

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the Act) came into operation for government departments and district councils on 1 June 2017. The Act requires policy makers and public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing and implementing policies and when designing and delivering public services.

In fulfilling these obligations, the Council has taken rural needs into consideration in respect of the:

- Development of the Derry City and Strabane District Council's Advice Strategy (2018-2021);
- Development of the Derry City and Strabane District Council's Special Leave Policy;
- Preparation of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy
- Implementation of the Council's Revised Dog Control Enforcement Policy;
- Revision of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Data Protection Policy in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations;
- Ongoing development of the Derry City and Strabane District Council Food Service Plan 2018-2020; and
- Council's Workplace Drug and Alcohol Policy.

A core dimension of these initiatives has been ensuring that engagement processes have specifically included rural stakeholders in co-design processes.

The Council is committed to ensuring that due regard is given to rural needs when developing and implementing policies and when designing and delivering public services and in this context, work is continuing to be advanced in terms of:

- embedding rural needs impact assessment with the Council's decision making processes
- developing training programmes and policy guidance / templates;
- identifying and sharing best practice and
- improving the monitoring of services and outcomes.

In order to fulfil its obligations under Section 3 of the Act, the Council will submit information to the Department and include information on the Rural Needs Act in its Annual Performance Report.

Further information on how the Council has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service is provided in Appendix 1.



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:

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Reporting Period:

April

20

18

to

March

20

19

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.

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.

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 (1).	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to (2).	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service (3).
Advice Strategy 2018-2021	Social needs of persons in rural areas	<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.</p> <p>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.-</p> <p>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 and extra 5% or 10% extra funding</p>
Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to2.	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service3.
Special Leave Policy	Needs of staff who live in rural areas	Accommodation has been made within the policy to recognize the impact of the additional travel time required for medical appointments

<p>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 20161.</p>	<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to2.</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 service3.</p>
<p>Amusement Permit Policy</p>	<p>- Rural Businesses</p>	<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; • 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>

Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016	The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to	Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service.
Dog Control Enforcement Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Businesses - Agri-Environment 	<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Businesses - Rural Communities 	<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 and those who do not and helps to eliminate unlawful discrimination.</p> <p>The policy applies to all persons fairly and consistently.</p>
Food Service Plan 2018-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Businesses 	<p>The plan is a requirement of law. The framework requires Local Authorities to adopt a service to show how they enforce this law, the law is fully 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>

<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).</p>	<p>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to(2).</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 (3).</p>
<p>Workplace Drug and Alcohol Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs of staff who live in rural areas 	<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.