

Title of Report:	Agricultural Sub Committee Terms of Reference
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 September 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Accelerating our Economy and Contributing to Prosperity
Outcome	The Council will work with partners to maximise investment opportunities
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	None at this stage
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
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	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the Terms of Reference for the proposed Agricultural Sub Committee.

2.0 Background

At the October 2020 Leisure and Development Committee, Members approved the following Notice of Motion:

'This council establishes an "Agricultural Sub-Committee" made up from representatives of this council to discuss and promote all aspects of Agriculture within the Causeway Coast and Glens Council area.'

Whilst Council does not have a direct statutory responsibility for agriculture, our statutory functions do operate and apply within the context of the rural economy, environment and community. Therefore, the potential work of the sub-committee is relevant to wider issues relating to the rural economy including tourism, the rural community, council's services and environmental issues.

Furthermore, the scope of the sub-committee could include and give regard to strategic matters including central government (not limited DAERA) policy development, programmes and activities, such as the future development of the successor Rural Development Programme, the Growth Deal and other related investment programmes such as the Levelling Up Fund.

In order to progress as suggested, the proposed title and scope for the sub-committee are reframed accordingly:

Title:

Rural Sub-Committee.

Governance

Reporting to the Leisure and Development Committee.

Strategic

Policy Framework:

- The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

The aim of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 is to improve outcomes for rural dwellers by ensuring that the social and economic needs of people in rural areas are given due regard to by public authorities in their decision making processes and to increase transparency on how public authorities consider rural needs when undertaking their functions.

- Rural proofing in Northern Ireland.

Rural proofing has been a commitment of the Northern Ireland Executive since 2002 and is part of the existing policy-making process across government in Northern Ireland. It is designed to ensure fair and equitable treatment of rural communities so that policies do not have a detrimental impact on rural dwellers.

Consequently, what are the relevant and applicable issues relating to rural matters at both local and central government considering?

- The economic position and the consequence of low-density economies.
- Integrating strategy and policy to address the well-being of dispersed population / communities.

- The complementarity with urban areas i.e. the relationship between the demographic, labour market, public service (including transport) and communication channels.
- Protecting the rural environment.

Operational Matters

Council Services. Consideration of the key council service areas relevant to the rural environment and community.

Government Services. Consideration of the key government service areas relevant to the rural environment and community.

Key Projects. Consideration of the key projects (local / central government) relevant to the rural environment and community.

Grant Programmes

With the conclusion of the RDP (2015-20), how is the successor programmes being developed and how do we prepare for the future programmes focussed on the rural communities?

What are the existing / future grant programmes that benefit the rural environment and community?

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that a Rural Sub-Committee is established, based upon the revised title and scope outlined in this report.

Members are asked to consider the size and appointment process i.e. D'Hondt or other.

Once the Sub-Committee is convened, detailed Terms of Reference will be tabled for Member's consideration.