



Subject:	Response from DAERA re.Japanese Knotweed
Date:	4 th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<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	To update the Committee that a response has been received in relation to a request, at the Committee held on 9th October, seeking the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to meet with an all-party deputation from the Council in relation to the Council's concerns regarding Japanese Knotweed control.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the response and take any such action as may be determined.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on 9th October, the Committee agreed to write to the Permanent Secretary of the DAERA to seek an all-party deputation to meet with him to discuss the ongoing challenges in respect of issues associated with Japanese Knotweed.</p>
3.2	<p>The Committee is advised that a response has now been received, a copy of which is attached. The Permanent Secretary has outlined in detail within the correspondence the Department's role in relation to the management of non-native invasive species. He has advised that the Department is not in a position to provide a service to manage non-native invasive weeds on land outside of their own ownership as the responsibility for managing species such as Japanese Knotweed lies solely with the owner of the land on which it is growing.</p>
3.3	<p>Subsequently, the Permanent Secretary has declined the Committee's request to meet with an all-party deputation to discuss the matter further.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Letter from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs