

Rural Needs

Annual Monitoring Report

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

A living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.



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

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Sustainable Rural Communities Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 9052 4107 / 028 9076 5869

Website: www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Email: rural.needs@daera-ni.gov.uk

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Foreword

DAERA is delighted to publish the second Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report which covers the reporting period 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019.

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 has been implemented on a phased basis and from 1st June 2018 all public authorities listed in the Schedule to the Act are now subject to the duties of the Act.

The purpose of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 is to ensure that public authorities have due regard to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas when carrying out certain activities and to provide a mechanism for ensuring greater transparency in relation to how public authorities consider rural needs when undertaking these activities.

This Annual Monitoring Report brings together the information which Public Authorities have reported in their individual Annual Reports and details the Rural Needs Impact Assessments which have been completed during the reporting period. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Public Authorities for their contribution to this report.

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 is not just a policy tool to help DAERA achieve its vision of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone. It's ambitious and at its heart is the desire to support rural communities ensuring that the needs of people living in rural areas are thoroughly considered and helped by public authorities when delivering their objectives. It also helps ensure that consideration of the needs of people in rural areas becomes more firmly embedded in the work of public authorities.

Overview

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 was introduced to help deliver fairer outcomes for the 670,000 people (around 37% of the population) who live in rural areas in Northern Ireland (2011 Census). It is widely recognised that many strategies and policies can have a different impact in rural areas than in urban areas. This can be due to issues relating to connectivity difficulties, geographical isolation and lower population densities for example. These variations can impact on service provision and accessing services and as many strategies and policies developed across government have a rural dimension, it is important that these variations are taken into account during the policy making process and in the delivery of services.

The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report is an integral part of the monitoring process as it provides a formal record of all the Rural Needs Impact Assessments undertaken by public authorities. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment is the process recommended by DAERA to assist public authorities in fulfilling their due regard duty. It requires public authorities to detail how they have complied with the due regard duty when carrying out activities specified under section 1(1) of the Act.

This annual monitoring report, coupled with the requirement for public authorities to compile and report in their own annual reports, increases the level of transparency and enables stakeholders to evaluate the implementation of the Act across a wide and diverse range of public authorities. It also provides those governed by the Act with an opportunity to share learning and exchange information to ultimately achieve a better outcome for rural dwellers. Making citizens lives better is the ultimate goal for government (Programme for Government Outcomes Framework).

Section 2 of the Act provides DAERA with some additional powers in terms of providing guidance, advice and information. Throughout the monitoring period, DAERA has engaged with public authorities providing advice and support on all aspects of the Act. In addition, DAERA met with stakeholders to gauge opinion on the implementation of the Act and how it is supporting better outcomes for rural communities.

To assist public authorities in compiling the information for inclusion in this report, DAERA produced a guidance note which complemented the revised guidance launched by DAERA in March 2018.

DAERA fulfilled its obligations under Section 3 of the Act through collating information from public authorities and publishing the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report. A copy of the report will also be laid in the NI Assembly. Section 4 of the Act requires DAERA to make arrangements to secure co-operation and the exchange of information between public authorities. To fulfil this duty, DAERA hosted a co-operation event on 22 March 2018 and invited all public authorities listed in the Schedule to the Act. This event enabled public authorities to share learning and experiences and discuss opportunities to raise awareness of the Act. Feedback from the event was positive and alongside the on-going engagement, helped DAERA to formulate its approach to rural needs for the next reporting period.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Reporting Period 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

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: Rural Businesses	
<p>Developing an Innovation Strategy as part of the DAERA Science Transformation Programme.</p>	<p>It is known that the farming community are slow to innovate (Innovation in the Irish Agrifood Sector, 2014). This disadvantages them in terms of their business development. The proposed Innovation Strategy aims to provide high level direction on development of innovation within the agri-food industry.</p> <p>Of the 1,870,845 people living in Northern Ireland (2017), 37% or 670,486 people live in rural areas. A total of 1,022,400ha of land across Northern Ireland are farmed (Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018) with 46,800 farmers and workers on 24,900 farms. This project considers the social and economic needs of these rural dwellers. The proposed Innovation Strategy aims to help rural businesses associated with the agri-food, environment, forestry and fisheries sectors to become more innovative. The Northern Ireland Industrial Strategy (Economy 2030) has 'Accelerating innovation and research' as one of its five main pillars for growth of the local economy.</p> <p>The proposed strategy will also recommend education, training and skills development in innovation, collaboration and networking, communication and promotion and facilitation of knowledge exploitation as ways to enhance innovation for farmers, agri-food businesses and the wider rural community. Locally based skills development will help to address social isolation and job creation within rural areas.</p>
<p>Revising the policy on horse passports due to the introduction of new EU regulations on equine identification.</p>	<p>Consideration was given in relation to the ability of people in rural areas to comply with the regulations. DAERA has not identified any changes in the new regulations that would prevent people in rural areas from complying with the new regulations.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the application process by which owners identify their horses and these are not affected by the new policy. The policy will apply uniformly to all horse owners and businesses.</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	
Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) Grant in Aid 2018-21.	<p>The consideration for the continuation of funding for Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster (YCFU) for a further three years has been on the basis that the YFCU's presence contributes towards improving- Education, Training, Social Interaction, Rural Development, Enhancement and Promotion of Rural Life, Good Relations, Poverty in Rural Areas and Health and Safety on the farm.</p> <p>The agreed targeted and measurable delivery plan will address four strategic themes -:</p> <p>Leadership, Education, Agri-food and Farm Safety.</p>
Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme (NIRFP) - developing a Business Plan.	<p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas may include the needs of people living in rural areas, people working in rural areas, people operating businesses in rural areas and people visiting rural areas for the purposes of tourism or recreation. The NIRFP will not have a different outcome for people in rural areas due to lower population densities. This programme will affect certain groups of people in rural areas disproportionately as seasonal workers, farmers etc provide the produce for many of the funded events.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses	
Amendments to the Reporting of Prices of Milk Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008.	<p>To make amendments to the Reporting of Prices of Milk Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. These amendments consist of: (1) necessary minor changes to update out-of-date EU references and; (2) fixes to certain EU-derived legislation to ensure that in the event of a 'no-deal' scenario the legislation will remain operable following the UK's exit from the EU.</p> <p>As the amendments simply seek to make minor updates and operability changes to ensure the legislation continues to function correctly, 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>

<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>Drafting of The Agriculture, Food and Horse (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p>	<p>The Regulations amend 10 different Statutory Rules but do not introduce new policy in these areas, but instead simply ensures that the legislation operates after EU Exit in the same way as it does now.</p> <p>The Regulations make a small number of amendments to the legislation listed above. In summary these amendments change references to ‘another’ Member State, to read ‘any’ Member State in order to reflect that the UK would no longer itself be a Member State. The amendments also remove the power for an authorised officer to be accompanied by an official of the European Union and otherwise remove references to the European Union.</p> <p>As the draft 2019 Regulations simply seek to make changes to ensure existing legislation can function immediately after EU Exit, 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>
<p>Drafting of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p>	<p>The legislation makes a small number of minor changes to domestic legislation (to update references) before the day that the UK leaves the EU, because the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 will repeal the ECA on that day and the powers to make such changes. This will ensure a smooth transition and maintain a functioning Northern Ireland statute book.</p> <p>As the 2019 Regulations simply seek to make minor drafting amendments, no impact is envisaged as a result of these changes on people in rural areas or otherwise and the Regulations do not introduce new policy in these areas.</p>
<p>Drafting of The Residues (Charges and Examination) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p>	<p>To make the 2019 Regulations which involves minor technical drafting amendments to ensure that the legislation continues to operate in the same way, after the UK leaves the EU. The 2019 Regulations do not introduce any change in policy and have no substantive impact in themselves.</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 legislation makes a small number of minor changes to domestic legislation (to update EU references) before the day that the UK leaves the EU, because the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 will repeal the ECA on that day and the powers to make such changes. This will maintain a fully functioning Northern Ireland statute book.</p> <p>As the 2019 Regulations simply seek to make minor drafting amendments, no impact is envisaged as a result of these changes on people in rural areas or otherwise and the Regulations do not introduce new policy in these areas.</p>
Introduction of The Beef and Veal Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2018.	EU beef and veal labelling rules govern how beef and veal should be labelled when presented for sale to consumers. The legislation affects organisations and individuals in the beef and veal supply chain, such as meat processors and retail outlets. It is considered that the amended legislation is not relevant to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.
Introduction of The Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018, amending the Beef and Pig Carcase Classifications (NI) 2010.	<p>EU rules govern carcase classification and price reporting in respect of beef and pigs.</p> <p>The legislation affects organisations and individuals in the beef and pig supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).</p> <p>It is considered that the amended legislation is not relevant to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.</p>
Drafting of The Marketing of Bananas Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.	<p>The legislation enforces EU rules on the marketing standards for bananas that have been in place since 2010.</p> <p>As the 2019 Regulations simply seek to introduce legislation to allow the Department to enforce EU legislation, no impact is envisaged as a result of these changes on people in rural areas or otherwise.</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>Amendments in relation to food (Banana and Fresh Horticultural Products) legislation to be made by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p>	<p>To make EUWA amendments which will fix deficiencies in certain EU-derived food NI legislation to ensure that it will remain operable following the UK's exit from the EU.</p> <p>As the proposed amendments simply seek to make changes to ensure existing legislation can function after EU Exit, no impact is envisaged as a result of these changes - whether on people in rural areas or otherwise and the amendments do not introduce new policy in these areas.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The cost of living is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, particularly in terms of fuel, transport and heating. People in rural areas typically need to spend around 10-20% more on their everyday needs than those in larger towns and cities. The most recent NI House Condition Survey found that half of all households in isolated rural areas were experiencing fuel poverty. Private transport is also a necessity for most rural dwellers and car ownership and running costs may consume a disproportionate share of the dwellers income. Rural dwellers who cannot afford private transport may experience great difficulty in accessing employment and basic services.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisation's to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</p> <p>The So Keep Farming project will particularly contribute to the TRPSI priority intervention area of Social Isolation. In particular the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help develop participant's knowledge, understanding and skills to support their roles and develop their careers in varied land-based situations.

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"> • Help participants who are at risk of isolation to secure suitable employment • Complement and add value to existing Government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation.
<p>Rural Support - this charity organisation 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.</p>	<p>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</p> <p>Rural Support will contribute to the TRPSI priority intervention areas of Financial Poverty, Access Poverty and Social Isolation by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a listening ear through its helpline. • business/finance mentoring and succession planning. • signposting to farmers and farm families to key services. <p>Their service is accessible to all farm businesses and is specifically focused on rural dwellers.</p>
<p>The Social Farming Support Service assists stakeholders to become engaged in Social Farming and become ready to deliver this service. Stakeholders also receive relevant social farming training.</p>	<p>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Having the participants undertaking social farming activities on the farm reduces the isolation for both the farmers and participants.</p> <p>Research into the benefits of social farming has demonstrated that farms who participate in this activity tend to experience improved wellbeing and reduced levels of isolation.</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>Research has also demonstrated that the participants experience improved levels of mental health and well-being, beneficial to themselves and also to their parents and/or carers.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Having the participants undertaking social farming activities on the farm reduces the isolation for both the farmers and participants.</p> <p>Research into the benefits of social farming has demonstrated that farms who participate in this activity tend to experience improved wellbeing and reduced levels of isolation.</p> <p>Research has also demonstrated that the participants experience improved levels of mental health and well-being, beneficial to themselves and also to their parents and/or carers.</p>
<p>The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2018 will provide micro capital grants (between £200 to £1,500) to community-led rural groups towards the cost of capital equipment, improvement of a capital asset or extending the usable life of a capital asset. Capital funding of £550,000 will be provided through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme budget 2018/19.</p>	<p>Research continues to show that many significant issues continue to face rural communities.</p> <p>Ageing infrastructure, poor facilities, older equipment and constrained financial resources often means that rural community and voluntary organisations are not in a position to provide rural dwellers with the standard of service provided by better equipped urban centres. Feedback from previous RMCGS's continues to identify that the RMCGS's key themes;</p> <p>Modernisation (of existing premises/assets), Information & Communications Technology, Health and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Helped to empower local community and voluntary organisations to deliver enhanced and new services to their rural communities that helped to alleviate poverty, reduce isolation and improve community integration.</p>
<p>Gortin Glens Forest Project.</p>	<p>The Forest Park Scheme is in line with DAREA's strategic objective of strengthening the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas, where the needs of local people are put first and supported by those in Government.</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>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</p> <p>The Gortin Glens Forest project will particularly contribute to the TRPSI priority intervention areas of Access Poverty and Social Isolation. In particular the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide greater access to leisure facilities, such as walking and cycling trails and a destination play facility for children of all ages; • Create an attractive and welcoming environment for all that will promote positive mental health and wellbeing; • Create opportunities for social engagement that could range from small family gatherings, to community events, to regional/national events; • Create the space and facilities to support groups at risk of social isolation; • Complement and add value to existing Government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation; and • Empower rural communities to help themselves.
Brantry Forest Project.	<p>The Forest Park Scheme is in line with DAREA's strategic objective of strengthening the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas, where the needs of local people are put first and supported by those in Government.</p> <p>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</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 Brantry Forest project will particularly contribute to the TRPSI priority intervention areas of Access Poverty and Social Isolation. In particular the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide greater access to leisure facilities, such as walking and cycling trails and a destination play facility for children of all ages; • Create an attractive and welcoming environment for all that will promote positive mental health and wellbeing; • Create opportunities for social engagement that could range from small family gatherings, to community events, to regional/national events; • Create the space and facilities to support groups at risk of social isolation; • Complement and add value to existing Government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation; and • Empower rural communities to help themselves.
<p>Hillsborough Forest Project.</p>	<p>The Forest Park Scheme is in line with DAREA's strategic objective of strengthening the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas, where the needs of local people are put first and supported by those in Government.</p> <p>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</p> <p>The Hillsborough Forest project has the potential to contribute to the TRPSI Framework by enabling the forest park to maintain its distinctive features and promote its areas of outstanding beauty, and places of social, historic and cultural uniqueness and which can opportune from economic, social and cultural development opportunities, in particular.</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.
	It will also contribute to the Framework by to helping to ensure that the needs of the area's rural communities are addressed through investment and development in community and public infrastructure and facility provision. This impact potential will be augmented through the proposed provision of outreach/ activity programmes with the rural community.
Garvagh Forest Project.	<p>The Forest Park Scheme is in line with DAREA's strategic objective of strengthening the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas, where the needs of local people are put first and supported by those in Government.</p> <p>DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework has the key aim of improving the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for the Department to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation.</p> <p>The Garvagh Forest project will contribute to the TRPSI priority intervention areas of Financial Poverty, Access Poverty and Social Isolation.</p> <p>In particular it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complement and add value to existing Government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation; • Empower rural communities to help themselves.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
AFBI Veterinary Sciences Division New Build - Stoney Road.	There are no specific rural benefits/targets set, as this project, whilst it will ultimately benefit rural dwellers and the rural economy, is delivering a new building for AFBI VSD on their Stoney Road site. Benefits and targets are therefore related to that overall objective. However, as the bulk of AFBI's work is for DAERA, other statutory bodies and commercial interests and there are no changes envisioned to their services those living in rural areas will not be adversely impacted by the project. Additionally, the submission of post mortem animals to two sites in Belfast and Omagh, will continue.

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	
The drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to zoonotic disease can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).	The draft SI aims to amend existing domestic legislation relating to zoonotic diseases so as to ensure that it is workable when the UK leaves the EU. It does make technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).
The drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to official controls for animals, feed and food can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).	The draft SI aims to amend existing Northern Ireland legislation relating to official controls for animals, feed and food so as to ensure that it is operable when the UK leaves the EU. It makes technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).
The drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to exotic disease can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).	The draft SI aims to amend existing domestic legislation relating to exotic diseases so as to ensure that it is workable when the UK leaves the EU. It does make technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).
The drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to animal health and welfare can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).	The draft SI aims to amend existing domestic legislation relating to animal health and welfare so as to ensure that it is workable when the UK leaves the EU. It does make technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).

<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 drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to livestock records, identification and movement legislation can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).</p>	<p>The draft SI aims to amend existing domestic legislation relating to livestock records, identification and movement so as to ensure that it is workable when the UK leaves the EU. It does make technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).</p>
<p>The drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to the controls and standards applied to trade in animals, related products and bees can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).</p>	<p>The draft SI aims to amend existing Northern Ireland legislation relating to the controls and standards applied to trade in animals, related products and bees to ensure that it is operable when the UK leaves the EU. It makes technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).</p>
<p>The drafting of a Statutory Instrument (SI) which aims to ensure that NI law relating to animal by-products and the control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) can continue to function after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).</p>	<p>The draft SI aims to amend existing Northern Ireland legislation relating to animal by-products and the control and eradication of TSE to ensure it is operable when the UK leaves the EU. It makes technical changes only and will not change the substance of the existing domestic legislation. As such, it is not considered necessary to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (and, hence, there are no issues to consider).</p>
<p>Consultation on Implementation of New European Union (EU) Animal Breeding (or zootech) Regulation ((EU) 2016/1012).</p>	<p>Any comments from the consultation in relation to rural needs will be recorded and evaluated when any future zootech consultation and policies are considered. However as the basic structure of the wider agriculture industry is carried out in rural areas, it is the Department's opinion this will not provide any barriers that may unfairly disadvantage rural dwellers.</p>

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: Cross Cutting	
The Your School Your Club initiative provides access to the school estate for the local community outside normal school hours.	DfC and DAERA are working collaboratively to take forward this project with each partner providing equal funding. A range of relevant strategies and policy documents have been considered in the formulation of the initiative.
2019 Open Golf Tournament Legacy Project - Resource Programme and Capital equipment purchase of specialist golf equipment for the Golf and Greenkeeping Academy at Greenmount Agricultural College in Antrim.	Due to the nature of the proposed grant and the rural location of the Golf and Greenkeeping Academy at Greenmount Agricultural College, the legacy project will have a direct positive impact on the needs of those living in a rural area. A range of relevant strategies and policy documents have been considered in the development of the project.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
Indicative 2019-20 budget allocations for Sport (Sport NI and Sports Branch).	<p>The sport participation statistics in the Continuous Household Survey - Experience of Sport in NI 2017-18 show no difference between the rates of participation of people living in rural and urban areas.</p> <p>However, DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework points to a disparity in participation rates between people in rural areas (53%) and urban areas (56%). These figures are from 2015.</p> <p>Northern Ireland covers an area of some 1.35m hectares and its population stands at just over 1.8 million which represents just 3% of the UK total population. At least 80% of the NI land mass is rural.</p> <p>More than 670,000 people, (around 35%) of the total population reside in rural areas, on the basis of DAERA's preferred definition of rural areas i.e. the 'settlement patterns' definition whereby those settlements defined as small towns and above (i.e. a population above 5,000) would be classified as urban</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>and those settlements with populations below 5,000 would be classified as rural.</p> <p>Employment rates in the rural population are slightly higher than for those living in towns and cities but rural workplace earnings are lower. While poverty and social isolation exist in both urban areas and rural areas it is recognised that those living in rural areas often experience poverty and social isolation differently due to issues relating to geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements. Living in a rural area can also exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation for certain groups. 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.</p> <p>A link has been established between loneliness in elderly people and population density in rural areas. Isolation was ranked third in the list of key disadvantages for older people in rural areas of NI. A number of aspects of rural living may contribute to social isolation, not only for the elderly but also for the disabled, those in poor health or surviving on low income, those who are most geographically remote, and those without access to private means of transport. With reduced opportunity for face to face contact, some rural dwellers may feel little incentive to leave their homes, and this may have implications for health and physical fitness. They may also have less facility for contact through social media - older people may be less familiar with technology, access to broadband may be limited and those on low incomes may be disadvantaged by costs.</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.
	Sports Branch inputs to budget exercises have been influenced by our desire to ensure that the priorities of the Department in terms of sport and physical activity continue to be supported and delivered. This includes consideration of rural needs as stated in Sport Matters: The NI Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Delivery of a Capital Grant programme aimed at improving access and inclusion at arts and cultural venues across NI for people with disabilities.	<p>The benefits of the programme for people in rural areas are considered to be equivalent to those for people in urban areas.</p> <p>There are no additional costs associated with accessing the programme for organisations in rural areas.</p> <p>No proportion of the available funding has been ring-fenced for projects based in rural areas.</p> <p>Each Council area is eligible to receive an equal proportion of funding regardless of the number of arts/cultural venues in its district or whether they are based in rural or urban areas.</p>
Delivery of a Small Capital Grant Programme to voluntary and community organisations across Northern Ireland.	<p>The benefits of the programme for people in rural areas are considered to be equivalent to those for people in urban areas.</p> <p>There are no additional costs associated with accessing the programme for organisations in rural areas.</p> <p>Applications can be requested and submitted either on line or by post.</p> <p>One of the key aims of the programme is collaborative and partnership working and rural groups with low or limited capacity can come together in completing their applications for funding to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and funding objectives.</p> <p>No proportion of the funding has been ring-fenced for urban areas only.</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	
<p>Delivery of 3 Lawfulness Pilot Projects: NI NCS - Lawfulness Amongst Young People; ROC Conversations; and Little Citizens.</p>	<p>The lawfulness pilots are in direct response to the Executive Action Plan to tackle paramilitary activity and organised crime. Data from the PSNI and the NIHE indicates that there were 386 paramilitary style assaults and shootings over the period across 199 Super Output Areas (SOAs) with just 9.5% of these considered to be rural. Nevertheless evidence gathered as part of a co-design process would suggest that unreported incidents of criminality and paramilitary activity are more prevalent in rural areas. Whilst rural communities will be participating on these pilots the focus of the interventions is not targeted at rural communities specifically.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>Mitigations: The Universal Credit Contingency Fund Payment. Separate Regulations will be drafted in due course - include when regulations are made.</p>	<p>The Universal Credit Contingency Fund Payment is available to all new UC claimants who have received a UC advance payment and continue to experience financial hardship whilst waiting on their first full payment of their UC award. It is available to all new UC claimants regardless of whether they live in an urban or rural area. This scheme was one of the recommendations included in the Welfare Reform Mitigations Working Group Report.</p>
<p>2018/19 Annual up-rating of pensions and benefits - remaking of the legislation.</p>	<p>The Statutory Rules merely seek to continue the 2018/19 rates of pensions, benefits and lump sum amounts. 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.</p> <p>The legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and the higher rates of pensions and benefits will continue to be paid automatically without having to be claimed.</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-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>2018/19 Annual up-rating of pensions and benefits - second remaking of the legislation.</p>	<p>The Statutory Rules merely seek to continue the 2018/19 rates of pensions, benefits and lump sum amounts. 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.</p> <p>The legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and the higher rates of pensions and benefits will continue to be paid automatically without having to be claimed.</p> <p>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>2019/20 Annual up-rating of pensions and benefits.</p>	<p>The Statutory Rules merely seek to up-rate pensions, benefits and lump sum amounts. 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.</p> <p>The legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and the higher rates of pensions and benefits will continue to be paid automatically without having to be claimed.</p> <p>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>

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	
Amendment to the Industrial Injuries list of prescribed diseases.	<p>The Regulations merely seek to reflect the latest scientific research in the occupational prescription for prescribed diseases latex anaphylaxis and nasal carcinoma.</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.</p> <p>The legislation sees no distinction between rural and urban and the higher rates of pensions and benefits will continue to be paid automatically without having to be claimed.</p> <p>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>
The Social Fund and Income-Related Benefits (Miscellaneous Amendments and Savings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.	<p>A Sure Start Maternity Grant is available to all claimants in receipt of specified benefits providing certain conditions are met. There are no adverse impacts linked to geographical location - all impacts are expected to be positive.</p> <p>Rural-based claimants will benefit from the policy and legislation in the same way as urban claimants with no disparity of any kind. Those in rural areas will be impacted in exactly the same way as urban dwellers. As no negative outcomes are envisaged there was no need to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.	Rural based customers will benefit from this policy in the same way as those living in urban areas. Impacts are the same in both rural and urban areas. No need to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas as there are no adverse impacts linked to geographical location.

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	
The Social Fund Funeral Expenses (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.	Funeral Expense Payments are available to all claimants on a qualifying benefit regardless of geographical location. Rural based claimants will benefit from this policy in the same way as those living in urban areas. Impacts are the same in both rural and urban areas. No need to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas as there are no adverse impacts linked to geographical location.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
The Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.	A Sure Start Maternity Grant is available to eligible claimants who have received health advice from a certified health professional and be in receipt of a qualifying income-related benefit or tax credits. There are no anticipated adverse rural impacts. 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 claimant based on geographical data. No specific rural needs have been identified in respect of the policy. Those in rural areas will be impacted in exactly the same way as urban dwellers.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
The Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service) and Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.	<p>The Regulations make amendments to existing Regulations governing compensation payable from the Pension Protection Fund, and the investment principles and disclosure requirements for occupational pension schemes. 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>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 Occupational Pension Schemes (Cross-border Activities) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend existing legislation to implement provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/2341 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (commonly known as “IORP II”) which relate to the European Union’s cross-border pension regime. 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) 2018.</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 2019. 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>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 Occupational Pension Schemes (Governance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend existing legislation to implement provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/2341 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (commonly known as “IORP II”) which relate workplace pension scheme 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 Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.</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 2019. 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>
<p>The Guaranteed Minimum Pensions Increase Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.</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 2019 (a person could</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>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>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) 2019.</p>	<p>This Order sets the amounts of the lower and upper limits of the automatic enrolment qualifying earnings band for the 2019/20 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>

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 needs have been considered. Given the technical nature of the Order, no potential for differential impact has been identified.</p>
<p>The State Pension Debits and Credits (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>State Pension:</p> <p>The Order provides for the revaluation of elements of State pension There is no policy change. There are no barriers or additional costs associated with implementing the policy in rural areas. The Order was made following an order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to set different revaluation rates 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>The Northern Ireland Pension Centre currently administers State pension for all Northern Ireland claimants.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. No new alternative delivery mechanism is planned or required to ensure fair outcomes as a result of this policy.</p> <p>The High Court Matrimonial Office made 199 Pension Sharing Orders in the period January to December 2017. Since January 2018, 82 Orders have been made. No data is available in relation to the rural/urban split of such Orders. However, no adverse impact is expected on these grounds as the order simply ensures that any pension credit awarded as a result of pension sharing on divorce retains its value.</p> <p>State pension outcomes are routinely monitored by the Department and form part of the quarterly Benefit Statistics Summary.</p> <p>The Order simply provides for the revaluation of pension credits and debits to ensure they maintain their value.</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 State Pension Revaluation for Transitional Pensions Order (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>State Pension:</p> <p>The Order provides for the revaluation of elements of State pension. There is no policy change. There are no barriers or additional costs associated with implementing the policy in rural areas. The Order was made following an order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to set different revaluation rates 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>The Northern Ireland Pension Centre currently administers State pension for all Northern Ireland claimants.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. 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) 2019.</p>	<p>State pension:</p> <p>The Order provides for the revaluation of earnings factors which derive from a person's annual National Insurance contributions. The Order ensures earnings factors for previous years retain their value. There is no policy change. There are no barriers or additional costs associated with implementing the policy in rural areas. The Order was made following an order made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in relation to Great Britain. The Department has no power to set different revaluation 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>

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 Northern Ireland Pension Centre currently administers State pension for all Northern Ireland claimants.</p> <p>Rural needs have been considered. No new alternative delivery mechanism is planned or required to ensure fair outcomes as a result of this policy.</p>
Regulations providing for Bereavement Support Payment.	<p>The policy sees no distinction between rural and urban there will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas.</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. Therefore no further consideration of needs is required.</p>
Regulations to include reference to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.	<p>The policy sees no distinction between rural and urban there will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas.</p> <p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas, in relation to this policy are the same as those or urban dwellers. Therefore no further consideration of needs is required.</p>
Regulations that apply disregards in respect of lump sums being paid for errors in law.	<p>The policy sees no distinction between rural and urban. There will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas.</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. Therefore no further consideration of needs is required.</p>
The Scottish Government has introduced a carer's allowance supplement under the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018. These Regulations disregard that payment.	<p>The policy sees no distinction between rural and urban there will be no adverse impact on people who live in rural areas.</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. Therefore no further consideration of needs is required.</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 policy: amendment to the State Pension Credit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.</p>	<p>The policy sees no distinction between rural and urban and is to be applied according to other eligibility criteria. The social and economic needs of people in rural areas, in relation to this policy, are the same as those needs for urban dwellers. Therefore no further consideration of rural needs was required.</p>
<p>The Pension Protection Fund (Pensionable Service) and Occupational Pension Schemes (Investment and Disclosure) (Amendment and Modification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>The Regulations make amendments to existing Regulations governing compensation payable from the Pension Protection Fund, and the investment principles and disclosure requirements for occupational pension schemes. 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 (Cross-border Activities) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend existing legislation to implement provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/2341 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (commonly known as "IORP II") which relate to the European Union's cross-border pension regime. 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>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 Occupational Pensions (Revaluation) Order (Northern Ireland) 2018.</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 2019. 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 Occupational Pension Schemes (Governance) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>These Regulations amend existing legislation to implement provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/2341 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (commonly known as “IORP II”) which relate workplace pension scheme 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>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 Pension Protection Fund and Occupational Pension Schemes (Levy Ceiling and Compensation Cap) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.</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 2019. 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>
<p>The Guaranteed Minimum Pensions Increase Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.</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 2019 (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>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.
<p>The Automatic Enrolment (Earnings Trigger and Qualifying Earnings Band) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.</p>	<p>This Order sets the amounts of the lower and upper limits of the automatic enrolment qualifying earnings band for the 2019/20 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 rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment</p>	
<p>Revising a policy.</p>	<p>The Department has ensured that participants in rural areas of Northern Ireland have similar access as those in urban areas to employment providers' premises, access to ICT and employment support services.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other: Future of the House Sales Scheme</p>	
<p>Social Housing.</p>	<p>The Department has considered the impact of both reforming and not reforming the House Sales Scheme on 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: Health or Social Care	
<p>Health and Disability Assessment Services re-Procurement.</p>	<p>DfC customers living in rural areas encounter higher levels of difficulty using transport or public services. Current assessment arrangements take account of rural needs through the location of examination centres, measures to accommodate customers' addresses (timing of appointments), and the provision of domiciliary visits if required. Any re-procurement exercise will be based on a new supplier providing as a minimum the same provisions for rural customers. In addition, customers will not be expected to travel for more than 90 minutes to attend a face to face assessment, with the supplier offering appropriate appointment times to allow for any additional travel time required by a rural customer.</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: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
<p>Making and laying of the Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (NI) 2019 which designates high pressure sections of new gas pipelines constructed as part of the Gas to the West project for the purposes of the common transmission tariff which is paid by all gas consumers in NI. The Gas to the West project is taking natural gas to 8 towns in the West of NI.</p>	<p>“Postalisation” policy will have only a limited impact on rural areas because, generally, it is not economically viable to make natural gas available to consumers outside towns or other larger urbanised areas or settlements. Only areas with identified business gas loads, and/or a sufficiently concentrated centre of population, offer the gas loads required to make the cost of providing major new gas infrastructure commercially feasible. As gas networks costs are recovered via consumers’ gas bills, to do otherwise would risk increasing gas bills for all gas consumers in NI to an extent that could make natural gas unaffordable as an energy option for anyone. On this basis, it is not anticipated that the Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (NI) 2019, and postalisation policy in general, will have a significant impact on rural areas or offer any real opportunity to meet the energy needs of people in these areas. Some smaller settlements in the West may be connected to the new gas networks over time, e.g. if there is an adjacent business gas load, or if a smaller settlement is close to the route of the new gas networks. DfE, in co-operation with the energy industry and regulatory authorities, will continue to seek to maximise other alternative energy options for people living and/or working in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses	
<p>A revision to the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.</p>	<p>The Department has not identified any needs that are specific to rural stakeholders.</p> <p>The policy significantly reduces the tariff levels available to participants who own small or medium size biomass boilers.</p>

	<p>However, it continues to provide a reasonable (target of 12%) rate of return on investment in line with the original Scheme intention and State aid requirements and excludes the significant over compensation already made to participants.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the Department recognises that a small number of installations with very low usage requirements or higher-than-average capital costs could see low rates of return and proposes to introduce a Voluntary Buy-Out payment alongside the new tariff structure, NIRHI Scheme participants will also be able to apply for a voluntary buy-out.</p> <p>The Scheme was suspended to new applications on 29 February 2016. The revision of the tariff will therefore only impact upon existing scheme participants, and no specific rural needs have been identified in relation to the Scheme participants.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training</p>	
<p>Higher level Apprenticeships Level 4 and 5 delivered by Further Education Colleges and CAFRE Level 6 and 7 delivered by Universities.</p>	<p>The all-inclusive nature of the HLA program has been rolled out throughout Northern Ireland. The Training Providers who provide the 'off the job' training are located in various locations in Northern Ireland and eligible employers can be located anywhere throughout Northern Ireland. This means there is no negative impact on people in rural areas. In fact the current location of FE Colleges and CAFRE in particular, allows employers to find support closer to home, reducing travel for the apprentice, and allowing for a more positive impact on people in rural areas. They can easily access all provision.</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	
Department of Education - 2018-19 Resource Budget.	<p>When developing its 2018-19 Resource Budget, DE took the needs and experiences of all people (including those in rural areas) into account by considering sources of information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational statistics produced by DE, and • Publications such as the “Key Inequalities in Education and Communities” document produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in October 2017.
Department of Education - 2019-20 Resource Budget.	<p>When considering its 2019-20 Resource Budget, DE took the needs and experiences of all people (including those in rural areas) into account by considering sources of information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational statistics produced by DE, and • Publications such as the “Key Inequalities in Education and Communities” document produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in October 2017.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Development of the NI Executive Children and Young People’s Strategy.	<p>The Children and Young People’s Strategy (CYPS) proposes to make a real and lasting difference to the lives of all children and young people including those living in rural areas.</p> <p>As part of the strategy development process the Department of Education worked in conjunction with Parenting NI, Participation Network and Youth Action to host public consultation events in Craigavon, Enniskillen (Lisnaskea which included children and young people [CYP] from rural settings), Omagh, Newry, Ballymena, Belfast and Londonderry between January-February 2017.</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 events saw over 500 stakeholders attending which included parents/guardians and CYP. DE also facilitated meetings with various key stakeholder groups including CYP from rural settings.</p> <p>The consultation identified a number of particular issues experienced by CYP living in rural areas of which an estimated 131,222 CYP live.</p> <p>The Department has considered the impacts on CYP of living in rural areas highlighted in the consultation responses in formulating the draft Strategy.</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: Other	
<p>OHS provides medical advice to staff and departments in relation to the management of sickness absence cases. The revised policy will remove the facility to examine NICS staff in premises in Ballykelly, with all appointments being centralised in OHS' offices in Belfast.</p>	<p>We have used OHS data to analyse the geographical areas based on home address of staff to identify where the majority of referrals to Ballykelly are received from and the number of referrals per month (11 avg) and per year (c. 130). OHS data has also provided us with information on how long staff wait for a Ballykelly appointment compared with those referred to Belfast, which is much quicker. Using information from NISRA's HR Consultancy Services branch, we have obtained the number of NICS staff with a home address in the areas affected (c2,600 staff). We have used Translink's and the RAC's journey planners to assess the impact on travel time/distance and cost and used NICS policies alongside this information and the maps available from the DAERA Guide to assess the impact on rural needs, the pros and cons of the policy change to staff and identify mitigating measures already in place.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>LPS Post Handling in Lanyon Plaza Project 2017-18 - an internal review of the post handling procedures within LPS; Lanyon Plaza; 7 Lanyon Place; Belfast. BT1 3LP. The aim of this Lean 6 Sigma project was to consider process improvements including possibility of centralised post handling.</p>	<p>The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs.</p>
<p>DoF has responsibility to deliver Directions on valuations and cost control to the NI Departments with responsibility for the devolved public service pension schemes.</p>	<p>The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by 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.
<p>These Directions update the centrally determined fiscal and demographic assumptions which departments must use when measuring current scheme liabilities and projecting future scheme costs in quadrennial valuations.</p>	
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other</p>	
<p>LPS publishes a policy document entitled “The Disposal of Surplus Public sector Property in Northern Ireland”. The contents provide good practice guidance and advice and outlines processes to be employed by central government and arm’s length bodies (ALBs) when disposing of surplus publicly owned property in NI.</p>	<p>The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs.</p>
<p>Although DoF, CSP launched a consultation on 26/11/2018 on measures to rectify the Pension Scheme Cost Cap Floor Breach, HM Treasury subsequently issued a Written Ministerial Statement on 30/01/2019 announcing a pause to the Cost Cap mechanism so all activity in this area is suspended until further instruction is received from HM Treasury.</p>	<p>The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal</p>	
<p>On 22/03/2019 DOF, CSP made amendments to the PCSPS(NI) arrangements and The Public Service (Civil Servants and Others) Pensions Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 to better align</p>	<p>The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by 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.
<p>employee pension contributions thresholds with the current pay and grading regime of the NICS and to exclude arrears payments from the calculation that determines employee contribution rates. The changes came into effect from 01/04/2019.</p>	
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	
<p>The NICS People Strategy 2018-2021</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 three-year aggregated NICS recruitment plan to ensure we 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.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Provision of information to decision makers on Rural Needs Impacts related to the Budget.</p>	<p>In the development of the Budget the department requested information from all departments in relation to the impact of budgets on rural needs. No adverse impacts were identified. The final Budget provided</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.
	continuing funding for the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation programme as well as maintaining funding for vital services which provide significant value to rural communities and wider environmental benefits.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Surplus G6 legal staff in the NICS/CSO.	The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs.
Review of Performance Management and Inefficiency Performance policies to combine into a single composite performance management policy. Also incorporates a transfer of responsibility from ER to line managers in relation to carrying out formal meetings under new formal performance improvement procedures.	The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs.
Relocation of Registry of Deeds from PRONI to Lanyon Plaza.	The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs.

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	
<p>The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2018 and The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) was completed, however, due to the very short time frame in which this legislation was being brought into operation, there was not sufficient time to carry out specific identification of social and economic needs of people in rural areas. However, the policy is likely to have a significant positive impact on all individuals whose specialist prescriber deems them suitable to have access to cannabis-based products for medicinal use. An information session was held with the Local Intelligence Network and introduction of the policy was, in general, viewed positively. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs recommended that the DHSC (and its equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) establish mechanisms to capture and publish the clinical outcomes of the prescription and use of cannabis-based medicinal products. DoH will consider any issues in relation to patients in rural communities arising from this work stream.</p>
<p>Scheduling of pregabalin and gabapentin under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002.</p>	<p>A RNIA was completed and concluded that the scheduling of pregabalin and gabapentin would impact on people living in both rural and urban areas. The main impact is that a prescription will only be valid for 28 days from the date of signing. In addition, it is considered best practice for a prescriber to prescribe no more than a 30 day supply, however this is not a legal requirement and a prescriber may choose to supply more in certain circumstances. The policy is dependent on using the existing health care facilities in place in Northern Ireland in relation to the prescribing, supply and administration of medicines. It is acknowledged that individuals living in a rural community may have further to travel to access the services of GPs and obtain medicines from pharmacies however these difficulties currently exist</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 health care professionals will be aware of services that may be offered in rural areas, such as prescription collection and delivery services that may assist individuals who have difficulties accessing prescriptions/ medicines.
Closure of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and future operating model.	A RNIA was completed and concluded that, as geographical relocation of staff is not a factor, the proposed policy is not deemed to impact on the rural needs of the people in Northern Ireland nor will it present any specific or differential rural impacts.
Proposals to Review Fees and Bursary Support for Individual Training to become HPC Professionals.	A RNIA was completed as part of a comprehensive review of the financial assistance available to students seeking to become registered healthcare professionals in health and social care (HSC) in Northern Ireland. The proposals, which, at consultation stage, do not have a preferred option identified, will apply to the whole population of Northern Ireland equally, however, it is recognised that some proposals might have a greater impact on those from more socially deprived areas, albeit both urban and rural in origin and that those from rural areas may be differentially impacted due to higher maintenance costs/living away from home. Evidence is being gathered by way of consultation process and responses will inform the final decision.
Introduction of legislative restrictions on smoking in private vehicles carrying children.	A RNIA was completed and consultation carried out. The policy will be applied to private vehicles in all areas of Northern Ireland. There is no evidence to suggest that individuals in different geographical locations will have any different needs, experiences, priorities or issues in relation to the policy. The aim of the policy is to protect children and young people from the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke. The policy should have a positive impact on the health of young people, whether they are living in rural or urban locations. No rural issues were raised or identified, either during the development of the legislation or as a result of the consultation exercise.

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.
Mental Health (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2018.	<p>A RNIA was completed and concluded that the proposed policy is not deemed to impact on the rural needs of the people in Northern Ireland. The main issue under consideration relates to the balance between the right to liberty, as defined in European Convention on Human Rights Article 5, the right to life in Article 2 and the right to private and family life in Article 8.</p> <p>These rights are even for all population and there are no particular needs in relation to these rights depending on rural settings.</p>
The Health Services (Cross-Border Health Care and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.	<p>These urgent regulations were required, prior to EU Exit Day, to address deficiencies arising as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) in a 'No Deal' scenario. A RNIA was completed and concluded that, the policy applies equally to all residents in Northern Ireland both rural and urban and has no impact on any of the rural policy areas.</p> <p>The policy implemented will depend on the outcome of EU Exit negotiations.</p>
Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.	<p>These urgent regulations were required, prior to EU Exit Day, to address deficiencies arising as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (EU) in a 'No Deal' scenario. A RNIA was completed and concluded that, the change in legislation will not impact persons defined as ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland - both in rural and urban areas. The change in legislation will impact any short-term visitor or migrant resident in Northern Ireland both in rural and urban areas equally.</p> <p>However the change is being made in order to maintain the current arrangements for visitors from the EU.</p>
Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2018.	<p>A RNIA was completed and concluded that, as the aim of the policy is to address a gap which currently exists in fire safety responsibility, in terms of common areas in shared domestic premises such as flats and apartments there is no evidence to suggest that those in different geographical locations will have any different needs, experiences, priorities or issues in relation to this policy.</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.
	Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and purpose built blocks of flats and apartments are more prevalent in urban areas so it is likely that the proposed change may be more evident in urban areas.
The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Appointments and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018	A RNIA was completed and concluded that, as the sole aim of the proposed policy is to clarify the Department policy position for NISCC committees and sub-committees, geographical location is not a major factor and the amendments are not deemed to impact on the rural needs of the people in Northern Ireland nor will they present any specific or differential rural impacts.
Regional Co-Production Guide (A practical guide to support the application of co-production across our HSC system).	A RNIA was completed and concluded that this is a high level document aimed at people from all backgrounds and areas. Any impact on rural areas will be assessed at individual policy stage, however, it is likely that the principle of co-production and the involvement of service users, their families, carers, local communities, community groups etc will benefit rural communities as it will help to strengthen partnership working and build representative networks so that people can influence and shape the design and delivery of health and social care.
Looked After Children Strategy.	A draft RNIA was completed and issued as part of the consultation. At the pre-consultation stage of the development of the strategy and implementation plan, access to services was identified as a possible barrier in rural areas. This was reflected within the context of the draft Strategy and it is acknowledged that resources and measures need to be established to ensure that Looked After Children in rural areas have access to the same level of service as urban children. It is not expected that the implementation of this strategy and action plan will present significant rural impacts, however, the Strategy will be monitored using an Outcome Based Accountability model and any rural issues identified on review will be addressed by the Departments of Health and Education, the Education Authority and the HSCB.

<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>Reshaping Breast Assessment Services - Proposals for the Future Model of Breast Assessment Services for the Population of Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>A draft RNIA has been completed and issued as part of the consultation in March 2018.</p> <p>It was decided that the default definition of ‘Population Settlements of less than 5,000’ was not useful in differentiating impacts in respect of this policy. People living in both large and small settlements would be similarly impacted by changes in the location of Breast Assessment services. The following alternative definition, as suggested by DAERA, is proposed:</p> <p>“Populations outside of a 30 minute drive time of Derry/Londonderry or Belfast”. This definition is better able to distinguish between those who will be most impacted by additional travel times caused by proposed changes to services. It should be noted that the service under consideration is not provided within rural communities but provided inside a hospital environment. The benefits of enhancing these services would be experienced by both urban and rural dwellers.</p> <p>Recommendations to reshape the breast assessment services across Northern Ireland will apply to all individuals needing to attend a breast assessment clinic, irrespective of their geographical location. The focus has been to ensure better outcomes for both rural and urban dwellers. Travel time was a specific issue raised by stakeholders including those participating in the Patient Focus Groups, and the Project Board (PB) gave due consideration to this matter in relation to the different configurations for a future service model. The PB was of the view that a modest increase in travel times was acceptable if it meant more timely access to care. This view was also echoed by patients as noted above. It was also recognised that given the geography of the West and associated travel times, it would be reasonable to provide a location for a breast assessment service in the Western Trust area.</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 Project Board also agreed that there should be a breast assessment location in the Greater Belfast area.</p> <p>Any relevant comments received during the consultation process will be considered.</p>
<p>Reshaping Stroke Care - Saving Lives, Reducing Disability.</p>	<p>A draft RNIA has been completed and issued as part of the consultation in March 2018. The aim is to reshape and improve community and hospital-based stroke care to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of stroke care, resulting in a reduction of avoidable deaths and disability and improvement in outcomes for stroke patients. A number of options are being consulted on.</p> <p>It was decided that the default definition of ‘Population Settlements of less than 5,000’ was not useful in differentiating impacts in respect of this policy. People living in both large and small settlements would be similarly impacted by changes in the location of hospital stroke services. The following alternative definition, as suggested by DAERA, is proposed:</p> <p>“Populations outside of a 30 minute drive time of Derry/Londonderry or Belfast”. This definition is better able to distinguish between those who will be most impacted by additional travel times caused by proposed changes to services. It should, however, be noted that the service under consideration is not provided within rural communities but provided inside a hospital environment. The benefits of enhancing these services would be experienced by both urban and rural dwellers.</p> <p>Any relevant comments received during the consultation process will be considered.</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. However the following Clinical Guidance does fall within the scope of the Act and has been subject to assessment.

RNIAs 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.

NICE Clinical Guidance NG77: Cataracts in adults: management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG78: Cystic fibrosis: diagnosis and management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG80: Asthma: diagnosis, monitoring and chronic asthma management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG81: Glaucoma: diagnosis and management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG82: Age related macular degeneration

NICE Clinical Guidance NG83: Oesophago-gastric cancer: assessment and management in adults

NICE Clinical Guidance NG85: Pancreatic cancer in adults: diagnosis and management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG87: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder@ diagnosis and management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG88: Heavy menstrual bleeding: assessment and management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG89: Venous thromboembolism on over 16s: reducing the risk of hospital-acquired deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism

NICE Clinical Guidance NG95: Lyme disease

NICE Clinical Guidance NG97: Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers

NICE Clinical Guidance NG98: Hearing loss in adults: assessment and management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG99: Brain tumours (primary) and brain metastases in adults

NICE Clinical Guidance NG100: Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management

NICE Clinical Guidance NG101: Early and locally advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and management

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

NG116 Post traumatic stress disorder (updates and replaces CG26)

NG118 Renal and ureteric stones: assessment and management

NG119 Cerebral palsy in adults

Copies of all consultations published can be found at
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

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: Transport services or Infrastructure	
<p>DEM 160/18 Road Maintenance Standards for Safety - Limited Service in 2018/19</p> <p>The revised Director of Engineering Memorandum (DEM) was developed to provide guidance for staff to ensure a consistent approach is used when determining priority of repair for road maintenance activities to maintain road safety for all road users.</p> <p>The purpose of the memorandum is to deliver safety related road maintenance within a significantly reduced budget and to ensure the highest priority safety related defects are repaired and that the highest priority maintenance works are completed.</p> <p>Road maintenance activities include: inspections, patching (including footways and footpaths), grass cutting, gully cleaning, weed control, road markings, bridge maintenance, emergency response, and traffic signal maintenance.</p>	<p>The frequency of inspections and the level of service in relation to grass cutting, gully cleaning, weed control, road markings, bridge maintenance, emergency response, and traffic signal maintenance are all consistent across both urban and rural areas.</p> <p>In relation to patching, safety related defects >20mm to 50mm will be repaired on high traffic roads in both urban and rural locations.</p> <p>All safety related defects greater than 50mm in depth will be repaired in both urban and rural locations.</p> <p>This is an improvement on the level of service in rural areas throughout 2017/18 when defects on rural, low traffic roads would only be repaired if they were greater than 100mm in depth.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Implementation of the European Roadworthiness Inspection Directive 2014/45/EU</p> <p>The EU Directive requires that fast tractors i.e. capable of driving at more than 40 kmph on the road,</p>	<p>In clarifying the provisions of the policy the Department confirmed that:</p> <p>(a) The Driver and Vehicle Agency already offers goods vehicle tests to those agricultural type tractors being used for commercial haulage.</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>DVA figures show that circa 3 such vehicles are tested annually; which are used for purely commercial work, must be submitted for a goods vehicle test, and that Member States must have an infrastructure to enable such testing to be carried out. In 2016 23,272 licensed Agricultural vehicles/tractors were tested (Northern Ireland Transport Statistics 2016-2017).</p> <p>This impacts on those working in rural areas using fast tractors for non-agricultural/horticultural activities.</p>	<p>(b) Only tractors capable of 40 kmph, used outside of a 15 mile radius of their base, and not being used for agricultural, horticultural or forestry operations will need to have a valid test certificate. All other agricultural tractors will remain exempt from testing.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport services or Infrastructure</p>	
<p>Devolving Technical Approval of Low Risk Highway Structures</p> <p>The objective of the policy is to devolve authority for Technical Approval of low risk structures from the DfI Management Board to DfI Divisional staff thus ensuring the application of Technical Approval procedures at a level commensurate with the structure type and level of road user interaction.</p> <p>Addressing the level at which technical approval is carried out within the Department will not change the Technical Approval outcome for a structure in a rural area compared to the present scenario.</p>	<p>The objective of the policy is to devolve authority for Technical Approval of low risk structures from the DfI management board to DfI Divisional staff thus ensuring the application of Technical Approval procedures at a level commensurate with the structure type and level of road user interaction.</p> <p>The policy will not change the Technical Approval outcome for a structure in a rural area compared to the present scenario.</p> <p>There is no impact on rural social and economic 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.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Exemption of Cars over 40 Years (Vehicles of Historical Interest) from Roadworthiness Testing</p> <p>In Northern Ireland all vehicles manufactured before 1960 are currently exempt from road-worthiness testing. In Great Britain, a new rolling exemption was introduced which provides for vehicles to “drop out” of the periodic roadworthiness testing regime on their 40th birthday. The objective of this activity is to establish whether DfI should amend domestic legislation to broadly align with GB.</p>	<p>The current situation in rural areas is the same as urban areas i.e. in Northern Ireland all vehicles manufactured before 1960 are currently exempt from road-worthiness testing.</p> <p>A consultation will be carried out on the proposals.</p>
<p>The Trunk Roads T1, T3 and T7 (York Street Interchange) Order (Northern Ireland) 2017</p> <p>The Order seeks to obtain permission for the construction of infrastructure necessary to provide upgraded links between the Westlink, M2 and M3 and the appropriate reworking of city streets through a Designation Order.</p>	<p>The proposed infrastructure project for which permission is sought is in the urban environment, to the north of Belfast City Centre. The project intends to provide direct links between Westlink and the M2 and M3 motorways.</p>
<p>The Motor Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) Order (Northern Ireland) 2017</p> <p>The aim of the policy is to align NI legislation with the GB Special Types General Order which was significantly updated in 2003.</p> <p>NI is therefore out of line with the rest of the UK on this issue and the action to be achieved is to ensure</p>	<p>The existing Special Types Order covers equipment of many different types such as abnormal indivisible load haulage vehicles, grass cutting machines, naval, military, air force and aviation vehicles, engineering plant and agricultural vehicles, etc. The vehicles permitted by the Order are either of a special type or required for a special purpose. The amendment to the existing policy will have a similar impact across the region in both urban and rural areas and would therefore not favour one area over another.</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 inequality and inconsistency in the legal requirements for special type vehicles travelling from Britain to NI and vice versa.</p>	
<p>Revision of Roads Policy and Procedure Guide (RSPPG) E067 - The Development Control Manual</p> <p>The activity undertaken was to review RSPPG E067 and as appropriate, amend it to ensure that it remains relevant and reflects current working practices and responsibilities following the introduction of planning reform in 2015.</p>	<p>In updating RSPPG E067, DfI Roads did not seek to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas because socio-economic issues are taken account of in the relevant planning policies, which are the responsibility of the local and regional planning authorities (i.e. councils or DfI Planning).</p> <p>The DC Manual is purely an informative document listing and pointing users to relevant planning guidance.</p> <p>DfI Roads' role as a statutory consultee to the Planning Authorities is limited to providing advice based on road safety and traffic progression considerations, as appropriate to the road conditions, whether in rural or urban locations.</p> <p>The policies and procedures are applied for the benefit of all road (rural and urban) users.</p>
<p>Enforcement Officers utilising Body Worn Video (BWV) devices</p> <p>The introduction of BWV devices will provide greater confidence to enforcement officers when dealing with confrontational issues at the roadside and any footage captured may also be used to provide supporting evidence of alleged offending to the Public Prosecution Service. Footage may also be used to support the investigation of complaints and should also provide customers with greater assurance regarding the accountability of actions taken by enforcement officers.</p>	<p>DVA Enforcement Officers currently conduct a wide range of checks on vehicles, drivers and operators (HGVs, Buses, Taxis and Cars), at the roadside (also visits on occasions to operators premises) throughout Northern Ireland to ensure that various licensing requirements, vehicle roadworthiness and drivers' hours regulations are being adhered to.</p> <p>The use of body worn video cameras will have no impact on people in rural areas - basically they will be activated in situations where a recording may help improve safety or to secure evidence when an offence is suspected. On those occasions when a body camera is activated - there will be no additional inconvenience or delay for the drivers/operators encountered.</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>Road Safety at Schools - RSPPG E070 (version 2)</p> <p>To provide guidance to Traffic Management Engineers on the assessment and implementation of measures to increase driver awareness and achieve reductions in vehicle speeds outside and in the vicinity of schools.</p> <p>It revisits the use of school safety zone signs with a permanent 20mph roundel, flashing amber lights and a 'plated' message stating the 20mph zone is in operation 'when lights flash'.</p> <p>This version introduces a viable, cost effective option, initially for 10 rural schools on national speed limit roads.</p>	<p>This RSPPG was updated after discussions with the PSNI, and authorized by the Departmental Solicitors Office.</p> <p>The new permanent 20mph roundel signs and flashing amber lights will initially be installed at ten rural primary schools.</p>
<p>Newry Southern Relief Road</p> <p>A new strategic road link to the south of Newry City, between the A1 Dublin Road dual carriageway and A2 Warrenpoint Road dual carriageway improving the travel conditions for all road users.</p>	<p>The proposed scheme was identified as a priority within the Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 Schedule and was subsequently included in the Southern Strategic Road improvement Programme. The route was chosen after consultation.</p>
<p>Trailer Light regulations</p> <p>A minor consequential amendment to the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (NI) 2000 arising from the Trailer Registration Regulations 2018 is required.</p> <p>The amendments remove the requirement to illuminate the trailer registration plate of vehicles.</p> <p>The amendment has been developed by Dfl in conjunction with the Department for Transport.</p>	<p>This change cannot be taken forward by DfT and applies UK-wide.</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: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Extension of Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) provisions to paramilitary and organised crime linked offences.</p>	<p>The policy relates to those who have already been convicted and sentenced for relevant offences, and due to the small numbers of cases expected, impact on rural needs will be negligible.</p> <p>This policy is part of a series of initiatives agreed in the Fresh Start Agreement to address paramilitarism and its associated criminality. These will be monitored by the Independent Reporting Commission who will report to the Irish and British Governments on the progress made on the initiatives. Quarterly updates are also provided to the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme Board and to HOCS.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Draft Northern Ireland Modern Slavery Strategy 2018-19.</p>	<p>The strategy aims to raise awareness of modern slavery offences and so to reduce the threat from, the vulnerability to, and the prevalence of, modern slavery in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The strategy further seeks to address all types of slavery across the whole of Northern Ireland and does not differentiate between urban and rural areas. There is no evidence to suggest that rural areas are more susceptible to human trafficking/modern slavery than urban areas. Rather, traffickers and enslavers are targeting vulnerable people across Northern Ireland regardless of geographical location or setting.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Domestic Homicide Review</p> <p>The Strategy takes a zero tolerance approach to domestic and sexual violence and abuse and provides a framework for delivery.</p>	<p>Domestic violence and abuse and domestic homicide is not limited to urban or rural areas but is applicable to both. We have considered the most appropriate definition of rural as being settlements with fewer than 5,000 residents together with the open countryside as 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>This can only be achieved through providing robust services and effective partnership working.</p>	<p>We would however wish to recognise that individuals may live in small towns and need to drive in excess of 30 minutes to access certain services.</p> <p>We would anticipate, to achieve a fair rural outcome, that the domestic homicide review process would apply equally to individuals who live in an urban area and those who live in a rural area (this would include the victims themselves).</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>The Enforcement of Fines and Other Penalties Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.</p>	<p>The aims of the regulations are to enable the implementation of Part 1 of the Justice Act (NI) 2016. The impact of the collection and enforcement of fines and other financial penalties is communities will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved arrangements for the collection of monies and court compliance; • better police and prison services as valuable resources are freed up; and • increased confidence in the justice system as problems with fine collection and enforcement are addressed. <p>A fair rural impact is considered to be that there is no differential impact of these benefits between rural and urban communities.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Proposed Legal Aid arrangements for the Fine Enforcement and Collection Service.</p>	<p>In June 2018, the Department of Justice (DoJ) introduced the Fine Collection and Enforcement Service (FCS). The scheme introduced dedicated Collection Officers to provide advice to debtors and to collect and enforce outstanding financial penalties imposed (or registered) by a criminal court where a collection order has been made.</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>There is no data collected about the geographical distribution of assisted persons, but it is assumed that their rural and urban distribution ought to be proportionate to the Northern Ireland population.</p> <p>The policy is designed to introduce legal aid remuneration arrangements for Fine Enforcement proceedings, and is therefore purely technical in nature. Whilst persons with certain characteristics are more likely to be subject to fine default proceedings or apply for legal aid, this is not due to the nature of the policy itself, and is instead reflective of broader demographic trends witnessed throughout the criminal justice system. Accordingly, it is considered that the policy will have no impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Review of the law on child sexual exploitation (CSE) and sexual offences against children.</p>	<p>This policy proposes amendments to strengthen and clarify the existing criminal law in relation to child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children.</p> <p>The criminal law already provides for a number of offences relating to child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children. The main provisions are contained in the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008.</p> <p>The purpose of the review is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the current law, and to consider if there are any changes that could be made to strengthen the law to protect children from this type of abuse. The review has resulted in a number of proposals for legislative change which are now subject to public consultation.</p> <p>The review also looks at the law on CSE and sexual offences against children in neighbouring jurisdictions to see if there are any initiatives which could be adopted here to maximise our efforts to protect children.</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>Other emerging issues relating to CSE which could require changes to the criminal law will be considered.</p> <p>It is expected that the policy will benefit children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, by strengthening the existing criminal law and providing police with additional tools to stop and prevent CSE and abuse, and to target and bring perpetrators to justice.</p> <p>The protections under the law would apply equally across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Stalking: Options on the creation of a new specific offence of stalking in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Stalking can occur across the whole of Northern Ireland including urban and rural areas. It is envisaged that the policy proposals will impact positively on rural (and urban areas) by providing further protection and safeguarding to victims. We do not, however, believe that the proposals will impact in a different way in rural areas compared to urban areas.</p> <p>The protections under the law would apply equally across Northern Ireland</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Revised Code of Practice on Appointment of Independent Members to PCSPs and DPCSPs.</p>	<p>The policy provides guidance on a process to appoint independent members to PCSPs and DPCSPs.</p> <p>The Code of Practice reflects the statutory duty placed upon the NI Policing Board by the Justice Act (NI) 2011 to ensure that PCSPs and DPCSPs as a whole are, as far as practicable, representative of the community.</p> <p>This is a province wide policy and it will include representatives in rural areas such as Fermanagh & Omagh and Newry, Mourne & Down. There is no anticipated negative impact in respect of rural areas as the Policing Board must have regard to the overall representativeness of each PCSP and DPCSP within each PCSP area.</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: Other	
Proposals to amend the Judicial Pensions Regulations (NI) 2015.	<p>The proposed amendments are technical in nature and do not represent a policy change. The policy revision is concerned with pension scheme member contribution rates and earnings thresholds, and therefore does not distinguish between people in rural and non-rural areas.</p> <p>The Department has not identified any potential differential impact on the social or economic needs of rural communities arising from the proposed amendments. During the period when the NIJPS was being set up and the regulations made, and which have subsequently been amended, consultations were carried out in 2014 and 2015 respectively. These consultations did not raise any issues relating to the social or economic needs of persons 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	
Sentencing Policy Review (SPR)	<p>The overall aim of the SPR is to carry out a comprehensive and strategic review of sentencing policy, and how sentencing contributes to delivering a safer tomorrow (as outlined in PfG objective 7).</p> <p>The overall aim of the SPR is to carry out a comprehensive and strategic review of sentencing policy, and how sentencing contributes to delivering a safer tomorrow (as outlined in PfG objective 7). The SPR will consider the effectiveness of the current system in delivering the stated aims of sentencing and its ability to increase public confidence. The SPR will not assess sentencing policy for children.</p> <p>Where the SPR suggests that changes to the current sentencing arrangements are appropriate, the proposals will be subject to public consultation.</p> <p>The SPR Review Team has conducted a wide range of engagement events with a variety of rural and urban consultees and stakeholders. Although Rural Crime has</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>been raised generally as an issue it is not something the SPR is singling out.</p> <p>No rural needs were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
<p>Review of Management of Minors' and Patients' Funds.</p>	<p>This is a revised policy. It is proposing changes to the way that minors' and patients' funds are held and managed by the Court Funds Office (CFO).</p> <p>The aim is to modernise the services provided by the Court Funds Office and consider the level of funds that should be held in court.</p> <p>The policy will apply to all users of CFO services. Thus where there are benefits associated with the proposals, those benefits will apply to all section 75 categories. Any benefits derived from this policy will arise from an improvement in services to clients. There is no evidence to suggest that any one group will be advantaged or disadvantaged.</p> <p>No 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: Other*	
Establishment of the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse (COSICA).	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment on the preparation of legislation for the establishment of the Commissioner was carried out. This did not identify any substantial, specific rural needs relevant to the legislation.
Establishment of the Historical Institutional Abuse Redress Board.	A Rural Needs Impact Assessment on the preparation of legislation for the establishment of the Board was carried out. This did not identify any substantial, specific rural needs relevant to the legislation.

**Implementation of the Hart Report on Historical Institutional Abuse.*

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: Other	
<p>Guidelines for the Prosecution of Young Offenders.</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the general principles, commitments and associated working practices, and to explain the standards of service expected from the PPS when a young person has been accused of a crime. The PPS is committed to ensuring that the Best Interests of the Child Principle, as set out in Article 3(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, is adhered to, and that the special considerations which apply to cases involving a young person are enshrined in its working practices.</p> <p>In developing this policy, the PPS has considered the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, through its General Comment No.10 on a child's rights compliant Youth Justice System and the recommendations of the Review of Youth Justice in Northern Ireland (2011).</p> <p>The key considerations governing the decisions made by Public Prosecutors in dealing with children and young people are those contained in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, establishing the key components of the Youth Justice System in Northern Ireland. • Section 53 of the Justice (NI) Act 2002 (as amended by Section 98 of the Justice (NI) Act 2015) which requires the principal aim of agencies involved in the Youth Justice System to be the prevention of offending by young persons and in taking any such decision involving a young person, their best interests shall be considered as a primary consideration.

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 PPS Code for Prosecutors which states that prosecutors must consider the interests of a young person as a primary consideration, amongst other public interest factors, when deciding whether a prosecution is needed. • PPS Guidelines for the Use of Diversionary Disposals. <p>No geographical distinction is made in directing upon the prosecution, or not of young offenders.</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>
Guidelines for the Use of Diversionary Disposals.	<p>This guidance aims to inform the public about the types of diversionary disposals available when a prosecutor is deciding whether to divert an accused person away from the formal court process. It also provides details of the general principles and procedures to be applied by prosecutors in deciding whether to use diversion.</p> <p>Diversion refers to a variety of criminal justice methods which are used as alternatives to prosecution. The types of diversion currently available to the PPS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult caution/youth restorative caution; • Informed warning; • Diversionary youth conferencing; • Community Based Restorative Justice; • National Driver Alertness Course; • Immediate caution.

<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>Diversory disposals are designed to simplify and speed up dealing with less serious offending. They were introduced as a proportionate response to low level crime. In summary, the purpose of PPS diversory disposals is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deal with less serious offences and the offender quickly and simply; • To reduce the risk of re-offending; • To engage the offender in a restorative process with the victim and community; • To reduce to a minimum the offender’s involvement with the criminal justice system; • To enable victims to express their views; and • To enable early intervention in respect of young offenders. <p>No geographical distinction is made in considering the option of diversory disposals in criminal cases.</p> <p>Neither the home area of a defendant or location of alleged offence(s) is a factor in considering a diversory disposal as an alternative to criminal prosecution.</p>



DISTRICT COUNCILS

Reporting Period 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019

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 ¹ .	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 ² .
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-2019.</p>	<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> <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 2018-2019.</p>
<p>Corporate Plan 2019-2030.</p>	<p>The Corporate Plan 2019-2030 is aimed at both urban and rural Borough areas equally. This draft plan builds upon work of the Council over the last four years and maintains our commitment to become a progressive, smart and prosperous Borough. The Council's ambitions reflect our responsibilities to provide resilient and reliable leadership, to improve our environment and encourage and support economic growth and prosperity. We want to engage and empower local communities, improve the lifestyles of our residents and use new and innovative ways of connecting with and listening to our residents and visitors to ensure we are making a positive difference in the Borough.</p>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 ¹ .	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 ² .
	<p>These ambitions are underpinned by a culture of high performance and by ensuring the highest standard of governance.</p> <p>The Plan sets out a number of objectives that will benefit rural areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our environment, natural habitats and built heritage are protected and enhanced. • We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas. • We have an efficient planning process that promotes positive development and sustainable growth. • We deliver high quality Council services and improve access for people, communities and businesses in the Borough. • The support we provide will lead to a more active, healthy and empowered community. <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 Plan 2019-2030.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Mid Antrim Heritage Partnership Project Action Plan 2019-2020.</p>	<p>The Mid-Antrim Heritage Partnership Project Action Plan 2019-2020 sets out strategic aims which are inclusive of all the Borough residents regardless of their location so there is no specific impact for rural residents as opposed to urban residents.</p> <p>Examples of these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support interpretation of the historic environment at priority sites within the Partnership. • Support audience development through use of new technology. • Support and contribute to social and community development through inclusive programming.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 ¹ .	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 ² .
	<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 Mid Antrim Heritage Partnership Project Action Plan 2019-2020.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Antrim and Newtownabbey, Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and 2019-2020 Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Antrim and Newtownabbey, Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and 2019-2020 Action Plan is focused on outcome 7 in 2016-2021 Programme for Government “We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other.”</p> <p>The work of the PCSP is to benefit all residents within the Borough equally regardless of where they are located.</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 Antrim and Newtownabbey, Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and 2019-2020 Action Plan.</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: Cross cutting	
Provision of an inclusive beach.	It is anticipated that the users and potential users will be encouraged to visit other beaches and visit other rural areas within the Borough and in other Boroughs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Ards and North Down Borough Council Veterans Event.	This event is required to be located in this venue due to the anticipated size of the event and potential for attendees. The Council strategy has a breadth of events held in rural areas that are appropriate to the event and can be suitably hosted in the areas identified. The town of Newtownards has easy access for many rural areas and public transport - although it is not frequent in the evenings.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Organisational Development Strategy.	Employees working in rural areas will be encouraged to include themselves in all aspects of this strategy irrespective of where they work or live.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
Economic Development Social Entrepreneurship Programme.	Rural needs have been considered as an integral part of this programme. This policy indirectly considers the opportunity for some individuals to set up their own employment in rural areas either as a sole trader or as a small organisation.
Ulster Scots Agency Request to Ards and North Down Borough Council to Erect/Install Commemorative Plaques at Bangor and Donaghadee Harbours to identify Operation Lion (April 1914) landing sites.	The sites are selected based on the event that took place at each location.

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	
Introduction of the removal of burial charges for under 18 years old.	This policy is for all parents/carers across the Borough and applied equitably to all Council managed cemeteries.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Commercial Waste Controls at Household Recycling Centres.	This policy is applied equitably to all household recycling centres and thus all residents of the Borough irrespective of where they are located.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
ANDBC Street Naming and Buildings Numbering Policy.	None as all properties within the Borough should have the same access to the policy as all needs are equitable.
Integrated Arts and Heritage Development Strategy (IAHDS) 2018-2023.	This strategy will ensure that in its delivery across the Borough those living and working in rural areas can access the range of arts and heritage, employment and tourism as those living in non-rural areas. It will also encourage visitors to areas of the Borough they may not otherwise visit.
Community Development Game Plan.	Community Development is delivered across the Borough irrespective of the location of the residents or community facilities available and is designed to meet the local needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Request to hire portable toilets for band parades in small towns and villages.	This policy is for the identified location only.
Shift Working Patterns for Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex (ABMWLC).	The employees currently employed and those that may apply for future vacancies in the ABMWLC live and travel from a range of areas both within and outside the Borough. Some reside in rural areas and some will have their own transport, whilst some will share private transport and others will be dependent on public transport. Where those dependent on public transport or shared lifts may not be as flexible to meet the change in rota working times these will be accommodated by management.

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	
Work Experience Placement Policy and Procedures.	This policy offers individuals from the Borough the opportunity to apply for work placements as detailed in the policy. The location of these within the Borough will be determined by the skills identified in the applicant and the type of experience requested to be gained.
ANDBC Procedure for appointment of Humanist led Civil Marriage.	The people in rural areas have access to premises, where if the criteria for a registered premise meets the criteria the premise may be used for a Humanist led Civil Marriage. This will bring individuals and the potential for tourism to the area, thus bringing the potential for economic and social benefit.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Request by the Rainbow Project to have the Ards Town Hall lit up in rainbow colours to mark the Launch of Northern Ireland LGBT Awareness week 2019 on Monday 13th May 2019.	This policy will affect people in rural areas in a similar manner to those not in rural areas as the building selected is in the centre of Newtownards and thus will have to be visited should anyone wish to see the effect of the coloured lights on the front of the building from Conway Square.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross cutting	
Policy for the Provision & Maintenance of Play Areas.	Play areas are provided by the Council in areas identified within the policy as having a need and where appropriate land provision can be or has been made. These include rural areas where the criteria for one of the four types of Play Areas are provided/to be provided.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Get Got Recruitment package.	People living and working in rural areas may have poor broadband access and reception. However, all employees have access to terminals in the workplace and assistance where 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.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
To Light Up the Ards Arts Centre Red for the Remembrance Period in 2018 as a mark of respect for the centenary of Armistice.	This policy will affect people in rural areas in a similar manner to those not in rural areas as the building selected is in the centre of Newtownards and thus will have to be visited should anyone wish to see the effect of the coloured lights on the front of the building from Conway Square.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Local Development Plan - Preferred Options Paper (POP).	The needs of the rural population will be included in all aspects of the POP consultation focusing particularly on those who live and/or work in these areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Drugs and Alcohol Policy.	This policy relates to all employees across the entire Council without restriction.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
ANDBC Events Support Review.	This policy is to support events in an appropriate manner no matter where they are held.
Ards and North Down Borough Council support for placing of VC recipient memorial stones and associated Ulster Historical Circle plaques within the Borough.	The memorials are located to mark the birthplace of the recipient and thus are only selected on this criteria - or where they have lived a significant part of their life.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
CORE Integrated Human Resources, Employee Payments and Time and Attendance System.	People living or working in rural areas may have poor broadband access and reception. However, all employees have access to terminals in the workplace and assistance where required.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Policy for the Provision of Streetscape Christmas Decorations.	Each town and village that meet the Council criteria within the Borough will be issued with a Christmas tree complete with string lights.

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	
Policy for the use of Council Vehicles.	<p>This policy is in relation to the use of Council vehicles. All vehicles will be monitored no matter where they are used. Employees responsibilities will be the same no matter where their duties are carried out. Where a driver has permission to take a vehicle home this will be based on distance from the place of duty or duties to be carried out and is irrespective of whether it is a rural area.</p> <p>On occasions the driver in a rural area may have the vehicle more regularly if their place of work requires a vehicle in a rural area that is closer to their home - but this is not criteria and will not regularly occur.</p>
Policy on Requests for the utilisation of a Council Display Bed.	It is important to note that display beds are provided in all areas of the Borough, including rural areas and although they are not used for requested display's they are planted in accordance with the Sections programme and all display beds are treated equitably across the Borough with displays often being tailored to the area they are located in.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Review of Ards Crafts and Ards VIC.	This policy will impact on individuals in rural and non-rural areas the same as all may arrange to purchase or sell on the internet with access from their home or studio. Where broadband is poor craft producers or those wishing to purchase may be limited to using devices in areas where there is dependable broadband.

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	
Access to Information Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Advertising Policy for leisure outdoor facilities.	No rural needs were identified.
Aquatics Framework	The framework was not influenced by rural needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Community Services and Good Relations Action Plan.	<p>The Access to Services domain is particularly relevant to rural areas; this measures the extent to which people have poor physical and online access to key services. The Borough has nine Super Output Areas (10% of the total 87 SOAs in the Borough) in the top 100 most deprived in NI on the Access to Services domain, each of these are defined as rural on the default NISRA classification.</p> <p>The Community Services and Good Relations Action Plan is closely aligned to Council's Community plan. Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the Community planning process. This is an ongoing and inclusive process taking into account the views of local people and stakeholders within our Borough.</p> <p>As a Council we support a broader concept of peacebuilding, towards delivering against unmet local need and social objectives - the Common Needs Plus Model (Professor Colin Knox, 2016).</p> <p>Rural economic and social reconstruction is crucial to the success of the peace process. As such, we are shifting our good relations focus to incorporate the aspirations, attitudes and socio-economic circumstances of ordinary people, although the motivations of those involved in perpetuating conflict and peace must not be ignored.</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 success of this approach requires active community participation, to include the most marginalised, from conception through to implementation and evaluation. Such a model necessitates the collaboration of a range of agencies, communities and individuals, including those living in rural areas. Therefore, capacity building needs to span community and the enabling agencies and civic institutions.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Data Protection Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism	
Dromore Public Realm Scheme.	<p>This is a Public Realm improvement scheme that is focused on the Dromore Townscape area, but it has positive effects on the surrounding rural hinterland.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Fleet Policy	No rural needs were identified.
Gifts and Hospitality Policy	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Good Relations Audit and Strategy.	<p>The Access to Services domain is particularly relevant to rural areas; this measures the extent to which people have poor physical and online access to key services. The Borough has nine Super Output Areas (10% of the total 87 SOAs in the Borough) in the top 100 most deprived in NI on the Access to Services domain, each of these are defined as rural on the default NISRA classification.</p> <p>The Good Relations Audit & Strategy is closely aligned to Council's Community Plan. Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the Community Planning process. This is an ongoing and inclusive process taking into account the views of local people and stakeholders within our Borough.</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 a Council we support a broader concept of peacebuilding, towards delivering against unmet local need and social objectives - the Common Needs Plus Model (Professor Colin Knox, 2016).</p> <p>Rural economic and social reconstruction is crucial to the success of the peace process. As such, we are shifting our good relations focus to incorporate the aspirations, attitudes and socio-economic circumstances of ordinary people, although the motivations of those involved in perpetuating conflict and peace must not be ignored.</p> <p>The success of this approach requires active community participation, to include the most marginalised, from conception through to implementation and evaluation. Such a model necessitates the collaboration of a range of agencies, communities and individuals, including those living in rural areas. Therefore, capacity building needs to span community and the enabling agencies and civic institutions.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Learning and Development Policy and Strategy.	No rural needs were identified.
Operating Model for Indoor Leisure.	The Operating Model was not influenced by Rural Needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism, Rural Development	
Small Rural Settlements Environmental Improvement Scheme	Small rural settlements with a population of under 1000 inhabitants find it difficult to access existing programmes operated by Council. This programme is specifically targeted at those small rural communities to benefit quality of life and implement a range of small scale environmental improvements.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Surveillance Camera Systems Policy.	No rural needs were identified.

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: Health or Social Care	
Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2019.	While there was no specific proposals for rural areas, more detailed planning will consider any potential impacts on rural areas as they are progressed.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Sports Development	
Stadium Community Benefits Initiative.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Regeneration	
Belfast Inner North West Masterplan.	No rural needs were identified.
Belfast Regional City Deal.	This is at an early stage and the full impact on rural areas have yet to be finalised.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Recruitment Procedures - proposal to consider filling permanent posts by internal trawls.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Agri - Environment	
Introduction of a Stacked Wheelie Box Recycling Scheme to Households in Belfast.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Decision to approve an application by Radius Housing Association for a Dual Language Street Nameplate to be erected in Rose Street, Belfast.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Development of a Belfast Planning Service Structural Review Voluntary Alignment Process for Staff on NICS Terms and Conditions.	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	
Language Strategy Action Plan - October 2018 - March 2020.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Sports Development	
Amateur Boxing Strategy for Belfast 2012 - 2022 - additional funding to IABA to deliver action plans for 17/18 and 18/19.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Illuminate Project - Colour Wash Facilities on City Hall for International Day of Human Rights (Irish Language).	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Buddy Scheme - support to staff affected by cancer and other chronic illnesses.	No rural needs were identified.
New Staff Rotas at Belfast Zoo from April 2019.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Legislation	
Disability Action Plan 2019-2022.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Sports Development	
Aquatics Strategy for Belfast 2018-2030.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revised Domestic Violence Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Achieving Through People Framework.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Regeneration	
Belfast Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan.	No rural needs were identified.
Developer Contributions Framework.	No rural needs were identified.

RNIAs will be published on our website and can be accessed here:
www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/screening-outcome.aspx

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: Rural Businesses	
Alchemy.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>“Open Doors to Culture” - Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021.</p>	<p>Strategic Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing our cultural venues & assets • Investing in creative learning & skills development • Participation, inclusion and equality <p>Access to transport - circa 19% of population do not have access to car or van to access facilities.</p> <p>Consideration in terms of access to services by those whom are economically inactive, particularly in areas of Multiple Deprivation, and in addition, those who are located in rurally isolated areas and whose proximity to services are limited, must be built into service design. This is of particular note in terms of pricing policies relating to social and recreational classes offered by centres, as well as the overall engagement and outreach provision within the strategy.</p> <p>Affordable, accessible and reasonable level of service provision.</p> <p>Pricing policy to access centre based activities (to mitigate against travel costs) - pricing of activities are varied so that all sections of the community can access a variety of centre based activities. Outreach programmes are discounted and often free.</p> <p>Outreach and engagement to schools and rural groups are included within programming and are equitably distributed to ensure maximum reach in what is predominately a rural Borough.</p> <p>The strategy has created a grants programme, alongside the creation of a cultural 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>development post, so that local groups can be encouraged to work with Council and are resourced to deliver services and activities in areas which Council do not have the necessary infrastructure to do so.</p> <p>Museums service have also created an outreach and engagement post to work alongside local (mostly rural groups) to develop the local skills and capacity to develop and deliver programmes.</p> <p>The strategy will focus on making culture, arts and heritage services, resources and activities accessible to those most disadvantaged in order to maximize participation in cultural activities. This includes development of an ‘enabling model’, working on engagement and outreach with rural communities in order to work in partnership, ensuring that CAH activities are sustainable within all communities. Measures include increasing grant provision to enable communities to be at the heart of service design and delivery, while providing support/mentoring to groups in project development and delivery.</p> <p>The strategy provides opportunities for increased partnership working with rural groups on co design and delivery of projects.</p> <p>A substantial proportion of our stakeholders are rurally based groups or individuals living in rural areas, the strategy focusing on the most part on provision for local residents and communities. CC&GBC is a largely rural borough.</p> <p>Without focusing and adopting the service to the needs of our stakeholders the strategy would be undeliverable. Therefore the focus, while needing to retain arts centres and museums based predominately in towns, recognition has been given to servicing the needs of rural 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.
	<p>The outreach and engagement element of both the arts and museums have been shaped in the main, to support rural and other marginalised communities, to participate and help deliver against the strategy objectives.</p> <p>Additionally the grant programme has been shaped by the needs of the C&V sector, the majority of which are rural groups to ensure locally based sustainable services are provided to local residents.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Crime or Community Safety	
<p>Policing and Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Operational Plan.</p>	<p>Aim of the Strategy: To make Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area safer.</p> <p>With regards to Policing and Community Safety the following issues were raised by participants from the rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of crime. • Thefts and Burglaries. • Anti-Social driving. • Drug/Alcohol use/abuse. <p>The specific issues raised were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of crime - This was prevalent amongst the elderly residents living in rural areas. • Thefts and Burglaries - Rural residents felt vulnerable to this type of crime especially in remote parts of rural areas. • Anti-Social driving - speeding, rallying (Power circles and 'diffing') created safety fears along with noise nuisance. • Drug/Alcohol use/abuse - There is a feeling that this type of crime has increased in rural areas and may be partly linked to social isolation. <p>Rural crime has consistently been raised as a major issue amongst local elected representatives (many who themselves live in rural areas), statutory bodies and rural representatives.</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>PSNI reports frequently highlight thefts from rural dwellings and farms.</p> <p>As a result of this the PCSP commissioned a specific piece of work - "Perceptions of Community Safety, Crime & Policing in Rural Areas of Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP".</p> <p>Rural Crime now one of the main PCSP issues to be addressed.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
ICT Policies & Procedures.	No rural needs were identified.
Corporate Performance Improvement Plan.	No rural needs were identified.
Treasury Management Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Flexible Working Hours.	Not No rural needs were identified.
Self Disclosure and Employment of People with Criminal Convictions.	No rural needs were identified.
Grievance Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Employee Performance Improvement Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Disciplinary Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Assistance to Study (Further Education) Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Dignity and Respect at Work Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Information Risk Management Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Travel and Subsistence Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Standby and Call Out Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Procurement Policy (Revised).	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.
Sickness Absence Policy.	No rural needs were identified.
Removal of Task and Finish Working Practices.	No rural needs were identified.

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: Social needs of persons in rural areas	
Advice Strategy 2018-2021.	<p>People living in rural areas are not necessarily any more likely to need advice however a range of issues such as transport, proximity to service and different social networks may increase the need for access to voluntary advice provision. Regrettably, there is some evidence to suggest that rural people are often less likely to seek such advice as independence and self-reliance may be valued highly. It follows that any barriers to access to advice may prove more of a deterrent where such social norms are different. To address these factors consideration has to be given to how rural provision can reach those most in need. There may also be an argument for better promotion of advice to rural dwellers in an effort to break down any stigma that may exist. The cost for the provision of generalist advice in rural areas is higher than in urban areas so advice providers in rural areas were given an extra 5% or 10% extra funding.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Special Leave Policy.	Accommodation has been made within the policy to recognize the impact of the additional travel time required for medical appointments.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses	
Amusement Permit Policy.	<p>The policy has been assessed and following research and consultation it has been determined that it will have no adverse impact on people in rural areas.</p> <p>Five criteria within the policy will be used when assessing the suitability of a location for a proposed amusement arcade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the retail vitality and viability of Derry City and Strabane Town; • Impact on the image and profile of Council District;

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"> • Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location; • Proximity to residential use; and • Proximity to schools, youth centres and residential institutions for vulnerable people. <p>The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 received Royal Assent on 9 May 2016. The Act places a duty on central government and public authorities, including District Councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. This plan has been screened to ensure that this strategic policy supports sustainable rural development in accordance with this important statutory rule. Every application for an amusement permit will be carefully considered on its own individual merit.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Dog Control Enforcement Policy.	<p>The Enforcement Policy outlines action to be considered for first, second and recurring offences. Decisions will be made by Council Officers on whether to take no action; issue an informal warning; impose appropriate control conditions; issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN); issue a simple caution; instigate legal proceedings for the offence or an appropriate combination of any of the foregoing in accordance with the scheme of delegated powers and authorisations approved by Council.</p> <p>In terms of rural needs this policy ensures compliance with Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (as amended) including Article 28 (1), (2) and Article 29 (1), (2) - Dog attack on persons or livestock or certain other animals.</p>
GDPR Policy.	<p>The policy is not deemed to have a disproportionate impact on people living in rural areas as it is intended to help to protect and promote equality of opportunity between those who share protected characteristics</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 those who do not and helps to eliminate unlawful discrimination.</p> <p>The policy applies to all persons fairly and consistently.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses	
Food Service Plan 2018-2020.	<p>The plan is a requirement of law. The framework agreement requires Local Authorities to adopt a service plan to show how they enforce this law, the law is equally applicable to all food business operators. There is no disproportionate impact on food supply businesses in rural areas.</p> <p>The service is supported by specialist services including Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Workplace Drug and Alcohol Policy.	<p>The policy is not deemed to have a disproportionate impact on people living in rural areas as it is intended to contribute to a safe, healthy and productive work environment for all staff and service users regardless of whether they are in Council facilities in either rural or urban area with the purpose of achieving the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Increase knowledge and awareness of alcohol and drugs misuse; • To Identify drug and alcohol problems at the earliest stage; • To encourage and support employees who have or might have alcohol/drug related issues; • To provide an effective and practical response for dealing with alcohol or drug related problems in the workplace; • Improve the general health and welfare of our employees; • Decrease absence levels and incident risk from alcohol and drug misuse.

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>Preparing and developing a local development draft Plan Strategy which sets out how the Fermanagh and Omagh District will change and grow over the period up to 2030. This will include a set of policies to guide development.</p>	<p>When preparing the policies for the Draft PS, the Council considered the needs of people in rural areas that were identified and have considered the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To alleviate the concern that rural areas would be disadvantaged following the removal of the Dispersed Rural Communities policies the plan strategy has provided opportunity for residential development, rural start-ups and the provision of community facilities at focal points or at locations that have a strong community identity within the countryside. The policies also protect existing community facilities from been redeveloped to other alternative uses thereby reducing potential impact on rural communities. • Business in rural areas play an important role in the life of the rural dweller providing employment opportunities which can help to sustain rural communities. The Plan Strategy has met this need through identifying some land in local towns and smaller settlements for industry and business use and providing opportunities for existing businesses within the countryside to expand. The policies also provide for rural ‘start-up’ projects and allow for diversification opportunities to help sustain farming businesses. • Housing need in rural areas plays an important role in the life of rural communities. The policies in the Plan Strategy identify opportunities for residential development in both the rural settlements and areas of open countryside. • Broadband and internet connection are vital for the development of rural businesses, this is addressed in the Plan Strategy by facilitating the provision of communication links.

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"> • While Public transport access in difficult in rural areas, particularly remote areas, the Plan Strategy does make provision for the development/extension of park and ride and park and share car parks. This would assist in reducing reliance on the car and shifting the mode of transport to public transport. • To avoid the decline of town centres the Plan Strategy policies aim to consolidate retail and leisure services in town centres to revitalize and regenerate them. This includes within the rural settlements (local town centres). • The promotion of tourism in rural areas is addressed through a range of polices in the Plan Strategy. The policies consider the location of the attractions, and the need for overnight accommodation of an appropriate scale and location within the countryside. • Flooding and its effects on rural communities are addressed in the Plan Strategy by directing development away from areas at risk of flooding and also provides for sustainable drainage systems to assist in better water management. • The policies in the Plan Strategy make provision for the upgrading of wastewater treatment works including within rural settlements.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Career Break Policy.	This Policy is applicable to all employees and is equally applied to those who live in urban or rural Areas, therefore no rural needs were identified.
Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Domestic Violence/Abuse (Workplace) Policy.	This Policy is applicable to all employees and is equally applied to those who live in urban or rural Areas, therefore no rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Development of the 'Active Together' Leisure Strategy.	The strategy recognises that there is strong evidence to suggest that health outcomes are worse in deprived areas and will therefore prioritise these areas in the development of the strategy.

<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 strategy recognises that at a time of increasingly stretched resources, the provision of affordable and inclusive access to leisure opportunities across our wide geography and rural area will require innovative approaches and partnership working with a range of agencies and sectors, including the community and voluntary sector. The Council, in partnership with others, will explore opportunities for community use of facilities such as the schools' estate alongside wider use of existing community facilities. The use of a network of leaders, coaches and volunteers will be essential to developing and maintaining leisure opportunities across the district. The importance of continued investment in the development of this network and in ensuring access to ongoing support for community leaders, coaches and volunteers is recognised by the Council as a key enabler in making this happen and will be promoted through the 'Wellbeing Pledge'.</p>
<p>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council 'Asset Acquisition and Disposal Policy'.</p>	<p>The Policy aims to ensure that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will obtain maximum benefit from the effective acquisition and disposal of Council's assets, which will be to the benefit of all ratepayers, whether in urban or rural areas.</p> <p>It is imperative that the Council provides opportunities to rural communities to maximise any potential benefits to build sustainability in their communities through active participation in any disposal or acquisition exercise undertaken by the Council.</p> <p>The development of the Acquisition and Disposal Policy has been influenced by the needs of rural communities in that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will establish a transparent and consistent approach to the acquisition and disposal of Council owned land, buildings and facilities.</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>Development of the Council's 2019/20 Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>The development of the Improvement Plan 2019/20 has been influenced by the needs of rural communities in that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has made a commitment to improve access to leisure and recreation opportunities and improve provision of information to support citizens in making healthier choices; to encourage a growth in entrepreneurship and new business starts including amongst under-represented groups; to invest in environmental programmes which will reduce waste going to landfill and improve recycling efforts including extending the service to hard to reach properties across the district; progressing initiatives to make it easier to communicate and do business with the Council.</p>
<p>Adoption of a Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Age Friendly Strategy.</p>	<p>Living in a rural area can exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation for certain groups. 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.</p> <p>Lower earnings and household incomes are commonly found in the rural west where the population is consequently at highest risk of poverty. There are also links between poor transport services and social isolation. Some rural households have no access to a car while in others private transport may be used by others for travelling to work leaving other household members dependent on alternative means of travel. 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 and to depression.</p> <p>Clustered focus groups were organised by the appointed consultant to talk to older people, encompassing both rural and urban groups from 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.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
<p>Consideration of the range of governance matters to be considered in preparation for the first AGM of the New Council following the 2019 Local Government Elections.</p>	<p>Consensus on the implementation of fair and transparent Governance arrangements should result in a positive impact on people living in the Rural areas.</p> <p>In relation to the timing of the meetings, the proposal to commence at 4.00pm would minimise adverse or potentially adverse impacts on elderly and disabled people, or people travelling by public transport who wish to attend the meetings. However, daytime meetings are also likely to have an adverse impact on younger people and people in full-time employment. Daytime meetings place a challenge on parents and carers of very young children, when one parent could be at work. Late afternoon or early evening meetings adversely impact on parents and carers of older school aged children or other dependents.</p> <p>Consideration of the timing of the meetings will be influenced by the rural needs outlined above.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Learning and Development Policy.</p>	<p>This Policy is applicable to all employees and is equally applied to those who live in urban or rural Areas, therefore no rural needs were identified.</p>
<p>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Employee Support Policies (1).</p> <p>The employee support policies and procedures consist of five key policy areas, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity Leave. • Breastfeeding Support. • Paternity Leave. • Parental Leave. • Flexible Working. 	<p>With the exception of the two main towns of Omagh and Enniskillen, all other areas of the district are considered to be rural.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the major factors affecting Rural Dwellers, with particular reference to the Economy, Employability, Housing ownership and levels of unfitness, Transport and Access to Services. The Employee Support Policies do not have any potential direct or indirect differential impacts 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>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Employee Support Policies and Procedures (2).</p> <p>Guidance within the document includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time off for Dependants. • Bereavement Leave. 	<p>With the exception of the two main towns of Omagh and Enniskillen, all other areas of the district are considered to be rural.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the major factors affecting Rural Dwellers, with particular reference to the Economy, Employability, Housing ownership and levels of unfitness, Transport and Access to Services. These Employee Support Policies do not have any potential direct or indirect differential impacts in rural areas.</p>
<p>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Flexi Time Scheme Policy.</p>	<p>With the exception of the two main towns of Omagh and Enniskillen, all other areas of the district are considered to be rural.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the major factors affecting Rural Dwellers, with particular reference to the Economy, Employability, Housing ownership and levels of unfitness, Transport and Access to Services. The Flexi Time Scheme Policy does not have any potential direct or indirect differential impacts in rural areas.</p>
<p>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Managing Attendance Policy.</p>	<p>With the exception of the two main towns of Omagh and Enniskillen, all other areas of the district are considered to be rural.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the major factors affecting Rural Dwellers, with particular reference to the Economy, Employability, Housing ownership and levels of unfitness, Transport and Access to Services. The Managing Attendance Policy does not have any potential direct or indirect differential impacts in rural areas.</p>
<p>Adoption of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Data Protection Policy.</p>	<p>With the exception of the two main towns of Omagh and Enniskillen, all other areas of the district are considered to be rural.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the major factors affecting Rural Dwellers, with particular reference to the Economy, Employability, Housing ownership and levels of unfitness, Transport and Access to Services. This Strategy does not have any potential direct or indirect impacts in rural areas.</p>

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	
Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme Delivery 2014-2020.	The RNIA for this project has documented that a Local Rural Development Strategy was developed for the LEADER delivery group (Lagan Rural Partnership), that outlined a methodology for delivery of the related grant programme that was strategically aligned to the needs of the rural business and voluntary sector via desk based research, consultation with rural communities, and appraisal of the Council's Economic Development Strategy. Positive outcomes include the investment of up to £3.6 million in grant via the delivery of a Rural Business Investment Grant Scheme, Rural Village Renewal Grant Scheme, and an NI Rural Co operation Grant Scheme that targets rural areas which comprise of just under half of the population (47.2%) in the Council area.
Stoneyford Rural Village Improvement Scheme.	The RNIA for this project has documented that in prioritising and formulating a rural village renewal capital project for Stoneyford Village, the Council referred to the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Strategy and in particular an integrated village plan for Stoneyford that included consultation with rural inhabitants within the village and the surrounding area, and voluntary and statutory service delivery agents responsible for the area.
Dromara Rural Village Improvement Scheme.	The RNIA for this project has documented that in prioritising and formulating a rural village renewal capital project for Dromara Village, the Council referred to the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Strategy and in particular an integrated village plan for Dromara that included consultation with rural inhabitants within the village and the surrounding area, and voluntary and statutory service delivery agents responsible for the 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.
Aghalee Rural Village Improvement Scheme.	The RNIA for this project has documented that in prioritising and formulating a rural village renewal capital project for Aghalee Village, the Council referred to the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Strategy and in particular an integrated village plan for Aghalee that included consultation with rural inhabitants within the village and the surrounding area, and voluntary and statutory service delivery agents responsible for the area.
Drumbo Rural Village Improvement Scheme.	The RNIA for this project has documented that in prioritising and formulating a rural village renewal capital project for Drumbo Village, the Council referred to the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Strategy and in particular an integrated village plan for Drumbo that included consultation with rural inhabitants within the village and the surrounding area, and voluntary and statutory service delivery agents responsible for the area.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Hillsborough Forest Enhancement Scheme.	The RNIA for this project has documented that in developing proposals for improvements to the recreational offer in Hillsborough Forest Park, to include an innovative digital trail, the Council referred to the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Strategy and in particular the consultation outcomes of the Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan, which took into consideration all proposed projects included in the plan and their social and economic impact on Hillsborough Rural Village and the surrounding rural area.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Future Waste Collection Service Transition and Transformation Plan.	The Council's Future Waste Collection Service plan will seek to deliver the 2020 legislative target for achieving 50% recycling of household waste, to provide a kerbside recycling service across all households and provide a waste collection service that is compliant with national legislation.

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 RNIA has documented that there was a review undertaken of performance in rural areas taken from the NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Annual Report 2016/17 and the views of rural stakeholders were obtained via focus group meetings on proposed services. A full consultation exercise is planned for the near future whereby specific views from rural communities will be sought.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
<p>Full Service Hotel - Castle Street, Lisburn.</p>	<p>The Council led proposal for a new Full Service Hotel Development in Lisburn will act as a catalyst towards regenerating Lisburn City Centre in terms of hospitality and catering, day to day retail and increased footfall into the City Centre.</p> <p>The RNIA documented that after review of the proposal, no adverse impact on the wider rural community was identified. There were instead some potential positive impacts identified via potential supplier opportunities for surrounding rural business in terms of food/service delivery and construction.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
<p>Lisburn Linkages Improvement Scheme.</p>	<p>The outputs of this scheme is to improve the development of Lisburn City Centre via the creation of enhanced pedestrian linkages and improved urban lighting. Due to the strictly urban focus of the project no adverse impact on rural communities were identified.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
<p>Erasmus + Regional Apprenticeship Alliances Project.</p>	<p>The Council developed this Erasmus + funded project to better promote Apprenticeships as an option for SMEs as a response to the requirement to improve employment opportunities for 18 - 25 year olds identified in both the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Plan.</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 RNIA documented that the business recruitment drive ensured opportunities were optimised for both urban and rural SMEs in equal measure and included a review appraisal of all Council rural SME databases in particular to ensure equity of coverage.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education or Training	
<p>Erasmus + Mainstreaming Student Entrepreneurship Programme.</p>	<p>The Council developed this Erasmus + funded project to improve the entrepreneurial skill set of students as a response to the requirement to improve employment opportunities for 18 - 25 year olds identified in both the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>The RNIA documented that the FE College and Vocational Education & Training (VET) providers recruitment drive ensured opportunities were optimised for both urban and rural FE & VET providers in equal measure to include a review appraisal of all Council rural databases in particular to ensure equity of coverage.</p>
<p>Erasmus + Age Friendly Communities Programme.</p>	<p>The Council developed this Erasmus + funded project to in recognition of the service requirements of the increasing ageing population within the Council area and the income generation opportunities that this provides for SMES. These opportunities were identified via review of the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>The RNIA documented that the business recruitment drive ensured opportunities were optimised for both urban and rural SMEs in equal measure to include a review appraisal of all Council rural SME databases in particular to ensure equity of coverage.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
<p>European Social Fund (ESF) Match Funding Programme 2014-2020.</p>	<p>The Council developed this application process in response to the need for social enterprises to secure 35% match funding against successful European Social Fund applications to improve employment and training opportunities for those furthest from 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>labour market, and those with learning disabilities. These opportunities were identified via review of the Local Rural Development Strategy, the Council's Economic Development Plan, and the Council's Community plan.</p> <p>The RNIA documented that opportunities were optimised for both urban and rural social enterprise organisations to apply via the application call that was advertised and promoted extensively in urban and rural areas.</p>
Business Solutions (Business Support Programme).	<p>The Council has developed a business support programme that consists of a small business grant scheme, a young entrepreneurship development programme, an SME employment growth mentor programme, and a small business procurement programme. These opportunities were identified via review of the Local Rural Development Strategy and the Council's Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>The RNIA documented that the business recruitment drive ensured opportunities under each programme were optimised for both urban and rural SMEs in equal measure to include a review appraisal of all Council rural SME databases in particular to ensure equity of coverage.</p>
Investment Promotion Programme.	<p>The Council's Investment Promotion programme is aimed at establishing direct contact with leading global companies to enhance international awareness of the Council as a location to start and scale a business. and position the Council as the best location in the UK for businesses seeking a UK location.</p> <p>The RNIA has documented that a review of both urban and rural investment sites have been identified via a needs analysis based on a analysis of investment readiness and no adverse disadvantage has been identified to preference urban investment sites over rural investment sites.</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: Cross Cutting	
Mid and East Antrim Council Corporate Plan 2019-2023.	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 Services; Deprivation	
Play Strategy.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through public consultation; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Transport Services or Infrastructure	
Bus Shelter Policy.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information provided through Translink NI and other Councils; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Poverty	
Cemetery Pricing Policy.	Considered appropriate data; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Tourism	
Access to our Coast and Rivers Policy.	Considered appropriate data; completion of screening and mitigation where appropriate.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Jobs or Employment	
Attendance Policy.	Considered appropriate data; consultation information from staff and trade unions; 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: Community Safety	
Draft Bonfire Management Policy.	This draft policy focused on health and safety and legislative requirements, as well as considering social and economic needs of people in rural areas. The health and safety and legislative requirements were also considered.
Community Events on Council Land.	The need for safe, well managed community public events has been identified throughout the District. While rural needs have been considered as part of the process, the policy does not place specific focus on either rural or urban areas within the District.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan.	The development of the Mid Ulster Community Plan has taken account of the needs of people in rural areas within the district particularly in terms of how services could and should be delivered ensuring that those most vulnerable have access to services at a local level and where high quality services can be maintained.
Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy).	The aims objectives and operational subject planning policies of the draft strategy will encourage sustainable growth across the rural area in an effort to sustain rural communities and resist economic and social decline. In order to continue to facilitate a sustainable level of rural housing, the Draft Plan Strategy has made provision for housing development to be acceptable within rural settlements subject to normal planning considerations and has also included additional provision for rural housing including the allowance of dwellings for carers, fishermen and dwellings in a non-farm cluster as well as carrying through the existing provisions for dwellings for farmers and for replacement dwellings, all subject to meeting the relevant policy tests and criteria.

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	
General Data Protection Register Policy.	This policy was developed as part of a legislative requirement. All stakeholders, including rural stakeholders were considered during the development of the policy.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Re-development of Gortgonis Leisure Facility.	<p>To inform this redevelopment project, information was gathered through public consultation, informal user group meetings and the completed submitted questionnaires would be used in the final facility design. Information discussed and suggested at meetings by different parties has been noted and inputted into the new design. Some particular issues addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within this area there is no facility like the one that has been planned for Gortgonis Leisure facility, therefore offering the area a greater opportunity to participate and enjoy the activities and services that will be provided. • A wider range of activities and services will be on offer to sections of the community. • A marketing campaign will be used to reach all sections of the urban and rural Community including advertising, leaflet drops, social media etc to make everyone aware of what is on offer. • The re-developed facility will be an important part of the area and a facility which the local community can be proud of.
Maghera High School Site.	The redevelopment of the Former Maghera High School Site has been designed to address the needs identified during the public consultation for the Local Economic Development Strategy and Community planning process. The scheme has been co-developed based on the key findings and emerging priorities of the Mid Ulster Community Plan to date, with particular reference to the Economic Growth theme and the Local Economic Development Strategy “Our Plan for Growth”.

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"> • This scheme will contribute to job creation and investment in the area through: • Encouraging better and more diverse use of an existing vacant site. • Building a stronger and more competitive economy. • More people employed in a rural area. • More vibrant rural economy. • Supporting local economic regeneration. • Attracting investment to the region • Acting as a catalyst to develop key opportunity sites across Mid Ulster.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Other	
Cemetery Management & Memorial Safety.	The policy is being introduced in order to make cemeteries and old burial grounds under the management of Mid Ulster District Council safe places to work in and for the public to visit. The sites are based throughout the District, including in rural areas. This policy will be implemented equally at all active cemeteries regardless of location.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Moneymore Recreation Centre.	<p>In relation to this project, questionnaires were completed, submitted and held on file & inputted into the new design. Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information discussed & suggested at the meetings by different parties have been inputted into the new design. • Within this rural area there is no facility like the one that has been refurbished, therefore offering the rural area a great opportunity to participate and to enjoy the services we will be providing. • A wider range of activities and services will be on offer to all the parts of the 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.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be vying to reach all sections of the Rural Community through advertising, leaflet drops, social media etc to make sure everyone is aware of the programmes, classes, schemes & services we will have on offer. • The new upgraded facility will be an important part of the rural area and a facility which the local community can be proud of.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Dual Language and Street Signage.	Surveys completed in relation to the policy identified there is a social need to facilitate a process that accommodates requests from residents to have their street sign displayed in their chosen language as well as in English. No other specific social or economic need in rural areas was identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
Street Naming and Numbering Policy.	Rural businesses and rural residents must have an identifiable postal address for their premises for ease in receiving deliveries and services which may assist with economic needs. However, this is a positive benefit which would have a similar effect for urban businesses and urban residents, therefore no relevant difference in relation to economic needs.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
Villages Programme.	The Village Renewal Scheme has been designed to address the needs identified during the public consultation period and to fully integrate with the Community planning process. The scheme has been co-developed based on the key findings and emerging priorities of the Mid Ulster Community Plan to date, with particular reference to the rural development theme and priorities within this. This scheme will contribute to building strong, inclusive and sustainable rural communities by supporting the following key issues through two-tiered strategic investment in settlement areas. This will include:

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"> • Encouraging better and more diverse use of existing resources/property including vacant buildings; • Encouraging the retention and development of essential services within the village; • Supporting the development/upkeep of the natural and built heritage features; • The development of safe walking routes/paths to support healthier lifestyles and link communities; • Recreational and leisure facilities including provision of play or outdoor spaces; • Physical/environmental improvements to encourage greater footfall/use of the village; • Streetscape or environmental works building on the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each village; • Build on the unique assets of each village as an economic and regeneration driver/develop niche villages e.g. based on tourism or a reputation for particular business strengths; • Development of affordable accommodation in villages.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Infrastructure	
Winter Maintenance Policy.	Due to the higher level of footfall in the 3 main towns of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt, facilities in these urban areas would be treated (if required) before progressing to the 2 other identified towns of Maghera & Coalisland. Maghera is the only rural town included in the Plan as it is an identified settlement with significant footfall and has a broad range of public facilities and services. This plan is implemented in line with the financial resources available.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
PEACE IV Capital Project.	Mid Ulster District Council has considered the need for providing and investing in shared quality open spaces in our rural villages. Six have been identified across Mid Ulster.

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>This is part of a wider programme of investment in all our 50 villages through Council PEACE and Rural Development funding. All rural villages are receiving investment between £40,000 and £250,000 through co-design with local communities and as part of community planning and local participation.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Development	
Outdoor Recreation Strategy.	<p>Information gathered through public consultation included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial user group meeting and the completed questionnaires has influenced the final strategy. • Information discussed and suggested at consultations have all been noted and inputted into the final consultation. • The strategy will provide a greater range of opportunities for people living in the rural area. • Within the strategy a wider range of outdoor recreation opportunities will be provided for the community. • Information discussed & suggested at the meetings by different groups have been noted & inputted into the final strategy.
Parks and Play Strategy.	<p>Information/comments gathered in the consultation process have influenced the final strategy. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys completed via SurveyMonkey have been used to input into the final strategy. • Information gathered through public consultation. • Informal user group meeting, via email, telephone, etc. • Questionnaires have been held on file and used in the final strategy.

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"> • Information discussed and suggested at consultations has been noted and inputted into the final strategy. • The strategy will offer a greater range of opportunities for people living in the rural area. • Within the strategy a wider range of outdoor recreation opportunities and services will be on offer to sections of the community.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses	
Villages Spruce Up Scheme.	<p>The scheme will contribute to building strong, inclusive and sustainable rural communities by supporting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage better and more efficient use of existing commercial properties including vacant properties; • Encourage retention and development of essential services within villages; • Support the development/upkeep of the natural and built heritage features; • Improvements to external and/or internal of commercial properties; • Improve the aesthetics of the villages; • Encourage rural businesses to invest in their properties.

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: Rural Tourism	
Implementation of a strategy with respect to dog fouling.	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the strategy will lead to differential treatment of people in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: No specific rural policy area detailed within section 2D.	
Implementation of a two hour waiting restriction at the car park, The Square, Warrenpoint.	Car parking provision within the specific named car park in Warrenpoint is not considered to fall within the social and economic needs of people in rural areas. Car parking provision within Warrenpoint is not solely provided by the named car park.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Jobs or employment in Rural Areas, Education or training in rural areas, Broadband or mobile communications in rural areas, Transport services or infrastructure in rural areas, Poverty in rural areas, Rural crime and community safety, Rural development	
Performance Improvement Plan 2018-2019.	<p>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 2017-18 and 2018-19 consultation and engagement processes on the performance improvement objectives also highlighted the following issues in relation to rural areas and rural communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to Council facilities and urban areas from rural areas; • Transport from rural areas to urban 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.

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 Council has considered the issues raised and included 'supporting actions' around the rural economy, rural broadband and transport connectivity between urban and rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business, Rural tourism, Rural housing, Jobs and employment in Rural areas, Education and training in Rural Areas, Broadband or Mobile Communications in rural areas, transport services or infrastructure in rural areas, Health and social services in rural areas, Poverty in rural areas, Rural crime or community safety, Rural development, Agri - Environment	
Conflict of interested Procedures.	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the policy will lead to differential treatment of people in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education and Training in Rural Areas	
Establishment of a minority communities financial assistance scheme.	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the financial assistance scheme will lead to differential treatment of people in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: No specific rural policy area detailed within section 2D	
Gaming and Amusement Policy.	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the policy will lead to differential treatment of people in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education and Training in Rural Areas	
Irish Language Financial Assistance Scheme.	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the financial assistance scheme will lead to differential treatment of people in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: No specific rural policy area detailed within section 2D	
Procurement Policy and Procedures.	It is not anticipated that the implementation of the procurement policy and procedures will lead to differential treatment 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.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: No specific rural policy area detailed within section 2D	
Provision of a new play park in Meadowlands in Downpatrick.	This is a single initiative/project within an urban area, as defined by the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Deprivation in Rural Areas	
Summer Scheme Activities.	<p>Most deprived SOA's within NM&DDC LGD:</p> <p><u>Income:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creggan 2. Forkhill 2 3. Silverbridge 1 5. Crossmaglen 13. Newtownhamilton 36. Silverbridge 2 <p><u>Multiple Deprivation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 57. Crossmaglen 72. Creggan 94. Silverbridge 1 100. Forkhill 2 111. Newtownhamilton <p>Through the audit of Summer Schemes it is clear that the Council is not the only provider of summer activities for young people. There is a wide variety of programmes being offered throughout the district by local sporting clubs, education authority, Libraries, autism groups, Special Olympics Ireland and community groups.</p> <p>The council offers financial assistance of up to £1,000 to any community group who meets the criteria for running summer schemes in their local areas.</p> <p>The council has considered the ways in which it can assist the young people of the district with summer activities and it has concluded that a number of combined initiatives would deliver the best 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.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The provision of an eight-week summer scheme in Downpatrick, Newry and Newcastle leisure centres; 2) A range of drop in activities for families in our 100% run community centres; 3) A financial assistance programme for community organisations who wish to provide summer activities in their local areas.
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business, Rural tourism, Rural housing, Jobs and employment in Rural areas, Education and training in Rural Areas, Broadband or Mobile Communications in rural areas, transport services or infrastructure in rural areas, Health and social services in rural areas, Poverty in rural areas, Rural crime or community safety, Rural development, Agri - Environment</p>	
<p>Performance Improvement Policy 2018-2019.</p>	<p>Effectively mainstreaming the Performance Improvement Policy will support the implementation of key plans and strategies across the organisation, including the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and Directorate Business Plans.</p> <p>These plans are the front facing documents of the organisation, and have been developed using a robust and reliable evidence base which will have taken into account the social and economic needs of local communities across the District, including rural areas.</p> <p>The Performance Improvement Policy should therefore be regarded as an enabler to support the delivery of key plans and strategies, and deliver services which improve the quality of life for all residents in urban and rural areas across the District.</p>



REMAINING PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Reporting Period 1 June 2018 - 31 March 2019

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	
Development Proposal to decrease admissions and enrolment numbers for Holy Child Primary School (PS), Belfast.	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</p> <p>“It is important that children in rural communities have access to a quality education in cost effective provision” (p27).</p>
Development Proposal to decrease admissions and enrolment numbers for Holy Trinity PS, Enniskillen.	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</p>
Development Proposal to discontinue St Patrick’s Primary School, Dunamanagh.	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</p>
Development Proposal to discontinue Altishane PS, Strabane.	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</p>
Development Proposal to discontinue St Joseph’s PS, Glenmoran.	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was 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.
<p>Development Proposal to discontinue Loughash PS, Dunamanagh.</p>	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</p>
<p>Development Proposal for new Catholic maintained primary school in Dunamanagh.</p>	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</p>
<p>Development Proposal to decrease admissions and enrolment numbers for Holy Family Primary School (PS), Magherafelt.</p>	<p>The policy was screened for Rural Needs.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of the Sustainable Schools Policy, 2009, was assessed against the Rural Needs Checklist, by the Department of Education and no adverse impact was identified.</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: Education/Jobs																																	
<p>Education Authority (EA) Online Recruitment.</p>	<p>We know that certain pockets of people who live rurally have less access to the internet. NI Assembly research into internet/broadband provision in rural NI - Oct 2016.</p> <p>Whilst there are issues in terms of broadband coverage and speed within rural Northern Ireland, the data in figure 1 reveals that rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular.</p> <div data-bbox="660 1176 1481 1758" data-label="Figure"> <p style="text-align: center;">Total internet access at home (via any device) - percentage of households 2010-2016 - NI as a whole, urban NI and rural NI</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Figure 1: Total internet access at home (via any device) - percentage of households 2010-2016 - NI as a whole, urban NI and rural NI</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Northern Ireland (%)</th> <th>Urban (%)</th> <th>Rural (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>73%</td> <td>71%</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>76%</td> <td>76%</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>73%</td> <td>73%</td> <td>74%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>78%</td> <td>78%</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>80%</td> <td>79%</td> <td>81%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>79%</td> <td>81%</td> <td>76%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>83%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>87%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>Figure 1.</p> <p>Mitigating factor in developing the policy: Paper based copies will be accepted in certain circumstances.</p>	Year	Northern Ireland (%)	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	2010	73%	71%	76%	2011	76%	76%	75%	2012	73%	73%	74%	2013	78%	78%	79%	2014	80%	79%	81%	2015	79%	81%	76%	2016	83%	80%	87%
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The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal													
EA Electronic Payslips for all Non-teaching Staff (ePayslips).	<p>This method of salary communication has been successfully piloted on 2 occasions (November 2013) in the legacy NEELB area and more recently (June 2018) in the Belfast region. During both these pilots, alternatives were offered as an option but were not taken up. During both pilots, all staff involved stated that they preferred to receive their payslip in this way.</p> <p>Mitigating factor in developing the policy:</p> <p>If anyone has access issues, EA will ensure a paper copy will be provided through opting out mechanism. EA will monitor the policy at 6 months and 18 months.</p>												
Proposed 5th Tier Structure of Infrastructure and Capital Development Division.	Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 5th tier structure to people living in rural areas.												
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education													
School Crossing Patrols.	<p>EA Data - 12 November 2018</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="676 1301 1453 1534"> <thead> <tr> <th>School Locations</th> <th>Total Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Urban</td> <td>234</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural</td> <td>113</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>347</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>If the Education Authority were to remove School Crossing Patrols the effects would be:</p> <p><u>Negative</u></p> <p>Whilst most pupils living in rural areas will have access to school transport; for those living in smaller rural villages and towns that have to walk to school, the SCP is often seen as the only safe way to cross roads. Part time employment available near to home especially for older people or those who do not have access to transport.</p> <p>Health benefits for those that regularly walk to school.</p>	School Locations	Total Number	Percentage	Urban	234	67%	Rural	113	33%	Total	347	100%
School Locations	Total Number	Percentage											
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	<p><u>Positive</u></p> <p>Pupils over reliance on assisted crossing can hamper their development around road safety and how to behave properly as a pedestrian.</p> <p>Following further consideration the Authority has decided not to proceed with the removal of the SCP Service. Where vacancies occur the EA will continue to review individual school crossing patrol sites in line with best practice.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>OPERATIONS AND ESTATES: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Proposed 4th and 5th Tier Structure.</p>	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 4th tier structure to people living in rural areas.</p>
<p>OPERATIONS AND ESTATES: PUPIL SERVICES & PROCUREMENT</p> <p>Proposed 4th and 5th Tier Structure.</p>	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 4th tier structure to people living in rural areas.</p>
<p>OPERATIONS AND ESTATES: TRANSPORT</p> <p>Proposed 4th and 5th Tier Structure.</p>	<p>Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this 4th tier structure to people living in rural areas.</p>
<p>Education Authority (EA) - Advertising of Internal Trawls on SharePoint.</p>	<p>Whilst school kitchens have access to computer systems to log into SharePoint, other school facilities and outcentres may not have access.</p> <p>The onus will be place on Managers to ensure that staff in rural areas who are out of the workplace for any reason and do not have access to this system from home, are provided with trawls or are advised where they can access this information.</p> <p>Some rural areas may have restricted Broadband access which may result in difficulties in accessing the SharePoint system.</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>Whilst there are issues in terms of broadband coverage and speed within rural Northern Ireland, the data in figure 3 reveals that rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular.</p>
Implementation of the National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Award 2019 - 2020 (Internal focused policy).	Rural impacts have been considered and there are no social and economic impacts from this policy, to people living in rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education	
Equality and Inclusion Strategy - EA Funded Youth Service.	<p>Census figures for 2011 highlight that more than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that have been defined as rural. This figure is highest for Fermanagh and Omagh, where almost three quarters of all young people live in rural areas. In Mid Ulster almost two thirds of young people live in rural areas. This figure also remains relatively high for Newry, Mourne and Down where more than half of all young people live in rural areas.</p> <p>The EA Regional Assessment of Need highlights that for many children and young people, living in a rural community presents a range of challenges. There is a lack of facilities, such as cinemas or clubs, which their peers in urban areas take for granted. This isolation from services is often exacerbated by a lack of transport options and hidden poverty.</p> <p>Rural deprivation is scattered and can be masked by living alongside relative affluence. Young people in rural communities face differing levels of social exclusion and marginalisation. Rural isolation also presents challenges for the provision of adequate public transport and the viability and accessibility of Youth 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>Those whose parents lack financial resources to pay for driving lessons and a care, or who are prevented from learning due to disability, are at a particular risk of disadvantage.</p> <p>The Equality and Inclusion Strategy is underpinned by a commitment to embedding equality and inclusion across the youth service. Its assessment on the needs of young people noted that more than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that can be defined as rural, that rural deprivation is scattered, can be masked by living alongside relative affluence and that young people can experience poverty and social isolation as a result.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out that young people living in rural areas are one of a number of excluded and marginalised young people whose needs require detailed consideration. All priority areas across the accompanying action plan must therefore consider the needs of young people in rural areas. In addition, research into the needs of young people living in rural areas has been identified as a priority in year one of the action plan, under priority three: 'Research into areas of Inclusion'. The findings of this research will be shared as an action under in year two of the action plan, priority four: 'Sharing Good Practice and Celebrating Achievements' and guidance and support materials will be developed as required to further support the development of delivery models to meet the needs of young people living in rural areas.</p> <p>This Strategy therefore has the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of young people living in rural areas.</p>
<p>New Local and Regional Funding Scheme for Voluntary Youth Work Organisations in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>More than one third of young people from Northern Ireland live in communities that have been defined as rural. In Newry, Mourne and Down more than half of all young people, in Mid Ulster almost two thirds of young people and in Fermanagh and Omagh almost three quarters of all young people live 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>A Department of Agriculture and Rural Development report noted that whilst poverty and social isolation exist in both urban and rural areas it should also be recognised that: ‘those living in rural areas often experience poverty and social isolation differently due to issues relating to geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements’.</p> <p>The new Funding Scheme is an outworking of the DE Priorities for Youth policy, which specifies that there will be greater weighting of funding towards work with young people who are disadvantaged. The PfY policy stipulates that targeted youth service provision will be funded to help meet the needs of specific groups of young people, along with other young people who may experience a combination of barriers to learning.</p> <p>Funding will also be available to support non-targeted/ generic youth work provision. The Funding Scheme will have a positive impact on rural areas by ensuring that organisations with a remit to work with young people in rural areas will address issues of youth provision, mental wellbeing, improved educational outcomes and employability.</p>																					
Education Authority Website Project.	<p>According to DAERA, 37% of the population lives in a rural setting.</p> <p>NI has a lower proportion of geographic data ‘not-spots’ and a greater proportion of its geographic area receiving data coverage from all four operators than the UK as a whole. Geographic not coverage refers to the proportion of an area’s landmass not receiving coverage - 7% in NI and 21% in the UK as a whole.</p> <p>Table 3: Snapshot of mobile data services in Northern Ireland - 2015⁸</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="683 1827 1460 2078"> <thead> <tr> <th>Measure</th> <th>NI</th> <th>UK</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Indoor data coverage by all four operators (% of premises)</td> <td>57%</td> <td>77%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outdoor data coverage by all four operators (% of premises)</td> <td>73%</td> <td>88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indoor data complete not-spots</td> <td>5%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Outdoor data complete non-spots</td> <td>1%</td> <td><1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geographic data coverage by all four operators</td> <td>43%</td> <td>13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geographic data complete not spots</td> <td>7%</td> <td>21%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Measure	NI	UK	Indoor data coverage by all four operators (% of premises)	57%	77%	Outdoor data coverage by all four operators (% of premises)	73%	88%	Indoor data complete not-spots	5%	3%	Outdoor data complete non-spots	1%	<1%	Geographic data coverage by all four operators	43%	13%	Geographic data complete not spots	7%	21%
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	<p>The Communications Market Report produced by Ofcom in 2016 records that more than eight in ten (83%) households in Northern Ireland have access to the internet. Almost eight in ten households (79%) have access to fixed broadband at home, and two thirds (68%) of adults in NI use the internet through a mobile phone. 76% of adults in NI personally use a smartphone and 62% of households in NI own a tablet computer in 2016. Smartphone and tablet ownership do not vary significantly by urban or rural location in NI.</p> <p>Rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access (84%) than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular (75%).</p> <p>It should also be stated that compared to rural areas in the UK as a whole rural Northern Ireland has faster average broadband download speeds. Furthermore, with regard to mobile internet access, Northern Ireland has a lower level of geographic data 'not spots' as compared to the rest of the UK, which theoretically increases the potential of mobile internet usage within rural areas.</p> <p>Broadband Improvement Project</p> <p>The broadband scheme will lay new fibre optic telephone lines to cabinets and in some cases to premises in many areas across Northern Ireland. This will improve telecommunications infrastructure provided through your telephone line. Depending on where you live in Northern Ireland, the broadband scheme should allow you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access superfast broadband; - choose a supplier from several competing broadband companies in areas which have superfast broadband; <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access other services such as video on demand or subscription television.

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>(Superfast broadband speed is more than 24 megabits per second).</p> <p>There could also be access to a computer terminal at local schools. Every school in NI has access to the internet and EA will seek to secure the support of schools in making access available to parents if their rural broadband is lacking.</p> <p>Research shows that rural Northern Ireland have access to broadband services and 4G coverage particularly among those who own a smart phone. Helplines for a number of key offices will continue to exist along with switchboards across the local offices to provide local support to anyone who requires it.</p>										
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education/Transport											
<p>Standardisation of the Parental Payments Scheme.</p>	<p>A Rural Need Impact Assessment Analysis was carried out by ESRI Ireland on behalf of the Authority. Through the data available in this report the Education Authority was able to adopt positive action measures to address rural inequalities by introducing pay bands based on how far you live from school.</p> <p>In cases where payments must be provided due to the unavailability of a public transport option or a legitimate family or school scheduling reason, and based on the public transport rate of 25.7p, the Authority proposes using positive action to address inequalities by using the following payment bands:</p> <p>Table 2: Payment Band</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="671 1626 1471 2074"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="671 1626 1123 1767">BAND Distance from pupils home to nearest suitable school Including Parental Miles</th> <th data-bbox="1123 1626 1471 1767">YEARLY AMOUNT PAYABLE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="671 1767 1123 1845">Band A 0-4 miles</td> <td data-bbox="1123 1767 1471 1845">£185.00 £46.26 x 4= £185.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="671 1845 1123 1924">Band B 4-10 miles</td> <td data-bbox="1123 1845 1471 1924">£465.00 £46.26 x 10= £462.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="671 1924 1123 2002">Band C 10-15 miles</td> <td data-bbox="1123 1924 1471 2002">£695.00 £46.26 x 15= £693.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="671 2002 1123 2074">Band D 15+ miles</td> <td data-bbox="1123 2002 1471 2074">£740.00 £46.26 x 16 = £740.16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BAND Distance from pupils home to nearest suitable school Including Parental Miles	YEARLY AMOUNT PAYABLE	Band A 0-4 miles	£185.00 £46.26 x 4= £185.04	Band B 4-10 miles	£465.00 £46.26 x 10= £462.60	Band C 10-15 miles	£695.00 £46.26 x 15= £693.90	Band D 15+ miles	£740.00 £46.26 x 16 = £740.16
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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>This will therefore have a positive impact on people who live in rural areas.</p> <p>Anyone who has an exceptional circumstance can apply to the EA and this will be considered on a case by case basis.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Education	
EA Digital Admissions Policy.	<p>The Communications Market Report produced by Ofcom in 2017 records that more than eight in ten (83%) households in Northern Ireland have access to the internet. Almost eight in ten households (79%) have access to fixed broadband at home, and two thirds (68%) of adults in NI use the internet through a mobile phone. 76% of adults in NI personally use a smartphone and 62% of households in NI own a tablet computer in 2017. Smartphone and tablet ownership do not vary significantly by urban or rural location in NI.</p> <p>Rural households have comparable access to the internet at home as their urban equivalent. The most recent data from 2016 actually reveals that a greater proportion of rural households have internet access than either Northern Ireland as a whole or urban households in particular.</p> <p>It should also be stated that compared to rural areas in the UK as a whole rural Northern Ireland has faster average broadband download speeds. Furthermore, with regard to mobile internet access, Northern Ireland has a lower level of geographic data ‘not spots’ as compared to the rest of the UK, which theoretically increases the potential of mobile internet usage within rural areas.</p> <p>There should also be access to a computer terminal at local schools where applications can be submitted, every school in NI has access to the internet and EA will support parents to use these facilities if their rural internet is lacking.</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 EA will make electronic hubs available in publicly accessible places for those who may have limited or no access to the internet. EA will consider enabling Helpdesk Staff to complete an application on behalf of a parent/guardian. EA will still accept a hard copy admission form in the unlikely event that a citizen cannot or chooses not to avail of the online facility.</p> <p>During January 2019, EA held a number of Digital Admission Clinics across NI to support parents and guardians in applying on line for a pre- school or primary place. These clinics were targeted at areas where there is a high number of newcomer families, high levels of social disadvantage and localities with poor access to broadband.</p> <p>The clinics operated on a drop in basis, with varying levels of translation services also available.</p>
<p>EA Corporate Business Plan 2018-19.</p>	<p>The work of the EA will impact on the rural population in Northern Ireland as, according to DAERA, 37% of the population lives in a rural setting.</p> <p>EA has approximately 490 schools within rural areas.</p> <p>The Corporate Business Plan 2018-19 contains a number of actions with the potential to impact on rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the Area Plan; this is related to development of the school estate to meet changing demand and demographics. Schools in rural areas may be affected; • Developing of a digital transformation programme; This policy may have issues for people in a rural area with limited broadband, alternative formats will be considered and equality screening will be carried out at the policy design stage by the policy lead; • Working collaboratively with Local Councils and other key partners to implement Community Plans; and • Designing and delivering 11 Local Area Plans, which are linked to Council areas and relate to community use of schools and youth 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>This could have a positive impact on the needs of rural dwellers, with the EA becoming a more regional service provider and with local decisions on community planning being taken at a local level.</p> <p>EA will continue to deliver services in schools and associated transport to rural areas and will target provisions when and where necessary.</p>

Further information on each screening can be found at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/about-us/equality/equality-screenings>

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	
Propel/Pre Accelerator Programme.	<p>The Propel Programme is based in the Ormeau Baths facility in Belfast due to the entrepreneurial ecosystem that already exists and continues to grow. At present all workshops and mentoring sessions are held in Ormeau baths where participants can avail of up to 12 months free co-working space. The current programme has been amended to respond to participant needs in that it will concentrate activity on sprints. This will minimize time at the Baths and maximize time in the field or working from a home/rural base. However, to fully benefit from networking and experience gained from other participants' on the programme, it is more beneficial to work from the Ormeau Baths.</p> <p>There are no set rural specific indicators as the programme targets participants from Northern Ireland as a whole on a competitive entry basis. Propel attracts a good cadre of strong teams from rural areas. The programme's effectiveness is tested via independent interim and final evaluations.</p>
Graduate to Export Programme.	<p>The DfE report, 'Graduate to Success' (April 2012-2020), outlines a desire to 'provide students with opportunities to develop a portfolio of skills, to include international mobility opportunities'. Research indicates that many SMEs are not inclined to invest in management development training, and market intervention is required, in order to encourage business leaders to develop these skills in their business.</p> <p>In recognition of the strategic drivers outlined above, Invest NI's Business Strategy and International Strategy 2017-2021 states that it will renew and redouble emphasis on International Trade support for its customers with the greatest growth potential to access the skills required to realise their ambitions. It is hoped therefore that this programme will enhance the economic prospects for rural dwellers as the overall economy improves.</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 procurement selection process will incorporate appropriate weightings to reflect the necessary expertise/experience required and this will encompass the issue of Rural Needs and other legislative requirements. An evaluation will be carried out following delivery of each cohort. As this is a province wide initiative, no barriers are envisaged in terms of businesses situated in rural areas.</p>
<p>Productivity Improvement Supply Chain Programme.</p>	<p>Productivity Improvement Service works directly with Invest NI customers to deliver tailored support to introduce productivity improvements and effective Supply Chain Management in order to improve operational productivity.</p> <p>The programme focuses on developing capability within the businesses we are engaged with to facilitate sustainable improvements. We offer advice, on-site project scoping, project management, mentoring and coaching.</p> <p>This service is available to all invest NI customers. Part of the service involves the delivery of a range of workshops, awareness raising events, where these are not delivered in-house on company premises these will be arranged to be held either on a regional basis or in a central location (i.e. Belfast International Airport vicinity).</p> <p>As the spread of customers and referrals demonstrates there are no barriers to delivery in rural areas. The service will be available to all Invest NI customers and at a range of regional locations throughout Northern Ireland, ensuring accessibility for participants irrespective of location. Metrics for availability and uptake will continue to be monitored, these will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to identify if any corrective action is required.</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>Collaborative Growth Programme.</p>	<p>Invest NI consulted widely with previous participants in the Collaborative Network Programme (the forerunner of this Programme) and with the Department for the Economy and the academic sector in the development of the new Collaborative Growth Programme. We are not aware of any statistics/research that specifically reflect levels of innovation and/or SME collaboration in rural areas of Northern Ireland, nor are we aware of any particular issues relating to collaboration and/or innovation that are specific to rural SMEs.</p> <p>There are no barriers to delivery of this Programme in rural areas as it is open to all SME's based in Northern Ireland (providing that there are 4 Northern Ireland based SME signatories to any application for funding, at least one of which must be an Invest NI client company).</p> <p>The Programme provides the same level of funding to all projects, regardless of where in Northern Ireland they are based. We are not aware of any reason why a Collaborative Growth Programme project would cost more to operate in a rural area than in an urban one. Once completed each Collaborative Growth Programme project is subject to a Post Project Evaluation (typically six months after the project has ended). The Collaborative Growth Programme itself is subject to an interim evaluation at the mid-point of the 5 year Programme and a full independent economic evaluation and appraisal at the end of the Programme.</p> <p>We continually monitor the spread of projects across Northern Ireland and will continue to work with local Councils and colleagues in Invest NI's regional offices to ensure that SMEs across Northern Ireland are aware of the Programme.</p>
<p>Accelerating Growth Programme</p>	<p>The Accelerating Growth Programme will focus on enabling SME client businesses to adopt a strategic approach to growing their business, determining 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>future direction of their business and enhancing their knowledge, skills and capabilities to drive growth, including export growth, where possible.</p> <p>It is planned that the programme will be delivered in a range of regional locations throughout Northern Ireland, ensuring accessibility for participants irrespective of location.</p> <p>Programme outcomes will be measured for each cohort of the programme. Programme implementation and delivery will be evaluated and reviewed on an ongoing basis for each cohort of the programme in conjunction with Invest NI Regional office colleagues. The Accelerating Growth Programme has previously held cohorts regionally throughout Northern Ireland including Belfast, L/Derry, Omagh, Ballymena & Newry.</p> <p>The programme achieved an overall satisfaction level of 92%.</p>
Brexit Preparation Grant.	<p>This new product is being offered to Invest NI client companies irrespective of geographical location. It is believed that this programme is neutral in terms of rural outcomes. There is no evidence of any specific rural needs or disadvantage at this stage, however we will keep this programme of support under review and where any indication of disadvantage emerges we will adapt its delivery accordingly. The current political uncertainty surrounding Brexit makes more specific anticipation of need more difficult. It is not anticipated to cost more in rural areas and even should this prove to be the case the cost will be met.</p>
Employment Law Advice Service.	<p>The objective of the programme is to provide Invest NI clients with current employment law compliance advice on people management issues aimed at meeting short term needs. The emphasis should be on offering practical options including an assessment of risk to assist clients' decisions.</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 programme is open to Invest NI customers both rural and urban and provides 30 minutes legal advice on HR issues. As the advice is delivered via telephone conversation with the client, the location of the client does not affect the quality of the service. There are no barriers to delivery in rural areas. The costs to the client is free for the 30 minute contact regardless of location.</p>
<p>Leading Within A Group Programme.</p>	<p>The LwG is a new Invest NI pilot programme to be offered to our FDI customers, recognising the benefits to the Northern Ireland economy of supporting international investments. From speaking with our client executives and customers located throughout Northern Ireland, including rural areas, we have been made aware of an increasing demand for a tailored leadership development programme for such businesses, which to date has not been available in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The programme is open to Invest NI customers who are able to demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant business must be located within Northern Ireland and be part of a Group with a parent company based elsewhere. • The applicant can clearly demonstrate their strategic imperative and willingness to grow and improve the performance of the Northern Ireland site. • The applicant can demonstrate their commitment and time available to work with the Executive Coaches, attend workshops and participate in networks. <p>The exact location/s of the workshops will be agreed with the delivery agent once they have been appointed, but workshops held for similar programmes are typically held at various locations throughout Northern Ireland (as well as in Dublin), therefore there are no barriers to delivery 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>In addition, the Executive Coaches who will work directly with the participants will arrange to meet with them at locations that suit the client, including at the client premises, which are likely to include rural areas.</p> <p>We have not set rural specific indicators as we are targeting participant companies from a relatively small pool of potential Invest NI FDI clients and so it would not be appropriate to set targets at a sub-Northern Ireland level. However, we have attracted a good representation of companies from rural areas onto other, similar leadership development programmes.</p>

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.
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Businesses Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas Rural Development</p>	
<p>NIFRS Learning & Development Centre at Desertcreat, Cookstown (LDC) - Phase 2.</p> <p>The objectives of the project are:</p> <p>Objective 1: The delivery of fit for purpose Learning and Development facilities to deliver the projected long term training needs of NIFRS which supports delivery of 26,500 training days, accommodating 38 trainers and 10 support staff by 2023.</p> <p>Objective 2: Provide accommodation to support delivery of training model with flexibility to support changes in training.</p> <p>Objective 3: Provide accommodation which facilitates improved satisfaction in the Learning & Development experience for both Trainees and Trainers.</p> <p>Objective 4: Provide accommodation which facilitates joint training opportunities and community engagement.</p> <p>Objective 5: Provide accommodation which meets the training needs of NIFRS efficiently.</p> <p>Objective 6: To provide accommodation which incorporates the highest standards of sustainable</p>	<p>The following events were held to gather information regarding issues relevant to the local community:</p> <p>Consultation with rural stakeholders:</p> <p>Public Stakeholder Event - 7 February 2019</p> <p>Consultation with public sector:</p> <p>Engagement with Mid-Ulster Council officials, Local Councillors and Departmental officials - 22 October 2018</p> <p>The NIFRS Facilities & Assets team considered published statistics or research:</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/data-tables</p> <p>https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-annual-report-2017</p> <p>Surveys:</p> <p>Travel Survey for Northern Ireland 2014-16</p> <p>At engagement issues raised where around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities • Education opportunities • What type of employment will be created • Economic opportunities • Need to ensure environmental issues are addressed <p>NIFRS acknowledged that to access the site through the use of public transport may be an issue as the local service within the area is not of a high standard.</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>building though the achievement of BREEAM Excellent and which complies with all relevant legislation and standards.</p>	<p>This was noted in relation to specifically the long-term unemployed, apprenticeships recruitment through the social buy-in project.</p> <p>Overall NIFRS did not identify any disproportionate effects on people living within the rural community. The issues that they did identify generally related to what opportunities this project was creating within the rural area.</p> <p>As this project when up and running will not be open to the public and will be used to train firefighters on a daily basis, many of the questions relating to rural need do not apply to this project eg questions around access to service, transport to service, etc.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to how NIFRS can encourage the long-term unemployed, trainees, etc to have the ability to access the site during the construction phase, particularly as the location is quite remote. There may be a need to look into how public transport services the area. However as the facility won't be being accessed by a large volume of people, this will need to be relevant.</p> <p>When considering the need to ensure environmental issues are addressed with the rural area and that people have the ability to enjoy a healthy life, measures have been taken. Any families that indicated concern about the effect on the rural landscape where met with on a one-to-one basis and assured that NIFRS were taking all steps to ensure as little impact on the landscape as possible.</p> <p>It is hoped that the project will meet the social and economic needs of people within the rural community by providing education/training opportunities, employment and economic opportunities. It is anticipated that the needs of rural people in relation to this issues will be met due to the location of the project. Similar outcomes may not delivered for people in urban areas due to location.</p>

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: Rural Housing	
Revising the Supporting People Untoward Incidents Reporting Policy & Process.	<p>The needs of staff, service users, contractors and visitors from rural areas are the same as for all staff, service users, contractors and visitors, which is to have untoward incidents, when they occur reported and managed consistently and appropriately.</p> <p>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 reporting of untoward incidents.</p> <p>The Housing Executive's Business Continuity Strategy assigns accountability for Business Continuity Management, identifies key roles and responsibilities and provides the high-level framework for the organisation to manage and deliver its business continuity responsibilities.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Developing the Housing Executive Business Continuity Strategy.	<p>The needs of staff and customers in rural areas are the same as for all staff and customers, which is to have a framework in place that will enable key services to be reinstated with minimal impact following a disruptive incident.</p> <p>At this high level the Strategy does not impact differentially on staff or customers in rural areas. However, in accordance with the strategy, identified key Housing Executive services will subsequently have detailed specific continuity plans developed, which will take account of rural needs and issues.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Reduction in Local Office Opening Hours - Banbridge.	<p>Rural customers need to be able to access Housing Executive local office services such as tenancy management and making a housing application.</p> <p>Reducing the hours that the Banbridge Housing Executive office is open to customers may have 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>differential impact on rural customers due to reduced levels of broadband and mobile phone connectivity in some rural areas, which could limit customers' ability to engage with our services through other channels.</p> <p>In order to mitigate this impact a 'buzzer system' has been implemented which can be used by any member of the public on a day the office is closed. Staff will be available to deal with queries and will also accommodate home visits as and when required.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the Property Certificate Policy and Procedures.	<p>The needs of people in rural areas are the same as for all in relation to Housing Executive Property Certificates, which is to have their application for a certificate processed consistently and expeditiously.</p> <p>The provisions of this policy and procedure do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all with regard to the issuing of property certificates.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Developing the Policy and Procedures for Handling Personal Data under DPA 2018.	<p>The needs of people in rural areas are the same as for all which is to have their personal data processed by the Housing Executive in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and applied General Data Protection Regulation.</p> <p>The provisions of this policy and procedure do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all with regard to how the Housing Executive handles personal data.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Developing the Local Development Plan Housing Needs Assessment Policy and Procedure.	The Housing Executive is required to provide a housing evidence base, including a 15 year Housing Need Assessment (HNA) for affordable housing as part of the Local Development Plan process. There is a potential barrier to the delivery of a fair outcome for people in rural areas when producing a 15 year HNA because housing need in rural areas can sometimes be hidden.

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>To have due regard to rural needs during the preparation of the 15-year HNAs, the Stage 2 sensitivity analysis will be used to mitigate for hidden rural housing need. The 15-year HNA procedure specifically highlights the need to consider rural housing need as part of this analysis and requires that those preparing the HNA detail how rural needs have been accounted for in arriving at the result. The Rural and Regeneration Unit will be included in discussions and meetings/reviews with Place Shapers, Central Planning and Policy Unit and the Housing Analytics Team in order to ensure that rural issues have been robustly considered.</p>
<p>Revising the Furniture Removal and Storage Service Framework.</p>	<p>The needs of homeless applicants in rural areas are the same as for homeless applicants in all areas, which is to have their belongings protected and stored in line with the Housing Executive's duty under the Housing Order 1988.</p> <p>This is a province wide service that will be made available to homeless applicants regardless of the location of their current accommodation or future accommodations, within the same timescales. There will be no barriers to the delivery of an equitable outcome for people in rural areas.</p>
<p>Developing the Supporting People Plan 19/20 and Strategic Intent Document 2020/23.</p>	<p>People in rural areas have a need to have their housing support related needs met regardless of tenure or where they may reside.</p> <p>The Supporting People Plan 2019-20 and Strategic Intent Document 2020-2023 sets out the activities planned for 2019/20 for the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasks related to the development of and preparations for a three year Supporting People (SP) strategy (2020/21 to 2022/23); • Small variations to the current funding distribution during 2019/20 through the development of floating support provision;

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"> • Development of an Innovation Fund, standardised payment rates, and an exploratory approach to procurement. <p>At this high level it does not impact differentially on people in rural areas.</p> <p>The strategy is based on a strategic needs approach to the housing service need across all of Northern Ireland. At a strategic level gaps in service provision are identified by theme and broad location only.</p> <p>Whilst this does include rural areas the detail of how and where exactly the new services will be provided and which services will be reconfigured has yet to be determined. These decisions on service delivery will each be subject to their own RNIA when there is sufficient detail known to assess the potential impact of the decisions.</p> <p>The Standardised Payment Rate is under development with Deloitte and has potential rural impacts; however this will be considered in a separate RNIA once sufficient detail is known to enable assessment.</p> <p>The Strategic Intent Document 2020-2023 provides a forward work plan that may impact on people in rural areas but this can only be determined once the necessary preparatory work and research has been completed. A separate RNIA for the 2020-23 Strategy will be undertaken once more detailed information is known.</p>
Revising the Illegal Use and Adverse Possession Policy.	<p>The Illegal Use and Adverse Possession policy sets out the policy, procedures and responsibilities regarding the protection of the Housing Executive's Land Asset, to minimise the risk of adverse possession occurring in the first instance and for defending against a claim for adverse possession once lodged.</p> <p>Where a claim for adverse possession is submitted the policy and procedure will result in a consistent standard of response for all claimants irrespective of their geographical location.</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	
Revising the Management of Lone Working Policy.	<p>The need of staff in rural areas with regard to lone working is to be provided with a safe working environment, with sufficient controls in place to mitigate the risk of working alone.</p> <p>The majority of the lone working controls apply equally irrespective of the geographical location of staff. However some lone working devices rely upon mobile signal and would be less effective, or indeed ineffective in rural areas, where mobile signal is poor/ none. Therefore, as mitigation, the policy allows for the requisition of satellite technology devices for those staff that will be lone working in such areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Queens Quarter Housing - Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency (DIME) Accommodation Extension.	<p>Dime is a 70 bed emergency accommodation service located in south Belfast. This service is to be extended to include 7 additional units.</p> <p>As this is an extension to an existing urban based service rather than new service creation, the rural needs identified were that people in rural areas be able to access the DIME service, if no suitable temporary accommodation could be sourced in their area of origin.</p> <p>The proposed additional 7 units will allow greater scope for accepting referrals on an emergency basis from offices other than Belfast.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Housing Executive Recruitment Policy.	<p>The needs of people in rural areas are the same as for all, which is to have fair and equitable treatment when seeking appointment to, or promotion within, the Housing Executive.</p> <p>The provisions of this policy and procedure 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.
Revising the Housing Executive Additional Payments Policy.	Rural needs were considered during the development of this internal policy regarding payments for additional duties undertaken. It was determined that its provisions would have no differential impact on staff from rural areas.
Revising the Housing Executive Grievance Policy.	Rural needs were considered during the development of this internal policy regarding complaints from staff. It was determined that its provisions would have no differential impact on staff from rural areas.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Revising the Housing Executive Leaseholder Policy.	<p>This policy relates to the delivery of services and the application of charges for those services, to meet the Housing Executive's duties for leasehold properties sold under the House Sales Scheme.</p> <p>The needs of leaseholders in rural areas are the same as for all leaseholders, which is to have rational and consistent application of service charges against their properties.</p> <p>The application of charges is dependent upon services delivered and not geographical location and so it has no differential impact on leaseholders in rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Housing Executive Safeguarding Policy & Procedures.	<p>The needs of children and adults in need of protection in rural areas are the same as for all children and adults in need of protection, which is to receive the highest standard of professional care in relation to safeguarding and protection from abuse during their interactions with the Housing Executive.</p> <p>This policy has no differential impact to people in rural areas. The procedures and reporting arrangements within the policy enable a fair and equitable standard of safeguarding care to be provided regardless of whether the child or adult in need of protection lives in an urban and rural 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.
<p>Developing the Housing Executive Managing Suicide Risk Policy & Procedures.</p>	<p>The needs of customers in rural areas are the same as for all customers, which is to receive referral and guidance to sources of qualified support when threatening to commit suicide or self-harm when engaging with the Housing Executive.</p> <p>This policy has no differential impact for people in rural areas.</p> <p>The provisions of the policy and procedure can be applied equally irrespective of whether the customer is in an urban or rural location and referral to qualified support, through Lifeline Regional Suicide Prevention Crisis Line, is available 24/7 and 365 days a year, irrespective of the geographical location of the person threatening suicide or self-harm.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Business</p>	
<p>Revising the Housing Executive Conacre and Agistment Agreements Policy.</p>	<p>People in rural areas have a need for fair and equitable access to the competitive bidding process for sites suitable for conacre/agistment, and to have their applications processed in a fair and equitable way.</p> <p>The policy will have a positive differential impact on people in rural areas as it provides an opportunity for people to make use of suitable Housing Executive land for agricultural/livestock grazing purposes and the majority of suitable sites are located within rural areas.</p>
<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing</p>	
<p>Developing a Chronic Homelessness Action Plan (CHAP).</p>	<p>The CHAP aims to explore the extent and nature of chronic homelessness in NI, the impact of this on people's lives and how the Housing Executive can play its part in addressing the issues that contribute to chronic homelessness.</p> <p>Some potential differential rural impacts were highlighted around the availability of housing solutions and support services within rural areas. A number of mitigations and approaches have been included within the Action Plan to address this:</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>Innovative approaches to preventing homelessness will be encouraged and explored, including awareness campaigns and effectively targeted campaigns to identify households at risk of homelessness and ensure appropriate tailored advice, assistance and support is available. All interventions will be rigorously evaluated so that successful approaches can be extended.</p> <p>A focus on prevention work will seek to keep people in their current accommodation. Relevant floating support, the provision of debt advice, mediation services and better cooperation between agencies will assist this.</p> <p>The action plan will seek to widen the choices available to clients by looking at all tenures of accommodation including private rented sector, owner occupation, etc. and the possibility of new approaches, for example, shared solutions. Outcomes will be measured on an urban/rural basis to inform future actions.</p> <p>The action plan supports a person centered approach which includes improving emergency accommodation provision for those that need it in appropriate locations (near family support or strong connections). This can be achieved through the Review of Single Let Provision and Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation. It will examine new, innovative ways to ensure adequate provision across Northern Ireland.</p>
<p>Reduction in the Larne Office opening hours.</p>	<p>Rural customers have a need to be able to access Housing Executive local office services such as tenancy management and making a housing application.</p> <p>Reducing the hours that the Larne Housing Executive office is open to customers may have a differential impact on rural customers due to reduced levels of broadband and mobile phone connectivity in some rural areas, which could limit customers' ability to engage with our services through other 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>In order to mitigate this impact a ‘buzzer system’ has been implemented which can be used by any member of the public on a day the office is closed. Staff will be available to deal with queries and will also accommodate home visits as and when required.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Treasury Management Policy.	This policy relates to the internal management of NIHE cash flows and has no impact on customers, staff or stakeholders.
Revising the Title Rectification Policy.	<p>The Title Rectification Policy sets out the policy, procedures and responsibilities relating to the process of amending documents of title, where those documents contain some material error or inaccuracy and require rectification.</p> <p>Where it becomes necessary to investigate a title issue these procedures will result in a consistent standard of service for all applicants/owner occupiers irrespective of geographical location.</p>
Revising the Powers of Entry on Land policy	Where it is necessary for the Housing Executive to gain entry on land, whether its own land or private land, people in rural areas have a need to receive notification in a fair and equitable way in accordance with statutory provision. The provisions of this policy and procedure do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable treatment for all.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
Housing Executive Rent Increase Proposal for 2019/20.	<p>The proposal to increase NIHE rents would be applicable to tenants located in both urban and rural locations and any increased would be based on the attributes of the property rather than the location.</p> <p>The primary consideration in terms of rural needs relevant to this proposed increase would be the affordability of any increase.</p> <p>Data specific to NIHE tenant incomes is not recorded.</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>However the Households Below average Income Report (HBAI report) for Northern Ireland published on 15/03/17 -indicates higher weekly household incomes and higher disposable weekly household incomes in rural areas within the general population.</p> <p>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.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Reviewing the Equality Monitoring Policy.</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that systems are in place to collect relevant data and to use that data for the assessment and monitoring of the impacts of policies in terms of the promotion of equality of opportunity. The provisions of the policy do not impact differentially on people in rural areas and enable the monitoring for any adverse impacts of policies adopted by the Housing Executive whether in urban or rural areas.</p>
<p>Revising the Communication Support (Interpreting and Translation) Policy.</p>	<p>Housing Executive customers in rural areas have a need to receive communication support if required at all times during their interactions with us.</p> <p>The policy has no differential impact on people in rural areas. The procedures within the policy enable staff to identify and respond to a customer's communication needs in an equitable way regardless of whether they live in an urban or rural area.</p>
<p>Revising the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy.</p>	<p>Rural needs were considered during the development of this internal policy which governs the use of Housing Executive systems, networks and electronic facilities. It was determined that its provisions would have no differential impact on staff from rural areas.</p>
<p>Revising the Fundraising and Volunteering Policy.</p>	<p>This policy sets out the organisation's approach to volunteering and fundraising at work and for staff. It is recognised that the availability of volunteering opportunities and fundraising events may be more prevalent in urban locations.</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 policy acknowledges that special effort will be made to identify rural fundraising and volunteering opportunities. It also allows for staff to make suggestions for corporate events in rural areas and to be supported when undertaking their own fundraising and volunteering work wherever they choose, including rural locations. Further the fundraising and volunteering committee that is to be established will seek staff representation from rural areas.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Rural Housing	
<p>Revising the Sale of Vacant Dwellings Policy.</p>	<p>People in rural areas have a need for fair and equitable access to the competitive bidding process to acquire Housing Executive surplus vacant dwellings.</p> <p>The provisions of this policy and procedure do not impact differentially on people in rural areas, and enable fair and equitable access for all to the bidding process for the sale of dwellings which have been declared surplus.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
<p>Developing the Managing Health and Safety Risk Policy.</p>	<p>The needs of staff in rural areas are the same as for all staff, which is to be provided with guidance on how to manage the health and safety risks within their areas of responsibility.</p> <p>It was determined that the provisions of this policy would have no differential impact on staff from rural areas and would enable equitable treatment for all.</p>
<p>Developing the Reducing the Risk of Needle Stick Injuries Policy.</p>	<p>The needs of staff in rural areas are the same as for all staff, which is to be provided with guidance on how to manage the health and safety risks associated with needle stick injuries within their areas of responsibility.</p> <p>It was determined that the provisions of this policy would have no differential impact on staff from rural areas and would enable 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	
Developing the Management of periodic electrical inspection and testing, with replacement of smoke/heat detector heads Policy.	<p>The needs of tenants in rural areas are the same as for all tenants, which is to have a safe working electrical installation with smoke and heat detectors.</p> <p>There is no differential impact for rural tenants arising from the way in which this service will be delivered. All properties in the Housing Executive asset portfolio will be inspected on a 5 year cycle. Inspections will be arranged on a District by District cycle and 100% coverage will be achieved.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Internal	
Revising the Display Screen Equipment Policy.	<p>The needs of staff in rural areas are the same as for all staff, which is to understand the Housing Executive's legal responsibilities with regard to display screen equipment, provision of suitable equipment, assessment of equipment and training for staff.</p> <p>It was determined that the provisions of this policy would have no differential impact on staff from rural areas and would enable equitable treatment for all.</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: Cross Cutting	
Review of Community Information Policy which sets out Libraries NI's criteria for the provision of community information in all libraries including those in rural areas.	The policy sets out the criteria regarding the type of information that Libraries NI will make available in libraries including 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: Broadband	
Development of Digital Inclusion Policy which sets out how Libraries NI will provide access to ICT facilities and skills in all libraries including those in rural areas.	The activities described in the policy (free supported access to broadband, Wi-Fi and public access computers and support for digital skills development) 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 Filming Policy which sets out the Libraries NI approach to responding to requests to film in or around a library location.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Partnership Policy which sets out Libraries NI's approach to partnership work.	No rural needs were identified.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health	
Development of Promoting Positive Health and Well-being Policy which outlines Libraries NI's approach to promoting positive health and well-being in all libraries including those in rural areas.	The activities described in the policy (health information, social activities, health promoting activities, community space, reading for pleasure) are available in the 29 libraries located in rural communities (Bands F-H in the NISRA Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements 2015).

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 Safeguarding Policy which sets out Libraries NI's approach to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk when using library services and staff/volunteer responsibilities.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Social Media Policy which outlines Libraries NI's overall approach to the use of corporate Social Media.	No rural needs were identified.
Development of Adoption Leave Policy which provides a clear framework and application process for Libraries NI staff.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Anti-Fraud Policy which sets out Libraries NI's responsibilities and approach to the prevention of fraud.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Application Security Policy which lays down standards applicable to applications used in Libraries NI.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Freedom of Information Policy which sets out Libraries NI's commitment to ensuring an open and transparent approach in responding to information requests and compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.	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 Information Technology Security Policy which provides direction and guidance to users of Libraries NI's information and information systems and the security controls that are to be implemented and complied with.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Internal Audit Charter which sets out the authority, responsibilities, scope and resourcing for the operations of the Libraries Internal Audit Function.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Internet Security Policy which lays down the minimum security standard applicable to the interconnection of the Libraries NI IT environment to the Internet.	No rural needs were identified.
Development of Maternity Leave Policy which provides a clear framework and application process for Libraries NI staff.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Microsoft Windows Client Security Policy lays down the minimum-security standard applicable to Microsoft Windows based PCs, supplied by Libraries NI and operating within Library sites.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Network Security Policy which lays down the minimum security standard applicable to components that form the Wide Area and Local Area Networks within the Libraries NI IT environment.	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 Procurement Policy which sets out the framework for procurement activity in Libraries NI.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Risk Management Strategy which supports the completion of Libraries NI's Governance Statement by the Accounting Officer.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Server Security Policy which lays down the minimum security standard applicable to all Microsoft Windows Servers within the Libraries NI IT environment.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Smoke Free Workplace Policy which sets out Libraries NI's compliance with The Smoking (NI) Order 2006.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Staff Acceptable Use Policy which sets out how Libraries NI will manage and monitor the use of its information assets and systems and the standards it requires from its users.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Staff Appraisal Policy which sets out Libraries NI's approach to the staff appraisals.	No rural needs were identified.
Review of Whistleblowing Policy which sets out guidance on raising a concern.	No rural needs were identified.

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: Rural Tourism	
<p>Commissioning and management of a Northern Ireland wide Visitor Attitude Survey (VAS) (June 2018 - March 2019).</p>	<p>TNI managed a NI wide Visitor Attitude Survey providing insight at each of the 11 Council areas, covering both urban and rural tourism locations, to build a comprehensive picture of domestic and overseas tourists' perspective on the tourism offer. The findings from the VAS were shared with all staff in TNI, and are being shared with each of the 11 local Councils, the tourism industry and key stakeholders. These insights will inform future activities whether on an individual organisation basis or for collaborative working/partnerships.</p>

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	
<p>Designing a Youth Engagement Service (YES) in Derry/Londonderry.</p>	<p>Young people in rural areas were found to have difficulty in accessing transport that would enable them to avail of the Youth Engagement Services. This issue was addressed by the provision of outreach services within schools and community venues.</p> <p>Outreach work will also take place within the city however its focus will be on hard to reach young people.</p>
<p>Designing a Crisis De-escalation Service (to be piloted in the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust area).</p>	<p>The PHA has not identified the social and economic needs of people in rural areas as the service is being developed and piloted in the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust locality - which is classified as urban.</p> <p>The pilot will run until the end of March 2020 and if it proves successful may be rolled out to other areas within NI. If this is the case a further and more comprehensive rural needs assessment will be undertaken at that stage.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Cross Cutting	
<p>Designing a Regional Service User Support Service - for people who are in or have been through drug and alcohol treatment Services.</p>	<p>The service being commissioned will proactively engage with service users in rural areas to identify issues. Consideration will be given to accessibility of groups established, training and meetings, along with any other issues which are identified.</p> <p>The specification has been revised to include the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive engagement with service users who live in rural areas. • Identify any needs in relation to the project which are specific to rural service users, and work to address these.

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 rural service users are consulted on locations for regional meetings and training, with reasonable adjustments made to accommodate them. • Ensure all service users are supported to access training, meetings and other relevant events by refunding travel expenses, organizing car shares and providing transport where appropriate and reasonable.
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>Revising the service delivery model of the Northern Ireland Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (NIDESP).</p>	<p>The Key points currently being considered, in light of the responses received during the pre-consultation are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Age • Health • Dependent Status • Availability of Services <p>Whilst it is not possible to analyse the availability of potential fixed sites in rural areas, the majority of HSC health and wellbeing centres and community hospitals will be in larger settlement areas and are unlikely to be in rural areas and small settlements. A more detailed analysis of impact cannot be carried out until possible fixed sites/high street optometrist locations are scoped.</p> <p>It is recognised that accessibility of sites will need to be considered to ensure that travel to sites is minimised and that public transport links are optimised. However given that a model for service delivery has not yet been chosen, it is difficult to state the exact impact.</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	
<p>Your School Your Club</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The investment targeted schools in both rural and urban areas. In particular schools were identified that could provide facilities for local areas.</p>
<p>Pitch Maintenance</p> <p>Partnership projects with CAFRE to build on the successful 2017/18 Pitch Maintenance Programme.</p>	<p>An open call application process was followed that was accessible to projects in rural and urban areas.</p>
<p>Our Great Outdoors 1</p> <p>Connecting communities and improving community safety through the development of number of community trails.</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.</p>
<p>Our Great Outdoors 2</p> <p>Pilot disability accessible category 1 trail development.</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated in rural areas.</p>
<p>Health and Safety - works at Ballymartin GAA.</p>	<p>The project was in a rural area.</p>
<p>Accessible Trekking - Upgrade of existing trails, improvements to site access, extension to the existing car park provision and mobility equipment.</p>	<p>Due to the nature of the programme the majority of projects would be situated 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>Safety - Installation of upgraded CCTV systems at designated sports grounds as part of the ongoing safety sector work.</p>	<p>The investment took place at sports grounds where health and safety issues had been identified. Rural or urban location was not a factor.</p>
<p>Pool Platforms - To install equipment at up to 6 swimming pool facilities across Northern Ireland by 31 March 2019. To extend choice for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>The investment could only take place at swimming pools. The location of the pools was secondary in the decision making process.</p>

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	
Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles - Service Instruction issued.	A Quality Assurance Assessment is required for all new Service Instructions which includes confirmation of due regard in respect of rural needs. No rural needs were identified.
Service Confidence - Service Instruction issued.	A Quality Assurance Assessment is required for all new Service Instructions which includes confirmation of due regard in respect of rural needs. No rural needs were identified.
Bail - Service Instruction issued.	A Quality Assurance Assessment is required for all new Service Instructions which includes confirmation of due regard in respect of rural needs. Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed - no rural needs were identified.
PSNI Corporate Plan.	Confirmation is required that due regard to rural needs has been considered for all new/revised Policies, Plans and Strategies. No rural needs were identified.
PSNI Mental Health Strategy.	Confirmation is required that due regard to rural needs has been considered for all new/revised Policies, Plans and Strategies. No rural needs were identified.
PSNI Continuous Improvement Strategy.	Confirmation is required that due regard to rural needs has been considered for all new/revised Policies, Plans and Strategies. No rural needs were identified.
PSNI Internal Audit Strategy 2019-2022.	Confirmation is required that due regard to rural needs has been considered for all new/revised Policies, Plans and Strategies. No rural needs were identified.
Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2019/20 (Draft - final plan is agreed by the Northern Ireland Policing Board).	Confirmation is required that due regard to rural needs has been considered for all new/revised Policies, Plans and Strategies. No rural needs were identified.

The Health and Care Social 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	
Review of 2018/2019 GP practice boundary (area) applications.	The key principles in the Procedure to apply for Change to Practice Area, made by a General Medical Services Contractor, takes into consideration patients living in rural areas as the entire HSCB area must be covered by the areas of GMS contractors, and each household should fall within the areas of at least 2 or preferably 3, GMS contractors to facilitate patient choice which includes patients living in rural areas.
Enhanced Services for GP Practices both Northern Ireland wide (NI Local Enhanced Services) and in Local Commissioning Areas (Local Enhanced Services).	The Enhanced Services Group has developed an approval process for the development, approval and rollout of new and existing Enhanced Services to GP Practices, regionally and locally.
NI Weighted Capitation Formula: Review of Family and Childcare Model.	<p>An updated Family and Childcare formula, with the Guided model (regional costs and Sure Start included) was incorporated into the overall Capitation Formula. This will provide significant improvement on the current formula due to the use of a more recent and costed dataset better reflecting prevailing needs.</p> <p>As the capitation formula has a specific adjustment to address the differential costs of service provision in rural area, no rural needs impact assessment was carried out.</p>
Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Adult Training and Rehabilitation Service.	Access to Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) services is a regional issue since people with ABI needs can reside in any part of NI. A model is being developed which will require the provider to deliver services either directly or indirectly, via a provider base or community and faith-based venues across 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.
Regional Parenting Support Helpline.	A Service Specification has been developed which requires providers to demonstrate how they will undertake outreach activities to ensure that all people irrespective of diversity, rurality, poverty and language should have access to the helpline for support, advice and information on parenting and services that are needs-based.
Counselling and Education Service for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Violence and Abuse.	This regional service covers rural areas, with outreach services provided in a range of community venues, This flexible service can be provided outside office hours to suit the needs of the individual.
Family Support and Information Service for Children and Young People with an Acquired Brain Injury and their Carers.	Acquired Brain Injury is not a condition dependent upon location and services are delivered on the basis of HSC needs and assessment. As location has no impact on this service, no rural needs impact assessment was carried out.
Family Support to Parents and Carers with Prematurely Born Babies and those requiring Special or Intensive Care at Birth.	The service is based on child and family need and is available to all families regardless of location. No rural needs impact assessment was carried out.
Reconfiguration of Hospital Stroke Services.	<p>A pre-consultation was undertaken on the design of a service model for hospital stroke services capable of delivering high quality and sustainable care, as detailed in NICE Clinical Guidelines (2019) on an equitable basis.</p> <p>The key objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a sustainable model for stroke services by identifying the most appropriate number and size until that can deliver high quality seven day services for the NI population; • Identify options for optimum locations for provision of a sustainable stroke service model; • Identify options capable of delivering better clinical outcomes for the population, reduced stroke related death and disability. (Further details in RNIA).

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>Visitors Policy at Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.</p>	<p>The staff of the RBHSC aim to provide a family-centred service in which parents are encouraged to participate in their child's care. Although the policy is essentially that of 'Open Visiting' for parents, a comprehensive visiting policy is necessary to promote the implementation of effective infection prevention and control measures and to promote the health, safety and privacy of children and young people in our care.</p> <p>The purpose of the policy is to clarify appropriate visiting arrangements and to ensure these are implemented. The aim is to balance the beneficial effects of children spending time with their family, carers and friends with their need to rest and recover from illness and the need for staff to manage clinical areas safely and effectively.</p> <p>As such, only 2 people will be allowed to visit the child at any time. Facilities for staying overnight are very limited however, these will be allocated as fairly as possible by ward nursing staff. After 8pm only parents are permitted to visit. Only one parent or a nominated adult relative should stay overnight with the child.</p> <p>In recognition of different needs and where people live, visiting arrangements for an individual patient will be reassessed according to the child's clinical condition and the needs of the family. In accordance with the aim of providing individualised patient-centred care, nursing staff will allow for some flexibility in overnight arrangements according to the needs of each patient and family.</p>
<p>Visitors Policy.</p>	<p>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust recognises that visiting time is an important part of the patient's day and our hospitals welcome visiting. The policy for In-patient Hospital Visiting has been developed with the aim to balance the therapeutic effect of patients spending time with relatives, carers and friends with</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 patients' need for rest and the need for clinical staff to manage the ward, reduce the potential spread of infection and provide efficient care in a safe and secure environment. On admission, patients and visitors should be informed of the visiting times in the ward or clinical area. If there is restricted visiting they should be advised of the reasons for restricting visiting to these times, and that they should refrain from visiting outside of these hours. Visitors who do present outside of these hours should only be permitted to visit a patient at the discretion of the nurse in charge. This should be in exceptional circumstances only.</p> <p>The Trust is also mindful that patients and their families can come from rural areas and so in accordance with a patient's wishes, defined family should be able to remain with their loved one at any time, as part of the patient-centred plan of care. The care team, the patient and the family will agree on how family presence can be facilitated. This depends on the physical space, safety considerations and the patient's needs.</p>
<p>Proposal to temporarily transfer regional provision of perinatal paediatric pathology service from Belfast HSC Trust to Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust.</p>	<p>Belfast Trust is commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board to provide this perinatal paediatric pathology service on a regional basis across Northern Ireland since 2008. Perinatal/paediatric autopsies are performed by a Paediatric Pathologist who specialises in identifying conditions that affect babies, and who examines babies to find out why they died.</p> <p>The Trust can no longer provide the service due to an absence of paediatric pathologists. While continuing to explore all avenues to maintain the service in Northern Ireland, the Health and Social Care Board, the Public Health Agency and the Trust have now had to consolidate provision of perinatal pathology services for the region by a service provider in the UK on a temporary basis. (Microscopic examination and reporting of placentas is already provided outside Northern Ireland in Alder Hey NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool due to limited perinatal paediatric pathologist capacity). It is anticipated that this proposal will 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.
	<p>on parents and families who have been bereaved and who are considering whether to consent to a post mortem for their baby or child. The Trust will ensure that this process will be dealt with sensitively and with the appropriate level of information and assurances. Should parents and families consent to the post mortem, they will have the opportunity to spend time with the baby or child before transfer to Alder Hey.</p> <p>All travel arrangements for the baby and any 2 family members who wish to travel will be organised and paid for by the HSC Trust. The Trust is committed to equality of opportunity and accessible and responsive services for all. This is an interim arrangement and the Trust will continue to seek to recruit paediatric pathologists for the region within the Belfast Trust.</p> <p>The transfer of services to Alder Hey will also yield some service improvements, from which people in rural and urban areas will benefit. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a high quality paediatric perinatal pathology service with improved capacity e.g. It will also allow for an increase in capacity for placental examination from 500 to 1500 a year. • Continuity of service delivery with the service provided 52 weeks of the year from Monday-Friday (whereas currently the regional service is only available 3 days a week due to the consultant shortage). • A paediatric autopsy will be completed within 36 hours of arrival at Alder Hey. • Shorter and consistent turnaround times for full pathology report which will be available within 56 days, as opposed to the current potential wait of 5-6 months.

In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlinks to equality screenings of Trust policies, which total 145 during this period.

[Equality Screening Outcome Report April June 2018](#)

[Equality Screening Outcome Report July September 18](#)

[Equality Screening Outcome Report October December 2018](#)

[Equality Screening Outcome Report January March 2019](#)

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	
NHSCT 18/1202 Hospital Diversion Nursing Team Operational Policy.	Four locality based clinics across NHSCT area plus facility to deliver treatments to patients in own home if unable to travel. This domiciliary visit element is the ultimate mitigation to counter rural needs impact.
NHSCT 18/1208 Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (Corporate).	Clinical guideline for appropriate response in event of pandemic influenza. Aims to maintain people at home in community unless condition escalates to a requirement for hospital treatment therefore minimum impact in respect of rural needs.
NHSCT 18/1260 Contingency Placement Policy.	Provides for temporary placement in community bed for people who are ready for discharge. Location of community bed is subject to availability and may impact upon travel distance and time for patient's relatives and friends who wish to visit. Short term impact only until discharge to home can be managed.

In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlinks to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies.

[Screening Outcome Report - March 2019](#)

[Screening Outcome Report - December 2018](#)

[Screening Outcome Report - September 2018](#)

[Screening Outcome Report - June 2018](#)

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>Change to the Service Delivery Model for Community Aids and Appliances.</p> <p>Small community aids and appliances to daily living which are currently supported by a retail model with participating community pharmacists will change to a home delivery system.</p>	<p>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out.</p> <p>No adverse impact has been identified for people living in rural areas. This proposal will enhance services providing home delivery to all. Therefore clients/families would not need to travel to collect equipment from their local pharmacies.</p>
<p>Relocation of Newtownhamilton Community Dental Clinic from its existing accommodation where the dental surgery is no longer fit for purpose. The Community Dental Service in Newtownhamilton is provided one day per month.</p>	<p>A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been carried out.</p> <p>No adverse impact has been identified for people living in rural areas. With the relocation of the community dental clinic patients will be offered a choice of clinics to attend in either Armagh or Newry. They will have more choice in regards to dates and times of appointments. These clinics will be accessible for all abilities, equipped with modern dental equipment, x-ray machines etc. and will be able to offer inhalation sedation to all patients if required.</p>

[Southern Trust Quarterly Screening Reports](#)

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 Services	
Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (Corporate).	Clinical guideline for appropriate response in event of pandemic influenza. Response plan aims to maintain people at home in community unless condition escalates to a requirement for hospital treatment therefore minimum impact in respect of rural needs.

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: Cross cutting	
<p><i>Pathfinder West</i></p> <p>The Trust announced in July 2018 that it would be embarking on a Pathfinder initiative which would take a detailed focused look at Health and Social Care provision across the Fermanagh and West Tyrone geography.</p> <p>The Pathfinder initiative's objective is to look at the population's needs, creating ways to improve what we do, look at ways to anticipate care better, ways we can improve access to diagnostics and treatment, look at post-acute Health & Social Care, best practice in recruiting and retaining an appropriate workforce and ultimately providing the delivery of affordable Health and Social Care services for the area, noting rural geography.</p> <p>The Trust will Develop and Design an exemplar model for Fermanagh and West Tyrone for Health and Social Care which will be aligned with the Principles and recommendations within <i>Systems not Structure and Delivering Together</i>.</p> <p><i>Fermanagh and West Tyrone Area</i></p> <p>The WHSCT Pathfinder project includes an area that covers all of</p>	<p>Three potential areas were identified due to "lack of access to services":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gortin/Plumbridge Catchment; • Lisnaskea Catchment; • Belleek Catchment. <p>As part of pathfinder work is to establish exemplar models for the geography therefore it was directed for scoping work to commence in these areas. However, it is recognised that as the Population Health Needs are more fully identified for the entire Fermanagh and West Tyrone geography this will influence and steer the action plan for the area and any potential models.</p> <p>Data in this Rural Needs Assessment is for the reporting period March 2018 to March 2019, therefore initially Gortin area, Lisnaskea area and Belleek area have been considered for initial data in this scoping phase of the project and is detailed as per the tables below; It is expected that as the Population Health Data for the geography will be developed from March 2019 to Oct 2019 and this will then inform project next stage and any planning and action plan.</p> <p>Issues identified with regards to Access to Primary Healthcare Services within Fermanagh and West Tyrone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 19 general practices in the Pathfinder area in July 2019, 17 of which were in the Fermanagh and Omagh LGD. Eighty seven GPs were recorded as employed at these practices, with 141,103 registered patients. • The perception reported by stakeholders that there is a cohort of older GPs approaching retirement age in the area appears to be correct, and appears to be different from other parts of Northern Ireland.

<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>Fermanagh and Omagh Local Government District (LGD, using 2014 boundaries) and several areas that are part of Derry City and Strabane LGD. For many official publications, information is only available routinely at LGD level. Where this is the case, the information for Fermanagh and Omagh LGD has been used.</p> <p>Where information is also available at District Electoral Area (DEA), information for the Derg and Sperrin DEAs has been reported. Where information is available at Super Output Area, the whole region covered by the Pathfinder project has been included. The unit of geography is described with all information.</p> <p>The Fermanagh and West Tyrone district is approximately 3,000km² and is home to approximately 128,000 people. The district is the largest in Northern Ireland in terms of land mass and is the smallest in terms of population. The population density is 38 people per km².</p> <p>The potential Pathfinder West model will include the following subsets which will be considered in phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Connected Communities Pilots . 2) Hospital & Community Services. 3) Workforce, Employment and Educational Pathways. 	<p>According to HSCB statistics, about 63% of male GPs in Fermanagh and Omagh are aged 50 or older, while only 21% of females are aged 50 or older. It is possible that this demographic change might be associated with a reduction in whole-time equivalent GPs in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fermanagh and Omagh is different from other parts of Northern Ireland, however, in having seen a marked reduction in the number of practices, with a consequent increase in average number of patients registered at each remaining practice; • The distance from each person's home to the nearest general practice is markedly different than in other areas: about one in five people lives more than five miles from the nearest practice within the Fermanagh and West Tyrone area; • The number of GPs per head of population in Fermanagh and Omagh LGD is slightly less than the average for Northern Ireland as a whole. Using this simple headcount, Fermanagh and Omagh LGD would need 7 more GPs to bring it even with the Northern Ireland average; or the whole Fermanagh and West Tyrone Pathfinder area would need 10 more GPs; • This simple 'headcount' of GPs might not reflect differences in whether the GPs work full-time or less-than-full-time in different areas. Antrim & Newtownabbey and Newry, Mourne and Down LGD areas are in a similar, or slightly worse position; • Payments from HSCB for GP services in Fermanagh and Omagh are the highest in Northern Ireland; <p>High Level Issues identified as part of the Pathfinder Scoping Phase;</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 project has been implemented in phases where the first stage (pre-engagement phase) involved a series of engaging discussions with staff in South West Acute and Omagh Hospitals from August to November 2018. This comprised 17 events taking place at venues across the two sites to present what Pathfinder was about.</p> <p>The second phase (up to March 2019) as integral in achieving the overall aims of the project was the 'Engagement Phase'. In one of the most comprehensive community engagement initiatives ever undertaken by the Trust, the Pathfinder team attended 62 Engagement Sessions and had wide ranging discussions on the future planning and delivery of services in the area with over 2,200 stakeholders attending venues all across Fermanagh and West Tyrone. This involved patients, community & voluntary groups, carers, action groups, staff, schools, public representatives and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Experts by Experience are directly involved in the workstreams which will influence the direction of the future Pathfinder planning process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Fermanagh and Omagh District Community Plan, the area is primarily rural with 17% of the population living in villages and small settlements and 46% of the people living in open countryside; • The Fermanagh and West Tyrone area faces some specific challenges in delivering of services and ambitions to a smaller population within a significant rural landmass, which makes recruitment and retention of its HSC workforce significantly more challenging. This has contributed to a higher level of locum to cover core services than in many other areas of NI; • The population of the Fermanagh and West Tyrone area is getting older and more diverse; • Educational outcomes are good; • The tourist economy is not fully utilized; • General practice is retracting; • The Pathfinder GP area has 82 GPs in the area in 21 practices who have 140,764 registered patients; • The rest of NI has 0.67 GPs per 1,000 patients, whereas Fermanagh and West Tyrone has 0.58 GPs per 1000 patients; • People Aged 70 years and older accounted for 35% of emergency admissions and 67% of emergency bed days (SWAH 2018); • 10% of occupied bed days were used by people that were medically fit for discharge (SWAH 2018);

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital provision is in place but not operation to full capacity; • Social Care Provision is limited and rotas are harder to full in the more rural parts of the area; • Emigration by the 18-35 age group is proportionally higher; • Unknown impact of BREXIT is an unknown impact and an anxiety expressed by communities; • Transport and travel were continuously and strongly expressed as an area of real struggle for patients to attend appointments in hospitals and clinics which were long distances away from their homes. 25 out of the 49 Super Output Areas are ranked in lowest quintile for access to services; • 81% of the Super Output areas have access worse than the NI median; • Loneliness, home care and appointment waiting times; • The shortage of carers and the issues regarding domiciliary care was a recurring theme at many of the engagement sessions; • Issue of training people to work in the area for them then to leave and rarely return was seen as an area that impacted negatively on supporting sustainable services; • There is a need to work more collaboratively across government agencies; • More of a community-oriented model;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population stable size but becoming older; • Birth rate expected to fall further slowly; • Infants get a comparably good start in life - relatively low levels of risk factors overall (these are concentrated in areas of deprivation); • Very low vaccination in pregnancy need investigation and improved; • Childhood obesity comparable to NI overall; • Childhood ED attendances increased 3 years ago but stable since; Non-elective admissions and bed days quite high; • Adults - mortality/life expectancy changes in women from deprived areas requires investigation; • Admissions and deaths for alcohol, drugs, smoking are concentrated in deprived areas; • ED attendances increasing, admissions decreasing. Bed day use is high but falling; • Staff Feedback was also heard and being considered during the listening phase. <p>The Pathfinder Team continue to work to fulfil the aims and objectives set in the PID for the Pathfinder Fermanagh West Tyrone initiative.</p> <p>There are 3 key workstreams ongoing at present with subsections of work within each. They are Connected Communities, Workforce and Hospital & Community Services.</p>

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	<p>The Connected Communities have as subsets the following workstreams - Virtual clinics, Pharmacy, Drumclay Transitional Unit, Domiciliary Care (inputs into Deep Dive project initiated through Delivering Value).</p> <p>The Connected Communities have also been working towards the development of a business case on the needs of the 3 communities highlighted at the Health Summit with least access to services in the Pathfinder geography. Work has been ongoing throughout the Summer months with various partner agencies to progress how this can meaningfully be progressed. Workshop planned for 25 September to progress further.</p> <p>The Workforce workstream has projects investigating apprenticeships, skills academy and future heroes campaign.</p> <p>In terms of Hospital and Community services there are also service profiles ongoing in relation to hospital specialties to determine if there are opportunities to reduce silo working and improve efficiency. There are also initiatives seeking to maximise the opportunities that are available on the South West & Omagh Hospital sites e.g. transfer of lapchole procedures to South West Acute, bariatric surgery at South West, gynae procedures being progressed at Omagh.</p> <p>The project will continue to have the support of the Experts by Experience. It is intended that this will be expanded as the Connected Communities project comes to fruition.</p>
The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to: Health or Social Care	
<p>Drumclay Transitional Care Facility The Trust will operate and manage a Nursing Home in Enniskillen, Co</p>	<p>This facility is in Fermanagh and therefore brings services closer to the community allowing older people to regain their independence.</p>

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<p>Fermanagh to be referred to as Drumclay Transitional Care Facility. The aim of the initiative is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide short-term rehabilitation support to individuals transitioning from hospital to home. • To bring services closer to Fermanagh communities. • To allow older people to regain their independence and remain in their own home and community for longer. • To build capacity in the Community to support our hospitals. • To improve patient flow through the South West Acute Hospital and Omagh Hospital & Primary Care Centre. • To delay the need for older people to be admitted to long-term care settings. <p>The Drumclay facility will allow people in particular older people in rural areas to regain their independence and confidence to return to their own home and community and live safely.</p>	<p>The availability of carers to provide domiciliary care in rural areas is lacking in some border areas in Fermanagh.</p>

ISBN: 978-1-83887-074-4

Date of Publication - December 2019



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

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