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| <b>Report on</b>         | Introduction of Dilapidation Bill to Northern Ireland Assembly |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>   | 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2024                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Terry Scullion, AD Property Services                           |
| <b>Contact Officer</b>   | P J Fox, Building Control Development Manager                  |

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| <b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>         | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>   |
| 1.1        | To update members on the future introduction of a Dilapidation Bill to the Northern Ireland Assembly following consultation in 2016.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Background</b>  |
| 2.1        | Members will be aware of a previous consultation response provided to the former Department of Environment (DoE) in June 2016 relating to dilapidated buildings. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has since replaced the DoE as the lead department on taking forward the introduction of a Dilapidation Bill.   |
| 2.2        | The Society of Local Authority of Chief Executives (SOLACE) received a letter from DAERA on 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 acknowledging that it has been quite some time since the consultation on this issue took place and could each Council advise if their previous response in 2016 was still valid in relation to the introduction of a Dilapidation Bill as detailed in Appendix 1.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1        | Members should note that the former DoE had published a Policy Consultation on "Dilapidated/Dangerous Buildings and Neglected Sites" in March 2016 with responses to arrive no later than 5pm on 30 June 2016 as detailed in Appendix 2.   |
| 3.2        | The Policy Consultation outlined the various pieces of legislation to deal with the issues which may arise and set out in four options for consideration; from retaining the status quo as still currently exists through revised administrative arrangements to the consolidation, amendment, and extension of the existing legislation.  |
| 3.3        | The various pieces of legislation available to the Council in 2016 were (and still are) enforced by respective Council teams in Planning, Environmental Health Department and Building Control. A combined substantive response was provided at the time in relation to the Policy Consultation with input from the Council teams. The Council response is included at Appendix 3 as approved by Committee and Council in June 2016 and issued to the DoE. |

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| 3.4        | Building Control have recently re-engaged with Council planning and Environment Health colleagues to undertake a review of the responses provided to the DoE in June 2016, and concluded that all responses remain valid in 2024.   |
| 3.5        | Therefore, a response will be issued to DAERA advising that Mid Ulster District Council remain supportive of the introduction of a Dilapidation Bill on the basis that a funding stream is provided by Central Government to the Council to undertake the additional work involved as a result of the introduction of this legislation. |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b>   |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>   |
|            | Financial: Costs incurred regarding enforcement of legislation.   |
|            | Human: Potential to impact current resources depending on scope and complexity of Bill proposed.  |
|            | Risk: No change   |
| <b>4.2</b> | <b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>   |
|            | Equality & Good Relations Implications: None  |
|            | Rural Needs Implications: None  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |
| 5.1        | That Members note the content of this report.   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>  |
| 6.1        | Appendix 1 – Dilapidate Bill letter from DAERA received by SOLACE.  |
| 6.2        | Appendix 2 – DoE Dilapidated/ Dangerous Buildings and Neglected Sites Policy Consultation Document March 2016.  |
| 6.3        | Appendix 3 – Council Response to Consultation Document June 2016  |