

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

*(Revised) April 2018*

Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

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

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

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

X

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

Transport Strategy to 2035

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

Department for Infrastructure

1A. Name of Public Authority.

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

Transport Strategy to 2035

The Transport Strategy brings together the policy messages into one comprehensive and overarching Strategy.

Asd

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N/A

*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

N/A

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

X

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

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

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

X

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

**SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

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.

ssss

The Transport Strategy recognizes the needs of people in rural and urban areas are different, and the sustainable and accessible transport solutions are also different.

For example, in rural areas:

* The increased reliance on Journeys by private vehicle.
* Limited public transport availability.
* Difficulty in promoting Active Travel on rural roads and lanes.
* The importance of Community Transport in sustaining rural communities.

Overall, The Transport Strategy seeks to create a positive impact for those living in rural areas by supporting the improvement, sustainability and accessibility of the transport system for everyone. The Transport Strategy acknowledges that the transport needs in rural and urban areas are different and incorporates this into the vision and strategic priorities.

The Transport Strategy notes the differences in providing public transport in rural and urban communities. For example, the challenges in providing the frequency of services along direct routes to make public transport a realistic alternative to private vehicles. The Strategy sets out the important role of community transport for rural connectivity and points to areas such as demand responsive services, aided by technology, that may also provide an alternative model of service delivery for people in remote rural areas.

The Transport Strategy also priorities the ongoing improvement and maintenance of the Regional Strategic Transport Network, including the provision of park and ride, and park and share sites. This reflects the importance of this network for connectivity across the region, including rural areas.

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N/A

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

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

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

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

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The Transport Strategy reflects:

* The engagement undertaken as part of the Community Transport Review,
* The Road Safety Strategy
* The new suite of Transport Plans.

This evidence includes, but is not limited to:

* Direct engagement with stakeholders
* Census 2021 data
* Future of mobility: inequalities in mobility and access in the UK Transport System; Accessibility Analysis (collected as part of [transport plans](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/fermanagh-and-omagh-sub-regional-transport-plan-2035-supporting-documents), inc. [Transport Poverty Analysis](https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/your-council/keystatisticsanddata/your-council-projects/#TransportPoverty))
* Policy research of council community plans and local development plans
* Consumer Council [Research](file:///C:\Users\1025431\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\TQIDLF22\Decarbonisation%20of%20transport)
* The [DfI Audit of Inequalities](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/dfi-audit-inequalities-2021-2026)
* [Key Rural Issues, Northern Ireland 2024](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/key-rural-issues)
* [Travel Survey for Northern Ireland](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/travel-survey-tsni).

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.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

X

X

X

X

X

X

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.

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

X

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?

**SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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N/A

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

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

The Transport Strategy acknowledges the importance of transport connections for everyone, including people living in rural areas - to ensure access to services (including health), social inclusion and economic activity.

* Rural Dwellers who are reliant on public transport, their rurality can create extra challenges and barriers.
* The importance of Community Transport due to availability or accessibility of public transport particularly for people with a disability and Women.
* The difficulties in promoting Active Travel in rural areas.
* The Transport Strategy also acknowledges that there will be an ongoing reliance on private vehicles by many in rural areas for some, or all their journeys to access essential services, job opportunities and social activities in local towns and cities.

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

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The Transport Strategy considers and acknowledges the needs and issues of rural areas:

* The importance of transport connections for people living in rural areas to ensure access to services (including health), social inclusion and economic activity.
* The differences in providing public transport in rural and urban communities, including the challenges of providing the frequency of services along direct routes to make public transport a realistic alternative to private vehicles in rural areas.
* The Strategy sets out the important role of community transport for rural connectivity and points to areas such as demand responsive services, aided by technology, that may also provide an alternative model of service delivery for people in remote rural areas.
* The Transport Strategy priorities the ongoing improvement and maintenance of the Regional Strategy Transport Network, including the provision of park and ride, and park and share sites. This reflects the importance of this network for connectivity across the region, including rural areas.

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

**SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

The issues identified for rural dwellers have been integrated into the Transport Strategy and have influenced how the strategy has been written. Further consideration will be given to people living in rural areas during the public consultation and any subsequent outworkings of the strategy (dependent on the outcome of the consultation).

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

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.

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

X

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?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

Transport Planning and Policy Division / Transport Planning and Modelling Unit

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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Andrew McGreevy

Position/Grade:

SPTO Planning Officer

Division/Branch

Signature:

*Andrew McGreevy*

Date:

09 June 2025

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

David Sloan

Position/Grade:

G7

Division/Branch:

Transport Planning & Modelling Unit

Signature:

*David Sloan (E-signature)*

Date:

20 June 2025

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

X

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.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

N/A

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.