

<b>Report on</b>	Food Sampling Rationale for Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform Members about the Food Sampling Rationale used to assist officers from the Environmental Health Department when undertaking food sampling.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	This document relates to sampling of food and for both microbiological and food standards.
2.2	In Northern Ireland the responsibility for the enforcement of food safety and hygiene legislation rests with the Food Standards Agency (NI) and the 11 District Councils.
2.3	The primary legislation governing food sampling includes The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and the Food Law Code of Practice, The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, The Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 and EC Regulation 2073/2005 and 178/2002 (and associated guidance).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Environmental Health Department within Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important contribution food sampling makes to the protection of public health and the food law enforcement functions of District Councils.
3.2	When used as part of a suite of food enforcement measures, food sampling can make a very valuable contribution provided it is targeted; risk based and makes the best use of available resources.
3.3	This document has been developed by the Food Standards and Food Fraud sub-group of Northern Ireland Food Managers Group (NIFMG) and is intended to guide district councils when developing sampling programmes as part of our Food Service Plans. The document will help provide a regional focus for microbiological sampling of foodstuffs and sampling in relation to compositional and labelling issues for food standards. The document has been reviewed and tailored for Mid Ulster District Council and is attached to this report (see Appendix 1).

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: £27,000 sampling budget p.a which is already within budgets
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the Food Sampling Rationale which will be used within the Environmental Health Department as appropriate.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster District Council Food Sampling Rationale.