





(h) Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

Ballymena, as the area headquarters, urgently needs a new Fire Station at a location that would contribute to a reduction in current response times.

Given the proposed allocation of funding towards capital in the Draft Strategy, there is little or no prospect of this happening as Ballymena ranks approximately **5th** or **6th** in the Services priority list. (Note: approximately £2m + cost of land required for replacement Station).

Also, with a complement of 28 full-time firefighters, this Council understands that with proposed revenue expenditure levels, the Service would be forced to reduce the overall full-time complement to meet needs elsewhere.

This Council therefore supports the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service's case for additional resources to maintain and further develop the service in Co. Antrim.

(i) Sport

Council has written to Sport Northern Ireland in support of all action it deemed necessary in securing adequate funding for sports under the Executive's "Comprehensive Spending Review".

Council has concerns that lottery monies from Sport Northern Ireland would be targeted towards the Olympics and would have a detrimental effect on small local community sports projects. In this regard it has written to North Antrim M.L.A.s, M.P.s, the Environment Minister and all District Councils lobbying support for funding to be sourced from Central Government to assist community sports projects within the province.

In conclusion, Council would like to thank OFMDFM for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Ronnie McBride  
Acting Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

Enc.

