



Subject:	Response from DAERA Minister - Animal Welfare Policy Reforms in Northern Ireland
Date:	6th October, 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Report			
Is this report restricted?	Yes	☐	No ☒

Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	☒	No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention a response in the above-mentioned matter.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the response.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 23rd June, in considering a draft Council response to a consultation exercise on Animal Welfare Policy Reforms, agreed that a letter be forwarded to the DAERA Minister inviting him to meet with a deputation to discuss animal welfare issues; and that the Council be invited to partake in any evidence session relating to the consultation exercise.
3.2	A response (Appendix 1) has been received on behalf on behalf of the DAERA Minister in which he suggests that the Northern Ireland Local Government Association would be the best forum in which such issues could be addressed collectively with local councils. Such discussions could also be facilitated also through the Society of Local Government Chief Executives; and that local government officers would be invited to partake in an associated working group. In essence, the Minister is of the view that a meeting with a Council deputation would not be necessary at this juncture. A departmental response to the consultation exercise will be issued in due course.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> N/A.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> N/A
	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1