

Rural Needs

Annual Monitoring Report

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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IN PEOPLE**

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Ministerial Foreword

I am pleased to present the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report, covering the reporting period, 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020.

The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report is an integral part of the rural needs monitoring process as it provides a formal record of all Rural Needs Impact Assessments undertaken by public authorities.

A Rural Needs Impact Assessment is the process which the guidance recommends public authorities undertake to help ensure they fulfil the due regard duty under section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. It requires public authorities to seek to identify the needs of people in rural areas relevant to the activity, to give appropriate consideration to those needs and to determine how those needs should be taken account of in the policy, strategy, plan or public service.

It is recognised that many strategies and policies can have a different impact in rural areas than in urban areas, often due to issues such as connectivity difficulties, geographical isolation and lower population densities for example. The impact of a policy or the delivery of a public service can therefore be different for people in rural areas than in urban areas and it is important for public authorities to recognise that a one size fits all approach may not always be appropriate. The Rural Needs Impact Assessment process helps ensure that these issues are considered by public authorities when carrying out their functions.

I recognise that the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 has only been in operation for a relatively short time however it is clear from the report that consideration of rural needs is now becoming more firmly embedded within public authorities and that is something which I welcome.

I also recognise that there is still scope for more to be done to ensure that rural needs are taken account of in the development and implementation of policy and in the design and delivery of public services and my department will continue to work with public authorities to help them implement the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 effectively and help deliver positive and meaningful benefits for rural dwellers in the future.

Finally I would like to thank those public authorities who have contributed to this Annual Monitoring Report and I hope that by continuing to work together we can deliver better outcomes for rural dwellers.



Edwin Poots MLA

Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs



DAERA Overview

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 (the Act) is a key rural policy tool for DAERA in supporting rural communities. The aim of the Act is to improve outcomes for rural dwellers by ensuring that the social and economic needs of people in rural areas are given due regard to by public authorities in their decision making processes and to increase transparency on how public authorities consider rural needs when undertaking their functions.

There has been a significant increase in the volume of activities reported on by public authorities in this year's report. The information contained in this report includes a list of activities undertaken by public authorities for which a Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been undertaken and, where appropriate, includes information on (i) the rural needs identified in respect of the activity, (ii) the issues considered in relation to these rural needs and (iii) how the activity had been influenced by these rural needs.

As the department with responsibility for the Act, DAERA continued to provide a range of support to other public authorities to help ensure they comply with the requirements of the legislation. This support included the provision of advice on the implementation of the due regard duty, the undertaking of Rural Needs Impact Assessments, the completion of Rural Needs Impact Assessment Templates, engaging with rural stakeholders and monitoring and reporting.

In accordance with its obligations under section 3(2) of the Act the department published the second Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report on 12 December 2019 and laid a copy in the NI Assembly and a subsequent written ministerial statement was made.

In September 2019, DAERA commenced a review of the implementation of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. The purpose of the review was to assess how the legislation was being implemented by public authorities and to identify any further support measures that might be introduced to help public authorities comply with the legislation. A Rural Needs Working Group was established for the purposes of taking forward the review consisting of representatives of government departments, district councils, academia, rural stakeholder organisations and the other public authorities listed in the Schedule to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. As part of the review the working group collected evidence from a wide range of public authorities and rural stakeholders to ensure that the review was evidence-based.

The Rural Needs Working Group produced its report on the review in January 2020 which included 25 recommendations including the establishment of a Rural Needs Network for the purposes of facilitating co-operation and the exchange of information between public authorities, the redesign of DAERA's Rural Needs website and the development of comprehensive training for Rural Needs Co-ordinators.

The majority of the recommendations related specifically to DAERA with a small number relating to other public authorities. DAERA has accepted all of the recommendations relating to it and in March 2020 developed an Action Plan for implementing these recommendations.

DAERA also piloted a new model for monitoring Rural Needs Impact Assessments which is designed to assist public authorities in compiling information required for the annual monitoring report and to help ensure accurate reporting. DAERA also developed and piloted a new comprehensive training course for Rural Needs Co-ordinators in line with the recommendation made by the Rural Needs Working Group which is scheduled to roll out during 2020/21.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Reporting Period 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
<p>The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2019. The uplift of the fees and charges in relation to the registration of brokers, dealers and carriers of waste and the processing of exemptions from waste management licensing 2019.</p>	<p>These Regulations are activity based and therefore have no differential impact on rural and urban areas. There is no evidence to suggest that business within rural areas would be disproportionately impacted compared to business in urban areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
<p>Proposal to introduce a new Animal Health and Welfare Strategic Framework for NI.</p>	<p>The draft NI Animal Health & Welfare Strategic Framework considers the impact of animal health and welfare issues on the economy, public health and well-being, and the environment. Public consultation on the proposed Framework is aimed at the farming industry, the agri-food sector, keepers of both farmed animals and domestic pets, veterinary practitioners, animal welfare groups and other interested bodies and individuals. It has been developed through a process of engagement and co-design with a stakeholder sub group and sets out five proposed outcomes which are linked, either directly or indirectly, to rural needs. It is, therefore, expected that the Framework would directly affect a greater proportion of the population that live in rural rather than urban areas but is not expected to have a differential impact between different rural communities.</p>
<p>Engagement with stakeholders on potential options for Basic Payment Scheme Entitlement Unit Values Post 2019.</p>	<p>The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) is an agricultural land-based scheme funded under Pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The scheme is accessible to all farm businesses which hold BPS entitlements, are involved in agricultural activity and can demonstrate compliance with the scheme rules as laid down in Council Regulation (EU) No. 1307/2013. No rural needs have been identified. The scheme does not create a differential impact between rural and urban areas and, as the beneficiaries of the scheme are exclusively farm businesses, there is no differential impact between different rural communities.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
<p>Consultation on proposed approach to the implementation of the European Union Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/949, which sets out the configuration of the identification code for bovine animals in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The proposed changes and legislative amendments will be applied equally across all areas of Northern Ireland, therefore the potential impacts are the same. However, due to the nature and location of farming and agri-environment activities, the impacts will be experienced by greater numbers in rural areas. The Department has previously canvassed the views of key stakeholders on an informal basis. Representatives from the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU), markets and the meat processing industry were unanimous with their support for the introduction of Bovine EID. Representatives from meat processors and markets were strongly in favour, whilst the UFU were also supportive and recognised that Bovine EID had the ability to transform operations and confer many benefits. However, they also had concerns about how bovine EID would be implemented in practice.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
<p>The Implementation of a Departmental Export Health Certification Online System.</p>	<p>The new model will impact on all Northern Ireland businesses exporting animals and Products of Animal Origin (POAO) as it will change the different methods used to apply for EHC (for example written forms, emails) to a single online application system. Any business without suitable broadband to access the DECOL System can visit their local DAERA Direct Office to apply for certificates.</p> <p>It will also affect DAERA staff as posts will be moved from one business area to another. It is envisaged that staff will not be required to move location and that there will be no reduction in the number of posts. The new system went live in April 2019.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
<p>The Agriculture (Student Fee) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2019. These Regulations made amendments to existing DAERA Fee Regulations in order to apply an inflationary increase to the tuition fees charged by DAERA for Higher Education courses at CAFRE - this is in line with DfE Regulations.</p>	<p>The inflationary increase maintains a long standing policy decision. The increase does not have a differential impact on rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Rural Support - this project aims to provide Helpline/ Volunteer & Outreach support, presentations and information sessions to help reduce rural stress and promote positive mental health, and on-farm business mentoring to farmers/family members.	Rural Support provides a listening ear and signposting service to farmers and farm families. Their service is accessible to all farm businesses and is specifically focused on rural dwellers.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Social Farming Capital Grant Scheme - this project aims to adapt farm facilities and improve accessibility to contribute to a higher quality on-farm experience for service users and the farm enterprise.	The Social Farming Capital Grant Scheme is specifically focused towards Social Farmers. The scheme is accessible to all rural farm businesses that are involved in Social Farming.
The Social Farming Support Service assists stakeholders become engaged in Social Farming and become ready to deliver this service. Stakeholders also receive relevant social farming training.	The Social Farming Support Service supports farmers and their families to undertake Social Farming. This Scheme is open to all rural farm businesses that want to undertake Social Farming activities.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
Economic appraisal for a £37m Capital Investment Programme at CAFRE's Loughry Campus.	The main issues considered by this economic appraisal relate to the provision of fit-for -purpose campus facilities to provide educational programmes to meet skills gaps in the NI Food industry - which attracts many rural dwellers. Educational attainment improves economic sustainability. The residential facilities also offer an opportunity to develop new and widen existing social experiences and interactions in the rural community.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
Economic appraisal for a £30m Capital investment Programme at CAFRE's Greenmount Campus.	The main issues considered by this economic appraisal relate to the provision of fit-for -purpose campus facilities which are conducive to improving the knowledge and skills of people in rural areas. Educational attainment improves economic sustainability. The residential facilities also offer an opportunity to develop new and widen existing social experiences and interactions in the rural community.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
Developing an Innovation Strategy as part of the DAERA Science Transformation Programme.	This high level strategy will identify how innovation can be embedded into policy to foster an enabling environment for knowledge generation, exchange and exploitation within DAERA and within rural communities. As DAERA stakeholders predominantly live and work in rural areas, the strategy is heavily influenced by the needs of rural people. It includes proposals for measures to improve innovation within rural businesses and provision of skills training which will be open to all rural dwellers involved in agri-food, fisheries, forestry and the environment. The adoption of innovation by rural businesses will help to drive economic growth within rural areas, helping to address rural poverty.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Developing a DAERA Science Strategy as part of the Science Transformation Programme.	This draft high level strategy will provide principles, goals and objectives to guide how DAERA utilises science. DAERA uses science to under pin its responsibilities for agri-food, farming, environmental, marine and fisheries, forestry and sustainability policy development and the development of the rural sector in Northern Ireland. The sectors that will be impacted by this strategy are largely based in rural areas of Northern Ireland and it is anticipated therefore that the draft strategy would have more impact on those living and working in rural areas than in urban areas. The draft strategy has been developed through a process of engagement with representatives from each of the sectors and the public consultation will be aimed at these sectors.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
<p>European Union (Withdrawal) Act amendments to Horticulture and Banana Marketing Standards Regulations and Poultry Meat Regulations.</p>	<p>The amendments to the relevant Northern Ireland domestic legislation simply ensure that the legislation continues to operate after EU Exit as it currently does. As the changes made are minor drafting amendments to legislation, there will be no impact generally, and therefore no specific impact on rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>Developing a DAERA Monitoring and Surveillance Strategy as part of the Science Transformation Programme.</p>	<p>This draft strategy will provide principles and guidelines on how DAERA commissions and manages science activities in relation to monitoring and surveillance activities. These science activities support evidence based decision making in support of agri-food, farming, environmental, marine and fisheries, forestry and sustainability policy development and in doing so contribute to the development of the rural sector in Northern Ireland. The sectors are largely rural based and it is envisaged that the draft strategy will have greater impact on those living and working in rural areas. The draft strategy is still in the early stages of development but will engage with representatives from each of the sectors to ensure an inclusive and fully cross cutting approach which will contribute to rural development.</p>
<p>The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme offers Micro Capital grants of between £200 and £1,500 to rural community-led, voluntary organisations for projects tackling issues of local poverty and/or social isolation.</p>	<p>The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2019 has been designed to help rural community-led, voluntary groups to address local issues of access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation; and improve the lives of rural communities, and in particular the wellbeing of isolated individuals.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
Rural Business Development Grant Scheme - this project aims to provide micro businesses in rural areas with a capital grant capped at £4,999, at a match funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses to enhance their sustainability and growth prospects.	The Rural Business Development Grant Pilot Scheme will help address financial poverty in rural areas through the growth, increased productivity and sales. The creation of sustainable employment will also help address financial poverty in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
So Keep Farming - this project aims to give more people with a disability the opportunity to engage and contribute by choice in farming, training and social activities.	Having the participants undertaking social farming activities on the farm reduces the isolation for the farmers on the farm and provides them with companions in the daily farm activities. The experience gained by the participants in social farming enhances their employability prospects and increases their potential availability to participate in the general workforce. Rural participants experience reduced isolation and improved levels of mental health and well-being, beneficial to themselves and also to their parents and/or carers.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
Step Up to Sustainable Employment Plus - also known as SUSE+ - this project aims to engage and support vulnerable people in the Mid Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council areas by providing mentoring and sustainable employment opportunities.	Fully trained mentors engage and support vulnerable people living in rural areas by providing mentoring and sustainable employment opportunities across the Mid Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council areas.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Libraries NI - The Health in Mind Project is a joint pilot initiative between the Department for Communities (DfC Libraries) and DAERA.	The provision of SAD boxes and health and wellbeing events, 47 Lego Community Start Sets and 47 large Lego building plates are being purchased for libraries serving rural areas to enable Lego clubs to take place. Six events will also be held in libraries serving rural areas with an experience Lego facilitator. These activities contribute to positive mental health and general wellbeing.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
A revised Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland to fulfil Northern Ireland's obligations of the Revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).	The proposed changes and legislative amendments will be applied equally across all areas of Northern Ireland, therefore the potential impacts are the same. The assessment has found that changes to the plan do not have a differential impact on rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Forest Park Schemes.	This initiative involves joint collaboration between Councils, DAERA Forest Service and Rural Affairs Division to invest in Forest Parks in rural areas to create a welcoming environment for all that will promote positive mental health and wellbeing as well as creating opportunities for social engagement, the space and facilities to support groups at risk of social isolation and to complement and add value to existing Government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Rural Healthy Ageing Network (RHAN) Project.	This project is a PHA (Public Health Agency) and DAERA jointly funded initiative and delivered by RAPID (Rural Area Partnership in Derry). The services provided by RHAN will offer a tailored one-to-one service with the aim of reducing social isolation and loneliness and will provide an enhanced range of support.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
The Libraries NI Adult Digital Literacy Programme.	In partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) aims to tackle the serious digital skills deficit in Northern Ireland by delivering digital learning opportunities. This Programme, jointly funded by DAERA and DfC will ensure at least 720 rural participants will receive learning opportunities in the 2019/20 financial year.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Libraries NI Out of Hours.	In partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) the Libraries 'Out of Hours Service' has provided extended access to library facilities in 6 rural areas. Using a unique PIN code, users can avail of a range of services including access to the public computer network and Wi-Fi, borrow books, access study facilities and, where available, make use of meeting room facilities. The Omagh library, with a large rural membership is also being adapted.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
Review of Cross Compliance controls, land eligibility and land inspections post EU Exit.	<p>DAERA launched a stakeholder engagement in August 2018 (the 'Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework - Stakeholder Engagement') to help shape the debate on future agricultural support arrangements and inform future Ministers. The vast majority of responses were supportive of retaining elements of the direct payment schemes and their review to remove requirements that are not particularly relevant or worthwhile in a Northern Ireland context.</p> <p>Following on from this stakeholder engagement, the overriding principle of the review of Cross Compliance, land eligibility and land inspection will be simplification. There is a desire to develop a cross compliance regime focused on local (Northern Ireland) needs; clear policy objectives; clear rationale for the requirements; and a proportionate penalty system. The desire is also to develop practical eligibility rules for land based schemes post-Brexit that can be easily understood and robustly enforced. Therefore overall there is likely to be a positive impact on people in rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>The review is in its early stages but will recommend a renewed education and training focus on a broader range of farm businesses and not just those working most closely with DAERA in existing business development and other groups. The aim of this will be to reconnect claimants with the reasons why Cross Compliance is important. Proposed revisions to the land eligibility and land inspection will focus on controls by remote sensing to avoid disturbance of the farmer with scheduling of any land based inspections, and also simplification of the land eligibility rules.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
<p>The Animal Health and Welfare (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2019. These regulations aims to ensure that references to domestic legislation and EU laws in existing Northern Ireland legislation relating to animal health and welfare are up to date.</p>	<p>The purpose of this SR is to amend existing domestic legislation relating to animal health and welfare to ensure that it operates effectively. It makes technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. No rural needs have, therefore, been identified.</p>
<p>The Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) Regulations (NI) 2019. The policy objective of these Regulations is to make domestic legislation that ensures there is no statutory gap in relation to the enforcement of official controls in Northern Ireland. It will enable the Department to continue to carry out official controls and activities which are needed to protect biosecurity in Northern Ireland and maintain businesses' ability to trade within the UK and EU.</p>	<p>The purpose of this SR is to ensure there is no statutory gap in relation to the enforcement of the animal health and welfare elements of the new EU Official Controls Regulation (2017/625) (OCR) in Northern Ireland. The main provisions of this SR replicate existing provisions in the Official Controls (Animals, Feed and Food) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 which it replaces. As such, it is not envisaged that it will have an impact on rural areas and no requirement arises to define 'rural' for the purposes of the SR.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
The Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020. The uplift of the fees and charges in relation to the registration of brokers, dealers and carriers of waste and the processing of exemptions from waste management licensing 2020.	These Regulations are activity based and therefore have no differential impact on rural and urban areas. There is no evidence to suggest that business within rural areas would be disproportionately impacted compared to business in urban areas.
A revised Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland to fulfill Northern Ireland's obligations of the Revised Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).	The proposed changes and legislative amendments will be applied equally across all areas of Northern Ireland, therefore the potential impacts are the same. The assessment has found that changes to the plan do not have a differential impact on rural areas.
The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (NI) 2019.	The Order provides for criminal offences relating to a breach of the requirements of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. This is a regional policy and has no differential impact on the rural areas.
The Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2019.	The Implementation of Directive 2018/350 does not constitute a new policy. The regulations will ensure parity with legislation being introduced in other UK administrations. This is a regional policy and has no differential impact in the rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Development of a new Draft Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2019 - 2024.	As the DAP covers all business areas within DAERA the economic needs of people in rural areas will have been considered where applicable - for example - additional costs of living in a rural area such as higher fuel or transport costs can have a greater impact on people on low incomes while some groups such as young people or people with disabilities may experience greater difficulties accessing transport services in rural areas than in urban settings consequently the TRPSI programme will have recognised this. As the DAP covers all business areas within DAERA the social and economic needs

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>of people in rural areas will have been considered, where applicable, by each business area and strategic priorities identified and detailed within the DAP.</p> <p>The Department has considered the impact of poverty and social isolation on vulnerable groups in rural areas and those with a disability and considered how living in rural areas can exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation. In particular it has looked at effects that living in a rural area can have on accessing key services and social isolation and at potential measures for alleviating the effects, such as facilitating rural community transport solutions.</p> <p>The Department has identified opportunities for public authorities to work together in seeking to address the issues identified around poverty and social isolation in rural areas and a need for a more flexible approach in identifying suitable measures. The Department has also recognised a need for more new and innovative approaches to dealing with the issues in rural areas which take account of particular circumstances which people, particularly vulnerable and disabled people, in rural areas face.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
<p>Review of DAERA Further Education Support and Charging.</p>	<p>Improving educational attainment and CPD across the agri-food sector is a key DAERA objective. DAERA Further Education support and charging policy covers students studying at CAFRE and the financial assistance which may be available to these students. In reviewing this policy, a range of issues were considered in relation to the economic and social needs of people in rural areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel distances and costs; • Poor rural public transport links; • Rural locations of dwellers and College campuses; • Courses only available at specific locations; • Uncertainty and fluctuations in farm income; • High numbers of part-time students due to on farm commitments; • The need to improve educational attainment and CPD across the agri-food sector.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
<p>The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. The activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 relates to inflation linked increases to full time Higher Education (HE) tuition fee policy at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and the extension of this policy to include international students at CAFRE. International students are defined as persons undertaking a course of study at CAFRE who are not included in the categories of person under Schedule 2 Part 2 of The Education (Student Support) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.</p>	<p>The inflationary increase maintains a long standing policy decision. The increase does not have a differential impact on rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>The introduction of new legislation to set up a UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) to replace the EU Emissions Trading Scheme at the end of the Transition Period.</p>	<p>This policy is focused on the reduction of carbon emissions by industrial installations. It requires new legislation to set up the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) which will be very similar to the previous EU ETS, resulting in very little impact for installations once they transfer to the new scheme. No impact is envisaged as a result of these changes - whether on people in rural areas or otherwise and the Regulations do not introduce new policy in these areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Infrastructure	
Capital funding to Councils through the Household Waste Recycling Collaborative Change Programme.	The main issue arising from rural needs is in relation to assessment of application for funding that covers rural areas, especially remote areas, where value for money may be poorer than for urban areas due to the low population density affecting economy of scale. Therefore, the application process for councils to bid for funding must ensure that applications for rural services are not disadvantaged on the grounds of VFM. These applications will be benchmarked against comparable existing rural recycling services. In addition, studies have been conducted into the status and location of Household Waste Recycling Centres to identify capability, capacity and geographical gaps. The application process will seek to ensure that funding provides improvements to deliver a modern integrated network of Household waste Recycling Centres and Civic Amenity sites across Northern Ireland.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Clean Air Strategy.	The discussion document contains proposals; these proposals are subject to a public consultation and rural community organisations will be encouraged to participate in this consultation. If any of these proposals are chosen for adoption in the final Clean Air Strategy, then social and economic needs of people in rural areas will be addressed at this stage through a full Rural Needs Impact Assessment (in conjunction, where necessary, with other government departments).
Update to the marine monitoring programme in-line with the UK's legal obligations under the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010.	The monitoring programmes proposed in the Marine Strategy Part Two: UK Updated Monitoring Programmes will be carried out at sea and are designed to have no/negligible/minimal impact on the environment or the people who may work at sea. The purpose of the monitoring programmes is to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate the extent that the revised objectives and targets set out in the updated Marine Strategy Part One have been met so we can provide a robust assessment of progress towards achieving GES in 2024 within the Marine Strategy area.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Most of the proposed monitoring programmes are a continuation of existing programmes and often fulfil other policy purposes, for example Domestic Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>It has therefore been considered unnecessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas associated with the delivery of these programmes and no specific differentiation between the needs of rural versus urban communities has been identified by the Department in relation to the UK Marine Strategy Part Two.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
Revised legislative requirements for Northern Ireland to fulfill the CEP amendments (2018/851(EU)) to Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/E).	These Regulations are activity based and therefore have no differential impact on rural and urban areas. There is no evidence to suggest that business within rural areas would be disproportionately impacted compared to business in urban areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Website Development Programme.	This programme has been developed in conjunction with Tourism NI and is co-funded by DAERA and DfE. The Programme is open to any tourism business to develop a new, or enhance an existing website. Emphasis is on immersive engaging content to drive sales and increase “looker to booker” conversion rates as well as embedding payment and booking engines to ensure tourism businesses are adaptable to the “new normal” following Covid-19, making contactless options available to potential customers.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
Prosper+ Employability Programme.	This Programme has been developed in conjunction with the Southern Regional College. It offers mentoring support to approximately 100 young people from rural post primary schools engaged in the SRC Schools’ Partnership Programme and provides accredited training for economically inactive and low paid workers living within rural areas of deprivation.

Department for Communities

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
<p>Development of a new definition of Affordable Housing in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>DfC and its delivery partner NIHE has taken account of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas as identified in relation to financial poverty, increasing levels of people over 65 in rural areas, social isolation, fuel poverty and social/affordable housing need in rural areas.</p> <p>The current definition of affordable housing is restricted to social and intermediate (shared ownership) products. The DfC “Definition of Affordable Housing” consultation proposed an overarching definition under which a wider range of affordable products, would be captured.</p> <p>It is anticipated these changes will complement the NIHE rural strategy, and other initiatives, such as DfC Public Land for Housing Project and, more generally, help deliver the Programme for Government targets to address housing need and increase housing supply.</p>
<p>Core funding of Housing Rights to provide a housing advice service; information and support to other frontline practitioners; identify issues/help bring about improvements in housing legislation, policy and practice and access funding from other sources for a variety of other programmes/projects.</p>	<p>The DfC and its delivery partner HRS has taken account of the needs of people in rural areas to ensure the project is widely available throughout NI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of the project for people in rural areas are equivalent to those for people in urban areas. • There are no additional costs associated with accessing the project for people/organisations in rural areas. <p>As the advice service is predominantly delivered via the telephone, it will be equally accessible in rural areas.</p> <p>Also, training and on-line information is available to other advice providers to ensure there is availability for local and face-to-face assistance across NI.</p> <p>HRS also provide self-help, on-line resources - recent information indicates improving internet services in</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>rural areas of NI, although quality of access is still poorer for rural than urban premises and rural dwellers may have a more limited choice of providers, and Next Generation Access and Superfast Broadband availability are lower in rural than in urban areas. Longer line lengths in rural areas may also result in deteriorations in speed (DAERA's <i>Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation - A New Framework</i>; March 2016).</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>Change to the eligibility criteria of the Universal Credit Contingency Fund scheme.</p>	<p>A change was made to the Universal Credit Contingency Fund eligibility criteria. This Fund is available to anyone who satisfies the criteria, irrespective of whether they live in a rural or urban area.</p>
<p>Amendment to the Discretionary Support scheme to introduce a new emergency grant payment to assist people diagnosed with or self-isolating due to Covid-19.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas, in relation to this policy, are the same as those in urban areas.</p> <p>The change in policy enhanced the Discretionary Support grant eligibility criteria to provide for grants (rather than loans) for short-term living expenses where a claimant or a member of their immediate family is diagnosed with COVID-19 or is advised to self-isolate in accordance with guidance published by the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being.</p> <p>There will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas as the regulations will apply to those claimants who satisfy the criteria for a payment, irrespective of where they live.</p>
<p>Amendment to the Discretionary Support scheme to increase the annual income threshold.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas, in relation to this policy, are the same as those in urban areas.</p> <p>The increase in the Discretionary Support income threshold to £20,405 from 1 April 2020 will ensure that more people on low incomes will be able to access emergency financial support. This includes allowing</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>access to living expenses grants for people affected by COVID-19 that were introduced on 25 March 2020.</p> <p>There will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas as the regulations will apply to those claimants who satisfy the criteria for a payment, irrespective of where they live.</p>
<p>The Social Security (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 make amendments to the Social Security (Immigration and Asylum) Consequential Amendments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000. These changes to domestic legislation will ensure that, after the United Kingdom exits the European Union, the rights of certain third country nationals lawfully living and working in Northern Ireland are protected for the purposes of determining entitlement to certain benefits.</p>	<p>The policy makes no distinction between rural and urban dwellers, and there will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas. The amendments being made will maintain the status quo by ensuring the current rules on access to certain benefits and credits will continue to apply to certain third country nationals lawfully living and working in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The policy change is a positive amendment that will be applied equally to urban and rural dwellers. It will maintain continuity of access to certain disability benefits, Carer's Allowance and Winter Fuel Payments for those in the scope of the new agreements, including Zambrano Carers (non-EEA nationals who are primary carers of a British citizen and derive their right to reside in the UK through the person they care for).</p>
<p>The Social Security (Income-related Benefits) (Updating and Amendment No. 2) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 make amendments to income-related benefits legislation to clarify that the existing rules on access to benefits for EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss nationals, and Zambrano carers, remain in place for those granted limited leave to enter or remain under the EU Settlement Scheme.</p>	<p>The amendments being made maintain the status quo, and they apply irrespective of whether the benefit claimant lives in an urban or rural area. These Regulations simply ensure that the existing rules on access to benefits for EEA and Swiss nationals, and Zambrano carers, remain in place for those granted limited leave to enter or remain under the EU Settlement Scheme.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas in relation to this policy are the same as those for urban dwellers.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty/Social Security Benefits Legislation	
<p>The Employment Equality (Age) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 to enable integrated pension schemes to continue to take account of the State Pension when calculating pension payable, where the member has a State Pension age later than age 65. The Regulations are highly technical.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Regulations, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend existing legislation to implement provisions of the European Union (EU) Directive 2017/828, on the encouragement of long-term shareholder engagement by institutions for occupational retirement provision (known as “SRD II”), which relate to workplace pension scheme stewardship and governance. The Regulations are highly technical.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Regulations, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p>	<p>This Order specifies the percentage by which preserved pension rights are revalued for members of salary related occupational pension schemes who leave their scheme before pension age (“early leavers”). An Order is made each year to apply to those who attain their scheme’s normal pension age in the following calendar year. This year’s Order affects people who reach the scheme’s normal pension age in 2020.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>The Order is highly technical.</p> <p>The Order implements a statutory duty to revalue the rights of early leavers over the period for each complete year since the early leaver left the scheme in line with the corresponding Order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to set different percentages for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Order, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>This Order specifies the Pension Protection Fund levy ceiling and the standard amount of the compensation cap for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2020. The Order is highly technical.</p> <p>The Order implements a statutory duty to increase the amount of the levy ceiling and the standard amount of the compensation cap in line with the corresponding Order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to set different amounts for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Order, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty/Social Security Benefits Legislation	
<p>The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (General Levy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p> <p>The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (General Levy) (Revocation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (General Levy) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 to give effect to new rates that will be used to calculate the general levy payable by occupational pension schemes and personal pension schemes. The Regulations are highly technical.</p> <p>These Regulations revoke the Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (General Levy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 before they come into operation on 1 April 2020.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Regulations, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The Guaranteed Minimum Pension Increase Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>This Order specifies the percentage by which the guaranteed minimum pension element of an individual's occupational pension entitlement is increased with effect from 6 April 2020 (a person could accrue a guaranteed minimum pension in a contracted-out occupational pension scheme between 1978 and 1997). The Order is highly technical.</p> <p>The Order implements a statutory duty to increase the guaranteed minimum pension percentage in line with the corresponding Order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to set different percentages for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Order, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The Automatic Enrolment (Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>This Order sets the amounts of the lower and upper limits of the automatic enrolment qualifying earnings band for the 2020/21 year in line with the lower and upper National Insurance contributions earnings limits for that year. It also specifies rounded figures for the earnings trigger and qualifying earnings band for that year. The Order is highly technical.</p> <p>The Order implements a statutory duty to substitute the amounts of the lower and upper limits of the qualifying earnings band and specifies rounded figures in line with the corresponding Order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to specify different amounts for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>According to NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Services) statistical information, the age profile and life expectancy of the urban and rural populations are broadly similar.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Order, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The State Pension Revaluation for Transitional Pensions Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>The proposed statutory rule is an annual routine technical Order giving effect to a statutory requirement to specify the percentage that will be used to revalue the “protected payment” element of a new State Pension for persons who reach State Pension age on or after 7 April 2020.</p> <p>The Order only provides for the revaluation of elements of State Pension; consequently there are no barriers or additional costs associated with implementing the policy in rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty/Social Security Benefits Legislation	
<p>The State Pension Debits and Credits (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>None required.</p> <p>The proposed statutory rule allows for the revaluation of the new State Pension scheme pensions credits and debits, which arise when a Pension Sharing Order is made by the courts where divorce proceedings commence, from 6 April 2016.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Pension Centre already administers State Pension for all Northern Ireland claimants.</p> <p>No new alternative delivery mechanism is planned or required to ensure fair outcomes as a result of this policy.</p>
<p>The Social Security Revaluation of Earnings Factors Order (Northern Ireland) 2020.</p>	<p>The Social Security Revaluation of Earnings Factors Order (Northern Ireland) 2020 ensures that earnings factors used for the calculation of additional State pension (which includes both State Earnings Related Pension and the State Second Pension) and Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMPs) maintain their value in relation to the general level of earnings.</p> <p>There are no issues, the Order simply provides for the revaluation of earnings factors so that they maintain their value in relation to the general level of earnings; consequently there are no barriers or additional costs associated with implementing the policy in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>2020-2021 Annual up-rating of pensions and benefits.</p>	<p>The Statutory Rules merely seek to up-rate pensions, benefits and lump sum amounts in line with inflation. There are no benefit specific policy changes contained within them.</p> <p>They apply to all relevant claimants equally, irrespective of whether their place of residence is in an urban or rural area. Those in rural areas will benefit in exactly the same way as urban dwellers. The legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and the increased</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>rates of pensions and benefits will be paid automatically without having to be claimed. There are no changes to the policy in place, but the increased rates of benefit, pension and lump sum rates may have a minor positive impact on poverty in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health and Social Care	
<p>Amendment to the Industrial Injuries list of prescribed diseases.</p>	<p>The Regulations seek to reflect the latest scientific research in the occupational prescription for prescribed diseases latex anaphylaxis and nasal carcinoma.</p> <p>The legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and rural-based claimants will benefit from the legislation in exactly the same way as urban-based claimants, so there will be a fair rural outcome.</p> <p>The amendments ensure the Industrial Injuries Scheme reflects current scientific knowledge as recommended by the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty/Social Security Benefits Legislation	
<p>The Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 amends the Social Fund Maternity and Funeral Expenses (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005 No. 506) to increase the amount paid for funeral expenses additional to those listed in the Regulations from £700 to £1,000 for deaths which occur on or after 8th April 2020.</p>	<p>The policy makes no distinction between rural and urban dwellers, and there will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas. The amendment being made amends the provision relating to funeral expenses payments from the Social Fund and increase the limit allowed for other costs from £700 to £1,000 for deaths which occur on or after 8th April 2020.</p> <p>Rural-based claimants will be affected by the legislation in exactly the same way as urban-based claimants. The Regulations apply equally to all parties, irrespective of where they reside in Northern Ireland. Those in rural areas will be impacted in exactly the same way as urban dwellers.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments No. 4) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. This package of Regulations introduced the power to deduct child maintenance from a range of benefits. It also gives further powers to collect information from mortgage lenders and occupational pension providers for the purposes of child maintenance.</p>	<p>The policy and legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and is to be applied nationwide. Neither the policy nor legislation will have any detrimental impact on any parties based on geographical data. Rural-based NRPs/PWCs will be affected by the legislation in exactly the same way as urban-based claimants, so there will be a fair rural outcome. The Regulations apply equally to all parties, irrespective of where they reside in Northern Ireland. Those in rural areas will be impacted in exactly the same way as urban dwellers - impacts are expected to be positive in that increased compliance powers will result in more money flowing to children.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
<p>Review of Uniting Opportunities criteria.</p>	<p>The target groups for the Uniting Opportunities Grants Programme have been revised to include a rural specific target group - "Young people at risk of social isolation". This came about following the experiences of rural project holders and the rural Uniting Communities team.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>Safer Borrowing Pilot to test the use of money management educational resources with year 7 primary school children.</p>	<p>The research used to develop the Safer Borrowing Pilot suggested that people living in an urban area were twice as likely to avail of an illegal lender as someone living in a rural area.</p> <p>The need for this project was based upon the Consumer Council's Debt research which evidenced a greater need to intervene in urban rather than rural areas.</p> <p>The pilot was assessed as unlikely to impact on people in rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety/Poverty	
<p>Design and Delivery of Small Steps Phase 2 Citizenship Project for 450 year 7 children.</p>	<p>The Small Steps 2 citizenship project is a direct response to the Executive Action Plan to tackle paramilitary activity and organised crime and in communities where there is poverty and social isolation, the effects of paramilitary activity and coercive control can be more prevalent.</p> <p>Data from the PSNI and NIHE used to assess the policy impact, indicated that for those shootings over the last 7 years across 241 Super Output Areas, just 7% of these SOAs were considered to be rural.</p> <p>The project was assessed as unlikely to impact on people in rural areas however it was also recognised that unreported criminality and paramilitary incidents may be more prevalent in rural rather than urban areas but as a result are more difficult to quantify/evidence.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>Provision of Debt Advice Services in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The department considered the following issues when funding this public service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to the telephone debt helpline; • Access to the face to face debt adviser. • Access to on line information regarding debt solutions; • Access to the service by those who would be considered vulnerable; • Public transport; • Disability. <p>It is not envisaged that this project will impact differentially on people in rural areas. Everyone, irrespective of where they reside in Northern Ireland can access the debt advice free phone telephone number.</p>

Department for the Economy

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Jobs or Employment	
<p>Policy development activity in preparation for the launch of a public consultation into the provision of Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay legislation. It is envisaged that this legislation will provide a new employment right for employed parents. This right will be an entitlement to 2 weeks of statutory leave and pay (subject to qualification) following the death of a child.</p>	<p>The Department's Business and Employment Regulation Division (BERD) has had due regard to rural needs when developing this policy by considering the needs of rural businesses and people living and/or working in rural areas.</p> <p>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment identified no evidence to suggest a greater or lesser prevalence of childhood deaths among rural parents. Also, there was no evidence to suggest that the social and economic needs of parents from rural areas who experience the death of a child differs from the social and economic needs of parents from non-rural areas.</p> <p>The policy will impact equally on people and businesses in rural and non-rural areas, and will give bereaved employees living or working in rural areas the statutory right to leave and, subject to qualification, pay, following the death of a child.</p> <p>It will also ensure that Northern Ireland employees living or working in rural areas are afforded comparable rights to Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay with all other employees across the UK.</p>
<p>Early Conciliation (EC) into the Employment Tribunal process by way of new legislation.</p>	<p>BERD has had due regard to rural needs when introducing this legislation by considering the needs of rural businesses and people living and/or working in rural areas.</p> <p>A rural needs impact assessment concluded that with regards to Early Conciliation, the economic needs of people in rural areas are no different to the economic needs of people in urban areas.</p> <p>There is no available evidence to suggest that people who live in rural areas are more/less likely to require an Industrial Tribunal than those who live in urban areas.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>As regards social needs, the primary method for people informing the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) of their employment issue and intention to claim is via an online portal.</p> <p>We recognised that in some rural areas access to the internet can be patchy and may not be as fast or reliable as in urban areas which is why in addition to the online portal claimants can also contact the LRA by telephone or via a hard copy form.</p> <p>The LRA has a dedicated non-geographic telephone number (charged at local call rates).</p> <p>Having these three options available to potential claimants mitigates the potential adverse impact of limited/unreliable access to the internet. The LRA has offices in both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry but if individuals require advice on next steps re: their employment, dispute trained conciliators will be available via telephone to provide that advice.</p>
<p>Legislation that consolidated separate Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal Rules of Procedure into one set of Rules.</p>	<p>BERD has had due regard to rural needs when introducing this legislation by considering the needs of rural businesses and people living and/or working in rural areas.</p> <p>A rural needs impact assessment concluded that with regards to this policy the economic needs of people in rural areas are no different to the economic needs of people in urban areas.</p> <p>DfE found no evidence to suggest that people who live in rural areas are more/less likely to require an Industrial Tribunal than those who live in urban areas.</p> <p>As regards social needs, the headquarters of the Office of the Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunals (OITFET) is in Belfast meaning that those in rural areas may have further to travel to attend a tribunal hearing than those in urban areas.</p> <p>This was the case before the changes to the tribunal rules were made and remained the case after the rules change.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Broadband or mobile Communications/Rural Development	
<p>Project Stratum - to improve internet connectivity by extending access to high-speed broadband coverage in NI via increased provision in areas currently poorly served and not capable of attracting wholly commercial investment, which is approximately 10-12% of premises in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The policy aim addresses the needs of rural businesses and people living and/or working in rural areas by removing the inequality in access to high speed broadband between those in well served areas (principally urban), and those elsewhere (mostly in rural locations). This will be particularly useful in combating rural isolation and aiding dispersed communities to maintain and deepen ties. More generally, improved access to NGA broadband has the effect of removing or alleviating barriers, such as distance or (most) disability, to communication. In turn this opens connections to education, work, culture and relationships.</p> <p>The benefits of improved broadband can include direct benefits to consumers of being able to access new services or cost savings in the delivery of public services. There are also a range of indirect impacts such as economy wide productivity improvements, greater scope for innovation, enhanced labour force participation, and impacts related to improved health, wellbeing, inclusion and other societal benefits. Increasing the uptake of high-speed broadband in presently unserved areas is likely to see improvements in the productivity of businesses through increased online presence, and improved innovation and creativity opportunities. Social impacts include reducing the digital divide and allowing citizens to more actively engage with social media, telemedicine, education, and online government services</p> <p>Rural businesses will also benefit from improvements in broadband services as new work processes and practices take hold and workers' skills are improved. Consumers also benefit and are likely to increase as users make improved use of new applications and services.</p> <p>The project offers the possibility to galvanise areas disadvantaged by distance, and create opportunities for growth, new firms and high-wage employment.</p>

Department of Education

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
Review of the Department's Policy for supporting Newcomer Pupils.	<p>Surveys were undertaken across all schools with Newcomer pupils and with parents and pupils attending these schools.</p> <p>Many parent and pupil sessions were hosted and facilitated directly by the pupils' schools or via other community support organisations.</p>
Selection of a School for a Temporary Increase to the post primary school's Admission number prior to the commencement of the 2020 Transfer Procedure.	All schools were notified of the process and could apply to the Department for consideration. The aim was to ensure there were sufficient additional Year 8 places in identified areas so pupils and families could access school provision within the desired sector ensuring pupils were placed in line with parental preference minimising the number of unplaced children and thereby reducing the stress on children and families and primarily allowing the admissions process to conclude on time.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
A Life Deserved: "Caring" for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (DoH and DE).	It is recognised that looked after children and young people from rural areas should have access to appropriate transport to enable them to engage fully in play and leisure activities. This has been reflected within the context of the draft Strategy under the outcome, "Children and Young People enjoy Play and Leisure".
Update to Nutritional Standards for School Food.	<p>The primary objective of the updated standards is to ensure that all food provided in schools is in keeping with current government guidance on healthy eating.</p> <p>The updated policy will have a positive impact on pupils from all areas. There will no differential consequences for pupils from rural areas compared to those in other areas.</p> <p>There was a policy consultation from 30 January until 27 March 2020.</p>

Department of Finance

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
<p>The NICS People Strategy 2018-2021.</p> <p>The NICS Board oversees the implementation of the strategy and monitors progress of the associated work programme to ensure effective delivery by NICS HR and NICS Departments.</p>	<p>This is an internal NICS strategy which sets out the NICS organisational priorities for people and HR issues for the period 2018-2021.</p> <p>Elements of the strategy that may have an impact to the needs of people in rural areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a rolling 3-year aggregated NICS recruitment plan to attract people of talent and experience from a range of sectors and all walks of life. • Undertake a strategic review of vacancy management, including recruitment and promotions processes. • Deliver more apprenticeships in the NICS. • Develop and disseminate policy and guidance on agile working across the NICS. • Introduce welcoming statements (positive action advertising) in job advertisements as appropriate and implement targeted outreach. <p>As and when these elements of the People Strategy move to implementation stage they may require further analysis of impact of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas. Development and implementation timelines are being reviewed in light of the impact of Covid 19 on People Strategy delivery.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Amendments to the Public Service (Civil Servants and Others) (Amendment) Pension Regulations 2018 consequential of a breach in the cost cap mechanism.</p>	<p>No impact on rural needs.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Adjustments to employee pension contributions with effect from 1 April 2019.	No impact on rural needs. The changes are beneficial to members of the NICS Pension Schemes in that most members will pay less contributions. Pension contributions have no bearing on the social and economic needs of people in rural or urban areas.
Making of The Public Service (Civil Servants and Others) Pensions (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.	No impact on rural needs. The alpha Regulations are applied to members of the alpha scheme and they have no specific rural/urban impact or consequence.
On 9/3/2020, The Department of Finance made an Order called 'The Public Service Pensions Revaluation Order (Northern Ireland) 2020' to provide for the revaluation of Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) benefits in public service pension schemes from 1 April 2020. Active member benefits are reviewed each year in line with annual changes in prices or earnings. The Order is used by schemes to revalue active member benefits according to the process set out in their scheme regulations.	A rural needs impact assessment has been completed. No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
On 26/3/2020, The Department of Finance made an Order under Section 69 of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975, called 'The Pensions Increase (Review) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020'. The order applied a cost of living increase to public service pensions in payment and deferred pensions in line with the annual percentage rise in CPI. These pensions were increased by 1.7% from 6 April 2020.	A rural needs impact assessment has been completed. No rural needs were identified.

Department of Health

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care Services	
Eligibility for HSC-funded IVF and related treatments.	<p>The Department considered the rural needs impact and concluded that screening is not required as there has been no change to the location of the services delivered in this policy and therefore it has a neutral impact on rural dwellers.</p> <p>The Department will not be consulting on the revised policy. This is because the access criteria have been updated on the basis of NICE Clinical Guideline 156, which the Department endorsed in 2013. Furthermore, it does not represent a significant policy change, and the impact is positive because the pool of those eligible to be considered for treatment has been extended, promoting equality of opportunity among several S75 groups.</p>
High Level Equality Screening Budget.	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment is not completed on the high level budget but, once the budget is agreed, it is the responsibility of spending areas to assess whether their policies, strategies and plans that are to be taken forward have a differential impact on rural areas, and where appropriate, make adjustments to take account of particular rural circumstances.
The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 - Contribution Holidays.	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment was considered but not completed for this amendment as there was no impact or implications to people in rural areas. The policy lead concluded that as the Rural Needs Impact Assessment was a new process that was carried out before consultation and as they were not re-consulting they would only consider the impact and only complete the template if necessary. It was considered that there was no impact or implications to people in rural areas therefore no template was completed on this occasion for this piece of legislation. This was noted in the submission to the Permanent Secretary when they were seeking approval to make the regulations.

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Protect Life 2 - A Strategy for Preventing Suicide and Self Harm in Northern Ireland 2019-2024.</p>	<p>A RNIA was completed and concluded that the policy is likely to affect people in rural areas. While local research has shown that suicide is more prevalent in urban areas, rural dwellers have experienced a unique set of circumstances in recent years, including an ageing population, decline in farm incomes, changing labour markets and depopulation/migration in some areas.</p> <p>Certain factors have been identified as increasing risk and stress to people living in rural areas over and above the risk factors for suicide affecting general populations. These include isolation, barriers to accessing services, a more conservative approach to help seeking, heightened stigma associated with mental health issues, being “different” (e.g. LGBT) in a rural context, availability of some means of suicide (firearm ownership, pesticides) and high risk occupational groups such as farmers or vets.</p>
<p>The Pharmaceutical Services (Amendments Relating to Serious Shortage Protocols) Regulations (NI) 2019.</p>	<p>A RNIA was completed and concluded that the proposed policy is likely to impact on the rural needs of the people in Northern Ireland. The Department has considered the needs of people in rural areas in the development of this policy proposal and while it recognises that in the event that there ever is a shortage of a particular drug or an appliance ordered on health service prescription, the protocols would have an equally negative impact on all those patients who may have been prescribed the medication or appliance irrespective of whether they lived in a rural or urban area. The supply protocols would therefore, if introduced, apply equally to both rural and urban communities as geographical location is not a major factor in relation to the extent of any potential supply shortages or the prescribing of any particular medication or appliance on HSC prescription.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Health Restructuring - Draft Bill.	<p>A RNIA was completed and concluded that the policy is not likely to affect people in rural areas. The key aim of the proposed policy is to legislatively effect the closure of the HSCB through the transfer of its functions, staff, assets and liabilities to the Department, Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being or BSO as appropriate.</p> <p>It is not expected that implementation of this policy will present any specific or differential rural impacts.</p>

The majority of NICE guidance is of a technical nature and is not regarded as falling within the scope of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. However the following Clinical Guidance does fall within the scope of the Act and has been subject to assessment.

Rural Needs Impact Assessments were completed in each case, however, endorsement, implementation, monitoring and assurance of NICE Clinical Guidelines in Northern Ireland apply to all HSC organisations in both urban and rural areas. DoH considered the Department's role on each specific issue and confirmed that the social and economic needs of people in rural areas is the responsibility of HSC organisations, under the statutory duty of quality as specified in Article 34 of the HPSS (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (NI) Order 2003, to put in place the necessary systems, which should include adequate and comprehensive dissemination, as part of their clinical and social care governance arrangements, for implementing NICE guidance.

NG115 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in over 16s: diagnosis and management (updates and replaces CG101)

NICE Clinical Guideline NG116 - Post-traumatic stress disorder (updates and replaces CG26)

NICE Clinical Guideline NG118 - Renal and ureteric stones: assessment and management

NICE Clinical Guideline NG119 - Cerebral palsy in adults

NICE Clinical Guideline NG121 - Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies

NICE Clinical Guideline NG122 - Lung cancer: diagnosis and management (updates and replaces CG121)

NICE NG 123 - Urinary Incontinence and Pelvic Organ Prolapse in Women: Management

NICE NG 124 - Specialist Neonatal Respiratory Care for Babies Born Preterm

NICE NG 125 - Surgical Site Infections: Prevention and Treatment

NICE NG 126 - Ectopic Pregnancy and Miscarriage: Diagnosis and Initial Management

NICE NG 127 - Suspected Neurological Conditions: Recognition and Referral

NICE NG 129 - Crohn's Disease: Management
NICE NG 130 - Ulcerative Colitis: Management
NICE NG 131 - Prostate Cancer: Diagnosis and Management
NICE NG 132 - Hyperparathyroidism (Primary): Diagnosis, Assessment and Initial Management
NICE NG 133 - Hypertension in Pregnancy: Diagnosis and Management
NICE NG 134 - Depression in Children and Young People: Identification and Management
NICE NG 135 - Alcohol Interventions in Secondary and Further Education
NICE NG 136 - Hypertension in Adults: Diagnosis and Management
NICE NG 137 - Twin and Triplet Pregnancy
NICE NG 142 - End of Life Care for Adults: Service Delivery
NICE NG 143 - Fever in Under 5's - Assessment and Initial Management
NICE NG 144 - Cannabis-Based Medicinal Products
NICE NG 145 - Thyroid Disease: Assessment and Management
NICE NG 146 - Workplace Health: Long-Term Sickness Absence and Capability to Work
NICE NG 147 - Diverticular Disease: Diagnosis and Management
NICE NG 148 - Acute Kidney Injury: Prevention, Detection and Management
NICE NG 149 - Indoor Air Quality at Home
NICE NG 151 - Colorectal Cancer
NICE Clinical Guideline NG154 - Neonatal parenteral nutrition
NICE Clinical Guideline NG155 - Tinnitus: assessment and management
NICE Clinical Guideline NG156 - Abdominal aortic aneurysm: diagnosis and management

Department for Infrastructure

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
DEM180/19: Director of Engineering Memorandum (DEM) 180/19 is being issued for 'Design of minor changes associated with road maintenance schemes'.	This document alerts Department for Infrastructure Roads colleagues to a procedural issue. This is in respect of when DMRB design standards cannot be met on road maintenance schemes due to existing physical constraint(s). It details how design changes are to be recorded and reviewed. It clarifies existing policy set out in RSPPG E003. Therefore this does not have any impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.
Roads Service Policy and Procedures Guide (RSPPG) E003: An update to RSPPG E003 to allow a procedure to be introduced dealing with when Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) standards cannot be met.	This is a Department for Infrastructure procedural issue in respect of when DMRB design standards cannot be met on road maintenance schemes due to existing physical constraint(s). It details how design changes are to be recorded and reviewed. It updates and clarifies existing policy set out in RSPPG E003. Therefore this does not have any impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.
PSNI Driver Training The proposal is to amend Article 14(d) of the Motorways Traffic Regulations (NI) 2008 to add wording that would extend the coverage of the article to allow the Chief Constable to authorise member of PSNI civilian staff whose role is driver training.	No specific issues relating to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas were considered by the Department for Infrastructure as the change in policy will have no impact on the amount or type of PSNI driver training.
Dash Cam in Enforcement Vehicles. Department for Infrastructure's Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) Enforcement Officers utilising dash cameras in their DVA vehicles.	No issues relating to social and economic needs of people in rural areas were considered by the Department's DVA. The use of vehicle dash cameras will not impact differently on drivers detected in rural locations and therefore no work has been undertaken to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>DEM 98/19 GG 119 Road Safety Audit.</p> <p>Implementation of Director of Engineering Memorandum (DEM) 98/19: GG 119 'Road Safety Audit' which replaced HD 19/15 as the Departmental standard for completing road safety audits.</p>	<p>It is primarily a guidance document stating how national standards for Road Safety Audits are to be applied in Northern Ireland by the Department for Infrastructure.</p> <p>No specific issues relating to social and economic needs of people in rural areas were considered by Department for Infrastructure (NI) Roads. The policy change will have no differential impact on rural areas.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business/Transport Services or Infrastructure</p>	
<p>A1 Junctions Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme.</p> <p>The A1 Road Improvements Scheme Phase 2 requires an Upgrade of the dual carriageway between Hillsborough Roundabout and Loughbrickland, which forms part of the Trunk Road T4 (A1).</p>	<p>Following communications with residents in the is is there word missing at the start of this sentence neighbourhood of the A1 upgrade and those who may make use of the road, it has been determined that the actions of the Department for Infrastructure (NI) Roads will be unlikely to have any significant, negative socio-economic impacts on the area in question.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to the potential impact on the social economic needs of people in rural areas in the locality of the area of A1 upgrade.</p> <p>The design of the scheme therefore includes mitigating features such as left-in-left-out minor road junctions and private accesses, additional Compact Grade Separated Junctions (CGSJs), and accommodation works where necessary.</p> <p>The upgrade of the A1 will enhance the safe movement of agricultural traffic in the area.</p> <p>Rationalisation of Bus Stops along the A1 include the relocation of mainline bus stops to the new CGSJs. This should improve safety for bus users in this area as they will no longer need to cross a carriageway to avail of the bus service. The CGSJs include footpaths.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses	
<p>A1 Junctions Phase 2 (A1J2) Road Improvement Scheme.</p> <p>The A1 Road Improvements Scheme Phase 2 requires 'Stopping up' of openings between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banbridge Road Junction and Lower Quilly Road, Dromore; and • Glen Road and Dromore Road Junction, Hillsborough. 	<p>Consideration was given, by Department Infrastructure (NI) Roads, to the potential impact on the neighbourhood in the locality of the area of the openings the Stopping Up applications applied to.</p> <p>Following communications with residents in the neighbourhood and those who may make use of the road(s) in question Department for Infrastructure (NI) Roads; it was determined that the actions to be taken on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure would be unlikely to have any significant, negative socio-economic impacts on the area in question.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Development of Director of Engineering Memorandum (DEM) 181/19 - Cycling Infrastructure Design Guidance (NI).</p>	<p>This internal document (DEM 181/19) is for the attention of Department for Infrastructure (NI) Roads technical staff involved in the development, management and maintenance of the road network. It provides guidance to those who design cycling infrastructure in Northern Ireland to ensure consistency in approach and ultimately get more people cycling whether in Urban or Rural areas.</p> <p>Better infrastructure provision should give people greater confidence to travel by bicycle and ensure that all road users can safely share space with mutual respect.</p> <p>It applies to the design of cycling infrastructure in urban and rural environments equally and therefore no work has been undertaken to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
<p>Social and Environmental Guidance for Water and Sewerage Services for PC21 (2021-2027).</p> <p>Department for Infrastructure (NI) is issuing guidance to the Utility Regulator on the key environmental and social policies and legislation that it expects it to have regard to when regulating NI Water during 2021-2027.</p>	<p>Department for Infrastructure (NI) in conjunction with NI Water have established that people in rural areas require high levels of drinking water and wastewater compliance, as well as good customer service from NI Water.</p> <p>The Guidance sets out specific policies to help deliver these aims for people in both rural and urban areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>The particular needs of people in rural areas include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high levels of drinking water compliance including good water pressure; • high levels of wastewater compliance; • good customer service from NI Water; and • available capacity in the water and wastewater network to facilitate future development in rural towns. <p>NI Water works closely with Local Councils to ascertain the future scale of planned development, to determine if there is sufficient capacity in the water and wastewater network, to facilitate new development.</p> <p>Through this regular engagement, NI Water has been able to ascertain the proposed future growth and determine the future water and wastewater needs for rural areas. e.g upgrading or building new treatment works to facilitate new development.</p> <p>This liaison will continue to keep NI Water abreast of any possible changes to the needs of both rural and urban areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Road Policy & Procedure Guide:RSPPG_S022 (revision) Article 22 of the Land Acquisition and Compensation(NI) Order 1973 Noise.</p> <p>The Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995 were made under the Land Acquisition and Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 1973. The aims of the RSPPG-S022 update are to provide clear policy guidance for new and existing P&T & Lands staff in the implementation of the Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995 and the use of standard procedures across Divisions.</p>	<p>The Department for Infrastructure, in considering possible impacts on rural areas identified a possible scenario in that Noise levels may increase for some dwellings adjacent to a new carriageway where currently they may experience a lower ambient noise level associated with a rural environment.</p> <p>In these circumstances the guidance suggests mitigation measures such as noise barriers and low noise surfacing which can be introduced to reduce impact.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Environmental Policy	
<p>Waterways Environmental Regulations.</p> <p>Revision of policy in regards to Environmental Impact Assessments for any significant works in relation to canal schemes and marina works to ensure transposition of EU Directive - 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, and alignment with relevant EIA regulations elsewhere within the Department, such as Planning and Drainage.</p>	<p>The Regulations focus on the environmental impact of any significant works being undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure in regards to canal Is Is there text missing here? schemes and marina works. As this requirement is as a result of transposing EU Directive - 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the specific needs of people in rural areas in regards to social and economic need have not been considered in relation to transposing the Directive.</p> <p>Given the nature of the projects that would be taken forward under these Regulations, each project would need to be assessed separately and ensure that the social and economic needs of people in rural areas are fully considered when taking the works forward.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Leisure	
<p>Small Grants for Greenways Scheme.</p> <p>The Programme aims to introduce a scheme whereby small grants can be awarded to Councils to support the development of greenways.</p>	<p>In order to achieve the objective of the 'Small Grants for Greenways Scheme' the Department for Infrastructure intends to hold a series of competitions (funding and Ministerial approval permitting) awarding grants towards the design (and hopefully the eventual building) of these greenways by councils. The Capital Grants scheme will contribute towards the construction of the greenways.</p> <p>All council proposals will be assessed on their merits against a series of criteria which will apply equally to all applicants. Only two of these criteria (one in each of the two stages) could be regarded as giving an advantage to urban areas over rural ones. These criteria relate to potential annual usage of the greenway/estimated cycling demand and account for 20% of the available marks. The Department intends to run the scheme several times in an attempt to promote the building of the complete network with a target of 75% of the primary network and 25% of the secondary network delivered by 2026.</p> <p>If the population dense schemes (more likely urban based) are more successful (by no means certain as</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>the population density criteria only accounts for a total of 20% of the available marks) in these early iterations of the scheme the less densely populated proposals will stand an improved chance of success in the later competitions as some of the schemes with a high population density will have been successful removing them from the later competitions.</p> <p>The Department considers that this potential imbalance in marking is acceptable as, while the ultimate aim is to create the complete network, in the short term it is important to get as much of the network built as rapidly as possible and that this network should be available to as many people as possible to promote active travel and the concept of greenways generally.</p> <p>The purpose of the Small Grants for Greenways Scheme is to promote the building of a network of greenways by Northern Ireland's councils.</p> <p>The document 'Exercise, Explore, Enjoy. A Strategic Plan for Greenways' maps out a proposed network of primary and secondary greenway routes which when completed will encompass the whole of Northern Ireland (urban and rural).</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Rural Tourism/ Rural Housing/Jobs; Employment in Rural Areas/Transport Services/ Infrastructure.</p>	
<p>A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC).</p> <p>Design and construction of 85 kilometres (km) of Category 6 Dual Carriageway from south of Londonderry at New Buildings to the border at Aughnacloy.</p>	<p>On the A5WTC, social and economic needs of people in rural areas can be split into 2 different groups: those landowners on, or in close proximity to the line of the new road and therefore directly impacted by the scheme proposals, and all other people in the wider rural community.</p> <p>As with any major road improvement scheme, the social and economic needs of those directly affected landowners were established from an early stage of scheme development.</p> <p>On the A5WTC, social and economic needs of people in rural areas can be split into 2 different groups: those</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>landowners on, or in close proximity to the line of the new road and therefore directly impacted by the scheme proposals, and all other people in the wider rural community.</p> <p>As with any major road improvement scheme, the social and economic needs of those directly affected landowners were established from an early stage of scheme development. These have typically included the need to address and mitigate against scheme impacts such as loss of land and severance of farm holdings and where mitigation is not possible, the provision of alternative compensatory arrangements.</p> <p>Key social and economic needs of the wider public in rural areas have been identified as: relief from potential severance caused by the scheme; concerns on possible road closures leading to loss of amenity and in some cases resultant increases in traffic along local roads; accessibility to and from the new road and impact on businesses in the villages and rural areas as a result of a reduction in traffic volumes along the existing road.</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure has sought to accommodate the needs of directly affected landowners as far as practically possible through accommodation works in the form of underpasses and over-bridges; other impact mitigation measures such as landscape planting and the provision of visual and/or acoustic barrier, together with the provision of timely information through meetings, website information and public announcements. In addition, the Department will, in normal circumstances, pay for the professional fees incurred by landowners affected by vesting.</p> <p>The Department has sought to address the key social and economic needs of the wider public in rural areas as far as possible through publicly accessible under-and over-bridges to accommodate the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and local vehicular traffic. Concerns on accessibility to and from the new</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>road have been taken on board as far as practicably possible while recognising that a balance must be struck between rural needs, scheme costs and the needs for smooth and efficient traffic movement along this key transport corridor.</p> <p>It is recognised that there may be a negative impact on some businesses along the existing route in the rural areas who currently place considerable reliance on passing trade. The use of appropriate road signage will address such impacts as far as practically possible within the Department's signing policy guidelines.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services; Infrastructure	
<p>RSPPG E054 Rev 1 Priority of Bridge Strengthening Programme and Management of Assessment Failed Bridges.</p> <p>Priority of Bridge Strengthening Programme and Management Of Assessment Failed Bridges.</p>	<p>RSPPG_E 054, Version 2 is a revision aimed at managing structures that are sub-standard regardless of location.</p> <p>Department for Infrastructure (NI)'s bridge network support routes that cross all boundaries from rural to urban, from Roads division and cross border. Therefore, the prioritisation has been designed to be as objective as possible and as such it does not distinguish between structures in urban or rural areas</p> <p>As such no issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Corporate Plan 2019-2021 and Business Plan 2019-2020.</p>	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/dfi-corporate-plan-2019-21-and-business-plan-2019-20-screening-form</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) three year Corporate Plan and one year Business Plan details our performance targets for 2019-20 and sets out how we will deliver the outcomes in the Executive's Programme for Government (PfG) and subsequent NICS Outcomes Delivery Plan over the next three years for which DfI is principally responsible and also how DfI will support colleagues in other departments deliver on their outcomes.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
RSPPG E054 Priority of Bridge Strengthening and management of assessments.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/rsppg-e054-version-2-priority-bridge-strengthening-programme-and-management-assessment-failed</p> <p>Updating the Department for Infrastructure’s procedure for determining the priority in which sub-standard bridges are to be strengthened so that they meet the current requirements for moving modern traffic loads around the road network and set out procedures specific to the Department’s Roads Business Area for the management of low risk sub-standard bridges.</p>
DfI Budget 2019-2020.	<p>DfI Budget 2019-20 - High Level Equality Screening Proforma</p> <p>This was a High Level Equality Impact Assessment which was conducted in the Department for Infrastructure for the overall Budget Settlement 2019-20.</p>
Transport Regulation Unit Practice Guidance documents.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/transport-regulation-unit-practice-guidance-documents-screening-form</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure’s Transport Regulation Unit (TRU) licenses and regulates Goods Vehicle Operators in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>TRU uses the Practice Guidance documents to explain how DfI officials will approach the exercise of the Department’s statutory functions and the legal basis for doing so.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/belfast-tidal-flood-alleviation-scheme-screening-form</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure’s (DfI) Rivers Business Area carried out this RNIA on the Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme. This Scheme aims to reduce the significant threat from tidal flooding to Belfast City centre and surrounding areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Dundrod Circuit Admission Charges.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/dundrod-circuit-admission-charges-regulations-2018-screening-form</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) carried out this RNIA on a decision to permit the promoters of races on the Dundrod Circuit to charge spectators up to £30.00. The regulations are being made in accordance with Article 3(7A) of the Road Races Order (Northern Ireland) 1986.</p>
Model Licence Conditions for Caravan Sites.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/model-licence-conditions-caravan-sites-2019-screening-form</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has revised and updated the Model License Conditions for Caravan Sites 1992 and Model License Conditions Residential Caravan Sites 1994. These apply to all caravan sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent residential caravan sites; • holiday caravan sites; • touring caravan sites; and • Traveller or Roma sites.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Planning Fee Uplift.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/planning-fees-amendment-regulations-northern-ireland-2019-screening-form</p> <p>The purpose of the Rule is to introduce an inflationary uplift of approximately 1.99% overall across all planning fee categories.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services	
Amendment to Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (NI) 2000 - Trailer Registration Regulations.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/trailer-lights-regulations-screening-form</p> <p>A minor amendment to Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (NI) 2000 arising from the Trailer Registration Regulations.</p> <p>These legislative amendments remove the requirement to illuminate the trailer registration plate of vehicles.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Southern Relief Road.	<p>https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/newry-southern-relief-road-bypass-screening-form</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Southern Division are advancing the design and development of a new strategic road link to the south of Newry City, between the A1 Dublin Road dual carriageway and A2 Warrenpoint Road dual carriageway. This would provide an alternative route for strategic traffic that avoids Newry City centre.</p>

Department of Justice

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>The Review Tribunal (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p> <p>Removing the financial eligibility test for the granting of legal aid in appeals to the Review Tribunal under the Mental Capacity Act 2016 against deprivation of liberty.</p>	<p>The revised policy will enhance access to justice for those who lack capacity and are deprived of their liberty. This will impact positively on all categories including applicants living in rural areas. This applies to all applicants regardless of their location, providing a safeguard against unlawful deprivation of liberty through a non-means tested right to legal aid to represent them in any appeal to a Review Tribunal challenging their deprivation of liberty.</p> <p>The Department has not identified any potential differential impact on the social or economic needs of rural communities as the revised policy will enhance access to justice for all those who lack capacity and are deprived of their liberty.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>The Damages for Bereavement (Variation of Sum) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 which amends the amount awarded as damages under Article 3A(3)(c) of the Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.</p>	<p>This increase in the amount of damages for bereavement will have the same outcomes for the rural community as the urban community in that Where a death has been caused by another person's negligence, there is a statutory right for the deceased person's dependents to claim for damages, for example, for the deceased person's loss of earnings irrespective of whether they live in a rural or urban community.</p> <p>The Department has not identified any potential differential impact on the social or economic needs of rural communities arising from the proposed amendment being made to the sum in the Fatal Accidents (Northern Ireland) Order 1977. The public consultation held on the review of the level of bereavement damages prior to the 2016 increase did not raise any issues relating to the social or economic needs of persons in rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Information is not currently gathered on the number of awards of bereavement damages in Northern Ireland each year. However historical information indicates that the total number of orders made under the 1977 Order is relatively small and in single figures.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>The Review Tribunal (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p> <p>To detail the procedure to be followed in proceedings before the Review Tribunal.</p>	<p>To provide for the reconstitution of the existing Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) into the Review Tribunal in order to provide a safeguard by way of right of appeal for individuals who lack mental capacity and who have been deprived of their liberty.</p> <p>The proposals will enhance access to justice for those who lack capacity and are deprived of their liberty. This will impact positively on all categories including people living in rural areas. The rules govern the procedure of the Tribunal and apply to all applicants regardless of their location, providing a safeguard against unlawful deprivation of liberty by means of a right of appeal to a Review Tribunal.</p> <p>The Department has not identified any potential differential impact on the social or economic needs of rural communities as the proposals will enhance access to justice for all those who lack capacity and are deprived of their liberty. A targeted consultation on the Review Tribunal (Amendment) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2019 will take place in 2019.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Prison Service - Strengthening Family Relations 2019- 2024.</p>	<p>The Strengthening Family Relations paper sets out the strategic approach that the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) will adopt to improve outcomes for people in its care and their families. For those imprisoned, positive relationships and family contact are important factors in influencing how people cope with imprisonment and their reintegration and rehabilitation upon release. Therefore improvement in this area will make a contribution towards achieving a</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>number of outcomes set by the former Executive under the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021.</p> <p>It is not expected that the implementation of this strategy will present specific rural impacts. It is recognised, however, that some families of those in custody may have to travel further than others to visit their relative. Any family can be affected by the imprisonment of a family member, regardless of location. It is estimated that the longest single journey to visit a prison in N. Ireland from a home address in N. Ireland would be in the region of 120 miles.</p> <p>This situation may change if either the family moves house or the person in custody is transferred to another location.</p> <p>Where appropriate, NIPS will signpost families towards services that may be able to support them during the period of imprisonment for their family member. These would be services which are based in the community, e.g. Family Support Hubs, of which there are 29 spread throughout N. Ireland.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Direction on Asylum and Immigration Legal Aid Remuneration.</p>	<p>Appropriate remuneration for solicitors in circumstances where the Respondent withdraws the decision under appeal on the day of the substantive hearing. The Direction clarifies that in such circumstances the Full composite fee of £1,200 will be payable rather than the lesser amount of 35% of the composite fee (£420).</p> <p>The payments will be available for solicitors based in rural and urban areas and will have no positive or negative impact.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>Pilot for a General Authority for Expert Witnesses in the Family Proceedings Court.</p> <p>Standard hourly rates are being introduced as a Pilot for psychiatrists and Psychologists in Public Children Law cases in the Family Proceedings Court.</p>	<p>Currently, clients are generally required to go to the offices of psychiatrists or psychologists to be examined for the medical report. These proposals will not impact on the location of those experts. There are Family Proceedings Courts throughout Northern Ireland at which the experts will give evidence.</p> <p>There are Family Proceedings Courts in Antrim, Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Craigavon, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Limavady, Lisburn, Londonderry, Magherafelt, Newry, Newtownards, Omagh and Strabane.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
<p>Consultation on the Provision for Exceptional Funding and the Certification for Counsel in the Mental Health Review Tribunal.</p>	<p>The consultation is to extend an opportunity to members of the legal profession to provide any evidence of circumstances that have arisen in Mental Health Review Tribunals in which provision for exceptional remuneration or certification for counsel would have been appropriate.</p> <p>The Department has not identified any potential differential impact on the social or economic needs of rural communities as the intention of the consultation at this stage is to gather information only.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Consultation on amendment to the Judicial Pensions Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to make provision for member contributions and associated earnings thresholds beyond 31st March 2020.</p>	<p>The aim of the policy is to ensure that the Judicial Pensions Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 are amended to allow current member contributions to the Northern Ireland Judicial Pensions Scheme to be extended beyond 31st March 2020 and allow for earnings thresholds to be updated yearly with reference to the Consumer Price Index.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Judicial Pension Scheme is a career average pension scheme for specified members of the devolved judiciary in Northern Ireland. The Scheme is regulated by the Judicial Pension Regulators (Northern Ireland) 2015. Any amendment to the</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Regulations affects the regulation of the Scheme. The Scheme does not affect people in rural areas. There is therefore no need to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.</p> <p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Consultation on Policy Proposals for New Offences to Tackle Organised Crime in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Department works to create a safe community where we respect the law and each other; the legislative proposals contained in the consultation document provide law enforcements with new additional tools to tackle serious organised crime.</p>	<p>Unlike other jurisdictions, there is no explicit legislation in Northern Ireland to tackle serious and organised crime. The policy proposals are tailored to the specific needs of N. Ireland and will build on the armoury of legislative tools available to law enforcement to investigate, prosecute, disrupt and punish those involved in serious and organised crime.</p> <p>Organised crime effects individuals, communities and businesses in N. Ireland including both urban and rural communities.</p> <p>The policy proposals are additional legislative tools to tackle organized crime groups who work in both rural and urban communities and will help reduce the number of crimes taking place.</p> <p>No Specific Rural Needs were identified.</p>

The Executive Office

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Good Relations/Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy - Central Good Relations Funding Programme.</p>	<p>Issues had been raised that certain groups or communities in Council areas (including rural communities) are less likely to apply for good relations funding. TEO is working to address gaps in good relations funding provision and in 2018/19 launched a pilot programme designed to target regional needs in year. An independent evaluation of the pilot programme was completed in 2019, and will be used to inform future development of Good Relations programmes to better meet regional needs.</p> <p>There has been evidence provided in published academic reports linking deprivation in some areas to anti-social behaviour amongst young people which negatively affects community relations. In addition, anecdotal evidence suggests invisible barriers and segregation exists in many rural communities, and while not always as apparent as the interface areas in large population centres, such as Belfast and L'derry, they can have an equally negative impact on communities.</p> <p>The programme's governance structures, stakeholder engagements, and assessment processes all seek to ensure critical good relations need is met and the programme is accessible to all.</p> <p>Analysis of applications and funding awards in-year aids the programme to understand and improve the distribution of funding and helps ensure the programme continues to reach areas where funding is needed most and identify any issues affecting uptake.</p> <p>Transport costs, volunteer expenses and residential costs are funded as part of the programme which can be critical for attracting more rural groups.</p> <p>The ongoing engagement and review processes have led to changes in the conditions of funding</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>to engage with rural groups and ensure they have access to funding. Additionally the provision of small grant funding of up to £1,000 through the programme has provided small low capacity rural groups an opportunity to access funding. In 2019/20, applications have increased for small grants by 400% - the majority from small rural groups.</p>
<p>Together: Building a United Community Strategy - District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP).</p>	<p>The objective of the DCGRP is to improve relations between and within District Council areas and to provide local good relations solutions to local issues across the council area. The 11 District Councils create individual District Council Action Plans - this is a needs based and outcome focused document that is informed by the aims of the Together: Building a United Community strategy and by Good Relations Audits performed periodically to assess local needs, including rural areas within each Council area. The programme is outcomes focused. Each element of funded provision has one or more defined and measurable outcomes linked to the four key aims of the Together: Building a United Community strategy: - Children & Young People; Shared Community; Safe Community and Cultural Expression. The impact on rural areas will be assessed by each Council within their Rural Needs Assessment.</p> <p>The District Council Good Relations Programme is administered by Good Relations Officers based in each of the Councils. TEO and the 11 Councils actively target groups in underrepresented areas to improve the distribution of Good Relations Programmes and try to ensure the programme continues to provide funding to areas in most need, identifying issues affecting uptake and seeking to address them. Transport costs are included as part of the programmes which can be critical for those in rural areas with limited access to public transport.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Good Relations	
<p>Together: Building a United Community Strategy - Good Relations Outcomes Branch.</p>	<p>Good Relations Outcomes Branch is helping to support the Divisional good relations funding programmes to analyse the extent to which their projects meet rural needs. Branch support is provided in two main areas - outcome analysis and mapping. In relation to outcomes, the Branch is working to embed an outcomes focus in all good relations funding projects, and to enable these outcomes to be assessed with respect to whether participants are from an urban or rural setting. The Branch is also developing a mapping resource to support geo-spatial analysis of good relations delivery, again in the context of the urban/rural distribution of good relations funding and its associated outcomes.</p>
<p>Together: Building a United Community Strategy Community Relations Council.</p>	<p>The Community Relations Council operates evaluation measurements which identify the geographic coverage and the thematic content of funded work. These measurement tools enables the CRC to identify how it is addressing the good relations needs of rural communities and also measure the amount of support it is providing to address these issues. Each year a review is carried out and welcome statements are published to address any funding gaps that have been identified either on a thematic or geographic basis. The CRC supports a broad range of good relations activity within rural communities including providing core funding support to strategic partners such as the Rural Community Network and other regional bodies who are delivering good relations programmes specific to the needs of rural communities.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Good Relations Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Together: Building a United Community Strategy - T:BUC Camps.</p>	<p>TEO and its delivery partner, the Education Authority (EA) regularly engage with stakeholders to gather feedback on what is and isn't working well within the programme.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>Public information events are held annually across District Council areas.</p> <p>Contact details are published online to facilitate any queries or raising of issues relating to the programme.</p> <p>Issues had been raised of rural communities being able to meet the criteria of the programme, specifically the need for a 50:50 split of participants from Catholic and Protestant communities. Many rural towns are predominantly one community and therefore groups had struggled to recruit the required numbers from both communities with the geographical constraints of the programme. As such the geographical constraints have been relaxed for rural groups allowing them to cast their net further afield to recruit the required numbers of participants or partner with other groups in neighbouring towns or communities.</p> <p>There has been evidence provided in published academic reports linking deprivation in some areas to anti-social behaviour amongst young people which negatively affects community relations. In addition interfaces exist in many rural communities not just in Belfast and L'derry. These issues are not specifically considered as rural issues but neither are they limited to large population centres.</p> <p>As such the programme's governance structures, stakeholder engagements, and co-design processes all seek to ensure critical need is met wherever it is and the programme is accessible to all.</p> <p>TEO and EA actively target under represented areas and groups to improve the distribution funding of the T:BUC Camps programme and try to ensure the programme continues to reach areas where funding is needed most, identifying any issues affecting uptake and seeking to address them.</p> <p>Transport costs are funded as part of the programme which can be critical for more rural groups.</p> <p>The availability of residential activity centres had proven problematic for applicants from the border areas,</p>

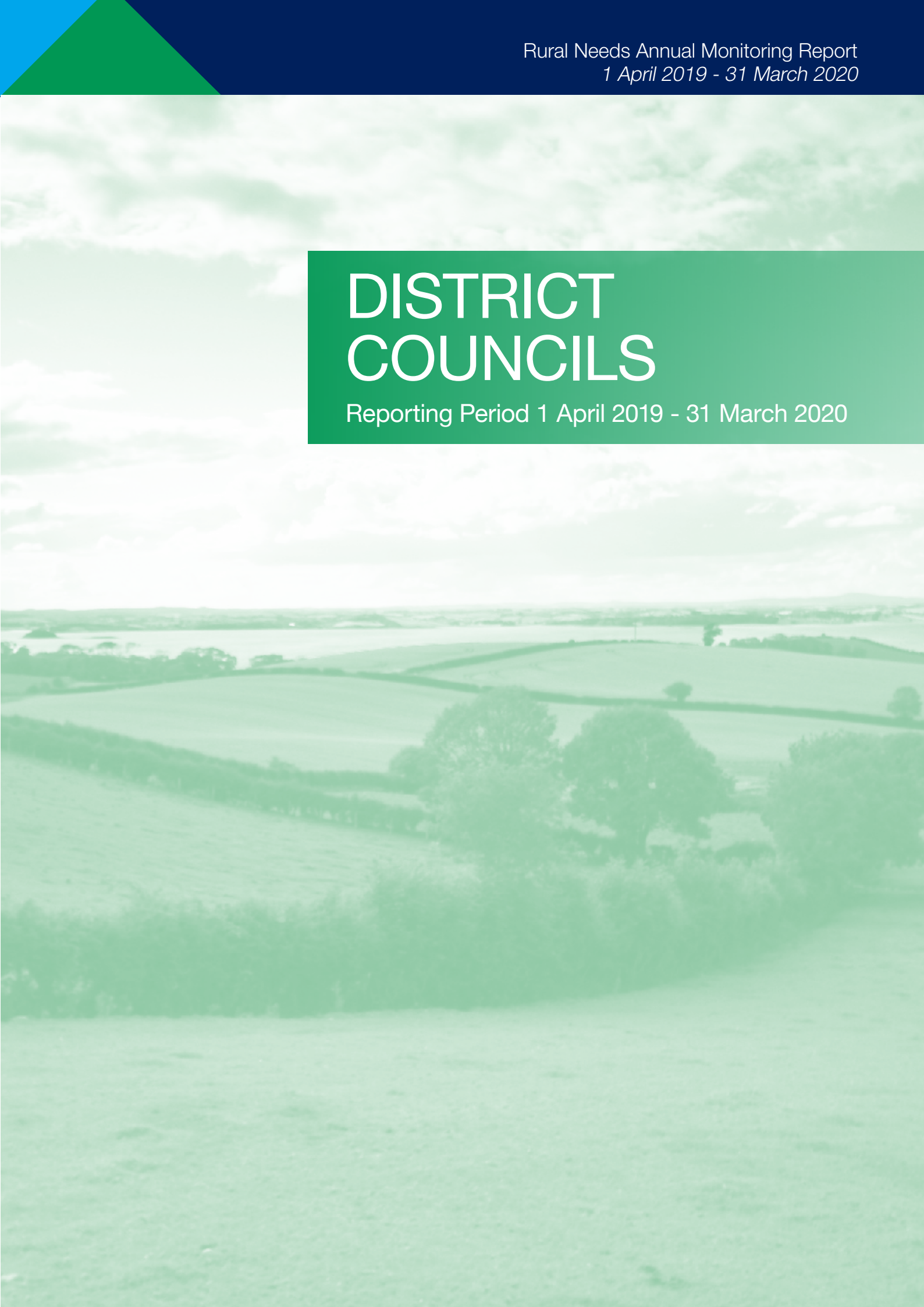
<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>leading to higher transport costs where centres in the ROI were far more accessible. The conditions of funding were revised to allow residential visits in the ROI.</p>
<p>Together: Building a United Community Strategy - Planned Interventions Programme</p>	<p>TEO and its delivery partner, the Education Authority (EA) regularly engage with stakeholders to gather feedback on what is and isn't working well within the programme.</p> <p>Public information events are held annually across District Council areas.</p> <p>Contact details are published online to facilitate any queries or raising of issues relating to the programme.</p> <p>All applicants must complete evaluation forms in which there is a section where issues can be raised.</p> <p>In addition there is engagement by TEO and EA with District Council representatives and the Rural Community Network.</p> <p>There has been evidence provided in published academic reports linking deprivation in some areas to anti-social behaviour amongst young people which negatively affects community relations. In addition interfaces exist in many rural communities not just in Belfast and L'derry. These issues are not specifically considered as rural issues but neither are they limited to large population centres. As such the programmes governance structures, stakeholder engagements, and co-design processes all seek to ensure critical need is met wherever it is and the programme is accessible to all.</p> <p>TEO and EA actively target under represented areas and groups to improve the distribution funding of the Planned Interventions Programme and try to ensure the programme continues to reach areas where funding is needed most, identifying and issues affecting uptake and seeking to address them.</p> <p>Transport costs are funded as part of the programme which can be critical for more rural groups.</p>

The Public Prosecution Service

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>PPS Policy for the Prosecution of Road Traffic Offences.</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to explain the approach of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) in taking prosecutorial decisions in respect of road traffic offences; that is, offences which can arise from the manner in which a motor vehicle is driven.</p> <p>The policy also provides guidance in relation to a range of road traffic offences, including the applicable legislation and the evidence needed to prove the offence. Given the relatively large number of road traffic offences in statute, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive overview, and therefore the policy focuses on the more serious offences commonly dealt with by the PPS.</p> <p>No geographical distinction is made in directing upon the prosecution, or not of road traffic offences.</p> <p>Neither the home area of a defendant, location of alleged offence(s) nor potential court location for criminal proceedings is a factor in considering prosecution.</p> <p>There are rare occasions when court proceedings may be moved to an alternative location, but this is under the authority of the court and the PPS has no influence over such a decision.</p>

DISTRICT COUNCILS

Reporting Period 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020



Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
Oil Stamp Policy.	<p>The aim of the policy is to operate an Oil Stamp Saving Scheme in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough by making oil stamps available for purchase which can be used to make payment for an oil delivery. The desired outcome is that householders who use central heating oil will be able to budget effectively. The scheme operates right across the Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey. Retail outlets selling the oil stamps as part of the scheme are located in Antrim, Crumlin, Randalstown, Templepatrick, Toomebridge, Ballyclare, Glengormley, Mallusk, Monkstown, Mossley, Rathcoole and Whiteabbey. Stamps are also available from the Council offices at Mossley Mill, Antrim Civic Centre, the Sixmile and Valley Leisure Centre's and the Old Courthouse, Antrim. The scheme is open to all householders living in the Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey and is inclusive of rural areas.</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when delivering the Oil Stamp Policy.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Breast Feeding Welcome Here.	<p>The aim of the policy is to ensure all Antrim and Newtownabbey Council premises (public areas and venues) provide a welcoming atmosphere for mothers who wish to breastfeed (breastfeeding families).</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when delivering Breast Feeding Welcome Here.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
Welfare and Public Health Funeral Policy.	<p>Antrim and Newtownabbey Council has a duty to take responsibility for arranging funerals. In Northern Ireland this duty comes under Section 25 of the Welfare Service Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 which states; “to bury or cremate the body of any person who has died or been found dead in its district. In cases where it appears to the local authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have, or are, being made” by reason of the following criteria: -</p> <p>“there being no relatives, friends or other bodies, willing or able to take responsibility (financial or otherwise) for the funeral arrangements. This may also include executors named in a Will who renounce their responsibility”.</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when implementing the Welfare and Public Health Funeral Policy.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Tourism	
Draft Economic Strategy 2018 - 2023 and Draft Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2022.	<p>The Economic Strategy 2018 - 2023 seeks to deliver improved prosperity across all the communities in the borough through a 5-year action plan. The Council will achieve this by adopting an agile approach to the economy which will include the following key priorities: Entrepreneurship and Business Support (including investment and export), Rural Development, Skills & Employability, Local Wealth Building, Infrastructure and International Relations.</p> <p>The Draft Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2022 seeks to harvest the economic development potential of the borough through development and promotion of sites, attractions, events and experiences of interest to domestic, ROI, GB and overseas markets.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when delivering the Draft Economic Strategy and Draft Tourism Strategy.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
PEACE IV Local Action Plan.	<p>The Peace IV local action plan in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is designed to tackle the remaining challenges that exist in building positive relationships and developing shared spaces. There are three key themes through which local authorities must deliver programmes; Children and young people, Shared spaces and services and building positive relations.</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when delivering the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Corporate Improvement Plan 2020 - 2021.	<p>The seven objectives identified in the Corporate Improvement Plan are intended to directly or indirectly positively benefit all residents of the Borough, including those living in rural areas.</p> <p>In the context of this Plan, the rural areas of the Borough are defined by existing census data and NISRA statistics. The Corporate Improvement Plan uses evidence compiled as part of the development of the Community Plan. In addition, evidence has been gathered from a range of consultations and surveys carried out by Council.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when delivering the Corporate Improvement Plan 2020-2021.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>Draft Local Development Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>The Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan (LDP) is the first to be brought forward by the Council since the transfer of planning powers to local government in 2015. It has been prepared under the new process for development plans introduced by the Planning (NI) Act 2011 and it will apply to the entire Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough area as a collective.</p> <p>In Summary:</p> <p>Positive impact in relation to rural needs with due regard being implemented through rural screening process, consultation with rural stakeholders and through ongoing engagement when delivering the draft Local Development Plan Strategy.</p>

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Tourism Events 2019 - 2020.	The events programme identifies the range of events that will be held across the Borough throughout the year. These include smaller and larger events as well as those that are themed. Events in rural areas include themed events that address the agri-food industry and include Comber Earlies, Portavogie Fish Festival and events in Portaferry.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross-cutting	
Portaferry Public Realm Scheme.	This project will deliver a £1.2M capital value public realm improvement scheme in Portaferry. The scheme boundary potentially includes Ferry Street, Castle Street and the Market Square. This will improve the safety and environs of the identified areas and encourage visitors to the area.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Request to erect two soldier silhouettes at either side of the war memorial in Millisle.	This request is for the location of two soldier silhouetted at the memorial located in Millisle - a rural area. The location is not based on rural needs but at the specific war memorial and the conditions to locate them in this location are to be adhered and were agreed with the council and on behalf of the community.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education/Training	
GCSE Support Programme.	This scheme is open to all young people who meet the criteria to improve their academic achievements and attend the schools across the Borough that have signed up to the programme.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
Ards & North Down Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2019/2022.	The strategy and corresponding action plan addresses the needs of those living in rural areas of the Borough. All partners will address their areas of responsibility in relation to the needs identified for access to services and facilities both in these areas and getting to other areas from rural areas in which they live.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Ards and North Down Borough Council Scheme of Delegation.	This policy outlines a decision-making process for the Council and all decisions will be taken in an agreed manner. The policy is not about specific decisions and their potential impact.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
Pilot project funded by Ards and North Down Borough Council and Recycling Investment Fund for The Big Conversation Participatory Budgeting.	This pilot project will impact on rural communities positively where they identify projects that meet the criteria of the initiative and when they are voted to completion.
Ulster History Circle Plaques - General.	The location of a plaque is selected and allocated by the Ulster History Circle based on an individual's birthplace or place where the named individual made a significant contribution to arts etc.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
ANDBC Borough Events Strategy and Action Plan.	This draft strategy and associated action plan consider how events as defined in the strategy will be best delivered across the Borough. This includes the location, local need, access and egress and areas where themed events could be facilitated. It considers the aim of each event. Where the event will be supported by local groups, professional groups or the Council direction and support will be provided at each location. It is anticipated that events in rural areas will continue as they are themed and are established events.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Request for Ulster Defence Regiment CGC Regimental Association Bangor Branch to use the Display Bed at Abbey Street Bangor.	The flower bed is in Bangor Town Centre. There are no display beds outside the main towns of Bangor or Holywood. It is not the Council's intent to provide additional display beds in any other locations across the borough.
Homecoming Parade - Royal Irish Regiment - December 2019.	The selected area is a main town in the Borough with significance for the regiment. The location of Newtownards provides access to rural areas, public transport links and car parking. The town is large enough to prevent congestion to entry or egress for attendees and other users in the area on the date.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Ards and North Down Borough Council Interpretative Signage Policy (Tourism).	This policy applies throughout Ards and North Down Borough. It is hoped that this initiative will increase the visitor experience, tourism business and spend in all areas including an increased interest in rural areas.
Ards and North Down Borough Council Tourism Events Grant Guidance Notes.	This is a positive arrangement to issue grants as there is the potential for increased visitors to all areas of the Borough with increase overnight stays and visitor spend, which will include rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Installation of Mosaic on Donaghadee Community Centre.	This policy is specifically in relation to the design and locating of a mosaic on the wall of Donaghadee Community Centre.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Proposed Outdoor Recreation & Biodiversity scheme at Cairn Wood.	This project has a positive impact on addressing rural poverty and social isolation by providing a sustainable facility within the Borough that will encourage users to participate in all it has to offer.
Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024.	The Corporate Plan has been influenced by the needs identified in the overall population of the Borough rather than specifically rural needs. The identified needs have shaped the Plan to have a greater focus on the councils economic Prosperity, a sustainable Environment, increased lifelong Opportunity, Pride in our community and place, improved health and wellbeing for Life, supported by a high-performing Council striving for Excellence. Throughout the Corporate Planning process the rural needs of residents and business and potential residents and businesses have been paramount.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Hamilton Road Community Hub, Bangor, County Down Projectile Range Hire Terms and Conditions, and General Terms and Information, for Shooting Clubs and Organisations, and Archery Clubs.	These terms and conditions relate to the facility located in Bangor. It was located here due to the availability of appropriate space and access to this type of facility for potential users that meet the criteria. Bangor offers public transport links and car parking. Similar facilities are available in other areas of the Borough but are not owned nor managed by ANDBC.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Final Borough Events Strategy.	This final strategy and its associated action plans consider how events (as defined in the strategy) will be best delivered across the Borough. This includes the location, identified local need and relevance to a topic, access and egress to locations and areas where themed events could be facilitated. It considers the aim of each event. Where the event will be supported by local groups, professional groups or the Council it confirms direction and support will be provided at each location. It is anticipated events in rural areas will continue as they are themed and are established events and additional events may take place in rural areas if communities wish to be skilled up to deliver these.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Whistle-blowing Policy.	This is a policy for employees across the Council.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
ANDBC revised flags policy.	This Council policy is the amalgamation of the two legacy council policies and identifies where the Union flag will be flown across the Borough based on location of flagpoles, the promotion of a good and harmonious working environment, requests for flags of significant national and regional importance and at times of remembrance annually in November.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan 2019 - 2022.	The Strategy and annual action plans consider the population and their specific needs across the Borough. The programme delivery and its delivery mechanisms consider rural areas as well as access to other areas from rural areas and meet these needs as is practicable.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Project Management Board and Handbook.	This handbook considers as an integral part of the arrangements to deliver projects the needs of rural areas where appropriate - delivery of goods, access to areas etc.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Civic Reception Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other, Collection of Waste in the Borough	
Collection of Waste in the Borough.	No rural needs were identified. This service will be provided to the whole Borough but it will not have any negative impact on those in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting/Rural Businesses/ Tourism/Employment/Infrastructure	
Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy.	<p>The aims, objectives, interventions and operational subject policies of the MSW Regional Economic Strategy will encourage sustaining rural communities and ‘supercharging’ the growth of the collective economy to ensure inclusive prosperity for all.</p> <p>In terms of interventions, policy changes and economic development opportunities the strategy sets out opportunity for all businesses, and in particular SME sector to grow and be more productive. The strategy also seeks to protect and consolidate major areas of existing rural industry by enhancing their capabilities in crucial enabling technologies such as data analytics, robotics, automation, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, advanced materials and production techniques, and exploiting the growth opportunities these technologies provide.</p> <p>The strategy highlights the major utility infrastructure deficits in relation to the prevailing wastewater network capacity and state electricity supply across the region. The deficit in relation to wastewater network capacity is a major constraint on housing development in rural settlements and on the development of serviced industrial land, to enable businesses expand. In addition it highlights the need for research on a policy agenda change in respect of the regeneration of our rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Actions that we take through the implementation of the RES to improve our infrastructure, enhance innovation and digital activity, building our tourism economy and ‘future proofing’ the skills base will have an immediate impact on our productivity and potential growth, making our rural areas more attractive to higher skilled individuals and for business investment.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal Policy	
<p>The Operation, Management and Control of Exclusive Right to Burial Sales in Council’s Municipal Cemeteries.</p>	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Performance Improvement Plan 2020-2021.</p>	<p>The Performance Improvement Plan has been developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services across the Borough. This policy is available on the consultation hub as the final plan was not approved due to the Coronavirus pandemic.</p>
<p>The Rainbow Flag will be flown at Banbridge Civic Building, Craigavon Civic Centre and Palace Demesne on Belfast Pride Day 2019 (3rd August 2019) and annually thereafter.</p> <p>On Belfast Pride Day 2019 the Council Civic Buildings will be lit up in the colours of the Pride Rainbow and annually thereafter.</p>	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Review of Toilet Services	
<p>Review of Toilet Services.</p>	<p>No rural needs identified. The British Toilet Association Standards and Guidance states that at least one block facility (1 male, 1 female & 1 Disabled) should be provided in every settlement with a population of over 5,000.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: The borough has significant areas classified as rural and so the policy seeks to support community and voluntary sector organisations to address some of the particular issues experienced by rural communities, for example: • Rural isolation • Lack of access to services • Social exclusion.</p>	
<p>Financial Assistance Policy.</p>	<p>The rural needs identified have underpinned the need to continue to ensure that access to financial assistance for groups serving rural areas and meeting rural needs is not adversely affected by any revisions.</p> <p>As a result, while the Rural Linkages Grant is no longer available, groups who would or could have applied to it can still apply for the same projects and costs through the Community Development Grant programme.</p> <p>Specific grant programme objectives which may have particular relevance for groups operating in rural areas or seeking to meet rural needs have been retained, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased social inclusion (tackling marginalization). • Reduced social isolation. • Better services for those in need. • Improved community cohesion. • Improve facilities, access or services. <p>In respect of eligibility to apply for annual core running costs, rural development associations are specifically named as an eligible group. Similarly, projects that are eligible for funding for capital funding specifically include “capital expenditure to facilitate the provision of mobile services in rural areas”.</p>

Click below for a list of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council policies:

<https://www.armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/council/policies/>

Belfast City Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Corporate CCTV Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Inclusion	
Flying of the Rainbow Flag on Pride Day - 3rd August.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Development of an open spaces and streetscene structure leading to restructuring of the current Parks and Street Cleansing services.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Sports Development	
Waterworks Pitch (Westland).	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Corporate Plan 2020/2024.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Customer Service Strategy	
Customer Focus Programme 'Putting you first, Transforming Customer Experience'.	This programme will impact positively on residents living in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Regeneration Project	
Boodles Dam.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other-Regeneration	
Open Spaces Street Scene Service.	No rural needs were identified. However this will be monitored during implementation.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Regeneration/Tourism	
A City Reimaging - Cultural Strategy for Belfast 2020-2030.	No rural needs were identified.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other- Regeneration	
Future City Centre Programme.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs/Employment	
City for Investment Service.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs/Employment	
Request for a permanent plaque to commemorate World War I nurses.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Safety	
Reservoir Safety Programme.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs/Employment	
Start a Business Activity.	No rural needs were identified.
Employability and Skills Programme.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Regeneration	
Final Belfast Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan.	No rural needs were identified.
Final Developer Contributions Framework.	No rural needs were identified.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training/Health or Social Care Services/Poverty/Deprivation/Rural Development	
<p>Community Development Strategy 2020-23.</p>	<p>Through the consultation process for development of the Community Development Strategy the following social and economic needs were specifically evident in rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great levels of social isolation. • Poor provision of facilities for leisure activities, sporting activities, training, health etc. • Longer distance to travel to access Council facilities. • Longer distance to travel to access health and other facilities. • Poor public transport links. • Increased costs for groups as a result of transport hire costs. • Poor broadband and in some cases mobile phone coverage. • Most Council provided community centres are in urban areas (although this differs between legacy Council area) so many rural community groups provide their own community centres, the costs of which are becoming increasingly difficult to sustain. <p>Consideration was given to how best to deliver services, programmes and projects that were accessible to rural community groups, in terms of venues for and times of provision eg advice drop-in times provision, community group training etc.</p> <p>Consideration was also given as to how best to support rural community groups to address the needs identified in Section 3D using a community development approach- carrying out community engagement activities, identifying needs and solutions, connecting with Council and statutory bodies, lobbying, developing projects, securing funding etc.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>An Action Plan has been identified to deliver the Community Development Strategy and identified within this are actions to develop a Community Centres Strategy that will review the current methods of provision/support for community centres in Causeway Coast and Glens and identify a range of delivery models which will include support for community centre provision in rural areas.</p> <p>The development of the Community Development Strategy has been influenced by the needs of communities across Causeway Coast and Glens whether they are defined by geography, identity or interest. Because of the significant rural nature of Causeway Coast and Glens the needs of rural communities are particularly to the fore. The needs identified specific to rural areas such as access to services, poor transport links, increased cost of delivering services and providing community facilities have influenced the development of the Strategy and design of the associated Action Plan.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure.	
Good Relations Action Plan.	<p>The Good Relations Audit identified that 17% of population in the council area live in rural settlements and 36% live in the wider rural area. It was therefore necessary to ensure that they too have access to the projects being delivered Borough wide and that one of the issues that could prevent participation is transport, particularly due to the perception by respondents that there is a lack of public transportation in rural areas.</p> <p>Lack of transportation to participate in projects - the Good Relations team will consider delivery of each project and when appropriate will rotate venues for project delivery to try to facilitate access.</p> <p>Transport will be provided to ensure that participation on projects accessible for everyone, particularly those living in rural communities.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Rural Tourism/Rural Housing/Jobs or Employment/Education or Training/Broadband or Mobile Communications/Transport Services or Infrastructure/Health or Social Care Services/Poverty/Deprivation/Rural Crime or Community Safety/Rural Development/Agri-Environment.	
Review of Scheme of Delegation for Planning function.	<p>This revised Policy relates to what Planning applications will be delegated to authorised officers of the Council and those to be determined by the Council’s Planning Committee. The revisions do not change or negatively impact people in rural areas. It provides for faster decision making whilst retaining the decision-making by the Planning Committee on certain applications. It provides the opportunity to make amendments to applications where these amendments would result in an approved decision.</p> <p>Applicants will have the opportunity to submit further information within specified deadlines and the public will have the opportunity to make representations electronically or by post.</p>
Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee.	<p>Planning applications in relation to social and economic needs of people in rural areas may be determined at the Planning Committee meeting. People from rural areas will be able to submit representations electronically or have someone attend Committee meeting on their behalf.</p> <p>There will be the ability to make representation electronically without having to attend the Committee meeting and applicants can also have someone attend to speak on their behalf.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Jobs or Employment.	
Atlantic Link Enterprise Campus.	<p>Socially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the region currently stands at 144,226. • Population by age - 20% are 0 to 15, 29% are 16-39, 33% are 40-64 and 18% are 65+. • Gender - 49% of population are male and 51% are female.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependents - 33% of population have at least one dependent. • Labour Market - 66% economically active, with 61% of people employed and 26% self-employed. 3% of people are claiming unemployment of this 22% are aged 18-24. • The median annual earnings for people living in the area is £19,900. • Education - 16% have no qualifications, 56% have achieved a qualification below NVQ Level 4 and 28% have achieved a qualification higher than NVQ Level 4. • Religious Beliefs - 40% are Catholic, 55% are Protestant, 1% have other religion and 5% have no religion. • Political Opinion - 49% are Unionist, 35% are Nationalist and 16% are Independent. • Marital Status - 53% are married, 35% are single, 6% are divorced and 7% are widowed. • Racial Group - 91% identify as being from NI, 5% from rest of UK and the remainder from outside UK. <p>Sources: 2011 UK Census and Invest NI Council Area Briefing 2019</p> <p>The Atlantic Link Enterprise Campus was developed based on considerations relating to the potential to create more jobs in the region by attracting international investors to the area. The Enterprise Campus is located on the Portstewart Road and has provided the opportunity for redevelopment to occur.</p> <p>The full significance of the Atlantic Link Enterprise Campus will not be realized until future tenants have been secured for the remainder of the premises. It is hoped that these tenants will bring prosperity to Coleraine and surrounding rural areas.</p> <p>CCGBC has identified that Coleraine and the surrounding areas would greatly benefit from outside investment in the region, providing more employment opportunities. The Enterprise Campus includes many</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>incentives that will hopefully encourage this substantial investment.</p> <p>Council will continually review the progress of the Atlantic Link Enterprise Campus and if necessary, will engage with key stakeholders to ensure that all their needs are being fully addressed.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Rural Tourism/Rural Housing/Jobs or Employment/Broadband or Mobile Communications	
5G Communications.	<p>Socially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the region currently stands at 144,226. • Population by age - 20% are 0 to 15, 29% are 16-39, 33% are 40-64 and 18% are 65+. • Gender - 49% of population are male and 51% are female. • Dependents - 33% of population have at least one dependent. • Labour Market - 66% economically active, with 61% of people employed and 26% self-employed. 3% of people are claiming unemployment of this 22% are aged 18-24. • The median annual earnings for people living in the area is £19,900. • Education - 16% have no qualifications, 56% have achieved a qualification below NVQ Level 4 and 28% have achieved a qualification higher than NVQ Level 4. • Religious Beliefs - 40% are Catholic, 55% are Protestant, 1% have other religion and 5% have no religion. • Political Opinion - 49% are Unionist, 35% are Nationalist and 16% are Independent. • Marital Status - 53% are married, 35% are single, 6% are divorced and 7% are widowed. • Racial Group - 91% identify as being from NI, 5% from rest of UK and the remainder from outside UK.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Sources: 2011 UK Census and Invest NI Council Area Briefing 2019.</p> <p>For this proposal, Council has considered the geographical make-up of the Borough and the needs of those in remote, rural areas who will require an upgrade to their internet connection the most. Indeed, there are some areas within the Borough that have no broadband connection at all, leading to an increased sense of isolation.</p> <p>Those affected by the lack of broadband connection are the target audience for this 5G communication roll-out and they will benefit most from the process.</p> <p>As this proposal will not cost the residents of the Borough any money, the outcome of a coherent roll-out plan will only be beneficial to all the stakeholders.</p> <p>Council has identified the need for improved broadband connections in rural areas, this proposal will enable Council to develop a coherent plan for the roll-out of 5G communications within these areas. Council has employed a consultancy firm to provide expertise and engagement with the community.</p> <p>Council will continually review the progress of the roll-out plan and if necessary will engage with key stakeholders to ensure that all their needs are being fully catered for.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Rural Housing/Poverty	
Girona Energy Project Update.	<p>Socially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the region currently stands at 144,226. • Population by age - 20% are 0 to 15, 29% are 16-39, 33% are 40-64 and 18% are 65+. • Gender - 49% of population are male and 51% are female. • Dependents - 33% of population have at least one dependent. • Labour Market - 66% economically active, with 61%

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>of people employed and 26% self-employed. 3% of people are claiming unemployment of this 22% are aged 18-24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The median annual earnings for people living in the area is £19,900. • Education - 16% have no qualifications, 56% have achieved a qualification below NVQ Level 4 and 28% have achieved a qualification higher than NVQ Level 4. • Religious Beliefs - 40% are Catholic, 55% are Protestant, 1% have other religion and 5% have no religion. • Political Opinion - 49% are Unionist, 35% are Nationalist and 16% are Independent. • Marital Status - 53% are married, 35% are single, 6% are divorced and 7% are widowed. • Racial Group - 91% identify as being from NI, 5% from rest of UK and the remainder from outside UK. <p>Sources: 2011 UK Census and Invest NI Council Area Briefing 2019.</p> <p>The Girona Energy Project has considered the economic impact that a micro-grid would have on the region. The project would provide the opportunity to purchase electricity at off peak times and store this energy for use throughout the day, significantly reducing the cost of energy for everyone connected to the micro-grid.</p> <p>Almost 60% of the businesses in the Borough are in the Engineering, Manufacturing and Agri-Food sectors, in general, these businesses are located in rural locations. The micro-grid will allow these businesses to reduce reliance on the National Grid, providing more freedom of choice in how they operate.</p> <p>As funding has already been secured and future funding opportunities continually being explored, there is no risk to the residents of the Borough. The successful implementation of a micro-grid in Coleraine will only be beneficial to all the stakeholders involved.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>Council has identified the need for access to alternative energy supplies in rural areas, CCGBC supporting this project will provide the following benefits to the rural community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To alleviate fuel poverty and decarbonise lifestyles; • Improve network resilience/energy security; • Support housing build programmes; • Enable business expansion/economic growth; • Provide evidence to support/inform decision making in relation to policies; regulations; and business investment; • Showcase NI skills and expertise; • Attract inward investment; • Opportunity for skills building - higher value jobs; and • Production of exportable products and services. <p>Council will continually review the progress of the Girona Energy Project and if necessary will engage with key stakeholders to ensure that all their needs are being fully addressed.</p>

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032.	<p>Greenways could create a high quality destination for visitors and result in a multiplier effect, with social and economic regeneration in rural areas, which can increase visitor length and spend in the district. This has significant potential to attract a new profile of visitors in the medium to long term.</p> <p>GI includes land in productive use in the countryside. Managing this land provides employment opportunities and investment to reinstate degraded land, which can restore ecosystems and reduce land management costs. Investment can provide new opportunities for agricultural diversification for food and non-food crops, as well as providing the resource to generate renewable sources of energy, including growth of biomass and biofuels.</p> <p>Accredited training will be delivered for development of skills, guided walk leader, employability skills and rural diversification of farming.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross-cutting	
Risk Management Strategy.	The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 requires all local government bodies to have sound systems of control which includes arrangements for the management of risk. This is a technical policy and therefore has no differential implications for people living in a rural area as compared to people living in urban areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
Sponsorship, Advertising and Promotions Policy.	Organisations across the city and district have the opportunity to raise awareness of their services and campaigns on an equal basis.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business	
Street Trading Policy.	This policy is designed to apply to the processing of applications and is designed to apply equally across the whole district, impacting equally on rural and urban areas. The policy is already designed to facilitate the satisfactory receipt and processing of applications from all persons, irrespective of whether they live in rural or urban areas.
Policy for the purchase of supplies and/or services, or using a panel of contractors.	Whilst this policy dictates a procurement process which is driven by legislation and therefore have not been influenced by rural needs. Council have been mindful of the potential of poor broadband in rural areas and therefore raises awareness of tendering opportunities in various media outlets as well as the internet and allows other means of submission outside of online. This policy dictates a procurement process which is driven by legislation and therefore have not been influenced by rural needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Menopause Policy.	This policy is for Council staff only and will be applied universally to all regardless of whether staff live in rural or urban areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Council Assets	
Asset Illumination Policy.	The primary aim of the policy is to help promote awareness of causes/campaigns by lighting up Council assets - this is best served by lighting up buildings where there is maximum footfall e.g. Council Offices, Guildhall. It should be noted that this does not mean that requests for the illumination of facilities in rural areas would not be considered in special circumstances.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Counter Fraud, Whistleblowing and Anti-Bribery Policy.	This policy sets out how Council must ensure transparency and accountability in the delivery of its services - this is driven by legislation and therefore this has not been driven by urban or rural needs.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>Implementation of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Implementation and Enforcement Policy.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p> <p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
<p>Implementation of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Climate Change Resilience and Sustainable Development Strategy.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p> <p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Development of the Conflicts of Interest Policy for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Councillors.	The purpose of the Conflicts of Interest Policy is to ensure that actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest are identified and managed in a way that safeguards the integrity of Councillors and maximises public confidence in the Council's ability to deliver public services properly. It therefore applies as a corporate policy that is not influenced specifically by the rural needs of the citizens of the district. The application of the Policy should ensure all citizens are properly represented irrespective of them being rural or urban based.

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Development of an Employee Conflicts of Interest Policy for employees of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.</p>	<p>This Policy is applicable to all employees and is equally applied to those who live in urban or rural areas.</p>
<p>Development of a Corporate Plan 2020-24 to outline the strategic direction and priorities of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council for the four-year period.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p> <p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross-cutting	
<p>Development of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Equality and Disability Action Plans for the period 2019-2022.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
Development of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Events and Festivals Strategy 2020-2025.	The Events and Festivals Strategy and Action Plan is applicable to all events in the District. The outputs and objectives will be applied consistently regardless of whether the organisers are rural or urban based.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other-Cultural	
Review of the Irish Language Policy for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.	70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p> <p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross-cutting	
<p>Development of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Performance Improvement Plan 2020-21.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p> <p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
<p>Development of a Play Park Provision Plan for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District. Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revision of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Smoke Free Policy.	This Policy is applicable to all employees and is equally applied to those who live in urban or rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross-cutting	
Development of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Corporate Sponsorship Policy.	The Policy is applicable to all applicants and will be implemented consistently regardless of whether the applicant is rural or urban based.

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Implementation of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Sustainable Development Action Plan 2019/20.</p>	<p>70% of the population of the Fermanagh and Omagh District live in rural areas outside of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas of our District along with issues considered have been identified as:</p> <p>Access to services: 5 of the 10 most deprived SOAs in the Access to Services domain are in the District. The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are also in the District. Broadband speeds in the District are by far the slowest in NI. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health.</p> <p>Income: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average - 13.1%), with children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the District are living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The District has the worst rate of older people's income poverty across NI. The District also has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.</p> <p>Employment: Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016).</p> <p>Health: Admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for the District and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the District.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh. The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the District.</p> <p>In considering the measures necessary to meet identified rural needs, the Implementation Plan actions will improve environmental conditions within rural areas and also provide volunteering opportunities for rural populations.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revision of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Wellbeing Risk Assessment Policy.	This Policy is applicable to all employees and is equally applied to those who live in urban or rural areas.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development/Rural Businesses/Jobs or Employment	
<p>Rural Micro Business Development Grant Pilot Scheme.</p>	<p>Rural needs given due consideration through the screening exercise undertaken by the Council. The programmes sole focus is upon businesses within rural areas only.</p> <p>Funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) the scheme will provide 9 rural micro businesses with a capital grant capped at £4,999 at a match-funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses. Businesses operating within a rural area will have the opportunity to benefit from the fund via a competitive application process.</p> <p>The rural share of the NI population is growing. Over the years 2001-2011 the number of people living in rural areas of NI increased by 15% in comparison to a rise of only 4% in urban areas. According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth - Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).</p> <p>In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural areas. The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business. In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees). Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our employment. Furthermore 78% of the total NI land</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>area is in agricultural use. Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions. The slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, the fact that only 67% of rural areas have superfast broadband coverage (98% in urban areas) and 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Scheme will continue to focus on the three priority areas of access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation which targets vulnerable groups in rural areas based on identified need.</p> <p>In addition, LCCC is already subject to Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act and this involves giving consideration to and assessing the impact of any Council policy and/or service on the nine designated groups. Since June 2017 Council is also now subject to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 which itself also involves giving consideration to policy and/or service impact on those specifically in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Jobs or Employment	
<p>Business Support Programmes 2019-2020 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016); Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas, Education or Training in Rural Areas, Poverty in Rural Areas, Deprivation in Rural Areas, Rural Development, Agri-Environment.</p> <p>The Business Solutions Programmes will have a positive impact benefitting people in rural areas through increasing employment opportunities and supporting local businesses and supporting business growth and ensure that a broad range of services is easily accessible to the rural communities.</p> <p>In addition to adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016, LCCC will embrace the principles outlined in our community plan, Sustainable Development, Equality and Participation across all programmes.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Collaboration Projects 2019-2020 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural areas. The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business. In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees).</p> <p>This is also reflective of the 4855 VAT registered businesses in Lisburn Castlereagh of which over 3,000 are microbusiness employing up to 9 people.</p> <p>Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our employment. Furthermore 78% of the total NI land area is in agricultural use.</p> <p>There are 655 VAT registered businesses classified as Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector in Lisburn Castlereagh area.</p> <p>Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions. The slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, the fact that only 67% of rural areas have superfast broadband coverage (98% in urban areas) and 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>LCCC will embrace the principles outlined in our community plan which are Sustainable Development, Equality and Participation across all programmes.</p> <p>These business solutions collaboration projects will also have a positive impact benefitting people in rural areas through increasing employment opportunities and supporting local businesses, encouraging business growth and ensuring a broad range of services is easily</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>accessible to the rural communities. An added benefit is that through collaboration with delivery partners, such as neighbouring Council areas or organisations such as Public Health Agency or Women in Business, a wider range of support and expertise is available.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Jobs or Employment/Rural Tourism	
<p>Inward Investment Projects 2019-2020 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>LCCC will embrace the principles outlined in our community plan which are Sustainable Development, Equality and Participation across all programmes.</p> <p>The nature of these inward investment projects are focused on bringing a benefit to our local community in economic and social terms, and selling the benefits of the entire Council area as an ideal site for investment. The area is ideally placed offering balance for business and living due to its proximity to key transport routes as well as easy commute from our rural villages and countryside.</p> <p>Rural businesses from a range of sectors also have opportunity to participate on inward investment programmes and trade missions.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Jobs or Employment/Broadband or Mobile Communications	
<p>Economic Development Communications 2019-2020 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>The content of the websites and e-zine are focused on bringing a benefit to our local community in economic and social terms. A negative impact on our rural communities is not anticipated but there is a small risk of some people in rural areas not having access to the material. However, a report from NISRA in 2018 shows that 88.4% of homes in LCCC have access to broadband which is higher than the NI average.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Lisburn City Centre Master Plan.	<p>Rural needs given due consideration through the screening exercise undertaken by the Council. The Lisburn City Centre Master plan is an essential tool in guiding the future of Lisburn.</p> <p>Funded in partnership by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and the Department for Communities, the master plan sets out how the assets of the city centre can be harnessed more effectively to address the challenges faced by city centres across the UK and NI.</p> <p>The master plan was subject to public consultation and the results of the consultation have been reflected where appropriate to inform the final document.</p> <p>The rural share of the NI population is growing. Over the years 2001-2011 the number of people living in rural areas of NI increased by 15% in comparison to a rise of only 4% in urban areas. According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth - Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghly (6.2%).</p> <p>Whilst this is the Lisburn City Centre Master Plan, many people living in rural areas work and shop in the businesses and facilities located in the City Centre. The purpose of the master plan is to create a thriving, welcoming and well-connected city centre which will entice all visitors into the centre. By improving the city centre and attracting visitors into the city, businesses in the outlying rural villages who wish to benefit from Tourism to Lisburn and Castlereagh will benefit if they utilize the opportunity to promote their businesses.</p> <p>The areas of development identified in the masterplan are all located within the city centre boundary. However, the plan aims to improve the city centre as a well-connected and welcoming regional city with a</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>vibrant and independent character which will attract visitors into the city.</p> <p>Many people in rural areas work, socialise and shop in the city centre and may not derive the same secondary benefits as urban dwellers such as the benefits to be gained from the walking and cycling initiatives identified in the plan to the same degree as city dwellers.</p> <p>However tourism businesses in rural areas may benefit if they chose to market their business through city centre facilities such as the visitor information centre in Lisburn Square, the Council website and the city centre events Facebook page. By improving the city centre and attracting visitors into the city, businesses in the outlying rural villages who wish to benefit from Tourism to Lisburn and Castlereagh will benefit if they utilize the opportunity to promote their businesses.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural areas. The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business. In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees). Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our employment. Furthermore 78% of the total NI land area is in agricultural use. Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions. The slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, the fact that only 67% of rural areas have superfast broadband coverage (98% in urban areas) and 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In addition, LCCC is already subject to Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act and this involves giving consideration</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	to and assessing the impact of any Council policy and/or service on the nine designated groups. Since June 2017 Council is also now subject to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 which itself also involves giving consideration to policy and/or service impact on those specifically in rural areas
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
LCCC Light Festival 2019/2020.	<p>Rural needs given due consideration through the screening exercise undertaken by the Council. The Lisburn Light Festival is now established as a key event in the Lisburn City Centre Christmas events calendar.</p> <p>Funded in partnership by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and the Department for Communities the Light Festival was developed to introduce a new and unique event which would run over the winter/festive Christmas period in the City Centre which was unlike anything that was being scheduled by neighbouring Councils.</p> <p>A Council led working group was set up to manage the overall event and ensure an integrated approach was considered across all council departments. All the visitor and business feedback from the previous year has been taken on board and fed into the delivery of the 2019/2020 event.</p> <p>The rural share of the NI population is growing. Over the years 2001-2011 the number of people living in rural areas of NI increased by 15% in comparison to a rise of only 4% in urban areas. According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth - Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).</p> <p>Whilst this event takes place in Lisburn City centre, many people living in rural areas work and shop in the businesses and facilities located in the City Centre. The purpose of the event is to create a unique interactive</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>event in the city centre which will entice visitors into the centre, create a greater awareness of the Council area and what's on offer both in the urban centres and the surrounding rural villages. By improving the city centre and attracting visitors into the city, businesses in the outlying rural villages who wish to prosper from Tourism to Lisburn and Castlereagh will benefit if they utilise the opportunity to promote their businesses.</p> <p>The Light Festival is hosted within the boundary of the City Centre. However, the key aim of the 'Festival of Light' is directed towards increasing the number of new visitors to the Council area, improving people's perception of Lisburn and Castlereagh as a visitor/ shopping destination and allow the Council to promote the City Centre as a primary retail and leisure destination. This is intended to have a knock on effect for business in rural areas, especially those located close to the City Centre such as Hillsborough and Moira.</p> <p>Tourism businesses in rural areas may benefit from the increased visitor numbers to the city centre throughout this period if they chose to market their business through city centre facilities such as the visitor information centre in Lisburn Square, the Council website and the city centre events Facebook page. By hosting such innovative events in the centre and attracting visitors into the city, businesses in the outlying rural villages who wish to benefit from Tourism to Lisburn and Castlereagh will benefit if they utilise the opportunity to promote their businesses.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural areas. The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business. In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees). Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>employment. Furthermore 78% of the total NI land area is in agricultural use. Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions. The slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, the fact that only 67% of rural areas have superfast broadband coverage (98% in urban areas) and 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In addition, LCCC is already subject to Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act and this involves giving consideration to and assessing the impact of any Council policy and/or service on the nine designated groups. Since June 2017 Council is also now subject to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 which itself also involves giving consideration to policy and/or service impact on those specifically in rural areas.</p>
Waterways College.	<p>Rural needs given due consideration through the screening exercise undertaken by the Council.</p> <p>The Discover Waterways proposal entails the acquisition of land and property at Union Locks with a view to regenerating and conserving the site as a visitor destination for Lisburn and Northern Ireland. The project will benefit both urban dwellers and rural dwellers equally. Both areas will have equal access to the project and all elements will be fully accessible to residents and businesses from both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>The development of the Discover Waterways Projects is a result of the Councils commitment to the regeneration and invigoration of Lisburn's Lagan Corridor, through a major long term programme which involves the Council working in partnership with statutory bodies, businesses, local interest groups and local residents all of whom are committed to maximising the many economic social and environmental opportunities presented by regenerating the waterway and bringing the river back to life. The lagan corridor connects Belfast to Lough Neagh through many of the Councils rural areas.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>Based just outside the urban boundary of Lisburn City Centre the project is based at Navigation House on the Hillsborough Road. The proposed scheme is located close to Hillsborough, Moira, Dromara, Culcavy and Ravernet and will create an attractive location for both local and visitor pedestrian movement and footfall in an area rich in shopping opportunities and cultural history, built and industrial heritage. This development will attract visitors to the area and will have a positive impact on surrounding rural villages. The Discover Waterways project has been extensively consulted on and has been subject to a full Green Book appraisal. Throughout the development of the project, consultation with a number of social enterprises across the Council area who see the added benefits that the project would offer their businesses, allowing them to extend their current ability to deliver on their own outputs. The Discover Waterways project has the potential to work as a social enterprise hub with a number of businesses working on social, environmental or economic impact issues working in collaboration to deliver initiatives that will have a greater impact across the Council Area.</p> <p>During the course of the development of the Discover Waterways proposal a range of stakeholder consultations were undertaken to assess views on the need and opportunities for the project. Consultees included: Canoe NI, NI Sea Cadets, The manager of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Tourist Information Centre, Outdoor Recreation NI, Hosteling International NI, Department for Infrastructure Cycling Unit, Sustrans, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Rural Development Manager, Department for Communities - Historic Environment Division</p> <p>The rural share of the NI population is growing. Over the years 2001-2011 the number of people living in rural areas of NI increased by 15% in comparison to a rise of only 4% in urban areas. According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth - Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).</p> <p>The rationale for government intervention in the proposed Discover Waterways project is primarily to achieve 'Equity Objectives'. In the case of Discover Waterways the Equity Objectives of the scheme are to physically regenerate the site as a visitor attraction and provide opportunity for recreation and education which will be open to all urban dwellers and rural dwellers.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural areas. The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business. In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees). Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our employment. Furthermore 78% of the total NI land area is in agricultural use. Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions. The slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, the fact that only 67% of rural areas have superfast broadband coverage (98% in urban areas) and 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In addition, LCCC is already subject to Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act and this involves giving consideration to and assessing the impact of any Council policy and/or service on the nine designated groups. Since June 2017 Council is also now subject to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 which itself also involves giving consideration to policy and/or service impact on those specifically in rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Business/Tourism/Education/Poverty/Deprivation/Rural Development.	
<p>Improvements to Hillsborough Forest.</p>	<p>Rural needs given due consideration through the screening exercise at multiple phases, undertaken by the Council, including the development of Concept Plan, Phase 1 infrastructure works, Phase 2 Digital Sculpture Trail, and Woodland Themed Play Area.</p> <p>According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth - Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).</p> <p>The Hillsborough Forest redevelopment project is a multi-phase project based on a visionary concept plan presented to council back in October 2016. Council took a 20 year lease on an area of the forest in April 2019 for the purposes of developing these areas to improve the tourism and recreation offering within the forest. Phase 1 infrastructure works is nearing completion that includes improved trails, new pedestrian bridges, new interpretive signage, larger car park, and new woodland themed play area. The project will benefit both urban dwellers and rural dwellers equally. Both areas will have equal access to the forest and all elements will be fully accessible to residents and businesses from both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Consultation on phase 1 infrastructure works included working closely with the local community, such as Downshire Primary School, Beechlawn Special School, residents and business owners. It was subject to a Full Green Book appraisal as part of the application for TRPSI (DAERA) funding. The project aims is to increase the number of visitors to the forest, from out of state visitors, to domestic visitors, urban and rural. Footfall counters have been erected to measure</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>numbers, whilst Phase 2 Digital Sculpture Trail will be able to analysis where the origin of visitors based on a new visitor APP that will be commissioned.</p> <p>Hillsborough Forest is located on the outskirts of the award winning Hillsborough Village. The village is surrounded by green fields and very much rural. This development will attract new and repeat visitors to the area and will have a positive impact on rural Hillsborough Village and the local environs.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Business, Tourism/Civic pride.	
Gateway Roundabout Planting Scheme.	Economic development initiatives such as the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme are designed to benefit all businesses in the Council area, including those located in rural areas. An Equality Screening Document and Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been completed to ensure compliance with the relevant policies.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Tourism	
Tourism Small Grants.	<p>With almost half of the LCCC district being considered rural, the spread of tourism benefits to tourism and hospitality providers throughout the whole council area is well placed. This is verified in the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), with just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth - Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).</p> <p>Much of the council supported events portfolio is staged in the rural villages and towns with local businesses reaping the rewards with growth expected across bed nights, trips and tourism revenue in these rural areas.</p> <p>Applications for Tourism Small Grants (up to £1,000 support) are considered from organisations who meet ALL of the following criteria: A/Attraction of</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>out-of-state visitors and participants to LCCC area. B/Attraction of domestic visitors and participants to LCCC area. C/Generation of at least 100 'bed-nights' in LCCC area. D/Attract at least 2,500 visitors and participants to LCCC area. E/Generation of positive publicity for LCCC area strengthening the areas credibility as a tourist and visitor destination. F/Attraction of positive media coverage outside LCCC area. G/Requires LCCC assistance to ensure the overall success of the event.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>'Connect, Invest, Transform' - 10 Year Investment Plan for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.</p>	<p>The RNIA for this strategy outlined the consultation process for the development of a 10 year investment strategy for the Council that will lead to significant balanced investment (urban & rural) across the Council area to include the provision of essential infrastructure, increased digital connectivity, jobs growth, improved community assets, public amenities and frontline services.</p> <p>All Council residents were given an opportunity to contribute to the strategy outcome, along with key community planning partners from the business, community, voluntary and statutory sectors to ensure the social and economic needs of people in urban and rural areas were identified in equal measure. The strategy has identified a commitment to deliver community services across both urban and rural areas with a specific priority to improve digital connectivity for those hardest to reach within rural communities, a commitment to maximise opportunities for the development of new public spaces to include a new rural village renewal investment scheme, and support economic investment in new and existing rural businesses and rural tourism initiatives within the Council area.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
<p>Outline Business Case for City Deal Investment in Hillsborough Castle & Heritage Village.</p>	<p>The RNIA for this potential city deal investment outlines consultation that was undertaken with local rural residents and rural businesses, particularly within the tourism, hospitality and retail sectors regarding the further development of Hillsborough Castle & Gardens and an associated public realm scheme for Hillsborough Village to maximise the rural tourism offer of the proposal.</p> <p>The social and economic impact on rural businesses was considered via an analysis of the impact of potential economic displacement that may arise if certain options were to be implemented, whilst analysis was also undertaken as to how the project could positively impact on job creation and increased GVA within the surrounding rural area. Significant consultation has been undertaken with government departments to determine potential positive and negative impacts of infrastructure proposals aimed to enhance the visitor experience, alleviate traffic and pedestrian flows and improve car parking in a rural village that will potentially see a significant increase in tourist visitors in future years.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
<p>Implementation of Preferred model for Household Kerbside Collections.</p>	<p>Regardless of if a property is located in an urban or rural area, a kerbside collection service is delivered. There are no social or economic needs, specific to people living in rural areas, that impact on how refuse collection services are delivered.</p>

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development/Education and Training	
Learning and Development Policy.	Considered appropriate data; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
Outdoor Recreation Policy.	Considered appropriate data; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care Services	
Health and Safety Policy.	Considered appropriate data; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment/Rural Tourism	
Community Plan - Sustainable Jobs and Tourism.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through community planning, public, staff and resident consultation; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
Community Plan - Progress in Education.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through community planning, public, staff and resident consultation; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri-Environment	
Community Plan - Our environment.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through community planning, public, staff and resident consultation; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Community Plan - Good health and wellbeing.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through community planning, public, staff and resident consultation; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Community Plan - Community safety and cohesion.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through community planning, public, staff and resident consultation; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.

Mid Ulster District Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Travel & Subsistence Policy.	Mid Ulster District Council has considered the needs of staff particularly those living in rural areas via the consideration of travel distances. Staff in very rural areas will have further to travel but as there are main Council buildings in the 3 largest centres of population. No one should have an unreasonable distance to travel. Technology e.g. conference calling etc should be encouraged by managers to keep travel to a minimum.
Recognition of Staff Leaving/Retiring Policy.	The policy does not impact differently on staff living in rural areas.
Managing Bereavement in the Workplace Policy.	The policy does not impact differently on staff living in rural areas.
Dignity at Work Policy.	This policy aims to prevent harassment and bullying in the workplace, provide guidance to resolve any problems should it occur and prevent recurrence. This policy does not impact differently on staff living in rural areas.
Management of Overtime Policy.	This policy provides guidance to all managers & staff regardless of whether they live in a rural area or not, the policy provides a standard approach across Council in relation to the management of overtime.
Health and Safety Policy.	This policy will impact on all staff, service users and members of the public across the district, regardless of whether they reside in a rural or urban area. There is no differential impact anticipated.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Draft Waste Collection Policy.	This policy ensures that residents who live in rural areas will receive the same service as urban dwellers i.e. a collection every two weeks of residual waste, recyclable waste and organic waste (on alternating weeks). However, households which are located on/up private laneways i.e. which are not adopted (and are

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>primarily located in rural areas) are required to bring their wheeled bins to the end of the laneway for collection. This may disproportionately affect rural householders who may be more likely not to have neighbours to assist with bringing their bins to the point of collection. Households in some rural areas may also be more likely to consist of larger families and therefore generate additional waste. Households in rural areas are also more likely to be inconvenienced by missed collections as a result of adverse weather conditions. Also, some households in rural areas have their refuse collected by One Armed Vehicles (OAVs) which requires the householder to present the bin with the handles facing away from the road (which is the opposite position to householders in urban areas). The outcome of a Northern Ireland wide Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Review completed by the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in 2018 included a high-level spatial analysis of the distribution/provision of all sites across the country using a methodology based on drive times for residents to their nearest site. An “optimised” model was subsequently produced which suggested that the residents of Mid Ulster would still be adequately served with three less sites (identified as Ballymacombs, Coalisland and Clogher) operating across the district i.e. nine instead of twelve Recycling Centres.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
Social Enterprise Programme.	<p>A key issue for many rural dwellers is that of access to services, health and wellbeing and their associated need for appropriate infrastructure in both urban and rural settings, those living in rural areas often experience these more acutely due to their geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements across Mid Ulster. This is further compounded by the limited availability of public transport infrastructure and the blackspots of poor broadband provision in Mid Ulster’s rural areas. As such the Contractor will be required to promote the Programme via a range of channels</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>and media. The Programme also takes cognisance of the issue of social isolation within the District and how this can be manifested in vulnerable groups particularly those living in rural areas. It has put in place measures to mitigate these issues to ensure that anyone requesting support from the Programme has the opportunity to access it, regardless of location, ability to travel or access to good broadband connectivity. The Contractor will be required to provide support to all requesting it, by meeting them at the group's base or an alternative suitable location, in addition, application forms will be provided in both hard and soft copy, to ensure that those who do not have good broadband or IT capacity can access Programme information and submit Applications without issues.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Performance Improvement Policy.	This policy ensures that rural needs consideration becomes mainstreamed in performance improvement processes across all aspects of service delivery.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Fleet Safety Policy.	This policy is an internal council policy; however, it does however take into consideration the geographical makeup of the areas covered by some fleet staff and the associated implications.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>Disability Action Plan 2020-2023.</p> <p>The Disability Action Plan details the actions to be undertaken by Council across the district in the 2020-2023 period under the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and Understanding • Engagement • Promotion • Access • Workforce. <p>The Disability Discrimination Act places duties on public authorities, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; • Encourage participation by disabled people in public life. <p>The plan sets out how Council intends to improve the quality of life for all people with disabilities who live in, work or visit the district.</p>	<p>The actions detailed in the Council’s Disability Action Plan will have positive impacts for all people of the district regardless of urban or rural areas.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Disability Action Plan will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>The actions identified within the plan will be implemented across the district regardless of whether residents are based in rural or urban settlements.</p> <p>The Disability Action Plan will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation.</p>
<p>Christmas Illuminations Policy 2019-2020.</p> <p>The Council consulted with rural community organisations to evaluate the impact of a Christmas illuminations support package pilot available to community organisations for Christmas 2018.</p> <p>The consultation was held in February 2019.</p>	<p>The Council has identified a need to support community capacity building.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District has a significant rural population. The Council has identified rural isolation as a major issue to be addressed for this element of our population. Following requests from areas to be part of the Christmas Illuminations programme, a policy was developed which outlined the approach undertaken.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>Following on from the pilot and the consultation, the Council received requests from a number of rural areas to be part of the programme in 2019 and a Christmas illuminations policy was introduced for 2019.</p>	<p>In its Community Plan the Council has committed to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective community engagement in the planning and delivery of local services • Utilise the strengths and resilience within communities • Promote equality and tackle inequality. <p>This policy meets the objectives detailed in the Council's Community Plan. The criteria of the policy does not relate solely to rural areas but details the support provided in the package and how it is distributed to all groups availing of the Christmas illumination scheme.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Asbestos Management Policy.</p> <p>This policy applies to all Council owned and leased premises constructed prior to 2000, to any extent, under the Council's control. The Policy and associated AMP sets out the framework by which the Council, all employees, contractors and visitors will be expected to meet their legal duties.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>Performance Improvement Plan 2019-2020.</p> <p>Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20 - Part 12 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all District Councils must put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.</p>	<p>When developing the Performance Improvement Plan, the data collation process revealed that the majority of the population of the District live in rural areas and may therefore experience levels of deprivation, particularly in terms of the Access to Services domain, transport connections and digital connectivity.</p> <p>The 2018-19 and 2019-20 consultation and engagement processes on the performance improvement objectives also highlighted the following issues in relation to rural areas and rural communities:</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>The Council is required to set annual improvement objectives and to have in place arrangements to achieve these objectives.</p> <p>The Council has developed five performance improvement objectives which are directly aligned to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Outcomes Delivery Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to Council facilities and urban areas from rural areas • The need to include the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Digital connectivity on rural areas • Proposals to invest in coastal areas and fishing villages <p>The Council has considered the issues raised and included 'supporting actions' around the rural economy, rural broadband and investing in rural areas.</p> <p>The objectives of the Performance Improvement Plan seek to make a positive impact across all areas of the district.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Community engagement	
<p>Draft conditions of hire for use of council facilities.</p> <p>The draft Conditions of Hire for Use of Council Facilities sets out booking conditions for anyone seeking to hire Council facilities. This will apply to both groups and individuals.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Conditions of Hire for Use of Council Facilities will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>The criteria and principles of this document will apply to all facilities regardless of where they are located in the district.</p>
<p>Draft Equality Action Plan 2020-2023.</p> <p>The draft Equality Action Plan 2020-2023 builds upon Council's action plan for the period 2018-2020. It recommends key areas of activity and details positive actions relevant to Council functions.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>The positive action measures have been set out under the five principles of the Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 1: Ensuring we work in a non-discriminatory environment, promote equality, and model best practice in equality and good relations. • Principle 2: Ensuring all our decisions are based on evidence to assess the likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations. • Principle 3: Providing access to services, facilities and information. • Principle 4: Recruiting and employing people fairly. • Principle 5: Responding to and learning from complaints and incidents in a positive and pro-active way. 	<p>The Action Plan recommends key areas of activity and details positive actions positive action measures have been set out under the five principles of the Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Equality Action Plan will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. The specific actions detailed within the plan will be implemented across the district.</p> <p>The draft Equality Action Plan will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting</p>	
<p>Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out a twofold mission as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community. • To embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to 	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out how Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the use of Irish language within its functions; • facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and • promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area.

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.</p>	<p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Irish Language Strategy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. The specific actions detailed within the plan will be implemented across the district.</p> <p>The draft Irish Language Strategy will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation.</p>
<p>Financial Assistance Policy.</p> <p>The overall aim of financial assistance is to enable Council to maximise the impact of its work across the Council area for the benefit of local residents.</p> <p>The objectives of the policy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise the impact of, and outcomes from, all Council funding. • Seek to address needs which are clearly demonstrated and fall within, or are compatible with, Council priorities. • Increase community engagement and voluntary participation in addressing areas of common concern. • Enhance the sustainability of community-based activities and provision. • Support community-based work which addresses the needs of those who are most deprived. • Support the development of mutual respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity and shared cultural experiences. 	<p>This policy relates to open calls for funding and sets the basis for providing financial assistance to external organisations within the Council area. It sets out the rationale for such funding and the basis on which it should be provided, monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>The financial assistance programme is available to all groups within the Council area. The Programmes Unit monitor applications and provide a breakdown of all funding allocated across the Council's seven District Electoral Areas.</p> <p>Acknowledging the geographical spread of the district and its urban and rural nature, to further improve engagement and access to information on the scheme, financial assistance workshops were held in across the district.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fairness, transparency and value for money in all Council's Financial Assistance Practice. 	
<p>ERDF Business Support Programme 2019.</p> <p>The Strategy is developed around 5 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events • Urban Development and Regeneration • Rural Development and Regeneration • Arts, Culture and Heritage 	<p>Within the Council area, more residents of the district live in rural areas than urban areas. In particular, more young people (up to the age 15) and older people (65+) live in areas designated as rural.</p> <p>While the objectives in the programme are for all business activity across the district, it is recognised that rural accessibility to workshops and networking opportunities is important. In planning programmes consideration will be given to ensuring travel to events is minimised and that public transport links are optimised.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Non-Current Asset Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>The aim of the Non-Current Asset Policy and Procedures is to clearly set out the Council's policy and procedures in relation to the appropriate management, recording and monitoring and accounting of Non-Current Assets and to ensure that all members and officers are aware of their roles and responsibilities.</p>	<p>In terms of social and economic needs, Council's Evidence and Research Section has prepared information related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services (broadband provision and transport), economy, income and employment, housing, crime and health and wellbeing which can be taken into consideration.</p> <p>However, having given due regard to rural needs the Council has not identified specific social and economic needs directly related to this policy and procedures.</p> <p>The policy and procedures set out inward-facing internal requirements and no specific direct or indirect impact upon people living in rural or urban areas has been identified or established.</p>
<p>Legionella Management Policy.</p> <p>The policy and procedure sets out how Council will prevent, so as far as is reasonably practicable, the occurrence of legionella bacteria in</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>breathable form that can be inhaled by employees and others who may be present in the workplace.</p>	<p>to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>The policy and procedures set out inward-facing internal requirements and no specific direct or indirect impact upon people living in rural or urban areas has been identified or established.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education and Training	
<p>Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021.</p> <p>The purpose of the Bursary Scheme is to assist individuals to improve Irish Language skills through providing scholarships or bursaries for Irish Language courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and third level courses taking place within the Council's financial year (1 April - 31 March).</p>	<p>As noted, the Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The bursary scheme is delivered by way of an open call for applications through Council's social media, website and an advert in local media, and there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Irish Language Bursary Scheme will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>Applicants may submit their application by post, hand-delivery or email. Acknowledging that access to Broadband may be limited in some rural areas within the district, the application form is available for collection from council offices or by contacting the Council's Irish Language Unit.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
<p>Review of Development naming, Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy.</p> <p>The policy provides a consistent approach to the naming/re-naming of streets and dual language street</p>	<p>While this is a policy for all areas of the district, issues of cultural identity have also been considered in the development of the policy in relation to the erection of dual language nameplates.</p> <p>Rural communities have an identity with 'place' and the locality or townland within which they live. The council</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
nameplates across the whole District Council area.	have recognised this and sought to promote this identity through the use of the townlands in their road naming and postal numbering administration. This is reflected in the current policy.
<p>International Relations Strategy.</p> <p>The strategy sets out Council's approach to developing international relations in terms of our role, and the context of strengthening relationships, demonstrating civic leadership, maximising business and cultural opportunities associated with our diaspora, and identifying new market opportunities, promote trade and investment, and attract visitors and tourism.</p>	<p>The development and implementation of the Council's International Relations Strategy Council takes account of, and acknowledges urban and rural differentials between business bands, type and location. Consideration will be given to this when addressing the objectives and related actions in the strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the strategy sets out an assessment framework that will evaluate existing and proposed new international relations partnerships/activities and makes a commitment to measuring and reporting outcomes.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Portable Safety Appliance Policy.</p> <p>The objectives of this policy and associated Management Plan are to A) Ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, that portable electrical appliances used within the Council estate do not present a risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff, contractors, clients and visitors to the Council estate. B) Provide and maintain safe systems of work for the use of portable electrical appliances, that are safe and without risk to health. C) Provide such information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure employees carry out their jobs safely.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
<p>Public Toilet Strategy.</p> <p>The strategy has been developed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council providing guidance on a way forward for provision, control and management of its Public Toilet facilities within the district. The strategy provides recommendations and proposals on how the Council should provide a Public Convenience service which meets the needs for the future.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Council's Estates Department has also completed a structural survey of all thirty-one facilities and the integrity of all the structures (measured from (A) excellent to (D) needs immediate repair and or replacement) appears to show that the majority of units are rated A or B.</p> <p>While this is a strategy for the entire district and as noted within 2B, people living in specific rural areas which may be positively impacted by improvement works recommendations include those living within the areas of Spelga, Cranfield and Dundrum (Murlough).</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Community engagement	
<p>Sports Facility Strategy.</p> <p>The Strategy aim is to develop a strategic framework for the future provision of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This identifies the need for provision and the priorities for investment into sports facilities, informed by evidence of need, consultation with key stakeholders and a supply and demand analysis.</p>	<p>Consideration was given to rural needs for people living in rural areas, with specific reference to 20-minute and 15-minute drive times for residents. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to sports hall provision, page 9 of the report identified the district has three or four court sports hall provision within a 20-minute drive time of its residents. • Map 3.2 (page 46), Map (4.3) and Section 4.34 (page 62) illustrates the locations of existing swimming pools and shows where the gaps are in provision for residents within a 20-minute drive time catchment area of a community accessible swimming pool. • Map 4.7 (page 80) illustrates existing Artificial Grass Pitches in the Council area with a 20-minute drive time catchment area. • Map 4.5 (page 69) illustrates existing fitness suites in the Council area with a 15-minute drive time catchment area.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>The strategy, priorities and recommendations detailed within the Strategy have been developed through an evidence-based approach, including community consultation.</p> <p>The assessment and analysis undertaken to develop the Sports Facility Strategy has identified a need for some additional provision, across a range of facility types, as well as more generic needs in terms of improvement to the quality of existing facilities and the accessibility of provision. All new and improved facility provision should be fully inclusive to optimise participation opportunities across communities, including people living in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Records Management Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>The aim of the Records Management Policy and Procedure is to ensure NMDDC's compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements affecting the use and retention of records in accordance with The Public Records Act (NI) 1923, The Disposal of Documents Order (No. 167) 1925, The Data Protection Act 2018, The General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p>	<p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas are not an underpinning factor in the implementation of the Records Management Policy and Procedure.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the policy is likely to impact people in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
<p>Review of Operations at Household Recycling Centres.</p> <p>The aim and objective is to establish guiding principles in relation to Council's Household Recycling Centres. The primary rationale is to secure standardisation across all HRCs, as well as to reduce the</p>	<p>In terms of social and economic needs Council has given consideration to information related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services (broadband provision and transport), economy, income and employment, housing, crime and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having given due regard to rural needs the Council has not identified specific social and economic needs</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>amount of (non-recyclable) residual waste currently being receipted and processed through these facilities. The principles address the following: General access & usage; Construction/DIY materials; Commercial waste; and Re-Use.</p>	<p>directly related to this review of operations of our household recycling centres.</p> <p>This is an operational policy and the issues raised will be implemented in all household Recycling Centres across the district regardless of their location.</p>
<p>Rules and Regulations re Council Owned Cemeteries.</p> <p>The aim of the document is to provide residents and non-residents of the district with guidance on arranging a burial within Council cemeteries. The objective of the rules and regulations document is to ensure that Council undertakes its legal obligations and ensures that a consistent high level of service is provided.</p>	<p>Social and economic needs of people in the rural areas includes access, and distance, to the council owned cemeteries and associated costs.</p> <p>In terms of people living in rural areas, it is acknowledged that within the Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area, people living west of Newtownhamilton and Silverbridge may be outside the 30-minute drive time of a Council owned cemetery (Monkshill Cemetery, Newry).</p> <p>However, there is nothing to suggest that the rules and regulations for the control of public cemeteries within the district will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. This is an operational policy which details how burials are arranged in council owned cemeteries.</p>
<p>Single Use Plastics Policy.</p> <p>The Policy aims to phase out all use of single use plastics (plastic cutlery, cups, plates, bottles, packaging, etc.) across the council. It also aims to influence other stakeholders including businesses, schools, statutory bodies and members of the public to move away from using single use plastics. This will reduce our impacts on the environment in particular with respect to waste and litter.</p>	<p>The actions detailed in the Council's Single Use Plastics Policy and Strategy will have positive impacts on all people of the district regardless of urban or rural areas.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Council's Single Use Plastics Policy and Strategy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Policy and Procedure for the Personal Safety of Employees Exposed to Workplace Violence.</p> <p>The policy and procedure sets out how Council will deal with the act or threat of physical violence or verbal abuse from a member, or members, of the public to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council employees.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The policy and procedure will be applied irrespective of the rural or urban background of the person or persons undertaking acts or threats of physical violence or verbal abuse to a Council employee or employees.</p>
<p>Fire Safety Management Policy.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and others who may be affected by activities on its premises. The policy statement and associated Fire Safety Management Plan (Management Plan) has been developed to ensure that fire safety systems and procedures are in place to manage the risk associated with fire and to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>This is an internal policy and its procedures will be implemented across all Council facilities in the district.</p>

OTHER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Reporting Period: 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
<p>Proposal to discontinue St MacNissius' PS, (303-0848) with effect from 31 August 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009 (a policy which is the foundation of Area Planning proposals) was assessed against the Rural Development Council (RDC) rural proofing checklist (Striking the Balance, Annex 1) and no adverse impact was identified. The SSP recognises the needs of rural communities and this is reflected in the lower enrolment threshold for rural primary schools, the accessibility criterion which provides guidance on home to school travel times and the criterion 'strong links with the community' also recognises the central place a school has for many communities (rural and urban).</p> <p>Throughout each stage of the development proposal consultation period (4 weeks for stakeholders, 4 weeks for affected schools and 8 weeks public objection period) consultees had the opportunity to provide additional information, including rural issues, for consideration. At each stage, consultation responses were analysed, giving due regard to rural needs in line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>The Development Proposal, and the decision were demonstrably made with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in mind. The decision, the case for change, and supporting documentation, are contained in the following link.</p> <p>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/DP%20583%20-%20St%20MacNissius%27%20%20Primary%20School.pdf</p>
<p>Proposal for St Colmcille's Primary School, Carrickmore to increase its admissions number from 39 to 55, with an annual phased increase in the enrolment number from 273 to 385, with effect from 1 September</p>	<p>The Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009 (a policy which is the foundation of Area Planning proposals) was assessed against the Rural Development Council (RDC) rural proofing checklist (Striking the Balance, Annex 1) and no adverse impact was identified. The SSP recognises the needs of rural communities and this is</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>reflected in the lower enrolment threshold for rural primary schools, the accessibility criterion which provides guidance on home to school travel times and the criterion strong links with the community also recognises the central place a school has for many communities (rural and urban).</p> <p>Throughout each stage of the development proposal consultation period (4 weeks for stakeholders, 4 weeks for affected schools and 8 weeks public objection period) consultees had the opportunity to provide additional information, including rural issues, for consideration. At each stage, consultation responses were analysed, giving due regard to rural needs in line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>The Development Proposal, and the decision were demonstrably made with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in mind. The decision, the case for change, and supporting documentation, are contained in the following link.</p> <p>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/DP%20593%20-%20St%20Colmcille%27s%20PS%2C%20Carrickmore.pdf</p>
<p>Proposal for Tír na nÓg Primary School to discontinue with effect from 31 August 2020, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009 (a policy which is the foundation of Area Planning proposals) was assessed against the Rural Development Council (RDC) rural proofing checklist (Striking the Balance, Annex 1) and no adverse impact was identified. The SSP recognises the needs of rural communities and this is reflected in the lower enrolment threshold for rural primary schools, the accessibility criterion which provides guidance on home to school travel times and the criterion strong links with the community also recognises the central place a school has for many communities (rural and urban). Throughout each stage of the development proposal consultation period (4 weeks for stakeholders, 4 weeks for affected schools and 8 weeks public objection period) consultees had the opportunity to provide additional information, including rural issues, for consideration. At each stage, consultation responses were analysed, giving due</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>regard to rural needs in line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>The Development Proposal, and the decision were demonstrably made with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in mind. The decision, the case for change, and supporting documentation, are contained in the following link.</p> <p>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/DP%20587%20T%C3%ADr%20na%20n%C3%93G%20PS%20SUBMISSION.pdf</p>
<p>Proposal to reduce the enrolment number in Chapel Road Primary School from 276 to 210 with effect from 1 September 2020 or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009 (a policy which is the foundation of Area Planning proposals) was assessed against the Rural Development Council (RDC) rural proofing checklist (Striking the Balance, Annex 1) and no adverse impact was identified. The SSP recognises the needs of rural communities and this is reflected in the lower enrolment threshold for rural primary schools, the accessibility criterion which provides guidance on home to school travel times and the criterion strong links with the community also recognises the central place a school has for many communities (rural and urban).</p> <p>Throughout each stage of the development proposal consultation period (4 weeks for stakeholders, 4 weeks for affected schools and 8 weeks public objection period) consultees had the opportunity to provide additional information, including rural issues, for consideration. At each stage, consultation responses were analysed, giving due regard to rural needs in line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>The Development Proposal, and the decision were demonstrably made with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in mind. The decision, the case for change, and supporting documentation, are contained in the following link.</p> <p>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/DP%20591%20-%20Chapel%20Road%20Primary%20School%20-%20SUBMISSION.pdf</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>The proposal for Holy Trinity Primary School to decrease its admissions and enrolment numbers from 120 to 90 and 935 to 630 respectively, with effect from 1 September 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>	<p>The Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009 (a policy which is the foundation of Area Planning proposals) was assessed against the Rural Development Council (RDC) rural proofing checklist (Striking the Balance, Annex 1) and no adverse impact was identified. The SSP recognises the needs of rural communities and this is reflected in the lower enrolment threshold for rural primary schools, the accessibility criterion which 14 provides guidance on home to school travel times and the criterion strong links with the community also recognises the central place a school has for many communities (rural and urban).</p> <p>Throughout each stage of the development proposal consultation period (4 weeks for stakeholders, 4 weeks for affected schools and 8 weeks public objection period) consultees had the opportunity to provide additional information, including rural issues, for consideration. At each stage, consultation responses were analysed, giving due regard to rural needs in line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p> <p>The Development Proposal, and the decision were demonstrably made with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in mind. The decision, the case for change, and supporting documentation, are contained in the following link.</p> <p>https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/education/DP%20561%20-%20Holy%20Trinity%20PS%20-%20Submission.pdf</p>

The Education Authority

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
The Education Authority: Work Experience Arrangements (2018).	<p>Policy Aim - to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a consistent approach to work experience students within EA which will be used in conjunction with the policies and procedures regarding Equal Opportunities, Health and Safety and Recruitment and Selection. • Promote EA as an employer of choice by offering work placement opportunities for young people in full time education and training. • Facilitate the requirements of the placement candidate, through the provision of suitable duties to ensure a positive and meaningful work experience placement. <p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no differential or adverse social and economic impacts from this policy to young people living in rural areas.</p>
Human Resources: Proposed restructuring of posts reporting to functional managers in HR Services and Corporate HR & Business Partnering.	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no differential or adverse social and economic impacts from this structure to people living in rural areas.</p>
Proposed new Permanent Information Governance Unit structure.	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no differential or adverse social and economic impacts from this structure to people living in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Guidance for schools, EOTAS centres and Youth Service on supporting transgender young people.	<p>The Education Authority has developed guidance for schools, EOTAS centres and Youth Service on supporting transgender young people, including advice on practical issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bullying and harassment; • toilets and changing rooms;

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • names and pronouns; • uniforms, P.E. kits and swimwear; • overnight and residential trips; • supporting staff and responding to concerns; and • exams/certificate changes. <p>The Education Authority's guidance aims to support schools and other educational settings to develop and sustain effective pastoral care systems which can accommodate and develop the social, emotional, educational, physical and spiritual needs of all pupils within the school ethos.</p> <p>Participants from urban and rural areas were interviewed for the project by the project team and Parenting NI. There are no reliable statistics on the number of transgender young people living in rural areas of Northern Ireland. No obvious differential impact based on rurality was identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education	
Education Authority Guidelines for Elective Home Education.	<p>EA information would suggest that families from rural communities will choose to home educate, as will those from urban settings. This is not related to the availability of schools but rather reflects the various other reasons why parent/carers choose to electively home educate. There is no evidence to suggest though that the issue of rural/urban is the major driver in a family choosing to home educate in NI.</p> <p>Where a parent chooses to home educate they take full responsibility for their child's education and the resources required to facilitate that. When working with a home educating family living in a rural setting the EHE team would acknowledge the following potential issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of local support services • Travel • Availability of venues to meet if required.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>Screening Guidance for young women, schools, child care providers and other stakeholders in accessing support services for School aged mothers (SAMs).</p>	<p>This suite of guidance was developed to improve outcomes for school age mothers (SAMs) by providing a labelled pathway of integrated support for young parents and their families, as well as other stakeholders. The guidance for young women includes advice on a range of issues including: childcare; antenatal and postnatal care; healthcare; benefits advice; personal and social development; careers advice; and advice on parenting skills.</p> <p>The Guidance aims to increase access to services for SAMs living in rural areas through funding for transport; by assisting SAMs in accessing information and childcare and by developing peer support networks for young people in rural areas.</p>
<p>Model School Complaints Procedure for Parents, Carers, Other Stakeholders.</p>	<p>The model procedure is in line with best practice, and reflects advice provided by the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO). NIPSO welcomes both the procedure and the addition of the guidance document.</p> <p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no obvious social or economic impacts from this policy for people living in rural areas.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal</p>	
<p>EA Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019-22).</p>	<p>The aim of this document is to introduce a focused health and wellbeing strategy and action plan for EA, which will provide health and wellbeing initiatives and bring existing initiatives under one banner. The ultimate aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of all staff.</p> <p>Access to some of the provision of this Strategy may be difficult due to locality. Efforts will be made to ensure all have access to the majority of initiatives across all EA main sites & offices.</p>

Invest Northern Ireland

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
<p>Energy Efficiency Finance Programme.</p>	<p>The EEF support enables businesses to implement cost savings through energy efficiency, by providing access to finance through a hybrid loan-grant fund.</p> <p>The objective of the EEF support is to enable businesses to invest in energy efficient equipment and/or renewable technologies covering a range of technologies, such as, lighting, heating, air conditioning, compressed air, process heating & cooling, solar PV, building control systems.</p> <p>The EEF is available to the entire NI business base. There is no granular breakdown into NI regions, previous fund data shows the spread of support across all council areas. This has been collated from the available data on CRM, and shows 38% of interventions were delivered in rural areas.</p> <p>The spread of interventions demonstrates there are no barriers to delivery in rural areas and there are further opportunities to expand uptake.</p> <p>The only additional cost for delivery in rural areas may be additional mileage expenses incurred by the programme team.</p> <p>The programme is reviewed on an ongoing basis and through a mid-term evaluation, taking into account levels of participation and feedback from participants.</p> <p>Adjustments, for example in the timing and location of events are considered in conjunction with Invest NI colleagues, relevant stakeholders and customers.</p>
<p>Innovation Accreditation Programme.</p>	<p>This Programme involves the introduction to Northern Ireland of an internationally recognised innovation accreditation, directly mapped to all existing public and private sector innovation related support programmes.</p> <p>39 per cent of Northern Ireland's (NI) firms are actively engaged in innovation, the second lowest rate of the 12 UK regions.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>There is no granular breakdown into NI regions. Rural stakeholders such as councils and colleges have been engaged. They both recognise the low levels of innovation in their respective rural areas and see this programme as a way of increasing innovation capabilities.</p> <p>The spread of customers and referrals demonstrates there are no barriers to delivery in rural areas.</p> <p>The only additional cost for delivery in rural areas may be additional mileage expenses incurred by the team.</p> <p>The programme is a DfE initiative and all DfE stakeholders will be involved. This includes councils, colleges, universities and Intertrade Ireland.</p>
<p>Resource Efficiency Finance Programme.</p>	<p>Resource Efficiency Finance (REF) enables businesses to implement cost savings through resource efficiency (water, waste and raw material efficiencies).</p> <p>The REF support provides a capital grant for the installation of new equipment that offers greater efficiency in the use of water and raw materials, reducing associated waste, and enabling costs savings and productivity improvement for NI businesses.</p> <p>The REF is revised support that has evolved from the Resource Efficiency Capital Grant (RECG) which was a strand of the previous programme - the Sustainable Development Support Programme (SDSP).</p> <p>The REF is open to Invest NI clients and is easily accessed by businesses during periodic Open Calls for application, with service providers travelling to business premises to deliver advisory support.</p> <p>The evaluation of the previous programme noted 93% business satisfaction and determined that market failure still exists to deliver these services to NI businesses.</p> <p>There is no granular breakdown into NI regions, however previous programme data shows the spread of support in council areas. This has been collated from the available data on CRM, and shows 69% of interventions delivered in rural areas.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.																																																					
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Energy and Resource Efficiency Advisory Programme.	<p>The Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme (EREAP) aims to deliver support to Northern Ireland businesses to identify and implement cost savings in the use of energy, water, material and waste through advisory support in Technical Consultancy and Industrial Symbiosis resource matching support.</p> <p>Technical Consultancy & Support (TCS) providing one-to-one support brokered by technical advisors from Invest NI's Energy and Resource Efficiency team and delivered through a framework of sustainable development consultants. The support covers nine</p>																																																					

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>specialist areas: resource efficiency and waste management systems; clean technology systems; renewables; energy management and efficiency, investigation of new technologies; low carbon packaging solutions; environmental accreditation; transport efficiency; and sustainable business collaborations.</p> <p>This support is open to all NI businesses who have an energy and resource spend of £30k or more per annum.</p> <p>The EREAP is a revised programme delivering similar services to the previous programme (SDSP) with enhanced efficiencies built in. It is open to the entire NI business base and is easily accessed by businesses, with service providers travelling to business premises to deliver the advisory support.</p> <p>The evaluation of the previous programme noted 93% business satisfaction and determined that market failure still exists to deliver these services to NI businesses.</p> <p>There is no granular breakdown into NI regions, however previous programme data shows the spread of support in council areas. This has been collated from the available data on our internal customer management systems, and shows 45.18% of interventions delivered in rural areas.</p>
Long Service Award Scheme.	No rural needs were identified.
Rescue and Restructuring Aid.	No rural needs were identified.
University of East Anglia Research Project.	No rural needs were identified.
Business Appraisal Scheme.	No rural needs were identified.
Proof of Concept Programme.	No rural needs were identified.
Trade Accelerator Grant.	No rural needs were identified.
Invest NI Uncommitted Budget.	No rural needs were identified.
Digitisation of Services.	No rural needs were identified.

The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Board

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment/Health or Social Care/Poverty/Deprivation/ Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Interim Service Delivery Model - changes to current arrangements.</p>	<p>From a Fire and Rescue perspective, NIFRS has utilised internal data sets and wider Fire and Rescue research to profile those individuals, referred to as vulnerable groups, who are more at risk of being involved in particular types of emergency incidents, particularly a dwelling fire in their homes. For example, these individuals are likely exhibit some of the following characteristics; live alone; live in poverty; experience mobility issues; be a smoker; have alcohol issues; etc..</p> <p>Whilst these vulnerable groups live in both Urban and Rural areas, those living in Rural areas are considered to be more at risk from fires in their home as it will take longer for NIFRS response resources to attend and make an intervention, for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation/Remoteness: it is likely it will take longer for a neighbour to become aware of a fire and therefore raise the alarm • Distance: increased travel times to incidents further away from stations <p>As NI is a region with a large proportion of rural areas, this presents challenges for NIFRS when delivering both prevention initiatives and emergency response services. The large travel distances involved in responding to rural locations impacts on the time taken for NIFRS to make a direct intervention; the risk to individuals involved in domestic dwelling fires are higher due to the length of time taken to intervene. Similarly, from a non-emergency response perspective, individuals living in Rural areas are harder to identify, locate and engage with.</p> <p>Therefore NIFRS has identified a need to rely less</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>on intervention and focus resources on proactively identifying those vulnerable groups in rural areas to target initiatives and prevent incidents occurring in the first instance.</p> <p>The DAERA ‘Key Rural Issues, Northern Ireland 2019’ document was considered as part of this rural needs impact assessment. Key findings noted that people living in rural areas on average wait much longer for emergency services than those living in towns and cities (Page 3). Findings also indicate that poverty levels in both children and adults of working age are much higher in urban areas than in rural areas as a whole. However, the reverse is true for pensioners with rural pensioners who are nearly twice as likely to experience relative poverty and more than twice as likely to fall below the absolute poverty threshold as their urban counterparts (Page 3). Rural households are also twice as likely as urban households to be in fuel poverty (Page 3). These factors are relevant to our objectives in supporting members of the public we consider as ‘People at Risk’.</p> <p>The Key Rural Issues November 2019 also references the Labour Force Survey January-December 2017 which identified the greater tendency of rural (91%) than urban workers (74%) to use private transport (Fig 12, Page 13). Again this is of interest in relation to our contribution to community road safety and our response to road traffic collisions and prevalence.</p> <p>Page 24 of Key Rural Issues refers to ambulance and fire response times as being much longer in rural than in urban and mixed urban/rural areas and cites (sourced from Health Inequalities Monitoring Report 2019, Department of Health 2019). People living in rural areas wait on average around 7 minutes longer for an ambulance and fire and rescue services than those living in towns and cities (Fig 30, Page 24).</p> <p>With this in mind, a number of issues have been considered in providing the most effective level of service to those people in rural areas:</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best we can identify and engage with vulnerable groups; focusing resources to enhanced collaboration with partners agencies • How we use our resources to effectively and efficiently deliver objectives and outcomes; do we employ additional resources in the same way; do we employ existing resources in a different way • As part of our Transformational Change Programme, review current policies and procedures • Review the SDIT pilot currently running in Downpatrick (see below) <p>In response to findings from the NIFRS risk methodology, additional layers of information were applied to the Accidental Dwelling Fire (ADF) module to identify high risk areas. This rationale, Strategic Targeting of Areas of Risk (STAR) considered the location of SOA in relation to NIFRS station locations. By applying an element which considered the time required for NIFRS resources to reach a SOA, it enabled SOA further away from stations to be 'weighted' as a higher risk. These identified SOA have been prioritised for Prevention initiatives.</p> <p>The current Service Delivery Model (SDM) restricts Wholtime (WT) operational resources to operate within their allocated station 'boundary' when completing non-emergency response duties. This is a legacy of practice based on the principles of resources being largely used for response activities, i.e. have WT resources available in higher risk areas waiting on operational incidents to occur. This restriction on the deployment of WT resources beyond their local station boundary results in 'saturation' of non-emergency service provision within the defined station areas over a period of time. Conversely, this arrangement restricts non-emergency service provision outside of these static boundaries.</p> <p>To address this issue, NIFRS has utilised WT resources, redeployed from Belfast, to complete</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Prevention activities within the identified SOA. As part of this initiative a Service Delivery Improvement Team (SDIT) pilot has been introduced into Downpatrick District and remains in place as part of the Interim SDM. Unlike current crewing arrangements which do not allow WT firefighters based at a station to operate beyond their local station boundary to complete non-response activities, this pilot enables the WT resource (3 x Firefighters) to operate across a larger District area. The pilot has enabled the crew to complete prevention activities in identified high risk locations rather than 'saturating' activity within the confines of their base station location. The Firefighters also remain available to respond to emergency incidents when required.</p> <p>The SDIT Pilot, commenced on 8 April 2019, enabled the team to carry out a wide range of activities within the District, which consists of the following 'On-call' Stations areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downpatrick; • Kilkeel; • Carryduff; • Newcastle; • Ballynahinch. <p>The flexible and agile approach of the SDIT has enabled resources to be deployed in an adaptable manner, based on risk, to support emergency response cover and also deliver Prevention initiatives in a targeted way in line with our People At Risk Strategy.</p> <p>This pilot was extended following the findings of a Final Review of the original 6 month pilot. The review identified significant positive impacts in managing risk in using the crew in a more flexible way; providing response cover where gaps are identified and, more importantly in delivering prevention initiatives particularly in rural areas (refer to table 8).</p>

Table 8: Prevention Activity Comparison - Downpatrick Pilot

Urban/Rural Impact Assessment - 5 Year Data												
Station	Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC)				Strategically Targeted Areas of Risk (STAR) Fire Education Activities				Other Prevention Activities (Q Codes)			
	Percentage		Quantity		Percentage		Quantity		Percentage		Quantity	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Carrickfergus	94.5	5.5	86	5	0	0	0	0	71.0	29.0	71	29
Portadown	70.3	29.7	111	47	90.8	9.2	1097	111	89.8	10.2	238	27
Armagh	50.6	49.4	41	40	0	0	0	0	78.4	21.6	98	27
Newtownards	98.3	1.7	58	1	0	0	0	0	65.8	34.2	25	13
Omagh	70.4	29.6	57	24	0	100	0	25	39.1	60.9	146	227
Enniskillen	83.8	16.2	150	29	99.4	0.6	789	5	93.7	6.3	626	42
Central	100	0	56	0	100	0	369	0	53.1	46.9	94	83
Crescent Link	74.9	25.1	131	44	0	0	0	0	57.7	42.3	172	126
Downpatrick	29.8	70.2	51	120	0	100	0	1352	63.9	36.1	46	26

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Housing Executive's General Health and Safety Policy.	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees and contractors in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to understand their roles and responsibilities and be provided with effective guidance with regard to health and safety at work.</p> <p>Upon review of these identified needs it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all employees and stakeholders.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Developing the Housing Executive 2019/20 budget submission.	<p>The needs of people in rural areas are the same as for all at this strategic level, which is to have fair and equitable access to or treatment from Housing Executive functions, be that direct customer facing services, such as Supporting People services and planned maintenance schemes or having their needs taken account of in our research, policy or support functions.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there are reductions in budget allocations across a range of Regional Services functions for 2019/20. At this strategic level the funding reductions apply to delivery at a Northern Ireland level and are not targeted or planned for specific geographical areas. None of the programmes affected are solely or mainly aimed at rural areas.</p> <p>Specific Rural Needs Impact Assessments will be carried out if/when reviewing or redesigning strategies, plans or services to take account of applied budget reductions.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Developing the DLO Fleet Telematics Policy.	The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to understand

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>the management, operation and use of the vehicle telematics system fitted to Housing Executive vehicles.</p> <p>Upon review of these identified needs it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Developing the Housing Executive Fire Safety Policy.	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to be afforded protection through an appropriate structure for the assessment, delivery, control and monitoring of fire safety measures in the Housing Executive's Relevant Premises.</p> <p>Upon review of these identified needs it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other - Land Asset Management	
Revising the NIE Substations Policy.	<p>This policy governs the granting of leases of Housing Executive land to NIE for the siting of electricity substations. This is an organisation to organisation administrative process. The Housing Executive does not determine where a substation is needed, only responds to requests from NIE. No rural needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the Wayleaves and Easements In Policy.	<p>This policy governs the administrative process whereby approval of wayleaves and easements is obtained in circumstances where NIHE requires entry onto lands outside their ownership on a temporary or fixed term basis.</p> <p>If the Housing Executive requires entry on to land owned by a person in a rural area they have a need to be informed of the requirement for entry on to their land and to be compensated in accordingly.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Upon review of these identified needs it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
<p>Revising the protocol for the management of the accommodation needs of people in custody in NI.</p>	<p>People leaving custody from rural areas have a need to have their accommodation and associated support needs met in order to prevent homelessness and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.</p> <p>The purpose of this Protocol is to enable cross sectoral working between agencies in order to make best use of existing services. This protocol is not aimed at designing or establishing new services. Within that context the provisions of this protocol do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Revising the Special Leave Policy.</p>	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to be afforded access to Special Leave with or without pay in special circumstances.</p> <p>Upon review of the identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
<p>Revising the Driving for Work and Workplace Transport Policy.</p>	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to be provided with effective guidance and support to safeguard their health, safety & welfare whilst driving for business purposes.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the protocol for the management of IV drug users.	<p>People from rural areas who use IV drugs have a need to be accommodated as safely as possible when in a hostel setting, in accordance with all legal requirements</p> <p>The aim of this protocol is to make best use of existing services, which are largely located in urban centres, by bringing together the relevant agencies. The protocol is not aimed at designing or establishing new services or hostels. Within that context, the provisions of this protocol enable cross sectoral working with agencies to deliver an equitable service to all, irrespective of a person's geographical location of origin.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Housing Executive Records Management Handbook and Policy Statement.	<p>People in rural areas have a need for the Housing Executive to manage records relating to them or containing their personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment of anyone about whom the Housing Executive holds personal data.</p>
Revising the Housing Executive Anti- Bribery Policy.	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all employees, which is to be able to identify and manage effectively any potential breach of the anti-bribery legislation.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Developing the Supporting People Provider Investment Fund (PIF).	Supporting People service users in rural areas are one step removed from the PIF itself as they will not be directly accessing the funding it offers. However there is a need to ensure that Supporting People

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>providers who deliver services to people in rural areas are afforded equitable access to the PIF competitive bidding process, so that service users in rural areas are able to receive potential benefits that fundable interventions under this initiative may deliver.</p> <p>The fund is open to all SP providers that are currently accredited and in receipt of funding in the 2019/20 year, this includes both rural and urban schemes/providers which ensures that people in rural areas will not be differentially impacted.</p> <p>The application form to apply to the fund is hosted online and, whilst it is acknowledged that online access can be an issue for individuals living in rural areas, we are content that SP Providers delivering services in rural areas have sufficient internet access to enable them to complete the application form.</p> <p>Access to the fund is through a competitive bidding process and there are no quotas in place to determine the geographical or thematic spread of awards. Applications will be assessed solely on merit and scored on objective weighted criteria related to the nature of the project proposed. Use of these criteria means that there will be no differential impact in assessment based on the location of the project proposed.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Incident Reporting and Investigation Policy.	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all employees, which is to be able to report adverse incidents and have them investigated to understand why they occurred and prevent reoccurrence.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all in the reporting and investigation of adverse incidents.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Revising the Prevention and Management of Violence at Work Policy.</p>	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all employees which is, as far as practicable, to be provided with a safe place of work.</p> <p>Under this policy it is the Line Manager's responsibility undertake risk assessments, in consultation with employees, to identify and manage specific risks associated with their areas of work, which, where necessary, can take account of rural locations of work.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was determined that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all with regard to the prevention and management of violence at work.</p>
<p>Revising the Travel and Subsistence Policy</p>	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all employees, which is to be assisted in meeting additional expenditure actually incurred in the course of carrying out duties on behalf of the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was determined that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all employees when claiming business related travel and subsistence expenses.</p>
<p>Revising the Control of Noise at Work Policy.</p>	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all employees which is, as far as practicable, to be provided with effective control measures to manage noise at work and prevent of damage to hearing.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all employees with regard to the control and management of noise at work.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the Clearance Areas Policy.	<p>If a clearance area were to be declared in a rural location the needs of people in that rural areas would be the same as for all those affected by the declaration of a clearance area in which they have an interest, that is to be informed of the proposed declaration, to be kept up to date as the process of making the clearance area order progresses, to be able to object to the proposed declaration if this wish to do so and to be compensated according to their interests.</p> <p>Upon review of these identified needs it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all with regard to the declaration of clearance areas.</p>
Revising the Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy.	<p>Customers in rural areas have a need to be able to access customer support and tenancy sustainment tools at the right time for them, whenever that may be in their housing journey. This will help to minimise tenancy breakdown, prevent homelessness and promote stable and sustainable communities.</p> <p>In general, it is considered that the Strategy will impact equitably on both urban and rural customers/communities. However it is recognised that some actions which will require internet connectivity to access advice and resources may have a differential impact for rural customers, as rural areas can have higher connectivity issues and there remain some 'not spots' without access to broadband. These actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide housing information and advice in varying formats in order to engage different target audiences. • Digital engagement and media campaigns such as Bytesize information videos. • Building a Tenancy Sustainability App.

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>This negative impact will be mitigated by ensuring that all advice and resources made available online have a corresponding non-digital channel of communication for customers without access or who have difficulty accessing the internet.</p> <p>Several actions will contribute to a greater understanding of rural homelessness prevention, support and tenancy sustainment needs. These actions include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All actions relating to data and statistical analysis - which will include urban and rural analysis • Mapping of customer journeys - which will include a rural sample • Update/renew and promote directory of health/well-being and support services within each Area - to include rural support services • Develop new groups in under-represented areas through targeting of resources - many of which are rural. <p>Monitoring and outcome evaluation of all actions, where feasible, will include scrutiny of the urban and rural dimension of impact for customers.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting People Floating Support Services - Older People, Limavady/L'Derry/Strabane.</p>	<p>Older persons in rural areas of Limavady, L'Derry and Strabane have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Limavady/L'Derry/Strabane area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting People Floating Support Services - Older People, Lisburn/Downpatrick/Ards.</p>	<p>Older persons in rural areas of Lisburn, Downpatrick and Ards have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Lisburn/Downpatrick/Ards area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting People Floating Support Services - Older People, Moyle.</p>	<p>Older persons in rural areas of Moyle have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Moyle area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting People Floating Support Services - Older People, Newry.</p>	<p>Older persons in rural areas of the former Newry council area have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Newry area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting Floating Support Services - Young People, Newry.</p>	<p>Young people in rural areas of the former Newry council area have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Newry area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting Floating Support Services - Young People, Lisburn.</p>	<p>Young people in rural areas of the former Lisburn council area have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Lisburn area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<p>Designing the new Supporting Floating Support Services - Young People, Magherafelt.</p>	<p>Young people in rural areas of the former Magherafelt council area have a need to be able to access the new floating support service.</p> <p>The service that is being developed has a very broad geographical basis of coverage, which includes rural areas. Clients can access the service through referral from self, GP, NIHE, Housing Association, Community Group or Trust representative so referral to the service is accessible to clients regardless of their location in the Magherafelt area. The model of the floating support service is that support is delivered within the persons own home environment regardless of their geographical location; albeit within the defined boundary of the service. Therefore it was determined that the new SP floating support service will treat people in rural areas in a fair and equitable way.</p>
<p>Rent Increase Proposal 2020/21.</p>	<p>The primary consideration in terms of social and economic needs relevant to the proposed rent increase would be the affordability of any increase for people in rural areas.</p> <p>The proposal to increase NIHE rents would be applicable to tenants located in both urban and rural locations and based on the attributes of the property rather than the location.</p> <p>Data specific to NIHE tenant incomes is not recorded. The available evidence on income levels across Northern Ireland (the HABI report) indicates higher weekly household incomes and higher disposable</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	weekly household incomes in rural areas within the general population. This would suggest that households in rural areas would have a greater ability to absorb any increase in their housing costs than their urban counterparts.
Renewal of the Queens Quarter Housing - Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency (DIME) Accommodation Service.	<p>This service is based in South Belfast, with the sole referral access restricted through the Belfast Housing Solutions & Support Team.</p> <p>As this is a renewal of an existing urban based service rather than new service creation, the rural needs identified were that people in rural areas would need be able to access the DIME service, if no suitable temporary accommodation could be sourced in their area of origin.</p> <p>In the event Local Offices outside Belfast are unable to secure temporary accommodation it is possible for access to the DIME Service to be arranged between the Belfast HSST and Local Offices, until more suitable emergency accommodation can be sourced within their locality of origin or Area of Choice. The proposed new contract will continue to allow referrals on an emergency basis from offices other than Belfast.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the LTMS Financial Control Procedure.	This Financial Control Procedure relates to the internal management processes that protect the register of land assets held by NIHE. No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Designing the new Supporting People Standardised Payment Rates.	<p>There is a need to ensure that the Supporting People service provided to people in rural areas is not differentially impacted by the introduction of standardised payment rates for SP Providers.</p> <p>Due to the potential for higher costs for Service Providers delivering floating support services in rural areas, an analysis of current Supporting People cost data for rural services and urban services across Primary Client Groups was carried out. This analysis identified that costs were generally higher for rural</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>services, in the region of 14-16%. Therefore in order to mitigate for the higher costs experienced in rural areas it is planned to apply a 15% uplift to the standardised payment rate applicable to floating support services in rural areas. For those services wholly delivering services in rural areas, as identified in the SPOCC (the Supporting People Management Software), the higher rate will be applied. For those services delivering services across a mix of rural and urban areas the rate to be applied will be determined as part of pre-implementation engagement with providers.</p>
<p>Developing the Framework for the Termination of Grant Funding from Supporting People Services.</p>	<p>The need of SP support users in rural areas at this strategic level is to ensure that their needs are adequately considered during the decision making process to terminate grant funding.</p> <p>At a strategic level this framework will not impact differently on people in rural areas. The framework simply sets out an approach to structure the decisions which are made in relation to the withdrawal of SP funding for any scheme regardless of location. The framework has been designed to identify any repercussions of closures, to account for those impacts and to put in place an action plan that makes sure support will not be harmed.</p> <p>At the level of the individual scheme closure decisions that will be made using the framework set out here, there is potential for differential rural impacts, depending on what scheme is being closed. However these impacts will be assessed under a separate RNIA for each scheme closure.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other- Renewable Energy</p>	
<p>Developing the HANDIHEAT Communications Strategy.</p>	<p>Overall the HANDIHEAT project will have a positive differential impact in rural areas as it is specifically focused on identifying renewable energy solutions, energy efficiency solutions and policy tools that are effective in remote rural areas.</p> <p>However this communications strategy seeks to engage with a range of target groups - industry,</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cost cutting	
	<p>regional, national and international authorities and the general public/communities and it is considered that there is a risk, particularly with the general public/communities target group, that in some rural areas communication channels such as social media, the project website, e-zines and email bulletins will be less accessible due to a lack of internet connectivity.</p> <p>Therefore the Housing Executive will ensure that their HANDIHEAT communications approach will embrace a wide range of channels, both digital and traditional. Publications will be made available in hard copy format as well as digitally. Public events will be hosted in rural areas to share learning. The HANDIHEAT project manager will present at multiple forums that are specifically rural or include rural representatives, such as the Rural Residents Forum, the Housing Community Network and the Rural Strategy Implementation Panel, as well as engaging with rural representative bodies such as the Rural Community Network and Rural Action. Information on the HANDIHEAT project will be included in the Housing Executive rural publication "Rural Matters" and opportunities will be sought to have information included in other publications that reach a rural audience.</p>
Revising the Land Asset Management Strategy.	<p>The needs of people in rural areas are the same as for people in urban areas with regard to the way that the Housing Executive manages its land asset - that is, that land in their area is maintained and managed to the requisite standard, within financial constraints. At a distance, people in rural areas also have a need that the NIHE land asset is properly identified, managed and protected from illegal use and adverse possession to ensure it is available for use for community benefit, e.g. addressing housing need, assisting regeneration, social wellbeing, community driven initiatives and fostering cohesive communities.</p> <p>The 4 key priorities identified under the strategy and the approach taken to delivering on these priorities and</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
	<p>the associated action plan are determined to be equally applicable in urban and rural areas, and will result in a consistent and equitable approach to the management of the NIHE land asset whether it is located in urban or rural areas. Under this approach, people in rural areas will benefit equitably from the opportunities for regeneration and social benefit that derive from the maximised use of our land asset.</p>
Revising the Learning and Development Policy.	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees in rural areas are the same as for all employees, which is to be enabled to access learning and development opportunities, according to need.</p> <p>Many learning and development opportunities are delivered within the work/office environment and so access is assured. Access to external learning and development opportunities is supported through the Travel and Subsistence policy. Any learning and development that relies upon the use of IT can be facilitated using employees PC's within the office environment. Alternative delivery models are made available for those employees that do not have access to a PC within their role. Therefore it has been determined that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all employees.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the Release of Covenant Policy.	<p>The needs of people in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to be able to apply for the release of covenants that the Housing Executive holds on their land or property.</p> <p>The provisions of this policy and the procedures to be followed in the application of this policy are equally applicable regardless of the location of the applicant or the land/property asset under consideration. Independent valuations from LPS will be sought for all releases that may attract a value, case law will be applied consistently for all relevant cases and all</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	correspondence is carried out by letter so there are no barriers to effective communication. Therefore it was determined that the provisions of this policy enable a fair and equitable service for people in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Developing the Health and Safety - Working at Heights Policy.	<p>The needs of Housing Executive employees and contractors in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to understand their roles and responsibilities and be provided with effective guidance with regard to working at height.</p> <p>Upon review of these identified needs it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all employees regardless of geographical location.</p>
Revising the Land Transfers to Housing Associations Policy.	<p>There are no direct social and economic needs of people in rural areas relating to this policy. It is an internal policy that sets a procedural framework to administer the transfer of a piece of Housing Executive owned land to a registered housing association.</p> <p>At a higher level people in rural areas have a social need that Housing Executive land assets are used to provide new social housing in areas where housing need exists, where the land has development potential and where a housing association can deliver a financially viable scheme. However issues of scheme viability and housing need assessment are outside the scope of this policy.</p> <p>Within that context the provisions of the policy are equally applicable and effective irrespective of the geographical location of the piece of land being transferred or the location of the housing association to which the land is being transferred.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the SPED Acquisitions Policy.	Owner occupiers in rural areas have a need to be able to access the scheme if they meet the eligibility criteria for the Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>The SPED programme is available to all owner occupiers who meet the scheme eligibility criteria irrespective of the geographical location of their property or the type of property they own, so long as it meets the definition of a house under Article 2(2) of the Housing (NI) Order 1981. Therefore it was determined that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Developing the New and Expectant Mothers Health & Safety Policy.</p>	<p>New and expectant mothers employed by the Housing Executive have a need to have risks to their health and safety identified, assessed and controlled whilst in the course of their work activities.</p> <p>Upon review of this identified need it was considered that the provisions of this policy do not impact differentially on employees in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all regardless of geographical location.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
<p>Developing the Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) Policy & Procedure.</p>	<p>The SPOD programme targets specific geographical areas, rather than being delivered across Northern Ireland, however there is still a need to ensure that the rural area targeted under SPOD is able to access the funding programme fairly and equitably.</p> <p>The Housing Executive's SPOD Policy and objectives are equally applicable in urban and rural areas. The procedural approach to administering the programme does include the use of the email and recognise in certain rural areas that internet connectivity can be a barrier. However, the rural delivery organisations are confirmed to have access to sufficient internet facilities to ensure that this is not a barrier for them. Therefore the Policy and Procedure will result in a consistent and equitable approach to the management and administration of SPOD funding, whether the SPOD area is located in an urban or rural area.</p>

The Northern Ireland Library Authority

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Review of Code of Conduct for Board Members which provides a clear framework within which Libraries NI's Board Members are expected to conduct themselves.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Code of Conduct for Staff which provides a clear framework within which staff working for Libraries NI are expected to conduct themselves.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Conflicts of Interest Policy which provides a clear framework for managing actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in a consistent and transparent manner.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Gifts and Hospitality Policy which provides a clear framework for managing the treatment of offers of gifts or hospitality in a consistent and transparent manner.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Crosscutting/Broadband	
Extension of a pilot Out of Hours Service already operating in six rural libraries to include a library in market town serving an extensive rural hinterland. The service provides additional hours of access to library facilities including broadband and Wi-Fi on a self-service basis to adult library members and accompanied children.	The project was developed specifically to meet identified rural needs i.e. access to libraries, access to broadband/Wi-Fi, access to community space.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Development of Paternity Policy which provides a clear framework and application process for Libraries NI staff.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Crosscutting	
Review of Reading and Reader Development Policy which sets out Libraries NI's approach to the provision of reading and reader development activities as a core service.	The activities described in the policy (i.e. activities which promote reading such as shared reading activities and programmes which promote stock genres or authors) are available in the 29 libraries located in rural communities (Bands F-H in the NISRA Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015).
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Review of Records Management Policy which provides a framework for the management of records, in all formats whether those records are held by Libraries NI or a partner organisation.	No rural needs were identified.
Development of Recruitment and Selection Policy which sets out the basis on which Libraries NI will seek to make appointments with the aim of ensuring that the most suitable person is appointed to the post.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Crosscutting	
Review of Room Hire Policy which sets out the conditions that need to be met to facilitate the use and/or hire of library premises.	The activities described in the policy (access to room hire) applies to all Libraries NI libraries with meetings rooms including those serving rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Development of Shared Parental Leave Policy which provides a clear framework and application process for Libraries NI staff.	No rural needs were identified.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Review of Sponsorship Policy which sets out Libraries NI's approach to commercial sponsorship.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Crosscutting	
Review of Stock Policy which sets out how Libraries NI will provide access to a wide range of quality resources to meet the needs of the entire community.	The activities described in the policy i.e. providing and managing the Libraries NI book stock applies to all libraries including the 29 libraries located in rural communities (Bands F-H in the NISRA Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015).

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Six Monthly Assurance Statement Of Internal Control And Risk Management.	Tourism NI has begun to incorporate compliance with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 in their Assurance Statement Of Internal Control And Risk Management.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
New Web Development Funding Programme.	Design of a new Web Development Funding Programme with funding support from DAERA and to support objectives as part of the Rural Policy Framework.

The Public Health Agency

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Expansion of the Northern Ireland Newborn Blood Spot Screening Programme (NBSP).	Every baby in NI will have access to community midwifery and health visiting services following discharge from hospital. Midwives will visit babies in their own homes regardless of where they live/their postcode to carry out newborn blood spot screening. Babies who remain in hospital on day 5 of life will have screening carried out by hospital midwives or nurses. Babies in a rural area receive the same care with regards to blood spot screening as those in towns and cities.
Regional procurement of Smart4Hearing - a service to aid delivery of the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme in Northern Ireland.	<p>The procurement of the Smart4Hearing service will have no impact on the newborn hearing screening service that is currently provided to all babies, within each geographical Trust area.</p> <p>Newborn hearing screening generally takes place in a hospital setting, pre-discharge (for approximately 70% of babies). If baby is returning to attend a clinic for an outpatient/follow-up appointment, the person with parental responsibility will be asked where is the most suitable location for newborn hearing screening to take place as there is flexibility within the programme for a baby to be screened within another Trust locality. With this in mind, the programme already seeks to promote equality of opportunity in terms of uptake, irrespective of location in Northern Ireland.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Implementation of Regional Age Friendly Programme.	The Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework recognises that those living in rural areas often experience poverty and social isolation differently to urban dwellers due to issues relating to geographical isolation & lower population density. It Provides a broad frame work within which public sector organisations and the rural sector can work collaboratively to lever additional resources and develop/pilot new ways to help alleviate the effects of poverty for certain groups

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>such as older people and people with a disability. Research has established a link between loneliness in elderly people and population density in rural areas and social isolation was ranked third in the list of key disadvantages for older people in rural areas in Northern Ireland. Jack and Patten (2014). As outlined the PHA recognises health as a basic human right for older people and a key predictor of satisfaction and quality of life as people age both in rural and urban areas. It determines an individual's ability to remain independent and to continue to contribute in a meaningful way to society. Given the fact that older people become increasingly reliant on health and social care services as they age there is an opportunity to reduce the impact of sickness on care services by maintaining a healthier population into old age. The focus for the PHA in addressing the needs of older people will therefore be to work collaboratively with partners from across the community, statutory, voluntary and private sectors to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advance health and wellbeing into older age • reduce the inequalities experienced by older people • promote the inclusion and full involvement of older people within society and their local communities • improve the provision, quality and safety of services and care to address the needs of older people as they age and • safeguard those people who are or may become vulnerable as they get older <p>Following the process of development and engagement in shaping this programme, consulting in rural and other areas, key themes have emerged which have led to our conclusions and recommended actions. The proposed model will enable the development of a programme based on the WHO Age Friendly model across the Southern and Western areas. The co-ordinators will work collaboratively with a range</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>of stakeholders and establish Age Friendly Strategic Alliance from relevant organisations e.g. Council, Health, Housing, C&V Sector organisations supporting older people. The post holder will co-ordinate and carry out additional consultations with older people and key stakeholders. The Age Friendly programme will provide a mechanism for a variety of organisations (Council, HSC, Transport, Housing, C&V sector, older peoples networks etc. to work together to promote and improve the health and wellbeing of older people, whilst also valuing the positive contribution they can make.</p>
<p>Retender of the Workplace Health and Well-being Service.</p>	<p>This is a Regional project and the services will be equally available to employees from urban and rural areas. The PHA Workplace Health service is Regional and offered to all small and medium businesses across urban and rural enterprises. In the retender providers will be asked to specifically target businesses in rural areas and those with larger numbers of employees living in rural areas.</p>

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
Accessible Outdoor Trails - To improve equality of access by significantly increasing the availability of accessible sports equipment for people with a disability.	Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.
Active Living No Limits - To install equipment at up to 6 swimming pool facilities across Northern Ireland by 31 March 2019. To extend choice for people with disabilities.	Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.
CCTV - Installation of upgraded CCTV systems at designated sports grounds as part of the ongoing safety sector work.	The investment took place at sports grounds where health and safety issues had been identified. Rural or urban location was not a factor.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education/Training Health or Social Care Services/Deprivation	
Community Planning 2020 - To support the implementation of Community Planning across the 11 Community Planning partnerships in the context of recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic.	Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training/ Deprivation/Rural Development	
Everybody Active 2020 - A programme of investment into Local Authorities - To increase quality opportunities for targeted and currently under-represented groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life course transitions.	Due to the nature of the programme rural or urban location was not a factor.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
Health and Safety - works at Ballymartin GAA. The project was completed under SMCCP, however a number of H&S works are outstanding.	The investment took place at sports grounds where health and safety issues had been identified. Rural or urban location was not a factor.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses/Rural Tourism/ Jobs or Employment/Education/ Deprivation/Rural Development/ Agri-Environment	
ORNI - Implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan through strategic investment in Outdoor Recreation NI.	Due to the nature of the programme rural or urban location was not a factor.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
Our Great Outdoors - improving disability access to sailing/rowing/ canoeing/angling from pontoons & jetties.	Due to the nature of the programme rural or urban location was not a factor.
Our Great Outdoors - pilot disability accessible category 1 trail development.	Due to the nature of the programme rural or urban location was not a factor.
Our Great Outdoors - Connecting communities and improving community safety through the development of number of community trails.	Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.
Pitch Maintenance Partnership projects with CAFRE to build on the successful 2017/18 Pitch Maintenance Programme.	An open call application process was followed that was accessible to projects in rural and urban areas.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment Education or Training Health or Social Care Services Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Special Olympics - Inter-Departmental four year funding package that will be used by Special Olympics Ireland/Ulster to sustain clubs, improve governance & measuring impacts, target health & social deprivation, educate young people and meet key needs.	Due to the nature of the programme rural or urban location was not a factor.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
Your School Your Club - Partnership projects with the Education Authority. Capital projects to enable access to school sports facilities by the community. Programme is based on the Your School Your Club document endorsed by former DCAL and DE Ministers.	The investment targeted schools in both rural and urban areas. In particular schools were identified that could provide facilities for local areas.
DAERA funding towards outdoor spaces - Upgrade of existing trails, improvements to site access, extension to the existing car park provision and ancillary works.	Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Bail (Electronic Monitoring).	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Bail.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Corporate Governance Committee Structure.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
PPAC Competence Related Threshold Payment.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
First Aid Training.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Inspectors Promotion Process.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Police College Trainer External Recruitment.	No Rural Needs were Identified.
Police Support to Civil Authorities.	No Rural Needs were Identified.
Police Pay and Conditions - Mileage Claims.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Provision of Peer Support to PSNI Officers and Staff Subject to Personal Threat.	No Rural Needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Police Pursuits.	No Rural Needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Records Management.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Sergeants Promotion Process.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Vacancy Bulletin HMSU.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Health and Safety Roles and Responsibilities Instruction.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Health and Safety - Service Policy.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Special Leave Policy.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Shared Parental Leave Policy.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
New and Expected Parents Policy.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Overtime Strategy.	No Rural Needs were Identified.
Uniform and Protective Measures Committee (UAPM) - Uniform Options Paper.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Menopause Guidance.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Post-Incident Management - Discharge of Firearms.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Irritant Spray.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Custody CCTV.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Body Worn Video.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Missing Person Definition.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Police Pay and Conditions - Overtime.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Chaplaincy.	No Rural Needs were Identified.
Police Pay and Conditions - Travel Expenses.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Annual Leave Policy.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Partial Retirement Guidance.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.
Police Pay and Conditions - Dog Allowances.	The policy was not influenced by rural needs.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
PSNI Physio Service.	The strategy was not influenced by rural needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Scientific Support Strategic Plan.	The plan was not influenced by rural needs.

The Health and Social Care Board

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>Changes to the NI Regional Capitation Formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and Child Care • Acute Services 	<p>Family and Child Care: The differential costs of health service provision in rural areas are addressed in the Rurality and Economies of Scale cost adjustments in the Regional Capitation Formula. The rurality cost adjustment was updated in the previous Regional Capitation Formula review.</p> <p>Acute Services: The differential costs of health service provision in rural areas are addressed in the Rurality and Economies of Scale cost adjustments in the Regional Capitation Formula.</p>
<p>Regional Trauma Network Service Delivery Model.</p>	<p>The Health and Social Care (HSC) element of the Service Delivery Model will enhance the provision of psychological therapy and mental health services in Northern Ireland for children, young people and adults who experience significant levels of psychological trauma.</p> <p>Social issues - geographical and social isolation, mental health support and economic needs - costs associated with travel, access to services, such as child/other caring arrangements and amenities have been identified.</p> <p>In mitigation, the HSC element will be available across the region and access to services will be based solely on clinical need, regardless of geographical location or socio-economic needs associated with rural living.</p> <p>The comprehensive assessment process for each individual will ascertain if any barriers to accessing treatment exist, and flexibility of service provision will enable these to be overcome.</p>
<p>Parental Participation.</p>	<p>Key points identified: 80% of landmass and 35% of population of NI are defined as rural; the rural population is growing at twice the rate of urban; both male and female life expectancy is higher in rural areas; access to primary and secondary healthcare services</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
	<p>may be difficult for isolated rural communities; emergency response times are higher in rural areas; some rural dwellers may be at higher risk of loneliness and social isolation; social deprivation is often hidden in rural areas; around 70% of rural working age population is in employment but generally, there is a lower level of income in rural areas; rural households tend to be larger and; access to services is more limited including availability of public transport.</p> <p>The Parental Participation Service will be offered via telephone, email, face-to-face meetings, home visits and community- based events. A planned outcome is that all parents will have a role in informing and contributing to regional service planning by identifying what their needs are and how best these can be met. Monitoring and review of service data will provide a detailed insight into needs and characteristics of service-users in rural areas.</p>
<p>Independent Information, Advice, Advocacy Service to Support Independent Living.</p>	<p>Key points identified: 80% of landmass and 35% of population of NI are defined as rural; the rural population is growing at twice the rate of urban; both male and female life expectancy is higher in rural areas; access to primary and secondary healthcare services may be difficult for isolated rural communities; emergency response times are higher in rural areas; some rural dwellers may be at higher risk of loneliness and social isolation; social deprivation is often hidden in rural areas; around 70% of rural working age population is in employment but generally, there is a lower level of income in rural areas; rural households tend to be larger and; access to services is more limited including availability of public transport.</p> <p>These circumstances affect service users and carers accessing Self Directed Support and who may need or wish to access this Service.</p> <p>In order to mitigate against reliance on public transport the Service will be offered via telephone, email, face-to-face meetings, home visits and potential drop-in clinics. Information on accessing the Service</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	and engaging in an assessment for Self-Directed Help will be provided in multiple formats.
Advocacy Service for Deaf Adults.	<p>Key points identified: 80% of landmass and 35% of population of NI are defined as rural; the rural population is growing at twice the rate of urban; both male and female life expectancy is higher in rural areas; access to primary and secondary healthcare services may be difficult for rural isolated communities; emergency response times are higher in rural areas; some rural dwellers may be at higher risk of loneliness and social isolation; social deprivation is often hidden in rural areas; around 70% of rural working age population is in employment but generally, there is a lower level of income in rural areas; rural households tend to be larger and; access to services is more limited including availability of public transport.</p> <p>These circumstances affect deaf adult service users accessing Health and Social Care and who may need or wish to access the Advocacy Service.</p> <p>In order to mitigate against reliance on public transport the Service will be offered via email, video-based and/or social media information dissemination, face-to-face meetings, home visits and information sessions. Limited access to high quality broadband will be mitigated by the provision of the service via other methods including written materials, email communication, face-to-face meetings, home visits and information sessions.</p> <p>To mitigate against hidden poverty and deprivation, HSCB will maintain the current expectation i.e. that the supplier should have a detailed understanding of HSC services and local networks of accessible support and assistant to which individuals can be signposted and referred as required.</p>

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health and Social Care	
<p>Policy for HSC Patients who wish to pay for additional treatment- Oncology and Haematology Services at the Belfast City Hospital Site.</p>	<p>Given the service is a regional service a rural needs impact assessment was undertaken. No impact was identified as people from rural areas can access the top up treatment via the regional specialist centre at Belfast. In addition, the core principles of the policy reflect Department of Health's guidance including issues relating to a patient's entitlement to HSC care and that HSC should exhaust all reasonable avenues for securing public funding.</p>
<p>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Beaumont Hospital/ Dublin (BH) and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and the Health Service Executive (HSE - funding only) for the provision of living donor exchange kidney transplant service (plus data sharing agreement).</p>	<p>Given the service is a cross border service a rural needs impact assessment was undertaken. An adverse impact not detected. The impact was deemed positive as there is likely to be greater access to kidneys and the wait for surgery is likely to be less.as a result of the MoU.</p>

Many of the policies are clinical or technical in nature and have no bearing on rural needs. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlink to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies.

<https://belfasttrust.hscni.net/about/publications/equality-and-human-rights-screening/>

Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health and Social Care	
Booking of non-emergency ambulance transport policy.	The policy determines that the criteria for providing ambulance transport for non-emergency situations e.g. transportation home is based on clinical or medical need and not economic reasons. Mitigation included in respect of potential economic impact upon people who live in rural areas by reimbursement via the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme and signposting to the availability of community transport schemes.
Policy on adverse weather conditions.	This is a staff related policy covering situations where staff members are unable to travel to work due to adverse weather conditions. Likely to have a larger impact upon staff who reside in rural areas. Mitigation provided in respect of working from home or travelling to another closer NHSCT location to work. All staff treated the same in respect of covering time away from work by means of annual leave or flexi time.
Policy on adverse weather conditions. Transport for Service Users, Provision & Use (Day Care).	This policy relates to the provision of an appropriate and safe transport service for service users attending Day Care. It sets out the responsibilities of management and staff in the completion of a transport assessment for the service user. Factors considered include social isolation. Provision of this service, in the absence of availability of transport for the service user by family or by public transport services, facilitates the service user in attending day care. The service in itself is mitigation by addressing the needs of people who live in rural areas.
Managing Choice for Discharge from Inpatient Beds Protocol.	The protocol is applicable to patients within Antrim, Causeway and Whiteabbey Hospitals. Where patients are temporarily placed in residential and nursing homes outside of their chosen geographical area, this may cause additional difficulties in terms of visitation particularly for older and disabled relatives and those using public transport. As mitigation, Trust staff monitor

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	and review the interim arrangement to ensure that the patient's preferred option can be accommodated as soon as possible.
Taxis - Authorisation and Payment of within the Community Care Division	This policy provides mitigation in respect of rural based service users and availability of public transport. Access to this service will be based on assessed need and evidence must be provided that all other transport arrangements have been explored and this would result in a social/clinical detriment if the journey did not take place.

Many of the policies are clinical or technical in nature and have no bearing on rural needs. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlinks to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies.

[Screening Outcome Report - June 2019](#)

[Screening Outcome Report - September 2019](#)

[Screening Outcome Report - December 2019](#)

[Screening Outcome Report - March 2020](#)

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>Phasing out of the Newry and Mourne Good Neighbour service. The plan is to grow the Good Morning service to support increased referrals, ensuring wider reach for the support service to older people across the Newry and Mourne locality area. This will be supported by an increased pool of volunteers and increased promotion of the service.</p>	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Policy for the Use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance Systems. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that where CCTV is used on Trust premises, that it is correctly installed, operated and maintained and not misused, and that CCTV footage is correctly stored and recorded and the use of it adheres to the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, Human Rights Act 1998, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and the Information Commissioner's Office CCTV Code of Practice (2017).</p>	<p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
<p>Staff Transfer Scheme Pilot within the Older People and Primary Care (OPPC) Directorate, SHSCT. This Scheme sets out the general principles for the proposed piloting of a staff transfer scheme. The Scheme is intended to have a positive impact on staff. The Scheme may be utilised to enable staff to achieve a better work life balance.</p>	<p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>Work Life Balance Policy. Revised policy which incorporates managers and employee guidelines to ensure all requests for WLB are given serious consideration in line with the existing legislative provisions.</p>	<p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
<p>Menopause at Work Policy. This policy describes SHSCT's approach to supporting female staff at work during their menopause.</p>	
<p>Proposed extension of car parking enforcement arrangements at Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry. Proposal to extend enforcement along the road to the waste collection area. The overarching aims of the Trust's traffic enforcement arrangements are to assist: site users in accessing the hospital site; protecting emergency access routes; protecting red zones; protecting drop-off zones; manage the abuse of parking facilities including accessible car provision; reduce congestion from circulating traffic and provide for a safer environment on site for pedestrians and all site users.</p>	<p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>
<p>Food Hygiene Policy. The aim of policy is to ensure that the Trust has in place suitable and robust governance arrangements to support the delivery and maintenance of good hygiene and food safety practices which conform to current food safety legislation.</p>	<p>No Rural Needs were identified.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Revised Car Parking Charges on acute hospital sites. Proposal to decrease the charge for parking up to 70 minutes and revising the charges for each of the charge bands between 1 and 4 hours.	No Rural Needs were identified.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Rationalisation of Acute Inpatient Mental Health Services within the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust - Outline Business Case.	This screening relates to the proposed outline business case for the future provision of acute inpatient care for adults with functional mental illness within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. The proposed location of the single-unit is likely to have an impact on some patients, relatives and staff living in rural areas. Mitigation measures include extended opening hours for visitors, the further development of Trust local mental health services (e.g. home treatment teams, community rehabilitation services, primary care support hubs, recovery colleges in each locality), and the involvement of non-statutory and voluntary services which will help to deliver care and treatment to patients closer to or within their homes and rural areas.
Programme to reduce risk of Type 2 Diabetes amongst service users within the South Eastern Trust (SET) geographical area until March 2021.	This screening outlines a programme to reduce risk of Type 2 diabetes. Rural populations attending the programme may experience a lack of transport options (including mode of travel and times of public transport services), as well as the associated cost of transport. Mitigation included the choice of venues on main transport links for those dependent on public transport (Newtownards, Newcastle, Lisburn and Downpatrick were decided as the most appropriate locations). Reflective Practice amongst coaches ensures that accessibility is always under review to ensure that the needs of rural participants are adhered to.
Hospital Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) - Patients Travel.	This screening outlines an updated version of an existing Trust protocol on the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme - a scheme which is available to help people on a low income or income based benefit who may be entitled to reclaim travel costs incurred to and from hospital. The protocol states that the patient will receive one return fare based on the cheapest form of public

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>transport available, which may have a possible negative impact on those living in rural areas with limited access to public transport. This has been given due regard, as where bus/train fare is not available for patient's travelling by car i.e. (rural areas) the fare can be calculated on the basis of miles from Patient's postcode to postcode of Hospital attended (at the HMRC approved public transport mileage rate at date of travel plus 5 pence per mile per eligible passenger).</p>

Many of the policies are clinical or technical in nature and have no bearing on rural needs. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following link to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies [here](#).

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health and Social Care	
Mobile Telephone and Device Policy.	<p>This policy has been developed to ensure proper use of mobile telephones and devices by making Trust staff, service users and visitors aware of the statutory legal obligation and the organisation's definition on acceptable and unacceptable use.</p> <p>This policy has also been developed to make service users and visitors aware of the areas where the use of mobile phones and devices are restricted or limited. The Trust is aware that in particular for rural settings, network providers cannot guarantee 100% coverage or service.</p>
WHSCT Blood Component Transfusion Policy.	<p>The Policy aims to provide guidance for staff involved in any aspect of the blood transfusion process to ensure safe transfusion practice as well as appropriate blood component use. It draws on best practice arising from national, as well as requirements specified by regulatory bodies such as the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations. It provides guidance for transfusion of all Blood Components (Red Cells, Platelets, Fresh Frozen Plasma and Cryoprecipitate) regardless if the patient is being transfused in a hospital, home environment or out of hospital facility e.g. by the Rapid Response Nursing Team or Acute Care at Home Team.</p> <p>The policy has been written to standardise the care of the patient throughout the blood transfusion process, to ensure appropriateness of blood component transfusions, safe administration of transfusions and the correct management of any adverse events. Staff have mitigating actions in place should there be a lack of mobile network in a rural home setting where a person is receiving a Home Transfusion.</p>
Diabetes Prevention Programme - HSC Regional Transformation Programme.	This is a Regional Programme aimed at improving the participant's experience of care (including quality and satisfaction) and improving the general health

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
	<p>and wellbeing of the population. The Transformation programme will support the implementation of the Diabetes Prevention Projects, determined by the Department for Health to be in line with the strategic vision of Health & Wellbeing: Delivering Together 2020.</p> <p>The recommendations of an expert panel tasked with producing proposals to remodel health and social care in Northern Ireland were published in a report entitled 'Systems, not Structures: Changing Health and Social Care'. This emphasised a need for a move away from hospital centred care to an integrated primary and community health and social care delivery model.</p> <p>Early identification of people at high risk of diabetes in primary care such as general practice where doctors can make a referral onto the Clinical Communications Gateway (CCG) system for participants to engage with the Diabetic Prevention Programme (DPP) that aims to delay or prevent the onset of T2DM. The DPP, offering a behaviour change interventions within the community setting is an example of a move to this approach.</p> <p>Services will be delivered at local centres as demand dictates. The opportunities for partnership working in the area of diabetes prevention are huge, with the potential to work with local councils and community planning partnerships in the delivery of behaviour change programmes and to link with existing work to support individuals to make healthy changes, for example Park Runs, Couch to 5k and Everybody Active 2020 Activities. Involvement of potential service users will be a key element in both the design and the delivery of the programme.</p>

Many of the policies are clinical or technical in nature and have no bearing on rural needs. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided a hyperlink to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies:

[Western Health & Social Care Trust Equality Screening Reports](#)

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Clinical Response Model.	<p>Details of the consultation process, references and data analysis are contained in the Final Proposals paper published in April 2019 :-</p> <p>http://www.nias.hscni.net/wpfb-file/nias-clinical-response-model-egia-final-proposals-apr-2019-pdf/</p>
<p>Learning from Serious Adverse Incidents Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this document is to improve the management of Serious Adverse Incidents (SAIs) by clarifying roles and responsibilities and establishing a framework for the effective and efficient management of SAIs. • improving SAI management ensures that NIAS meets both its moral and legal obligations, and ensures the safeguarding of patients, the public, its employees and assets as far as is reasonably practicable. 	No rural needs were identified.
<p>Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy and Policy provide the framework that enables NIAS to manage its risk effectively, discharge its duties appropriately, and progress the successful delivery of both corporate and directorate aims and objectives. 	No rural needs were identified.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<p>The strategy and policy form part of the Trust's internal control and corporate governance arrangements, is integrally linked to the Board Assurance Framework and is aligned with the Annual Business Plan and Trust Delivery Plan.</p>	
<p>Assistance to Study Policy and Procedure</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear, uniform and comprehensive approach to applying for and approving applications for financial assistance and/or time off work to study, or for any other learning and development activity where there is direct financial cost to the Trust.</p>	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Claims Management Policy and Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy is to ensure NIAS HSC Trust has in place a robust and effective policy for the management of claims, within the legislative framework, cognizant of HSC and DOH guidance and in a culture of openness, learning and improvement. 	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Health, Safety & Fire Safety Training - Ambulance Service H&S Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve health and safety management throughout the organization. • advise all staff on health, safety and fire safety training, which 	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.</p>	<p>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.</p>
<p>is mandatory, and provide information on the types of training available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Procedure forms part of the Trust’s internal control and corporate governance arrangements, is integrally linked to the Board Assurance Framework and is aligned with the Annual Business Plan and Trust Delivery Plan. It reflects a range of standards, current guidance and best practice, i.e. Health and Safety Executive Policy Guidance and numerous pieces of legislation. <p>It is a legal requirement that adequate health, safety and fire safety training is provided for ALL employees.</p>	
<p>Interim Procedure for the Reporting and Management of Adverse Incidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020 Interim Procedure for the Reporting and Management of Adverse Incidents (Regional Document) will be supported by a number of other documents covering other aspects of incident management such as providing witness statements and SAIs providing a framework that enables NIAS to manage incidents effectively, discharge its duties appropriately, and progress the successful delivery of both corporate and directorate aims and objectives. 	<p>No rural needs were identified.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Procedure should reduce risk to staff, service users, other public sector organisations, trade unions, professional bodies, independent sector, voluntary and community groups etc.	

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