

Report on	Environmental Health Update Report
Date of Meeting	9 th June 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update elected members on the Environmental Health service that has been provided during the COVID-19 pandemic between 1 st April and 16 th May 2020.
2.0	Background
2.1	In line with government and corporate guidance, the Environmental Health Service has revised its service delivery model to deliver the Environmental Health services across its core function areas. For Health and Safety reasons, unless in emergency situations, no visits are taking place inside domestic or commercial premises. However, some visits have been made without properties being entered to verify information and complaints.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	From the start of the COVID-19 "lock down", Environmental Health maintained a level of service well above that contained within its Business continuity plan. New methods of working have been put in place and all complaints received have been responded to and dealt with. In significant situations, visits have been made to properties without going inside premises. The Food Standards Agency and Health and Safety Executive have also provided guidance on inspections and inspection schedules.
3.2	<p>The Environmental Health department has a number of key areas and in the period 1st April until 16th May the follow work has been dealt with:</p> <p>Food Control and consumer safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 264 contacts made with food businesses and advice and information forwarded • 37 butchers have been contacted specifically mentioning traceability information • 33 specific coronavirus service requests have been received relating to the food function • 6 consumer protection service requests have been received • 84 retailers have been contacted re fuel stamp scheme updates • 58 fuel suppliers have been contacted re addition of new fuel stamp

- Fuel stamp deliveries have continued on a 1-2 deliveries per week basis
- Contact being made with 37 category A&B food premises that are due an inspection
- 5 infectious disease notifications have been dealt with
- 6 new food business applications have progressed.

Public health, housing and Health and well being

- 190 public health service requests were received in comparison to 137 in same period 2019.
- 14 private tenancy service requests were received which was the same as the previous year.
- 33 of the above service requests related in some way to Coronavirus.
- New ways of remote working for the Health and Well Being programmes continue to be developed. There have been discussions with the PHA and NIHE. Staff have been included in the rota within the Community Hub and support has been provided to Agewell with on average approximately 20 Agewell calls being made and reported on to Agewell each day.
- Home accident prevention (HAP) advice and guidance has been given over the phone to approximately 50 domestic residents, approximately 15 energy efficiency advisory calls made, some HAP equipment has been delivered, 37 Affordable Warmth queries have been responded to and documentation gathered for a number of applications and follow ups. Contact has been made through the Make a Change programme to provide support for previous clients during the lock down.
- A number of Environmental Health related messages have also been shared via the Council's social media platforms. Work has been completed to support the Council internal Health and Wellbeing team including the preparation of Take 5 messages.
- As in previous years, Council continues to support the Live Here, Love Here, Small Grants Scheme. In light of COVID-19, the grants scheme has made funding available to community groups enabling them to respond according to local need for people impacted through reduced contact with society. In response, an additional criterion has therefore been added to the Live Here, Love Here, Small Grants Scheme this year: "Support actions that help care for those in need as a result of COVID-19."

Environmental protection, animal welfare and dog control

- 47 fly-tipping complaints have been received over this period in comparison to 13 fly-tipping complaints for the same period last year.
- 89 dog complaints have been received, (excluding barking) for this period compared to 203 in the same period last year.
- 27 Dog Fouling Complaints for this period have been received which is the same as last year.
- 49 noise complaints have been received for this period which is similar to 46 last year. Complainants continue to be contacted and warning letters continue to be sent out. Complainants can submit recordings through the Noise App. Some monitoring visits which do not involve social contact are now being conducted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Planning consultations responded to. • 38 Odour/Environmental protection complaints responded to. • 43 air quality monitoring tubes replaced. • Approximately 200 calls made following up on expired dog licences. • All Animal welfare complaints responded to . <p>Health and safety, public safety and licensing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to support businesses, specific tailored information and guidance was forwarded to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 38 funeral directors ➢ 23 Garden Centres ➢ 5 Golf Courses • 90 complaints and requests for support have been received and actioned in relation to COVID -19 legislation and social distancing. A number of the complaints were complex in nature and required work with premises over the course of many days to resolve. • All annual licensing applications under street trading and amusement permit legislation have been progressed on receipt and issued where appropriate. • Reported accidents continue to be investigated. A fatal incident has recently been notified, requiring a complex investigation in tandem with other enforcement agencies. • Work on the regulation and certification of sports grounds and stands continues with officers supporting clubs with relevant information and advice. • Caravan licensing work has continued with one new application being processed and licence drafted. • Over 400 desktop assessments have been undertaken to rate premises on the Environmental Health database. • Work on a number of legal cases continues in advance of various hearings and a company recently convicted of health and safety offences was sentenced to a fine of £24,000 and £8,000 costs awarded to Council. • Work has been undertaken to update web related information and support in association with the Communications team. • Responsibilities for sections of the COVID-19 regulations now include EHOs (see attached protocol). • https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-northern-ireland-regulations-2020
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Savings on travel costs
	Human: Within existing resources
	Risk Management: As identified.

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members to note the work carried out by Environmental Health staff from 1st April and 16 th May 2020 during the current COVID-19 lock down and recent authorisation for the enforcement of Coronavirus Regulations for permitted business activity .
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Protocol in relation to the approach to the COVID-19 regulations by the EH department.
6.2	https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-northern-ireland-regulations-2020