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

*(Revised) April 2018*

 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).*

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| **Name of Public Authority:** | *Fermanagh and Omagh District Council* |

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| **Reporting Period:** | **April** | **20** | *22* | **to** | **March** | **20** | *23* |

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.

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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) 20161.* | *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.* |
| Information and Communication Technology Policies & Procedures. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas as the policy will not impact differently on staff based in rural areas compared to those in urban areas. The policy will be applied equally irrespective of location. |
| Safe Driving at Work Policy. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas as the policy will not impact differently on staff based in rural areas compared to those in urban areas. The policy will be applied equally irrespective of location. |
| Visitor Experience Development Plan. | Cross-cutting | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas as the Plan will not impact differently on people in rural areas compared to those in urban areas. The Plan will have the same positive impact on people in rural and urban areas. |
| Enniskillen Place Shaping Plan. | Cross-cutting | The actions identified in the plan have been informed through research and extensive engagement with key stakeholders (including the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) with the goal of bringing tangible and effective change to Enniskillen. This will positively support growth and change throughout the district, providing more opportunity for economic growth, access to skilled workforce, improved digital infrastructure and other services. The Plan will have a positive impact for surrounding rural communities, thereby helping to sustain these areas. The Plan strongly advocates for the completion of the A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass, which would also positively benefit surrounding rural communities by improving their connectivity and accessibility. |
| Omagh Place Shaping Plan. | Cross-cutting | The actions identified in the plan have been informed by through research and extensive engagement with key stakeholders (including the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs with the goal of bringing tangible and effective change to Omagh. This will positively support growth and change throughout the district, providing more opportunity for economic growth, access to skilled workforce, improved digital infrastructure and other services. The Plan will have a positive impact for surrounding rural communities, thereby helping to sustain these areas. The Plan strongly advocates for the completion of the A5 Western Transport Corridor, which would also positively benefit surrounding rural communities by improving their connectivity and accessibility. |
| Assisted Bin Lift and Additional Bin Collection Policy (including 360L recycling blue bin). | Access to Services | The Assisted Bin Lift, Additional Bin Collection and 360l Blue Recycling Bin Policy will have the same positive impact on people in rural and urban areas. Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Policy will be applied equally irrespective of location. |
| Local Development Plan. | Cross-cutting | In January 2023, the Department for Infrastructure issued a Direction to the Council to adopt the Plan Strategy with modifications. The Department’s Direction included two schedules. The first Schedule contains Recommended Amendments which reflect the Council’s proposed changes (October 2020). The Council has already screened these proposed changes in the Rural Needs Impact Assessment Appraisal Addendum FODC114. The second schedule in the Direction included for screening purposes are those modifications which the Department for Infrastructure has directed as being necessary for the adoption of the Plan Strategy. It should be noted that of the 50 proposed modifications directed by the Department for Infrastructure, many of these consist of minor edits to proposed changes previously suggested by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. Therefore, this further Rural Needs Impact Assessment addendum should be read in conjunction with the Rural Needs Impact Assessment FODC105 and the Rural Needs Impact Assessment Appraisal Addendum FODC114. |
| Travel & Subsistence Policy. | Internal | The Travel and Subsistence Policy (for staff) will have the same positive impact on staff in rural and urban areas. The purpose of the Policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the full and prompt reimbursement of costs necessarily incurred by staff of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in the course of their duties. The policy will not impact differently on staff in rural areas as it will be applied equally irrespective of location. |
| Financial Reserves Policy. | Internal | The Financial Reserves Policy will have the same positive impact on people in rural and urban areas. The purpose of the Policy is to assist with the effective financial management of the Council by providing adequate cover for future financial liabilities or unexpected costs. The policy will not impact differently on people in rural areas as it will be applied equally to employees and the general public across the whole district, irrespective of location. |
| Breastfeeding Policy. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas on this occasion as the policy will not impact differently on staff in rural areas. The Policy will be applied equally irrespective of location.  |
| Maternity Leave Policy. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas on this occasion as the policy will not impact differently on staff in rural areas. The Policy will be applied equally irrespective of location.  |
| Paternity Leave Policy. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas on this occasion as the policy will not impact differently on staff in rural areas. The Policy will be applied equally irrespective of location.  |
| Parental Leave Policy. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas on this occasion as the policy will not impact differently on staff in rural areas. The Policy will be applied equally irrespective of location.  |
| Shared Parental Leave Policy. | Internal | The Council has not considered issues in relation to the social and economic needs of staff in rural areas on this occasion as the policy will not impact differently on staff in rural areas. The Policy will be applied equally irrespective of location.  |

**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.