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| Report on | Annual Progress Returns: Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) for 2021/2022 |
| Date of Meeting | 4th May 2022 |
| Reporting Officer | Philip Moffett, Assistant Director: OD, Strategy and Performance |
| Contact Officer | Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to set out Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report to the Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the period 2021-22, under the Rural Needs Act NI (2016). |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | <p>Mid Ulster District Council is bound by the Rural Needs Act NI (2016) to 'have due regard to rural needs when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and; • designing and delivering public services' |
| 2.2 | Section 3 of the Rural Needs Act NI requires DAERA to publish an annual monitoring report containing the information sent to it by public authorities on how they have paid due regard to rural needs and information of the exercise by DAERA of its functions under the Act. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | The Annual Progress Report for the reporting period 2021-22 should be submitted to DAERA by 30 th June 2022. |
| 3.2 | Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report (2021-2022) sets out to what extent the Council has demonstrated regard to rural needs within its decision processes. The progress report is attached as Appendix A to this report. |

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| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: N/A |
| | Human: N/A |
| | Risk Management: N/A |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: Equality screening is not required for this progress report. |
| | Rural Needs Implications: As detailed |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | That committees reviews, considers and notes the Annual Progress Report (2021-22) which documents the implementation and activities surrounding its statutory requirements as detailed in the Rural Needs Act NI (2016). |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A: Mid Ulster DC Annual Rural Needs Progress Report (2021-22) |