

Report on	Extension to the Partnership Liaison Officer post shared between Councils and HSENI
Date of Meeting	10 th February 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, 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 the extension to the Partnership Liaison Officer post between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Councils and to seek approval to continue with Mid Ulster District Council's financial contribution until 31 st March 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in September 2018, Members at the Environment Committee resolved to approve annual funding towards a 'Partnership Liaison Officer' post (minute reference E248/18). This is a shared resource between all eleven Councils within Northern Ireland and the HSENI.
2.2	Since 2002, Councils have contributed to a jointly funded post to facilitate an effective working partnership between the stakeholders. The role was developed to allow the aims and objectives outlined in the HELANI strategy for workplace Health and Safety to be brought forward and to ensure the operational delivery " <i>Saving lives not stopping them</i> ".
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council are the employing authority for the Partnership Liaison Officer and they recover the overall cost of the post equally from all eleven Councils within Northern Ireland and the HSENI.
3.2	The current cost to Mid Ulster District Council is £4,500 per annum and provision has been made each year within the annual Environmental Health departmental budget.
3.3	Previously in September 2018, it was noted that the funding contribution would be for an initial period of two years until 31 st March 2021.
3.4	However, due to unforeseen circumstances during the recruitment process, there was a delay in filling the position following the stakeholder's agreement in 2018.

	As a result, the current post holder only took up the appointment with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on 21st July 2020. The position was filled as a two year fixed term secondment with the possibility of an extension. Mid Ulster District Council did not start to contribute its funding share until the post holder was in place - 21 st July 2020.
3.5	Therefore, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have confirmed in writing that the post holder has been extended until 31 st March 2024 and seek confirmation from Councils that their funding contribution will continue.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: £4,500 per year – within current annual Environmental Health budget.
	Human: N/A
	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	To note the contents of this report and give approval to continue with the provision of annual funding towards the Partnership Liaison Officer until 31 st March 2024.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Correspondence received from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.