



## Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

### Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

**Name of Public Authority:**

**Reporting Period:** April 20  to March 20

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service<sup>3</sup>.</i>
Review of Fees for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnership Solemnisation Ceremonies	Not applicable - Council policy	This policy is not intended to impact people differently in rural areas. The fees policy will apply to all applicants regardless of where they live or where the ceremony takes place.
Development of Citizen Recognition Policy	Not applicable - Council policy	This policy is based on merit and is not related to whether or not the perspective nominee for an award lives in a rural or urban area.
Development of Newtownstewart Regeneration Framework	Cross-cutting inc. rural businesses, tourism, community	This framework applies to the rural town of Newtonstewart which has a population of circa 1500 people. Newtonstewart is as an important service

	safety and development.	centre catering for its resident population and a wide rural area. As a rural town, the primary beneficiaries will be the local rural residents, business owners and visitors to the town. In drafting the Newtonstewart framework document, research was undertaken to develop locational and contextual understanding of the rural town which included a review of all relevant policy (local development plans, local growth plans relevant local action plans, and a review of census information). Council also undertook an extensive community engagement hosting 2 public engagement events which were attended by residents, local business owners and other key stakeholders. Council officers met regularly with representatives from the local businesses and heritage group and 2000 Centre and also receive feedback from local elected representatives.
Review of Entertainment Licensing Policy	Not applicable – Council policy (relevant to rural and urban businesses)	Entertainment licencing is a statutory function which aims to protect the safety and welfare of persons visiting licenced premises and to prevent undue noise disturbance to those residing in the vicinity. The statutory framework imposes requirements on both applicants and the councils in relation to what is required. There is no differential treatment in regard to urban and rural areas.
Proposed introduction of Time Management Software in Leisure facilities	Not applicable – internal staff policy	The proposed arrangements are to be to all staff working in leisure facilities regardless of whether they live/work in rural or urban areas.
Development of Good Relations Action Plan 2025-26	Education and training in rural areas, poverty in rural areas, rural	The programmes in the good relations action plan are open to all eligible groups and organisations that meet the eligibility criteria including those in rural areas. The design of the grant aid programmes,

	community safety, rural development	wherein each district electoral area will receive a proportionate allocation of funding should mean that people in rural areas will benefit equitably. Other programmes will also benefit the rural areas eg those delivered through the local growth plans and the cultural quarter programme. In designing the programme, feedback was considered from the Rural Area Partnership in Derry (RAPID) and other rural groups, as well as from Elected Members, Local Community Group Partnerships and previous beneficiaries.
Development of Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan 2024/5	Other – Improving well-being for users of Council services and citizens	<p>This plan for 24/25 represents the priority outcomes for the Council for 2024/5. It reflects the Council-led priorities set out in the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017-32 and identifies action that will be undertaken above and beyond the everyday delivery of council services. This plan will assist the Council in delivering it's mission of delivering "improved social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone".</p> <p>The three improvement objectives have positive benefits for rural communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to assist a return to healthy lifestyle history and re growing participation in high quality pleasure sports and physical activity</li> <li>• to create a greener cleaner more attractive district</li> <li>• to deliver improved customer satisfaction by improving customer support services and processes.</li> </ul> <p>The Improvement objectives identified in this plan were subject to a public consultation exercise. No rural issues raised.</p>

Review of Corporate Health and Safety Policy	Not applicable – internal Council policy	This is primarily a policy that applies to staff and does not impact differently on staff who live or work in rural areas. Consideration was given to the need to ensure safety for staff who may be lone working in a rural area. Provisions to ensure they are protected are included in the Council's Lone Working Policy and in the general safe systems of work and associated risk assessments carried out for all staff.
Development of Safeguarding Policy (Children and Young People)	Not applicable- Council policy	This policy will apply all individuals who engage with council staff and services, irrespective of the location in which they access those services.
Development of Treasury Management Policy and Investment Strategy 2025/26	Not applicable- Council policy	Treasury management is the management of Council's borrowing, investments and cash flows, including its banking and money market funds, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.
Implementation of Annual Directorate Delivery Plans.	Other – internal plan	These Plans aim to implement the commitments set out in the Corporate and Improvement Plan
Review of Temporary Street Trading Policy	Not applicable – council policy	The policy is not intended to impact people in rural areas. Applications for temporary licences relate to events taking place in the urban areas of Derry and Strabane.
Development of Dual Language Street Signs Policy	Other – road naming	The policy recognises the importance of townland names for rural communities and has developed a policy which allows rural dwellers to request dual language road signage which includes the relevant townland name in which the road is situated. The policy also makes provision for the provision of different languages to be used in the case of long roads which are normally found in rural areas.
Review of arrangements for Council /	Not applicable –	This proposal is aimed at improving democratic

Committee Meetings	internal policy	participation for all Elected Members. It is noted that Members in rural areas may benefit more from virtual meetings through greater reductions in travel time and better time management.
Review of Hybrid Working Pilot Policy and Guidance	Not applicable – internal staff policy	<p>This review aimed to evaluate the impact of hybrid working arrangements on operational efficiency, productivity and employee satisfaction. The policy recognizes the benefits when considering personal commuting and lunchtime costs. Commuting costs may be higher for those staff living in rural areas. In addition, one of the primary components of the carbon footprint of work relates to travel - using hybrid working arrangements, managers and staff can help to reduce both their own and the organisation’s environmental footprints.</p> <p>The hybrid working arrangements will be offered to all staff working in suitable service areas regardless of whether they live/work in rural or urban areas.</p>

**NOTES**

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.

3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.