



## Annex A - 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: **Belfast City Council**

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>
Belfast Agenda	This is the first community plan setting out the long-term objectives for improving economic, social and environmental wellbeing and for addressing poverty, equality and contributing to sustain able development in conjunction with community partners in our area	According to the 2011 census, 1,699 residents or 1,484 (NISRA 2016) reside in Belfast's rural areas which includes the small settlements of Edenderry, Loughview and Hannahstown. We have taken account of the views of stakeholders across the City through the plan creation process ie Belfast Residents Survey 2014 and the Belfast Conversation, an extensive citywide programme of engagement. Public consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda was held Dec 16- Apr 17 for 18 weeks. During this period the views of rural stakeholders were sought through specific consultation meetings and workshops and online consultation questionnaires. Specific consultation meetings were held with Edenderry Residents Association and Hannahstown Community Association. For Belfast, barriers to service delivery for people living in rural areas might not be considered to be as severe to those in remote parts of Northern Ireland.  The complete RNIA document is available at: <a href="http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/Ruralneedsact">http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/Ruralneedsact</a>

East Bank Development Plan	Belfast has three rural areas, Edenderry, Loughview and Hannahstown. None of these areas are in close proximity to Belfast City Centre. The strategy involves the development of an inner city area and will have no direct impact on rural areas. By improving transport links to the City Centre there will be indirect benefits for those from rural communities.	As part of the development of the masterplan, extensive consultation was undertaken including those representing rural communities. The Belfast Conversation 2015 included engagement meetings with Edenderry Residents Association and Hannahstown Community Association. At this time no mitigations have been identified, other than improving transport links to and from the areas and the city generally for those visiting from rural communities.  The complete RNIA document is available at: <a href="http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/Ruralneedsact">http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/Ruralneedsact</a>
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.Belfast City Council has held a number of awareness and training workshops for relevant staff in order to raise awareness of this new statutory duty. Training for the completion of rural needs impact assessments and awareness have been aligned to those training and reporting systems which exist currently in relation to section 75 compliance including quarterly reporting to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Corporate Management Team and the publishing of RNIA's on our website. The Equality and Diversity Unit will be responsible for the Council's compliance with this duty and for ensuring that the information is compiled on the exercise of the Council's functions under section (1), information is included within our annual report and for ensuring that information is sent to DAERA. In addition, the Rural Needs Duty has been communicated internally through our intercom magazine and to the residents of Belfast through our City Matters publication.