

# Rural Issues Statement

13 November 2015



Department of  
**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

[www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk)

# DARD Rural Proofing Template

## Section A

### Details about the policy / decision to be rural proofed

#### Title of policy / decision to be rural proofed:-

Proposals for a successor to DARD's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-15

#### Brief description of policy / decision to be rural proofed:-

The TRPSI Framework is a DARD-led initiative aimed at tackling rural poverty and social isolation in rural areas through a package of measures designed to target the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable rural dwellers. The proposals being rural proofed relate to the successor to DARD's current TRPSI Framework 2011-15.

#### Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be rural proofed:-

##### Aim of the Framework

To provide a flexible mechanism for DARD to work effectively with other partnership organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people living in rural areas.

##### Objectives of the Framework

- To promote the development of new and innovative approaches to tackling poverty and social isolation in rural areas;
- To encourage effective partnership working between DARD, other public sector organisations and the rural community sector in seeking to tackle poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas;

- To encourage the design and delivery of measures which effectively target financial poverty, access poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas in line with the key principles of the Framework;
- To support interventions which increase the level of funding and/or other resources available to target poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas.

# Section B

## Policy Impact on Rural Communities

### **1. Are there any rural specific impacts of this policy?**

The TRPSI Framework was developed to address issues around poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas. It is one of a number of rural initiatives led by DARD aiming to help ensure that the needs of rural communities are addressed by government. By its very nature this policy Framework is exclusively rural specific and the impacts on rural areas are positive.

### **2. Are there any potential indirect impacts?**

Although it is expected that projects delivered under the TRPSI Framework will have a positive direct impact on the vulnerable in rural communities, there is also the potential that there will be positive indirect impacts. For example any measures that support the delivery of key services for rural dwellers to avail of, such as innovative health provision or rural transport provision, should also indirectly help to tackle social isolation and the related mental health connotations that come with this.

### **3. Are there potential local impacts that will differ from the regional impact?**

Although the overarching Framework will have a regional outlook it is expected that certain measures will be responsive to local needs and will be tailored to address these needs.

### **4. Is there a need for pre-consultation with rural stakeholders to get better insight into potential rural impacts?**

In advance of the public consultation a series of one to one engagements with key stakeholders was carried out to help inform the policy proposals. An evaluation of the current TRPSI Framework was also carried out to help inform the proposals for the successor framework and this included consultation with a range of rural stakeholders.

**5. Is there a need for actions to mitigate the impacts of the policy in rural areas?**

No

## **Section C**

### **Evidential Requirements**

**(Questions for consideration to assess the evidence used in assessing the impact of the policy on the rural community)**

**1. Are the predicted impacts supported by evidence?**

Yes, see question 2 below.

**2. What types of evidence have you considered in your policy development? (statistics/research/stakeholder advice)**

The Strategic Investment Board (SIB) was commissioned to undertake an independent evaluation of the current TRPSI Framework. Their report has been used to inform the policy Framework post 2016.

We also carried out consultation with a range of interested parties including key rural stakeholders such as the RDC, RCN, RSN's NIRWN, Mid-Ulster Council, NIHE, Libraries NI and OFMDFM to obtain their views on the effectiveness of the current TRSPI Framework and identify areas for future development in the successor framework.

We have considered a range of available rural research and statistics including information provided by DARD's rural statistician and a number of rural research projects undertaken by AFBI as part of the Departments Evidence and Innovation Strategy.

We also considered the ARD Committee's Position Paper on DARD's Anti-Poverty and Social Isolation Framework.

**3. Are there any other areas of uncertainty, where further evidence would be useful?**

No

**4. Have any design features already been implemented as a result of the evidence obtained?**

The formulation and content of the proposals for the successor Framework is based on the results of the evidence available and engagement with rural stakeholders.

# Section D

## Formal Record of Rural Proofing Decision

**Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being rural proofed**

Proposals for a successor to DARD's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-15

I can confirm that the proposed policy has been rural proofed in full and that all issues raised have been considered prior to the implementation of the policy.

**Rural proofing completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -**

Name: Niall Heaney

Grade: 7



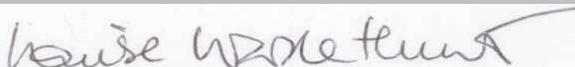
Date: 12/11/2015

Branch: Sustainable Rural Communities Branch

**Rural proofing approved by (must be Grade 3 or above) -**

Name: Louise Warde Hunter

Grade: G3



Date: 13/11/2015

Branch: Central Policy Group