

Title of Report:	CORRESPONDENCE REPORT
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	9th February 2021
For Decision or For Information	FOR DECISION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 The following correspondence has been received:

2.1 Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
(dated 1st February 2021)

Summary

Correspondence dated 1st February 2021 has been received from the Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council regarding a Motion presented to their Members regarding animal cruelty. The Motion was declared unanimously carried and details of the Motion are contained within the copy correspondence attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee consider the correspondence.

1 February 2021

Mr Edwin Poots MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast BT4 3SB

Dear Minister Poots

At a meeting of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on 25 January 2021, a Motion was presented to Members regarding animal cruelty. The Motion was declared unanimously carried and reads as follows:

"This Council condemns animal cruelty in all its forms and acknowledges the work of numerous animal welfare organisations and of local councils, including ours, in tackling cruelty towards animals.

This Council notes that there is currently no register of those convicted of offences against animals and there is no public register of licensed dog breeders, allowing unlicensed puppy farms to proliferate.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to ask for the introduction of:

(a) a Register of Banned Animal Welfare Offenders for those convicted of animal cruelty; and,

(b) a publicly accessible list of licensed dog breeders.

Finally, Council resolves to copy in each of the other ten councils to these requests."

I trust you will consider this request at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive