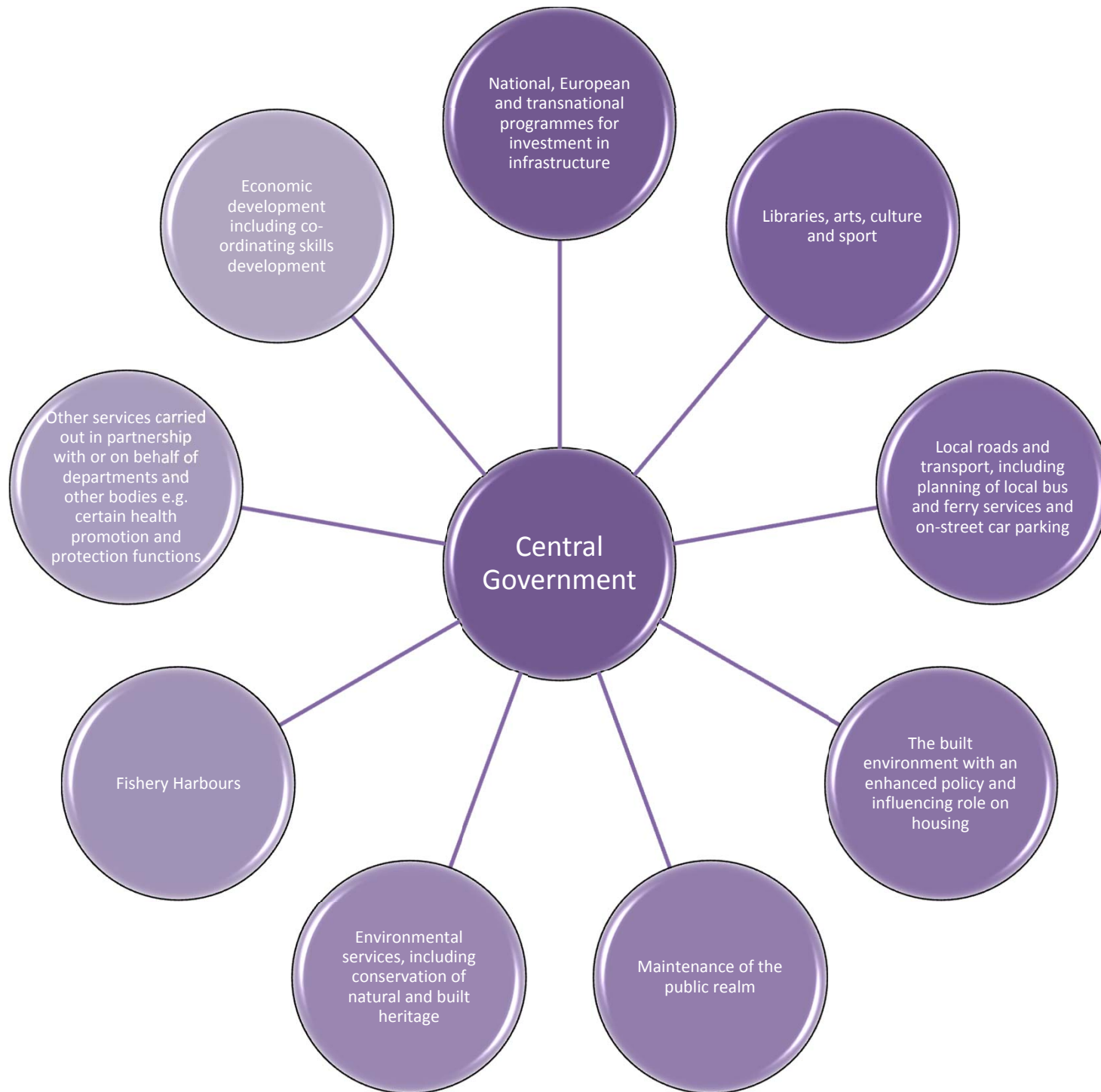






Devolution of Powers

NILGA, in conjunction with the 11 councils, has developed an evidence base (including associated costs) which has led to debate to transfer more powers from central to local government.

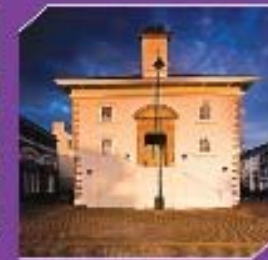


**It's sustaining
places in a
strong,
welcoming
democracy,
driven by people
who live and
work in NI.**

**A PROGRAMME FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
2016 – 2021 & BEYOND**



Strangford Lough - Photo by P. Miskley



Old Customs, Dublin



The Rabbits, Lorne

**STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY,
SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES**

Devolved from Who?



Programme for Local Government

- Programme for Government needs to be co-designed and co-delivered by councils.
- In a manner which sees, over time, greater responsibilities and powers exercised by local government, together with the necessary resources.
- Immediate emphasis needs to be put on securing the transfer of regeneration powers.

Specific Ask # 1

A **power to enable** effective **pooling of budgets** by departments, public bodies & councils to facilitate the implementation of community plans and the achievement of agreed outcomes.



Specific Ask # 2



To gain **greater fiscal flexibility for councils** – including seeking a commitment from all departments to engage with councils on a sector-wide basis as well as a departmental level, using a ‘New Burdens’ approach prior to making financial decisions that have an impact on council budgets.

Specific Ask # 3

To lobby the NI Executive for a **transformation fund** for local communities & local government, similar to that provided to the outgoing NI Executive Departments and to the Health and Social Care sector and in England, Scotland, Wales



Specific Ask # 4



A new **Civil Contingencies Bill**, recognising the local co-ordination role of councils in emergency planning activity; and ring-fencing funding for emergency planning and climate adaptation measures.

Specific Ask # 5

To develop an agreed, shared, cross-governmental, **outcome-focused performance management and improvement system** – with a single Code of Conduct - so that we can improve together.



Specific Ask # 6

To develop a **NI Policy & Investment Forum**, led by the Executive Office on behalf of regional government, and co-ordinated through NILGA within local government, to optimise knowledge and investment of National, All Island, EU, Commonwealth & Transnational Barriers / Opportunities, offering direction to the Programme for Government & Related Strategies.



Filling a Vacuum : Strategic Partners of NILGA



BREXIT – concerns

- Vulnerability - UK elections, absence of NI Assembly
- Desire to maintain long term history of cooperation between NI/UK and ROI and keep the peace
- Close trade, investment, energy & migration integration with ROI, particularly among border councils
- Regional competitiveness - agri-food, manufacturing and service sectors
- NI more vulnerable & exposed on exports than rest of UK
- Free movement and access to labour / talent
- Will EU funding & investment be replaced?

BREXIT – NILGA response

- Councils must be given place at negotiating table & must develop evidence base & business case
- Localism – remove the democratic deficit, repatriation of suitable powers & resources to councils
- Future proof regional aid to address local needs
- Prosperity, Peace, Cross Border work maintained
- Plan, communicate, develop innovative responses
- Opportunity to negotiate, collaborate and think laterally
- Place Shaping & Resilience
- 11 x Welcoming Places for Migrants, EU / Non EU Citizens and Business

BREXIT – Identifying Opportunities

- Building trade relationships with existing and new partners outside EU
- Realignment of council strategies in context of new migration & trade policies
- Loss of EU funding – blessing in disguise?
- Opportunity to shape new policy & regulations based on local need, including City & Region Deals
- Direct state aid regulations in response to changing economic conditions?
- Complete devolution – regeneration powers for councils

Everybody is a genius.



But if you judge a fish by its
ability to climb a tree, it will
live its whole life believing
that it is stupid.

Albert Einstein.

Thanks.

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