

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
Building Control Service
Planning and Building Control
Place and Economy Department

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.

The erection of dual-language street signs in a new development in Rose Street, following an application by Radius Housing Association. This being prior to the development being fully occupied and therefore variance with the Council's current dual-language street signs policy)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input 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.

The decision of the People and Communities Committee on 6 November 2018 to approve an application by Radius Housing Association for a dual language street nameplate to be erected for a new development at Rose Street, prior to the development being fully occupied, and therefore in variance with the Council's current dual-language street sign policy.

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

The objective is the one-off approval of the provision of dual-language street signs to a new build housing development in Rose Street, on the request of the developer (Radius Housing Association), without adhering to the normal procedures set-down in the Council's dual-language street sign policy.

Belfast City Council has operated under a dual-language street signs policy since it was adopted by Council on 1 September 1998. This policy governs the Council's discretionary powers for erecting dual language street signs or secondary nameplates in a language other than English, which is provided for in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

The policy states that the legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how it exercise its discretion, to take account of the views of occupiers of premises in the street. Only applications supported by a petition representing not less than one third of the people on the Electoral register of the street will be progressed. Then Council will canvas by post all people appearing on the Electoral Register of the street and seek their views. Where two thirds or more indicate that they are in favour of the erection of dual-language street signs, the signs will be erected.

Radius requested that the Street be named in Irish prior to the properties being fully occupied, as they are the occupier, and no survey could be carried out as the street was not fully occupied.

The decision taken by the People and Communities Committee to approve the dual-language street sign application made by Radius Housing for Rose Street represents a

significant departure from the policy. However, it was made as an exception to the policy on the basis that surrounding and adjacent streets had dual-language signs erected, the street was located in the Gaeltacht Quarter and the Housing Association, which made the application and owned the houses, was considered as the occupier of the land given that the street was not fully occupied.

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.

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.

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.

Rose Street is within Belfast City urban area (Springfield Avenue and Springfield Road area) and not within any of the three designated rural settlement areas within the Belfast City Council boundary– Hannahstown, Loughview and Endenderry.

Therefore the provision of dual-language street signs to Rose Street would not impact people in rural areas, other than if someone from a rural area was about to take-up residency in the street, or for those visiting from a rural area. However this impact will be no more than for any resident of Belfast. Also, as there are surrounding and adjacent streets to Rose Street already with dual-language signs erected, and the street is located in the Gaeltacht Quarter, additional dual-language signs to Rose Street would be unlikely to negatively impact visitors to the area or prospective residents.

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?

Rose Street is within Belfast City urban area (Springfield Avenue and Springfield Road area) and not within any of the three designated rural settlement areas within the Belfast City Council. Therefore identifying the social and economic needs of people in rural areas was not relevant.

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.

As Rose Street is within Belfast City urban area (Springfield Avenue and Springfield Road area) and not within any of the three designated rural settlement areas within the Belfast City Council, it was not relevant to consider 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.

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?

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.

Rose Street is within Belfast City urban area (Springfield Avenue and Springfield Road area) and not within any of the three designated rural settlement areas within the Belfast City Council. Rural needs are not relevant to this area, and it would not have been appropriate for rural needs to influence the decision to approve the dual-language street signs in this urban housing development.

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:	Ian Harper
Position / Grade:	Building Control Manager
Division / Branch:	Planning and Building Control
Signature:	
Date:	6 February 2019
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Aidan Thatcher
Position / Grade:	Director of Planning and Building Control
Division / Branch:	Place and Economy
Signature:	
Date:	06 February 2019