

Report on	Environmental Health Service Update
Date of Meeting	14 th March 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 9 th December 2023 to 16 th February 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 three functional areas and who 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 9 th December 2023 to 16 th February 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.																						
3.3	<p>Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nature of Regulatory Work</th> <th>Number Undertaken</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Food hygiene inspections / visits</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food standards inspections / visits</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Samples taken for analysis</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Hygiene requests for service / advice</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Standards requests for service / advice</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Response to Infectious Disease Notifications</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection requests for service / advice</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection inspections / visits</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoke Free Inspections / Visits</td> <td>66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The 'Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control' team also undertook risk assessment work under the service level agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate.</p>	Nature of Regulatory Work	Number Undertaken	Food hygiene inspections / visits	62	Food standards inspections / visits	34	Food Samples taken for analysis	48	Food Hygiene requests for service / advice	34	Food Standards requests for service / advice	6	Response to Infectious Disease Notifications	10	Consumer Protection requests for service / advice	5	Consumer Protection inspections / visits	n/a	Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken	1	Smoke Free Inspections / Visits	66
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3.5	The 'Health and Safety, Planning and Environment' team also served four Prohibition Notices served during reporting period and conducted an out of hours match day inspection in relation to sports ground safety work.																						

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3.7	<p>Freedom of Information Requests</p> <p>During this reporting period, the Environmental Health Service provided relevant information in relation to 13 freedom of information requests and also provided ongoing support to the communications team within Council for a number of press queries.</p>																								
3.8	<p>A further update on Councils Environmental Health Service will be brought to the Development Committee in May 2024.</p>																								
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6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>																								
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