

Report on	LPS Vacant Property Inspections
Date of Meeting	8TH May 2018
Reporting Officer	William Wilkinson

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 Members of a "Data Sharing Protocol" between 'Building Control' and 'Land and Property Services' in relation to the Joint Working Programme for the Mid-Ulster Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme and advise members of the performance of the programme to date.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Land and Property Services (L.P.S) is a division within the Department of Finance and Personnel and have responsibility for Mapping, Land Registration, Rates and Property Valuation in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Following the Members giving approval to the roll-out of the Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme for Mid-Ulster District Council in September 2015, the Building Control service has carried out non-domestic vacancy inspections within the Mid-Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>Due to the imminent introduction of the "General Data Protection Regulations" LPS have requested Mid-Ulster District Council to enter into a "Data Sharing Protocol" with regards to the Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme (See Appendix 1).</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Data Sharing Protocol principally outlines and clarifies the duties of both parties in relation to the data sharing exercise, which is necessary to ensure that the Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme remains successful and beneficial to both parties.</p> <p>Information forwarded by LPS to MUDC enables the Building Control service to ascertain if a property is vacant or has become occupied. The results of the inspections are subsequently returned to LPS where the owner of any occupied property will be issued with an up-to-date rates demand as a result of the inspection thereby increasing the Rateable Income to MUDC.</p> <p>Following the commencement of the Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspections, Building Control Officers have carried out inspections on non-domestic properties geographically spread across the District. As a result of carrying out the inspections, 236 properties have been found to be occupied to date.</p>

	<p>The current financial benefit to the Council from the commencement of the Non-Domestic Vacancy Inspection Programme in 2015 to the end of 2017/18 is £505,715.69 as detailed on the spreadsheet in Appendix 2, which was collated and forwarded by LPS.</p> <p>It should be noted that the financial benefit continues to accumulate year on year in relation to each property that remains occupied as can be identified from the “Financial Portion to Council” with the properties identified in 2015/2016 yielding a higher financial benefit.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Within Current Resources
	Human: Within Current Resources
	Risk Management: None
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Members agree the “Data Sharing Protocol” and note the content of the report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Copy of Data Sharing Protocol between Land and Property Services and Mid-Ulster District Council</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Spreadsheet containing details of financial benefit to MUDC</p>