



# ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Burgh Council o' the Airds, Newton an' Blatthewick

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ASHLEY BORELAND, LLB (Hons) FCIS  
*Chief Executive*

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

Date

CG 10015

26 March 2007

Julie Gillespie  
Legislation Progress Unit  
Room A4.01  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SR

Dear Ms Gillespie,

**Consultation on Proposal for A Draft Order in Council: The Public Authorities Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 2007**

Thank you for consulting with the Council on the above.

The consultation document was considered at a recent meeting of the Council's External Affairs & Planning Committee. The Committee agreed to respond supporting the comments made in the Northern Ireland Housing Council's submission to you dated 9 March 2007 and, in doing so, to highlight the Council's continued opposition to the abolition of the Housing Council.

The Council believes that the Northern Ireland Housing Council has provided an important and effective monitoring, advisory and consultative service on housing and housing policy since its inception in 1971 and is representative of the electorate of Northern Ireland, as it includes elected members from each of the twenty-six Councils. As it is a statutory body, it can also call to account both the DSD and the Housing Executive on housing issues which affect the whole of the population to a greater or lesser extent.

Further, the Committee expressed deep concern at the proposed removal of statutory representation obligations and obligations to

consult from statutory bodies and offices as specified in Schedule 3 as the Council believes that this aspect of the legislation will strengthen Quangos rather than reduce them.

I hope that these comments will assist you in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

*Amanda Martin*

Amanda Martin  
Principal Administrative Officer