

Report on	Environmental Health Service Update
Date of Meeting	16 th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	At the meeting of the Development Committee in September 2023, Members resolved that a regular update on the work of Mid Ulster District Council's Environmental Health Service should be provided to committee. This report seeks to provide Members with an update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during the period 1 st February 2024 and 31 st March 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Health, Leisure, and Wellbeing Department's 'Environmental Health Service' provides a statutory regulatory service on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	The Environmental Health Service provides a range of Environmental Health and licensing services across the Mid Ulster District Council area, together with an animal welfare function which is currently delivered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of a Service Level Agreement, administered on our behalf.
2.3	The MUDC Environmental Health team are also contracted to deliver a range of other regulatory services on behalf of third-party statutory agencies, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of Category 3 and 4 fireworks displays and the inspection of premises storing / selling fireworks on behalf of the Department of Justice • The sampling of private drinking water and completion of associated drinking water risk assessments on behalf of the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland. • House Fitness inspections on behalf of Northern Ireland Housing Executive
2.4	The Environmental Health Service also works in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders, both internal and external, in striving to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of those who live, work, and visit the Mid Ulster District Council area.
2.5	The Environmental Health Service is currently delivered by officers who work across the three functional areas as set out below, they are supported by key Business Support Officers within the team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control • Health and Safety, Planning and Environment • Neighbourhoods and Licensing

3.0	Main Report																						
3.1	The Environmental Health Service update set out below provides a substantial reflection of the work undertaken by the team in the period between 1 st February 2024 and 31 st March 2024																						
3.2	The statistics within this report are indicative of the requests for service received by the Department within the specified period and these new demands are in addition to officers' ongoing work on existing caseloads.																						
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3.4	<p>Within the reporting period the 'Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control' team also</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked extensively with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and liaised with relevant businesses to gather information to assist the FSA with the completion and issue of food safety advice on consuming fish taken from Lough Neagh during blue green algal affected periods. Promoted Environmental Health at 3 schools, through attendance at Health Fairs' and presentations to students. Members from the team participated in the Health, Leisure and Wellbeing Roadshow at 3 venues and provided advice to members of the public on any aspect of food safety and standards for which they had queries. Shared food hygiene campaign material and information on vaping on social media channels, via the MUDC communications team. 																						
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Planning Consultations completed	87
PPC Inspections	25
Environmental Protection requests for service	108 <i>(total - not split by team)</i>
Air Quality Diffusion Tubes changed over 28 sites	96

3.6 Members may recall that the Air Quality Monitoring report for 2023 was presented to March 2024 Development Committee and officers subsequently submitted the report to DAERA.
An Air Quality stakeholder meeting was held at on 29th January 2024 to review the air quality issues within the District. The next scheduled follow up meeting to review the action plan and progress is scheduled for Monday 24th June 2024. Meeting invites to attend a virtual meeting will be extended to stakeholders from other statutory agencies and all MUDC elected Members in the near future.

3.7 Officers organised a ‘Sports Grounds’ Safety Advisory Group’ meeting on 12th March 2024 for those venues that are subject to legislative safety certification requirements. Representatives from 7 sports clubs, Sport NI, Sports ground safety authority (SGSA) and other statutory agencies attended.

3.8 3 x Immediate Health and Safety prohibition notices were served on businesses due to unsafe and damaged racking and a guard missing from a dangerous piece of equipment.

3.9 **Neighbourhoods and Licensing**

Nature of Regulatory Work	Number Undertaken
Public Health requests for service	157
Environmental Protection requests for service	108 <i>(total -not split by team)</i>
Private Tenancy requests for service	45
Licensing Requests for Service (non-dogs related)	46
Licensing inspections (non-dogs related)	2
Complaints related to Dogs (all)	276
Stray dog complaints	92
Stray dogs impounded	50
Investigation into dog attacks on persons	3
Investigation into dog attacks on livestock	2
Investigation into dog attacks on other dogs	8

4.0 Officers conducted further monitoring on odour issues that are the subject of complaints at a designated site within the district.

4.1 During this period, as part of Council’s annual audit plan, there was a review of Environmental Health – Dog Control and the internal audit concluded that there is a satisfactory system of governance, risk management and control.

The team continued to work on prioritised workstream arising from the digital transformation programme in relation to dog licences.

Freedom of Information Requests

4.2 The Environmental Health Service provided relevant information in relation to 19 freedom of information and environmental information requests during this period.

4.3	A further update on Councils Environmental Health Service will be brought to the Development Committee in July 2024.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A