Report on	Correspondence from the PHA asking Local Government colleagues and each of the 11 Community Planning Partnerships to help encourage a collective response to tackle COVID-19 across Northern Ireland
Date of Meeting	8th September 2020
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements

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 advise elected members of a request from the PHA for MUDC to be part of a collective response to tackle Covid-19 across Northern Ireland through two key actions.

2.0	**Background**
2.1	The correspondence attached in Appendix 1 from Olive MacLeod, Chief Executive of the PHA states that "Coronavirus is spreading in Northern Ireland and we need your continued help to protect our residents, families, communities, businesses, schools and healthcare systems from the impact of COVID-19.
2.2	Department of Health figures have shown that since the easing of lockdown restrictions, the number of confirmed positive cases is rising more rapidly than expected. Daily figures are available on the Department of Health's Dashboard – https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/covid-19-daily-dashboard-updates

3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The correspondence also states:
	"Further to the recent SOLACE meeting, the Public Health Agency would like to build on the collaborative efforts with all partners to stop the spread of coronavirus and its devastating impacts on the population of Northern Ireland.
	We are therefore asking Local Government colleagues and each of the 11 Community Planning Partnerships to help encourage a collective response to tackle COVID-19 across Northern Ireland by taking 2 key actions;
	1. helping to increase the numbers of residents who are downloading and using the StopCOVID NI App, and
	2. helping people to understand the importance of Test, Trace & Protect, to help stop the spread of Coronavirus.

	Please find attached resources which provide information on these two key actions. We hope that by having these messages reinforced by established organisations and groups who have strong and trusted connections with local communities, people will respond to the urgent need to sustain measures to prevent any further spread of coronavirus. Up to date information is also available on the Public Health Agency website https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus"
3.2	Partners have been asked not to amend the messages on these resources or remove the PHA logo as it is important that accurate and consistent information from the Public Health Agency is in circulation.
3.3	The PHA have advised that "testing and contact tracing helps break the chain of transmission of the virus. By identifying people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, and asking them to self-isolate, we can limit the onward spread (reproduction) of the virus. Keeping the reproduction (R) number low allows us to continue moving towards more normal family, working and social lives. Friends and family can see each other, and schools and businesses can reopen. It will also help to protect our health service from being overwhelmed."
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: N/a
	Human: Communications time spend
	Risk Management: N/a
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Recommendation for MUDC to support the PHA by taking 2 key actions: 1. helping to increase the numbers of residents who are downloading and using the StopCOVID NI App, and 2. helping people to understand the importance of Test, Trace & Protect, to help stop the spread of Coronavirus.

6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 – Letter to Local Government
6.2	Appendix 2 – Stop Covid App & Information
6.3	Appendix 3 – Test Trace Protect