

Title of Report:	Northern Ireland Houses in Multiple Occupation Service Activity Update 2025/26
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	13th October 2026
For Decision or For Information	For information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy, Active and Engaged Communities
Outcome	To provide an update on the activity of the NIHMO service.
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the activity of the Northern Ireland Houses in Multiple Occupation (NIHMO) service during the financial year 2025/26.

2.0 **Background**

- 2.1 Belfast City Council's NIHMO service, acting on behalf of the 11 Northern Ireland councils, is responsible for the administration of the HMO Licensing Scheme. This includes processing and validating licence applications, carrying out checks and inspections of HMO properties, issuing enforcement notices, and investigating and addressing breaches of licensing conditions.
- 2.2 The granting, refusal, variation or revocation of an HMO licence within the borough rests with Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.
- 2.3 The activity of the NIHMO service during the financial year 2025/26 is summarised below.

3.0 **HMO Licensing**

- 3.1 Table 1 provides a summary of the number of HMO's licensed at 31 March 2026

Table 1

Council	Count by Council Area	Permitted Occupancy
Antrim and Newtownabbey	15	70
Ards and North Down	13	80
Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon	59	331
Belfast	2996	12981
Causeway Coast and Glens	214	927
Derry City and Strabane	250	1202
Fermanagh and Omagh	5	20
Lisburn and Castlereagh	9	46
Mid and East Antrim	12	76
Mid Ulster	18	120
Newry Mourne and Down	18	97
Grand Total	3609	15950

- 3.2 Table 2 provides a summary of the number of HMO's licenced at 31 March 2026 in the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council by DEA

Table 2

DEA	Licensed HMOs
Ballymoney	5
Bann	5
Causeway	153
Coleraine	50
The Glens	1
Grand Total	214

- 3.3 Table 3 provides a summary of the number of licenses granted and renewed during the financial year 2025/26.

Table 3

Council	New Applications	Renewal Application	Total by Council Area
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0	0	0
Ards and North Down	0	1	1
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	12	5	17
Belfast	150	578	728
Causeway Coast and Glens	16	44	60
Derry City and Strabane	44	33	77
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	1	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	0	0
Mid and East Antrim	4	0	4
Mid Ulster	2	0	2
Newry Mourne and Down	0	1	1
Grand Total	228	663	891

Note: New applications include those properties which had a license in the name of a different licensee and were subsequently sold / transferred.

- 3.4 Table 4 provides a summary of the number of HMO licence applications that have not been successful (by reason) during the financial year 2025/26.

Table 4

	Not received from owner	Breach of planning control	Documentation	Notice of Publication	Fee not Paid	Overprovision	Fit & proper person	Grand total
Council								
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ards and North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belfast	0	4	10	3	0	5	0	22
Causeway Coast & Glens	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	5
Derry City and Strabane	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	5
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid and East Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry Mourne and Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1	4	11	8	3	5	2	34

4.0 HMO Inspections

- 4.1 Table 5 provides a summary of the number of inspections (by type) undertaken during the financial year 2025/26

Table 5

Council	No Access	Licensing Inspections	Interim (WIP)	Final	Enforcement	Grand Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2	3	0	1	22	28
Ards and North Down	0	6	1	2	6	15
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	1	13	1	5	32	52
Belfast	37	869	12	262	235	1415
Causeway Coast & Glens	0	71	0	24	6	101
Derry City and Strabane	13	95	3	48	16	175
Fermanagh and Omagh	1	1	0	0	4	6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	2	0	1	7	10
Mid and East Antrim	1	6	1	1	23	32
Mid Ulster	0	5	0	1	8	14
Newry Mourne and Down	3	17	0	2	11	33
Grand Total	58	1088	18	347	370	1881

5.0 **HMO Enforcement**

- 5.1 Table 6 provides a summary of enforcement action taken in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Table 6

Notice Type	Count
Section 72 - Power to require persons connected to premises to produce documents	2
Grand Total	2

- 5.2 During the financial year 2025/26 a total of £175,600 was paid following the issue of fixed penalties notices across all Northern Ireland Councils. No fixed penalty notices were served in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area.

6.0 **Recommendation**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the report be noted.