

Report on	Additional Funding from the Office of Product Safety and Standards
Date of Meeting	10th February 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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 provide Members with information on additional funding that is available to Council from the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) to undertake a project on Construction Products and to seek approval to accept the funding letter of offer.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) was created in January 2018 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to deliver 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. As an established national product regulator with relevant expertise, OPSS has recently become the national regulator for construction products, operating as a Joint Unit, accountable to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for its construction products function.
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	Previously in October 2021, Members at the Environment Committee approved that Mid Ulster District Council enter in to a service level agreement with associated funding for product safety related work (minute reference E229/21). As stated in the previous report, 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 to the other 10 District Councils. 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.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	In December 2021, 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 2022. This offer of funding was made to assist Northern Ireland District Councils with delivery of an OPSS project entitled ' <i>NI Construction Products Sector: Project 1- Local company data gathering project</i> '.
3.2	The purpose of this project is to carry out a detailed research process on companies that manufacture and/or trade in Construction Products within the local District Council area. The aim is to collate an accurate, comprehensive and up to date overview of the relevant companies within each District Council area.
3.3	The OPSS will provide Mid Ulster District Council with funding up to a maximum of £9,999 to cover the cost of additional staffing resources employed to deliver this project and any traveling costs associated with the project. The project is to be completed by the 31st March 2022.
3.4	This project can be delivered within existing staffing resource with Council's Environmental Health Department, until the end of March 2022.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: No additional cost to Council – claims can be made up to a maximum of £9,999 and evidenced costs will be reimbursed to Council.
	Human: Officer time to undertake required project and to submit grant claims.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for Council to accept the letter of offer and funding of up to £9,999 from the OPSS to complete this identified project, and that the attached award letter between Mid Ulster District Council and the OPSS is signed and returned to the OPSS.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Letter of Offer