At its meeting of 27th October 2009, Lisburn City Council agreed the following response to the above report:

"Lisburn City Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above report.

The Council supports the Utility Regulator in challenging the NI Water business plan to identify efficiency savings through their recommendations in the price determination document.

The Council would encourage the Regulator to establish robust monitoring process to ensure that the targets set out in the report are achievable and savings are passed onto the consumer. It would also support regular published information on NI Waters’s progress against performance targets established by the business plan.

The Council also supports the Regulators focus on the level of service provided to the Consumer and not only the costs of the Business plan. It would also request that the implementation of the revised Business plan includes initiatives to support the most vulnerable sections of society, for example support for the elderly, disabled and charitable organisations.
The financial model is complex and specialised. The report summarises the main issues from the underlying financial model and the Council can only accept the appropriateness of its assumptions. The Council also supports the assumption that domestic water charges should not be introduced and the current process of central subsidy should be extended.”

Yours sincerely,

LEAH SCOTT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – CORPORATE SERVICES (FINANCE & IT)