



Subject:	Response received from Andrew Muir, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs re Greyhound Racing
Date:	20th February, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number	<input type="text"/>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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	To note the correspondence received from Andrew Muir, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and agree to the closure of the motion.
3.0	Main report
	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>3.1 The Committee will recall that, at the Council meeting held on 3rd November, 2025, it was agreed to write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to "improve the regulation of greyhound racing, noting the developments in other jurisdictions, and to support rehoming efforts and welfare organisations working to protect retired greyhounds."</p> <p>3.2 The Committee is advised that a response has been received from the Minister.</p> <p>3.3 In his response he advises that, due to a constrained Assembly mandate he unfortunately has to prioritise interventions possible during the limited Assembly term. As a result his efforts are currently focused on delivering the priorities established in his Animal Welfare Pathway.</p> <p>3.4 The priorities were determined following extensive stakeholder consultation, including animal welfare organisations and councils, to identify areas in most need of reform. While greyhound racing was not identified as a concern during those discussions, reforms such as bringing forward the necessary legislation to prohibit third-party sales of puppies, strengthening microchipping requirements, regulation of rescue and rehoming organisations and a review of dog breeding regulations would apply to all dogs, including greyhounds.</p> <p>3.5 He adds that he believes that exploring the issue fully and progressing any relevant intervention in greyhound racing is a matter that would warrant thorough consideration in the next full five-year Assembly mandate.</p>
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>

	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from Andrew Muir, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.