

December 21st, 2015

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are invited to attend the Active and Healthy Communities Committee meeting to be held on **Monday, 21st December 2015 at 6:00 pm** in **Downshire Civic Centre**.

**Chair:** Cllr L Kimmins

**Vice:** Cllr L Devlin

**Members:** Cllr S Burns Cllr M Carr

Cllr S Doran Cllr C Enright

Cllr G Fitzpatrick Cllr V Harte

Cllr H Harvey Cllr D Hyland

Cllr K Loughran Cllr B Ó'Muirí

Cllr D Taylor Cllr G Sharvin

Cllr W Walker

# Agenda

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Stepping Stones

Clanrye Family Foundations

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*Leisure and Sports*

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*Health & Wellbeing*

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*Leisure and Sports*

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**Active Communities Every Body Active 2020**

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

# Invitees

Cllr. Terry Andrews	<a href="mailto:terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk">terry.andrews@downdc.gov.uk</a>
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**ACTION SHEET- ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2015**

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AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
AHC/89/2015	Elite Athlete Scheme	<p><b>It was agreed to endorse the amalgamation of the former legacy Councils' amateur elite athlete membership scheme.</b></p> <p>Officers to investigate the possibility of extending the scheme to smaller sports and individuals</p>	To be implemented
AHC/90/2015	Newry, Mourne and Down Traveller Forum Report	<p><b>It was agreed to accept the officer's recommendations as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establish a sub-group comprising of Travellers and representatives of partner organisations to explore Traveller engagement, capacity building and community development support. This group will have a direct and sustainable link to the Newry, Mourne and Down Traveller Forum.</b></li> <li>• <b>Develop a two year action plan which will set the strategic priorities for the Forum, aligned to the community planning process.</b></li> <li>• <b>Develop an overarching consultation and engagement framework for engaging Travellers in the work of the Forum.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>It was also agreed that a positive statement be circulated highlighting the above intentions.</b></p>	<p>A response to the articles in the Newry Democrat has been drafted and will be distributed to members of the Newry, Mourne and Down Traveller Forum and the Newry Democrat w/c 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.</p> <p>The recommendations regarding the establishment of a Traveller sub group, action plan and consultation and engagement framework will be considered as part of the development of the Good Relations Action Plan 2016-17.</p>
AHC/91/2015	CCTV Provision	<p><b>It was agreed to approve the extension of current CCTV monitoring contract with Lisburn Commerce Against Crime until March 2017.</b></p>	Actioned
AHC/92/2015	DEA Fora Update (including Terms of Reference and Code of Practice)	<p><b>It was agreed to agree the Terms of Reference and Code of Practice and that a guide to Community Planning and what it involved be uploaded to the website for community groups to access.</b></p>	Ongoing

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
AHC/93/2015	Test Purchasing Guidelines for Enforcement of Sunbed Legislation	<b>The protocols for the Test Purchasing of Sunbeds were agreed.</b>	Protocols adopted and put in place
AHC/94/2015	Guidelines for the Enforcement of Legislation concerning the sale of age restricted products (tobacco and tobacco related products including cigarette lighter refills)	<b>The protocols for the enforcement of legislation concerning the sale of age restricted products (tobacco and tobacco related products including cigarette lighter refills) were agreed.</b>	Protocols adopted and put in place
AHC/98/2015	Update on Play Development Strategy Route Map	<b>It was agreed to allow completion of the play development strategy route map.</b>	Capital required for strategy development to be considered as part of rates estimates process

<b>Report to:</b>	Active & Healthy Communities Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Sports Association Newry & Down (SAND)
<b>Date:</b>	21 December 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett/Roland Moore
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pat Power

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- **The proposal that the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is appointed (Annually) to the Executive Committee of SAND**

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The approval for the establishment of Sports Association Newry &amp; Down (SAND) was agreed at the Inaugural meeting of the AHC committee on Monday 20 April 2015.</p> <p>Officers met with our legal services section in Belfast on Friday 16 October 2015 to discuss the governance structures of SAND.</p> <p>A meeting with the seven 'SAND Councillors' was held on Wednesday 9 December to provide them with an overview/briefing prior to the launch of SAND in 2016</p> <p>The Sports Association Newry &amp; Down will be official launched on Wednesday 20 January 2016, in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. All Councillors have been invited to this event and an estimated 150 club representatives have expressed their interest to attend.</p> <p>While the governance structure for SAND is still in a draft state it is proposed that the Council appoint an additional member to the Executive Committee.</p>
	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>In order to ensure that the Council has a majority on the Executive Committee it is proposed that the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council is appointed (Annually) to the Executive Committee of SAND</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>



	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b> See attached draft governance structure

## Club Representation

Chairperson of Council

Seven Councillors – already identified

Seven Sports Representatives - Representing all Clubs in their **District Electoral Area**

Three Council staff (support only – no voting rights, but one officer to be appointed treasurer)

## Sports Representation

Consisting of one representative from each Sport, nominated/elected by the Club Members

In the case of GAA & Soccer, there will be two Sports Representatives

## Club Membership

Consisting of any amateur sports club within the environs of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

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## Associate Membership

Representatives from the following sectors may be invited to attend any committee meeting but not in a voting capacity: Health, Sport Northern Ireland, Education & Disability Sport. In special circumstances individuals with specialised skills or knowledge may be invited to sit on SAND but not in a voting capacity

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Adjustment to Affordable Warmth Programme
<b>Date:</b>	21 December 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sinead Trainor

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree that:

- **The Councils Affordable Warmth Surveyors collate additional information, outside of the terms of our SLA with DSD, from applicants at the initial stage of the affordable warmth process to pass to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.**

#### 1.0

#### Purpose & Background

As you will be aware the Affordable Warmth Scheme is one of the Department for Social Development's tools in tackling fuel poverty. The scheme, which is delivered in partnership with local councils and the Housing Executive, targets areas of severe and extreme fuel poverty. As part of the continuous review of the scheme and the exploration of options for improvements that offer a better customer experience for the householder, DSD are proposing a temporary change to the process.

There are a number of reasons for this review, including an increase in the average grant spend per household in Northern Ireland from £1,440 under the Warm Homes Scheme to £3,500 within the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 Newry Mourne and Down District Council referred 795 applicants to the NIHE and as a result £1,144,112 has been approved for 256 applicants across our district to install affordable warmth measures.

Under the proposed pilot, Council staff have been asked to assist the Housing Executive to complete the eligibility checks, including confirmation of the householder's income, for cases already referred to the Housing Executive. The benefit to the customer is that from the outset, councils will be providing detailed information to the Housing Executive, which will reduce the need for the customer to deal with a number of different staff.

It is hoped that the use of our staff in this way will expedite the process and allow more efficiency in the provision of measures to householders.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>  For Newry Mourne and Down District Council staff to temporarily collate more information at the initial stage of the affordable warmth process for transfer to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>  There are no resource implications as we have staff employed to carry out the required tasks and this will be possible within our current DSD funding
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>  Not applicable

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	DoE Environment Fund
<b>Date:</b>	21 December 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sheena McEldowney

<b>Decisions Required</b>	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For noting</li> </ul>	
<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>DoE have invited councils and not for profit organisations to apply to a new Environment Fund for a grant to support environmental actions which contribute to 2 themes:</p> <p><u>Theme 1:</u> Ensuring good habitat quality, landscape and species abundance and diversity.</p> <p>Theme 2: Promotion of health, well-being, resource efficiency and sustainable economic development, realising the full value of our environment.</p> <p>The department have submitted an application in support of Theme 2 'Action for air quality - Newry, Mourne and Down'.</p> <p>The application relates to maintaining the existing air quality monitoring network across the district, replacement of air quality monitoring equipment, sustainable travel public awareness campaign, work with local primary schools to encourage and promote sustainable travel and officer time.</p> <p>The application hopes to secure £225,039.29 funding over a three year period.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>This item is for noting.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>

	Should the application be successful, existing staff will be required to deliver the project with part salary costs funded by the scheme.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>  For further information on Environment Fund: <a href="https://www.doeni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund">https://www.doeni.gov.uk/articles/environment-fund</a>

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	Review of public Health act 1967
<b>Date:</b>	21December 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eoin Devlin

**Decisions Required**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree that:

- The Council return the attached consultation response

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>DHSSPS is reviewing the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 ('the 1967 Act'). The 1967 Act has not been updated in any significant respect since it became law. In the intervening years new threats to public health have emerged, and public health legislation in other jurisdictions and internationally has been updated to enable governments and public authorities to respond effectively to a wide range of incidents and emergencies involving not only infectious diseases but also chemical and radiological contamination. The review is looking at how Public authorities can best be set up to deal with these threats and respond so as to protect the wider Public Health</p> <p>The main reasons for reviewing the 1967 Act are concerned with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• doubts about the adequacy of existing powers for responding to modern potential public health emergencies</li> <li>• the narrow scope of the Act, which is concerned almost exclusively with infectious diseases whereas other jurisdictions have adopted an 'all hazards' approach</li> <li>• the need to ensure that the legislation is consistent with the WHO International Health Regulations 2005</li> <li>• the need to ensure that authorities' powers are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998 and ensure that actions that interfere with an individual's freedom are proportionate to the public health risk</li> <li>• the need to clarify the powers of entry and role of authorised officers to carry out certain functions</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>

	The attached consultation response is returned
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>There are no current resource implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices</b></p> <p>Public Health Act Consultation response</p>





Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

## Review of the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967

### Consultation Questionnaire

#### RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Please use this questionnaire to tell us your views on the draft document.

Please send your response by Friday 18 December 2015 to:

[phdconsultation@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:phdconsultation@dhsspsni.gov.uk), or to

Health Protection Branch  
Room C4.22  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
BELFAST BT4 3SQ

Please note that paragraph reference at each question refers to the Technical Supplement, not the main consultation document. Both documents are available at: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/consultations/currentconsultations.htm>.

**CONFIDENTIALITY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION LEGISLATION**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation. Your response and all other responses to the consultation may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely DHSSPS in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs' Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature, and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about the confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

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Website: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

<b>ABOUT YOU</b>	
<b>Consultee's details</b>	
<p>I am responding as... <i>(Please tick appropriate option)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a member of the public;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a professional / practitioner working with children, young people and families <i>(Please specify which area / sector)</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Health and Social Care</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Justice</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other ..... <i>(Please specify);</i></p> <p><b>Yes</b> on behalf of an organisation, or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other ..... <i>(Please specify).</i></p>	
Please enter your details below.	
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Organisation: <i>(if applicable)</i>	Newry Mourne and Down DC
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City/Town:	Newry
Postcode:	BT35 8DJ
Email Address:	Eoin.devlin@nmandd.org

**PRINCIPLES, STATEMENT OF INTENT AND OBJECTIVES** *(See paragraphs 6.5 –***01. Should new legislation include:**

- (i) a set of principles;
- (ii) a statement of intent;
- (iii) a list of objectives;
- (iv) a combination of any of the above, or
- (v) none of the above?

**Please give reasons for your response.**

The key issue is that the legislation's purpose and scope is clear for regulators, the Courts and ultimately the public. Any of the options (i) to (iv) could be used to deliver this aim.

**ALL HAZARDS***(See paragraphs 6.11 – 6.19)***02: How could new legislation best be future-proofed in order to protect the public's health against threats that are as yet unknown?**

We believe that an 'all-hazards' approach will allow sufficient scope for threats that are not presently known or anticipated to be addressed in the context of protecting the health of the public. The legislation should be worded in such a manner that this wide remit is reflected

**ALL HAZARDS***(See paragraphs 6.11 – 6.19)*

**3: In new legislation, what categories of threat to human health should be grounds for state interventions? Such categories could include ‘contamination’, ‘infectious diseases’ and ‘health risk state’**

It would appear that the Scottish model - incorporating a broad definition of infectious diseases as well as the health risk state - allows for the most comprehensive definition of potential threats to public health

**ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES***(See paragraphs 6.23 – 6.29)*

**4: Should new legislation describe, for Ministers and for each of the statutory bodies concerned, their functions, duties and powers in relation to public health?**

Clearly the legislation should describe the specific responsibilities of all stakeholders given that any such threat to public health is likely to require a large multi-agency response. It is suggested that where the functions of a statutory body require the co-operation of partner statutory bodies that a legislative requirement is included to deliver that co-operation.

In specific relation to the functions, duties and powers of local councils, the current consultation contains little detail in relation to what would be expected of councils and how our role under this specific regulation would fit within the overall public health regime. We have noted the roles for local authorities in Scotland as provided by their 2008 Act. It is imperative that any functions conferred upon Councils are subject to detailed consultation and agreement with Councils in a timely manner. This is particularly true when operating an ‘all-hazards’ approach. It is anticipated that disinfection, disinfestation and decontamination actions under the proposed regime will be relatively rare, however, these may require extensive works they could be extremely costly. The proposed regulation should give consideration to the resourcing necessary to allow Councils (and indeed all regulators engaged in the delivery of the conferred functions) such that there is no additional burden upon Councils. The regulation should also recognize the relatively small geographical scale of Northern Ireland and to allow for shared resources and expertise within NI and with other regions where it is cost-effective to do so.

**POWERS OF ENTRY AND INVESTIGATION***(See paragraphs 6.32 – 6.35)***Q5: What powers should statutory agencies have to investigate public health risks?**

We believe that the current powers are limited in scope and that any new regulation should provide for the powers necessary to deliver the desired functions. These should be developed in consultation with regulators and should be comprehensive but limited to those necessary. In addition, adequate provision should be made for obtaining warrants and offences in the event of obstruction. It is further recommended that a Code of Practice be developed to sit alongside the powers of entry (along the lines of that proposed in the Environmental Better Regulation Bill) to ensure the correct and consistent use of such powers. This is of particular importance as the powers referred to in the proposed legislation impinge upon human rights, liberty and property.

Furthermore, the powers should also consider situations where a statutory agency may wish to authorize another person to act on their behalf (for example from another agency or a contracted specialist).

**POWERS OF ENTRY AND INVESTIGATION***(See paragraphs 6.32 – 6.35)***Q6: What powers should statutory agencies have to enter premises?**

See response to Question 5. In addition the powers available to statutory agencies should not just be limited to situations where a threat to public health has been confirmed by medical examination or otherwise and should also appropriately consider the investigation of potential threats where incidents have not yet been confirmed. Such powers will need to be proportionate to the risk and only able to be used where reasonable grounds exist. Again any such powers should be developed in detailed consultation and with the agreement of all regulators.

**QUARANTINE, ISOLATION AND DETENTION***(See paragraphs 6.36 – 6.40)*

**Q7:What powers, if any, should statutory agencies have to quarantine individuals, and how should such powers be limited and controlled?**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.

**QUARANTINE, ISOLATION AND DETENTION***(See paragraphs 6.36 – 6.40)*

**Q8:What powers, if any, should statutory agencies have to isolate individuals, and how should such powers be limited and controlled?**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.

**QUARANTINE, ISOLATION AND DETENTION***(See paragraphs 6.36 – 6.40)*

**Q9: What powers, if any, should statutory agencies have to detain individuals, and how should such powers be limited and controlled?**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.

**COMPULSORY MEDICAL TREATMENT***(See paragraphs 6.41 – 6.43)*

**Q10: Are there any circumstances in which compulsory medical treatment would be justified? Please give reasons for your response.**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.



**EMPLOYMENT AND RESTRICTION ON SALES***(See paragraphs 6.44 – 6.48)*

**011: Where it is deemed necessary to place employment restrictions on a person or premises, in order to protect the public's health, what restrictions would be legitimate and proportionate?**

The legislation should include the power to exclude persons or prohibit the use of premises where a serious and imminent risk to public health exists.

The current legislation does allow for exclusion of food handlers infected with food poisoning organisms and these restrictions should be extended to include "all hazards" should this approach be adopted.

The use of such restrictions must be balanced against the potential risk and a clear rationale for the imposition for a restriction as well as a review date and appeal mechanism should be included.

Statutory agencies should be indemnified against any claims for costs associated with such restrictions where it can be demonstrated that they were acting in good faith. Consideration should also be given to excluding individuals presenting a potential severe risk to public health pending medical investigations to allow fuller risk assessment.

**CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION OF PREMISES, ARTICLES AND PERSONS***(See paragraph 6.49)*

**012(a): Should new legislation contain provisions for public health measures in relation to premises and things, with powers to disinfect, disinfect and decontaminate?**

**012(b): Should equivalent provisions apply to persons?**

We believe that the legislation should provide for such remedial measures to apply to premises, things and persons.

Such powers are only going to be used where an on-going hazard is presented by such material or persons and the powers would provide the mechanism to 'make safe' the building or person and thereby eliminate the risk to public health.

It appears that this area is one in which local councils would be most active. Again it is important to ensure that any provisions are agreed following detailed consultation with local government and that there is no additional cost burden.

Appropriate provision should be made for the carrying out of works in default and the recovery of costs where possible, however, it is important to recognize that where such costs are unlikely to be successfully recovered, Council budgets may prohibit expensive works in default and accordingly in order to ensure that works are carried out promptly and the risk to public health is addressed as a priority it is recommended that a central budgetary resource is held which can be accessed by statutory agencies as necessary to carry out such works.

**EMERGENCY POWERS***(See paragraphs 6.51 - 6.52)*

**Q13: Should new legislation include provision for emergency subordinate legislation? Please provide reasons for your response**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.

**DECEASED PERSONS***(See paragraphs 6.53 – 6.54)*

**Q14: What powers should be conferred upon a statutory agency to restrict the removal of the body of a deceased person from any place?**

We agree that the protection of public health will necessitate controls on the bodies of deceased persons who pose a threat to the spread of infectious disease or contamination. Any powers conferred should be comprehensive and should allow for requirements on how the body is to be handled and ultimately treated. Given that such hazards are likely to be identified via interaction with medical professionals at or around the time of death it seems likely that controls should commence at that stage by the doctor or other professional.

**DECEASED PERSONS***(See paragraphs 6.53 – 6.54)*

**15: If a person is restricted from removing the body of a deceased person, should that person have a statutory right to a timely explanation as to why they may not remove the body?**

It would appear reasonable that such a statutory right would exist.

**COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATION***(See paragraphs 6.56 – 6.64)*

**16: What powers, if any, should statutory agencies have to subject individuals to compulsory medical examination, and how should such powers be limited and controlled?**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.

**PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS***(See paragraphs 6.56 – 6.64)*

**17: How should new legislation safeguard a person's rights of review and appeal from public health orders?**

Other respondents will be better placed to answer this question.

**PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS***(See paragraphs 6.56 – 6.64)*

**18: Whenever a person is being detained, quarantined, isolated or required to undergo compulsory medical examination or treatment, should they have a statutory right to a timely explanation of the interference with their rights?**

It seems entirely reasonable that such a statutory right would exist.

**PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS***(See paragraphs 6.65 – 6.67)***Q19: The Department would welcome your ideas on**

- (a) how best to balance, on the one hand, the need to protect the public's health, and, on the other hand, the rights, needs and dignity of the individual, and**
- (b) how best to ensure that, where an intervention impinges on a person's rights, the interference is proportionate to the threat to public health.**

We believe that the actions taken by regulators must be proportionate to the risk presented. Given the significant impact of actions under the proposed regime it is recommended that a detailed risk assessment procedure is developed and consulted upon and that the introduction of same is supported by necessary training and guidance. We believe that in this way the best balance can be achieved between the protection of public health and the interests of individuals.

**GAPS AND DEFICIENCIES FOR REFORM**

**Q20: The Department has identified a number of apparent or possible gaps and deficiencies in the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. The Department would welcome your views on what issues or gaps – whether identified in this document or not – should be considered for future possible reforms to the 1967 Act.**

This consultation has already addressed the need to consider the threat from hazards wider than the current legislative framework. This remains the most significant gap to the protection of public health from such threats.

**OPTIONS FOR REFORM***(See paragraphs 7.4 – 7.6)*

**21: Should a public health bill for Northern Ireland be in the form of an amending bill, i.e. one that would make multiple amendments to the 1967 Act, or a 'fresh start' bill that would be a combination of new provisions and 'savings' from the 1967 Act?**

It would appear from the comprehensive nature of the provisions required and the much wider scope necessary, that a new Bill would be the clearest way to proceed.

**OPTIONS FOR REFORM***(See paragraphs 7.4 – 7.6)*

**22: The Department would welcome any observations on the two options for reform.**

See the response to Q21. Option 2 (a 'fresh start' Bill) is recommended.

**ANY OTHER MATTERS**

The Department would welcome any other views, issues or proposals that you wish to raise and which may not correspond directly to any of the questions above.

**STATUTORY EQUALITY DUTIES**

With the exception of the intention to adopt the 'all hazards' approach, this consultation document is concerned with questions rather than with proposals for reform. When the review of the 1967 Act has been completed the Department will bring forward specific, detailed proposals for reforming public health law in Northern Ireland. Those proposals will be the subject of a second public consultation before a public health bill is introduced in the Assembly. As the second consultation will be about concrete proposals it will be possible then to include detailed consideration of the statutory equality duties and any potential adverse impacts on any groups of people that may be defined by reference to the nine distinctions in section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The second consultation will therefore help to inform the equality-screening of each proposal for reform.

Thank you for responding to this consultation.

<b>Report to:</b>	Active and Healthy Communities
<b>Subject:</b>	INTERREG VA Programme
<b>Date:</b>	21 December 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Michael Lipsett
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sheena McEldowney

### Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and consider and agree to:

- Approval for the Council to act as Lead Partner for INTERREG VA Project Thematic Objective 2 – Environment, Priority 2.1 Recovery of Protected Habitats and Priority Species.

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose &amp; Background</b></p> <p>The Council seek approval to act as Lead Partner for an INTERREG VA project. The project which relates to the INTERREG VA Programme, Thematic Objective 2 – Environment, Priority 2.1 Recovery of Protected Habitats and Priority Species, is a cross border project with partners in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>A project bid is being developed with the range of partners to the value of approximately €11m. The project includes the development of conservation action plans across a range of sites, habitat and species mapping, conservation actions and education and research. Project partners include Ulster Wildlife, AFBI, Scottish Natural Heritage, IT Sligo and Monaghan County Council.</p> <p>The bid will be submitted by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Once an application has been received it will be subject to a rigorous assessment process. The Council as lead partner will be notified in September 2016 if the project has been successful at this stage of the INTERREG funding process.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Approval is given for council to act as lead partner for INTERREG VA Project 'Thematic Objective 2 – Environment, Priority 2.1 Recovery of Protected Habitats and Priority Species'.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>



	Officer time attending application meetings and completing the application form.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>  For further information on INTERREG VA:  <a href="http://www.seupb.eu/2014-2020Programmes/INTERREGV_Programme/INTERREGV_Overview.aspx">http://www.seupb.eu/2014-2020Programmes/INTERREGV_Programme/INTERREGV_Overview.aspx</a>