

<b>Agent offer site visit to existing facility</b>	<b>DATE: 25 May 2016</b>
<b>PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets
<b>Outcome</b>	N/A
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Denise Dickson
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	TBC – travel expenses

## **For Decision**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015, the Planning Authority received a planning application for 4 no. pig breeding units (in addition to the single unit previously approved under B/2013/0043/F) to house an overall site total of 2247 sows, 12 no. feed bins and 2 no. above ground sealed slurry stores at land off Moys Road Approx 170m south west of 171 Glenhead Road Limavady. The planning reference number is B/2015/0005/F.
  
- 1.2 The Planning Authority made a positive determination under category 17(C) of Schedule 1 of The Environmental Impact Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 that the application needed to be accompanied with an Environmental Statement. The applicant accepted the determination and an Environmental Statement was submitted on 29 June 2015. Having considered the ES various competent authorities requested further information. The Planning Authority requested an Addendum to the ES. This was received on 07 April 2016 and further

consultations have been carried out. As such, a recommendation on the application is not imminent at this time.

- 1.3 The proposal has been subject of much representation and will be presented to the Planning Committee when a recommendation is made.
- 1.4 Due to the volume of representations, the agent has written to the Planning Authority to request that members of the planning Committee consider carrying out an accompanied site visit to a pig breeding facility of a similar scale to acquaint themselves with the key planning considerations before a recommendation is made on the application.
- 1.5 The agent has suggested two possible sites one in Newtownbutler, Co, Fermanagh and the other in Caledon, Co. Tyrone. Both are operated by JMW farms.
- 1.6 The distance from Coleraine to Caledon is approximately 60miles and taking into consideration the exact location, travel time would be approximately 2hours. Factoring in the site visit and a stop for a meal, the conservative estimated time for a round trip is 6.5 hours.
- 1.7 The distance from Coleraine to Newtownbutler is approximately 95miles and taking into consideration the exact location, travel time would be approximately 2.30hours. Factoring in the site visit and a stop for a meal, the conservative estimated time for a round trip is 7.5 hours.
- 1.8 The Committee needs to consider the cost of hiring a minibus for this trip.

## **2.0 Options**

- 2.1 There are three options from which to choose a course of action.
  - (a) Decline the invite for the accompanied site visit and decide the application on its own merit.
  - (b) Accept the accompanied site visit to Caledon
  - (c) Accept the accompanied site visit to Newtownbutler.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

- 3.1 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Members note the content of the report and agree on one of the options referred to at 2.1 above for the Head of Planning to respond to the agent.