

Report on	Annual Progress Return on Rural Needs 2020/2021
Date of Meeting	10 June 2021
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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	The purpose of this report is to set out and provide Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report to Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the period 2020-21. This is statutory requirement now placed upon specified Public Authorities under the Rural Needs (Northern Ireland) Act 2016.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster District Council is bound by the Rural Needs (NI) Act 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 (NI) Act 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 on the exercise by Department of its functions under the Act.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Annual Progress Report for the reporting period 2020-21 is required to be submitted to DAERA no later than 30 th June 2021.
3.2	Mid Ulster District Council's Annual Progress Report (2020-2021) sets out to what extent the Council has demonstrated Due Regard to rural needs. It is included as Appendix A to this report.

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 Council considers and provides commentary as appropriate on the Annual Progress Report (2020-21) on the implementation and activities surrounding its statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Mid Ulster District Council Annual Rural Needs Progress Report (2020-21)