

<b>Report on</b>	Review of Commissioner for older people Northern Ireland
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	15th September 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator

<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 Members about the Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland review and seek any comments/amendments from Members on the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council draft response.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	An independent review team has been tasked with a review of the Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland (COPNI) as part of the New Decade, New Approach commitment to review Arms' Length Bodies (ALBs) in Northern Ireland.
2.2	The aim of the review is to take a holistic look at the Body to determine whether its status continues to represent the optimum mode of delivery for the desired policy and strategic outcomes in comparison to other options, alongside looking at governance, efficiencies and opportunities for better partnership working focused on a strategic and proportionate approach.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	COPNI was established through the Commissioner for Older People Act (NI) 2011, to act as an independent voice and champion for older people, and to safeguard and promote their interests. The Commissioner acts as a champion for the rights of older people and speaks out on issues affecting them. Through research and engagement with older people and the groups that represent them, the Commissioner seeks to understand the issues that matter most. This understanding provides a platform upon which to provide advice to Government and policy makers on a range of issues impacting older people. The Commissioner is empowered to provide assistance to individual older people who require advocacy and legal support in defined circumstances. Legislation also enables The Commissioner to conduct investigations as determined appropriate.
3.2	The aim of the review is to take a holistic look at the Body to determine whether its status continues to represent the optimum mode of delivery for the desired policy and strategic outcomes in comparison to other options, alongside looking at governance, efficiencies and opportunities for better partnership working focused on a strategic and proportionate approach.
3.3	As part of the review a wide range of stakeholders are being encouraged to get involved with the consultation and contribute to the review process. As part of the review,

	COPNI have identified Mid Ulster Age Friendly as a stakeholder. Enclosed with Appendix A is a draft response. A short deadline was given for a response (10th August 2022) however with no committee meetings in August, Council still have a mechanism to provide feedback therefore the proposed response is enclosed for Members consideration and any comments/amendments.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A during this current review phase.
	Human: Officer time to prepare and submit a response.
	Risk Management: N/A during this current review phase.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the enclosed draft response on the Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland review.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Mid Ulster District Council's proposed response to the Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland review