

<b>Report on</b>	Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for Northern Ireland Public Discussion Document (Synopsis of Responses)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the availability of the responses made to a previously circulated consultation document by DAERA entitled "Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for Northern Ireland": Public Discussion Document.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Public Discussion Document on Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for Northern Ireland was launched by DAERA on 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 to encourage responses and comments from stakeholders and members of the public on arrangements for environmental oversight and accountability after the ending of the EU Exit transition period.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) sought views on a number of environmental issues that will arise due to UK withdrawal from the EU. Details of the discussion document were forwarded by e-mail to approximately 300 individual stakeholders. The consultation was also advertised on the Department's website and publicised on social media. A stakeholder event, organised jointly by NI Environment Link and DAERA, took place on 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021. The closing date for responses was 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021. This paper was previously brought to Committee in February 2021 and a response was returned for Mid Ulster District Council.
3.2	A synopsis of the replies received to the discussion document can be accessed in Appendix 1. The document advises that a total of 70 responses were received, with 38 via the citizen space online option and 32 e-mail responses. The break down by sector is shown below.

	<p><b>Responses by Sector</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sector</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NGOs and Support</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Individual</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gov and Local gov</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business and Trade Bodies</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Political Parties</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regulatory Bodies</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Bodies</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Academia</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	Percentage	NGOs and Support	49%	Individual	20%	Gov and Local gov	13%	Business and Trade Bodies	10%	Political Parties	3%	Regulatory Bodies	3%	Professional Bodies	1%	Academia	1%
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>																		
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>																		
	Financial: N/a																		
	Human: N/a																		
	Risk Management: N/a																		
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>																		
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a																		
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a																		
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>																		
5.1	Members to note the synopsis of responses received in the document attached in Appendix 1.																		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>																		
6.1	Appendix 1 – Environmental Plans, Principles and Governance for Northern Ireland Public Discussion Document Synopsis of Responses.																		