A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

The International Trade Programme aims to deliver an annual programme of international trade activity as part of an overall strategy to support local businesses to grow through developing new customers and markets outside Northern Ireland.

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

LCCC International Trade Programme 2023-24

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

**X**

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Development of LCCC International Trade Programme 2023-24

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

1A. Name of Public Authority.

**SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

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*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

**X**

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

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It is unlikely that the International Trade Programme will impact differently on businesses in rural areas. Businesses which are eligible may apply for support and benefit regardless of urban or rural location.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

Businesses which are located in rural areas that meet the International Trade Programme eligibility requirements will be able to apply to join trade missions and be supported to gain new markets which ultimately will help their business grow or become more sustainable.

Any growth in new markets may contribute to employment and the local economy in the area where the business is located, which may include rural areas.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

 **X**

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

**SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

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N/A

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

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 Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

**X**

**X**

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

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Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016)

DAERA website information and publications, including Key Rural Issues 2021

Information and reports on business activity and employment in LCCC and Northern Ireland

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

**X**

**X**

**X**

**X**

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

**X**

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

**SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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N/A

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

Rural businesses who want to grow may experience issues with transport links, infrastructure or connectivity – rural businesses do not have access to superfast Broadband in the same way as urban businesses. They may also struggle to recruit staff with the skills they require.

There is a need to create sustainable jobs in rural areas through growing existing businesses and supporting new business start-ups. There is a need to balance the benefits of growing the economy and rural businesses with environmental concerns around maintaining the appeal of rural areas for local residents and to attract tourists.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

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The aim of the International Trade programme is to help businesses expand into new markets which may lead to more jobs and sustainability.

The Business Solutions team has considered the need for balanced support for businesses across the district so that businesses in both urban and rural locations benefit equitably. The International Trade Support Programme is designed to provide support for international market development that is relevant and tailored to the needs of the particular business.

The Business Solutions team has considered how their programmes are promoted to ensure that all eligible businesses know about the support available and there are no unreasonable barriers to application.

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

**SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

The key activity delivered by the International Trade Programme has not been influenced significantly by consideration of rural needs as the support required to grow businesses in international markets is not specific to an urban or rural location. Location/rurality is not a factor in deciding whether an applicant business will be supported.

However, LCCC staff are aware of the need to ensure the Programme is well promoted to businesses in rural areas and to ensure there are no barriers to access to ensure equitable spread of benefit across rural areas.

Where feasible, support is tailored to the needs of the particular business and will take into account any rural-specific factors that are relevant to the programme.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

Yes No If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C.

x

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Patricia Mallon

Position/Grade:

Economic Development Manager

Division/Branch

Economic Development

Signature:

Patricia Mallon

Date:

23/10/23

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Paul McCormick

Position/Grade:

Head of Service

Division/Branch:

Economic Development

Signature:

Paul McCormick

Date:

27/10/23

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

**X**

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

N/A

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.