

<b>Report on</b>	Emergency Planning Update: DAERA MOU
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Terry Scullion, AD Property Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Rory Donnelly, Corporate Health & Safety Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the review of Emergency Planning support arrangements between District Councils and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs regarding epizootic diseases.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Article 29 of the Local Government (NI) Order 2005 provides District Councils with discretionary powers to make arrangements for reducing, controlling and mitigating, the effects of any emergency which may occur and to prepare plans to cooperate with other organisations. District Councils play a key role in co-ordinating planning and supporting certain aspects of the response and recovery should a civil emergency arise.
2.2	Prior to Local Government Reform in 2015 a number of protocols and memorandum of understandings were in place between Councils and other agencies to provide and receive support in an emergency situation.
2.3	The Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and each District Council regarding epizootic diseases documents has now been updated to aid consistency of approach by District Councils and partner organisations as detailed in section 6.1.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Memorandum of Understanding allows for, subject to availability at the time, the Council to agree to support DAERA with personnel, plant and equipment to assist the Department to undertake key tasks to manage the outbreak/incident. All costs for staff and ancillary costs incurred by the Council will be reimbursed by DAERA.
3.2	The MOU update has been considered by SMT and is for members information.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: No direct financial costs to consider
	Human: Officer time to manage the Emergency Planning protocols, continued engagement with the Regional Emergency Preparedness Group, and officer time if the MOU is triggered.
	Risk Management: Implementing the Memorandum of Understanding will assist in mitigating the effects of an emergency incident.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None at this juncture
	Rural Needs Implications: None at this juncture
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that members note this Memorandum of Understanding with DAERA regarding epizootic diseases.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1: Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and each District Council regarding epizootic diseases