

<b>Report on</b>	Environmental Health - Business Plan - 6 month review
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the work that has been undertaken by the Environmental Health service during the first 6 months of the current business plan period.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The annual business plan sets out the overall purpose and scope of the service and details the work plan and associated targets.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Targets have been set across all core function areas within the Environmental Health (EH) service. COVID-19 has had an impact on the service and previous Committee papers have provided statistical information and the implications of additional responsibilities given to the Environmental Health Department.
3.2	At the 6 month stage the service continues to be delivered with a few exceptions. There has been some temporary re-allocation of work duties amongst the EH staff to try to ensure that resource is available where needed.
3.3	<b>Food Control and Consumer Protection</b>  There is some dispensation through the Food Standards Agency and the NI Executive for prioritising certain food businesses for food safety and standards. Support and guidance has been given to local businesses who operate Approved premises, those who have changed their business model and new businesses. In addition to the information in Appendix 1, there has been significant work carried out on COVID-19 measures in retail outlets. 44 reports of food poisoning incidents have been actioned and 71 consumer protection and food complaints have been responded to.
3.4	<b>Health and Safety, Public Safety and Licensing</b>  Appendix 1 outlines the number of complaints received and actioned. In addition there were 10 accidents investigated and 2 fatalities. Due to the diversion of the health and safety resource to reactive COVID-19 work, programmed non COVID-

<p>3.5</p>	<p>19 health and safety (H&amp;S) visits have not been possible. However, a total of 113 other inspections were undertaken, 90 H&amp;S and 28 Licensing. Due to the reactive demands associated with COVID-19 it has not been possible to progress work with Sports Clubs on safety certification at sports grounds. Licensing applications continue to be processed on application.</p> <p><b>Public Health and Housing</b></p> <p>In addition to the work in Appendix 1 which has seen an increase in the number of complaints received (771), there were 61 Private Tenancy requests actioned. As Members would be aware, MUDC EH Department were part of the Live Here Love Here small grants programme with 70 applications received and assessed and 13 community grants awarded. Although water sampling for the Drinking Water Inspectorate was temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, this is again operational. The Affordable Warmth programme dealt with emergency referrals only during the first lock down and is now operational again under more remote assessment arrangements. Some of the Health and Wellbeing staff assisted with Agewell Good morning calls and the Community Hub. Work continued on Age Friendly and a Co-ordinator is now in place. Advice was provided by telephone to residents in relation to Home Accident Prevention, Energy Efficiency and the Make a Change programme.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p><b>Environmental Protection, Animal Welfare and Dog Control</b></p> <p>In addition to the information in Appendix 1 there have been 591 complaints actioned of which 285 were noise related. While general complaint numbers are up, general dog related complaints have reduced, however 24 attacks have been investigated and the number of dogs being licensed online has increased. Responses to planning matters are slightly below last year.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: N/A</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of the attached business plan which has been updated to reflect the work of the first half of the financial year.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Updated Environmental Health Business Plan.