1. Is the Council intending to submit an application to the Rural Connected Communities Competition for rural 5G testbeds?

At its September Regeneration and Community Committee Fermanagh and Omagh District Council agreed to participate in the Rural Connected Communities Competition, on the basis of the FFNI (Full Fibre Network Northern Ireland) Consortium. This agreement is caveated in that the Council would require both an Environmental and Health Impact Assessment on any successful project in the Council area to be undertaken and that the Council can withdraw at any time. Please note that this is a recommended course of action and is subject to ratification at the Council meeting on 1 October 2019.

2. If the answer to the above is yes, has the Council undertaken, or does the Council plan to undertake risk assessments, equality impact assessments and s75 screenings for its application? Please provide copies of any documents relating to these screenings.

As explained above, the Council will require both an Environmental and Health Impact Assessment on any successful project in the Council area to be undertaken and the option to withdraw its willingness to participate in the competition at any time, subject to the findings of the Environmental and Health Impact Assessments. Please note that this is a recommended course of action and is subject to ratification at the Council meeting on 1 October.

3. If the answer to q1 is yes, which rural communities will be included under the project scope? Please provide details of processes used to identify and select these communities, including details of any community consultation.

As no project has yet been identified, nor have any potential communities.

4. Does the Council have a 5G, IoT or Smart Communities strategy, or does the Council plan to develop one?

We do not have such a strategy and to date the Council has not expressed a wish to develop one.

5. Does the Council have public liability or employer's liability insurance for harm caused by wireless radiation? If not, please specify why, and in particular whether this is because of an explicit exclusion in the Council's insurance policies.

The Council has Public Liability and Employers Liability insurance. The policies provide cover up to limits of indemnity in respect of the Policyholders legal liability and subject to the terms conditions and exceptions of the policies. The policies do not currently contain an Electromagnetic Fields; Non-Ionizing Radiation; Wireless RF; or EMF Radiation Exclusion.