



Subject:	Service Level agreement with Department of Justice for Fireworks and MSER inspections by BCC officers
Date:	4 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officers:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager Mark McGovern, Senior Environmental Health Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>After Council Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Service level agreements have existed for many years with the Department of Justice (DOJ) setting out arrangements for BCC employees who are authorised by DOJ to act as agents in carrying out inspections of premises storing items under the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (NI) 2006 (MSER). Such premises typically store fireworks or air bag components. The most recent version was signed by BCC following Committee approval in 2016.
1.2	The service level agreement has been amended to increase the fees payable to Councils by Department of Justice for inspections carried out for storage of fireworks

	and items being stored to which the MSER Regulations apply. No other significant changes have been made to the SLA.
1.3	The service level agreement is a common document which applies to all District Councils in Northern Ireland, and there is agreement across Councils at technical level via EHNI that Councils should seek approval to sign up the updated SLA to enable cost recovery via updated fee charges to the Department of Justice.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that Council sign up to the revised service level agreement with the Department of Justice for Fireworks and MSER enforcement by BCC officers.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The service level agreement covers training, authorisation/warranting of Council employees to enforce the relevant fireworks and MSER legislation and the working procedures and arrangements between DOJ and BCC.
3.2	The SLA also covers the fees to be paid by DOJ to BCC for the service provided and the invoicing arrangements for recoupment of fees. As the previous SLA was agreed in 2016, the revised SLA has increased the fees payable to Councils by DOJ to address increased costs being incurred by Councils for carrying out this work.
3.3	In the Belfast City Council area, prior to the Covid Pandemic there were typically in the region of 20-25 Fireworks displays inspected per annum. This number has reduced slightly over the past 3 years, however could return to pre-covid levels in the future. There are 18 premises currently registered to store explosives such as fireworks and air bag components
	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	This work is carried out on a full cost recovery basis and is included in existing work programmes.
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
3.5	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None