

Report on	SLA for the administration of Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) funding for product safety related work.
Date of Meeting	12 th October 2021
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members of a request received from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCG) for a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to be established and agreed, in relation to the administration of Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) funding for product safety related work. The SLA is between CCG, Mid Ulster District Council and the other 9 District Councils in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Background
2.1	As previously reported, the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) was created in January 2018 to deliver on consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity and growth.
2.2	The OPSS is the national regulator for all consumer products, except for vehicles, medicines and food. The OPSS is also the national regulator for legal metrology, ensuring weighing and measuring instruments are accurate and reliable.
2.3	The OPSS works with local, national and international regulators, with consumer representatives and with businesses to deliver effective protections and to support compliance. This includes the District Councils in Northern Ireland.
2.4	In October 2020, the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) issued an offer of grant funding to each individual District Council up until the end of March 2021. This funding offer was made to assist Northern Ireland District Councils enable the UK to meet the provisions of the EU Withdrawal Agreement and Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP). The funding was used to employ additional staff, on a temporary basis, to assist with progressing this body of work.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	OPSS indicated that for 2021/2022, further funding would be provided to District Councils in Northern Ireland to enable the work, with respect to assisting businesses with the provisions of the EU Withdrawal Agreement and Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), to continue. The funding is from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

3.2	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has been appointed as the Grant Recipient for the purpose of administering funding from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to the other 10 District Councils. The funding is offered under Article 18(3) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 (as it applies in Northern Ireland) and the Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Act 2021 in return for building capacity and capability for product safety market surveillance. This is part of a UK wide approach to ensure only safe and compliant, non-food consumer goods enter the UK market; and to meet the provisions of the EU Withdrawal Agreement and Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP).
3.3	The terms, objectives and governance relating to the funding are as outlined in the attached SLA agreement (see Appendix 1).
3.4	The OPSS/BEIS funding will be used to employ an additional Environmental Health Officer to assist with achieving the requested outcomes. The post will be in place for the period of time that the funding covers.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: As per financial section (6.0) detailed within the attached SLA.
	Human: Additional officer time to undertake the activities outlined in the work plan.
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Council note the content of this report, and approve the Service Level Agreement (SLA) in relation to the administration of the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funding with Causeway Coast and Glens and the other District Councils in Northern Ireland, as outlined in Appendix 1.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Service Level Agreement for the BEIS/OPSS funded 2021/2022 Product Safety Programme.