

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template (RNIA)

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

1A. Name of Public Authority

Belfast City Council

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

Developer Contributions Framework – A guide to developer contributions and planning agreements

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

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Developer Contributions Framework – A guide to developer contributions and planning agreements

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

The Developer Contributions Framework sets out the council's approach to securing Developer Contributions as part of the planning application process. It is intended for use by applicants, developers, elected members and the public, and by planning officers in the assessment of planning applications within Belfast.

Section 2 – Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

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

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

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

The Developer Contributions Framework is a high level guide to developer contributions and planning agreements. This Framework will apply across the City generally, as may be required, to mitigate development impacts.

Whilst Belfast City Council area is predominantly urban, it also contains countryside areas outside the urban settlement area, including the Belfast, Castlereagh and Holywood Hills and the Lagan Valley Regional Park. Belfast's rural area accounts for approximately 30% (40.75 km²) of the total Belfast City Council area.

The default "definition" of rural used in Northern Ireland is those settlements with population of less than 5,000, together with the open countryside. The rural population of Belfast (2016 id-year population estimates, NISRA) is approximately 1,484 including the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.

The Developer Contributions Framework will be used to aid planning assessments to ensure that new development is appropriately mitigated and managed. Therefore, the impact of the Developer Contributions Framework will apply across the City Council areas, regardless of whether the proposed development is in an urban or rural area.

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.

As stated in 2B above, the Developer Contributions Framework applies across the City Council area. It will be used as a planning tool to ensure that new development is supported by the right infrastructure or to make sure that the environmental impacts of proposals are appropriately managed. It therefore applies equally to urban and rural areas with no distinction between the two.

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

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

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

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

Developer Contributions are a planning tool used to mitigate or manage the impacts of new development. They will be used to ensure that new development is supported by the right infrastructure or to make sure that the environmental impacts of proposals are appropriately managed. Therefore, the impact of this Framework will apply across the City regardless of the development area being in a rural setting depending of the nature of development proposals and the need to mitigate against any impacts to the new development proposed.

Section 3 – Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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?

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

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.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

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

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

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

As identified earlier in this document, Developer Contributions are a planning tool used to mitigate or manage the impacts of new development. Therefore, whilst there may be general principles which guide the nature of contributions which may be sought, it is often that the impacts of development will only become apparent whenever the planning application is considered by the Public Authority. It will then be the responsibility of the planning case officer to identify these impacts and considers what steps are to be taken to mitigate and manage these impacts to ensure that the application is compliant with current planning policy requirements.

It is expected that at this stage in partnerships with other council officers, community planning partners and other public bodies, the Planning Service will engage with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the mitigation offered is appropriate to the needs of the affected local community, either within the City or in a rural settlement.

Section 4 – Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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

Section 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

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?

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

5A. 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?

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

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.

The purpose of this document is to set out the general approach of the council in its use of developer contributions through planning agreements. This approach is predicated on the fact that it is only when the council is aware of proposed planning applications that the development impacts shall then be considered. Once planning impacts are identified it will be the responsibility of the Planning Service to ensure that these impacts are appropriately managed in line with the existing legal and policy responsibilities set out the Planning Act (NI) 2011, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland and the other suite of current planning policy statements which provide the policy landscape for planning decisions with the Belfast City Council area.

SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording

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.

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



Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Ed Baker
Position / Grade:	Development Engagement Manager
Division / Branch:	Planning Service
Signature:	
Date:	7th August 2018
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Aidan Thatcher
Position / Grade:	Director of Planning and Building Control
Division / Branch:	Planning Service
Signature:	
Date:	07th August 2018