

<b>Report on</b>	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in relation to regulatory checks on poultry meat, beef and veal and eggs between Mid Ulster District Council and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
<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 inform Council of a request received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be established and agreed, in relation to regulatory checks on poultry meat, beef and veal and eggs between DAERA and the 11 District Councils in Northern Ireland, including Mid Ulster District Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	DAERA is the Competent Authority in Northern Ireland for adherence to EU regulatory requirements for poultry meat, beef, veal, and eggs. However, both DAERA and the Environmental Health teams in District Councils in Northern Ireland have an enforcement role and currently undertake the execution and enforcement of the powers outlined in the domestic legislation relating to these EU regulations.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The Memorandum of Understanding relates to all enforcement activities undertaken by District Councils through the powers conferred on them by the domestic legislation. The responsibility for inspection of establishments operating in the poultry, beef and veal and eggs sectors is based on their function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAERA largely inspects meat-processing plants such as slaughterhouses and cutting plants, and in some cases primary producers (for poultry meat). Regarding eggs, DAERA conduct inspections on producers and packing centres.</li> <li>• Councils largely inspect cold stores, warehouse/distribution centres and local shops, such as butchers, which may be cutting and selling meat.</li> <li>• There are occasions where DAERA and the District Councils may collaborate and conduct an inspection in partnership.</li> </ul> <p>The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To supplement the provisions of the regulations;</li> <li>• To clarify the enforcement responsibilities for poultry meat, beef, veal, and eggs in one document;</li> <li>• To formalise governance arrangements;</li> <li>• To provide a formal data sharing agreement.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/a
	Human: Increased time for recording and reporting actions and managerial time in making returns to DAERA
	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	It is recommended that members note the content of this report, and if in agreement, signs up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in relation to regulatory checks on poultry meat, beef and veal, and eggs with DAERA and the other District Councils in Northern Ireland, as has been requested.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in relation to regulatory checks on poultry meat, beef and veal and eggs.