Hydebank

**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.



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:** | *Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council* |

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| **Reporting Period:** | **April** | **20** | *21* | **to** | **March** | **20** | *22* |

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.* |
| Rural Micro Business Development Grant Scheme. | Cross Cutting | Rural needs given due consideration through the screening exercise undertaken by the Council. The programme provides targeted support to businesses within rural areas only.  Funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) the scheme allocated a total of £89,194 to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. The programme aims to support at least 21 rural micro businesses with capital grant capped at £4,999 at a match-funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses. Businesses operating within a rural area will have the opportunity to benefit from the fund via a competitive application process.  The rural share of the NI population is growing. Over the years 2001-2011 the number of people living in rural areas of NI increased by 15% in comparison to a rise of only 4% in urban areas. According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the LCCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth – Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%).  In Northern Ireland 58% of businesses are based in rural area.  The business base in the region as a whole is predominantly small to medium enterprises with a dominance of micro business.  In terms of businesses located only in rural areas, 94% are defined as micro (having less than 10 employees).  Agriculture plays a more important role in the economy of NI than is the case in the rest of the UK, it generates a higher proportion of total GVA (Gross valued added) in the economy and accounts for a higher proportion of our employment.  Furthermore 78% of the total NI land area is in agricultural use.  Rural businesses located in NI have particular challenges and need specific solutions.  The slow uptake of agriculture and rural enterprises in NI with regards to innovation, the fact that only 67% of rural areas have superfast broadband coverage (98% in urban areas) and 14% of tourism expenditure takes place in rural areas (compared with 86% in urban) are further examples of challenges facing the small rural businesses in Northern Ireland.  The TRPSI programme focuses on the three priority areas of access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation which targets vulnerable groups in rural areas based on identified need.  In addition, LCCC is already subject to Section 75 of the 1998 NI Act and this involves giving consideration to and assessing the impact of any Council policy and/or service on the nine designated groups. Since June 2017 Council is also now subject to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 which itself also involves giving consideration to policy and/or service impact on those specifically in rural areas |
| Labour Market Partnership. | Transport Services or Infrastructure | The aim of the Labour Market Partnership is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions by working through a co-ordinated, collaborative and multi-agency partnership. Thus achieving regional objectives whilst being flexible to meet the needs presented by localized conditions and helping to connect employers with employees.  The Action Plan submission was approved by the regional Labour Market Partnership (LMP) on 28th March 2022 and a Letter of Offer for the LMP Programme 2022-2023 was issued to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) on 15th April 2022.  The LMP is responsible for improving the labour market across Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council regardless of location. Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on the local labour market. At its peak almost 140,000 employees were on furlough equivalent to roughly 15% of all employees. In March 2021, 100,000 employees were still on furlough. Evidence suggests the impact was greater on younger employees, those with low skills and workers with smaller enterprises. A demographic assessment of sectoral employment by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre highlighted a number of concerns including increased vulnerability of women, individuals with long term health conditions and people living in flexible forms of employment. The impact on those with low or no qualifications was also highlighted as an area of concern.  As of May 2021 there were 4,600 furloughed jobs in LCCC having fallen from 7090 in April 2021. The take up rate is 7% here compared to 8% in the UK and NI.  Coronavirus Job retention Scheme (CJRS) data by sector in May 2021 for LCCC showed that wholesale and retail accounted for 22% of the furloughed jobs and accommodation/food accounted for a further 22% of the total other significant sectors were manufacturing 9%, arts, entertainment and recreation 8% and admin support services 7%.  Redundancies have been experienced right throughout the pandemic with almost 5,800 confirmed redundancies in the year to March 2021, the highest since 2001. In 2020 there were 5,020 confirmed redundancies in NI of which 420 are reported for Lisburn and Castlereagh (8% of the NI total) compared to 100 confirmed redundancies in 2019 for this district.  The skilled and mobile labour force and the good quality of life on offer in LCCC continue to be assets to the area. The city has room to grow. The west Lisburn Development Framework notes the potential to grow both housing and commercial activity in nearby Blaris and the Maze Long Kesh site (both these locations are rural or on the cusp of the rural / urban boundary). It may result in projects aimed at improving employability and skills. This also includes interventions in support of the extension of transport links, strengthening the tourism offer at Hillsborough Castle and the proposed development of an innovation hub.  The rate of disability in Northern Ireland is higher than the other UK regions with the exception of Wales. The rates of disability among older age groups is higher than other regions of the UK. The 50-64 year old age group accounts for 33.4% of our disabled population compared to 26.9% of the UK disabled population as a whole. The most striking finding was that 60.2% of disabled people in Northern Ireland are economically inactive while the comparative figure for the UK as a whole stands at 42.5%.  Occupational segregation is problematic; men tend to be more involved in engineering, manufacturing and construction. Women more involved in business, administration and law. One possible related solution is women only training programmes in non-traditional sectors, i.e., construction and engineering.  The programmes overarching principle is working towards alleviating unemployment and improving the labour market across the province. Therefore, both urban and rural dwellers will benefit collectively. |
| Community Facility Fund (CFF). | Rural Tourism/Transport Services or Infrastructure | The Community Facility Fund (CFF) is a grant scheme to support minor capital works and repairs and/or implementation of digital solutions to enable groups and organisations to improve income opportunities, make changes to the facility use and/or make the facility more accessible and inclusive to further engage the local community  Rural communities tend to be more socially isolated on a number of platforms. Often characterised by lack of amenities such as school, shops, limited public transport, limited access to medical care and cohesion; More often there is a lack of confidence and many folk experience lack of self - esteem and suffer from mental health and poverty. Digital Poverty together with poor/weak Broadband coverage too is a key factor affecting rural communities.  In developing the programme, we have been mindful of the importance/significance of local community facilities to the lives of people living in rural area who may find it challenging to access services in urban area due to issues with transport, cost, time, poverty, age and disability,  This CFF is a grant scheme to support minor capital works and adaptations to enable groups to upgrade community facilities and so improve opportunities making facilities more accessible and inclusive for the local community. This is likely to benefit people in rural areas who tend to rely heavily on their local community facilities due to the relative inaccessibility of provision in urban centres. Upgrading local facilities and enabling rural community groups who are successful to provide more/enhanced services can make a significant impact on addressing rural needs by offering services that are not duplicated in the surrounding area whereby encouraging community engagement and improve connectivity.  The grant scheme is open for all projects in the LCCC area and £40,000 has been set aside in the 7 DEAs. Applicants can apply for a minimum of £5,000 up to a maximum of £10,000. Funding is available for physical and digital improvements to community facilities for those organisations who meet the eligibility criteria.  The criteria for the funding ensures that community groups in rural areas are equally likely to be eligible and that the type of improvements the funding is targeting may particularly benefit people in rural areas who rely more on local community facilities because of their proximity, etc, and the relative inaccessibility of provision in urban centres. |
| Development of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) Open Space Strategy 2021-2026. | Cross-cutting | An Open Space Strategy is the formally approved policy document defining a Local Authority’s approach, commitment and management to protect, enhance and manage open space assets.  Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council have developed a new strategy, of which the Strategic Principles are:   * Protect and enhance open space recognizing its value in promoting health and well-being and social benefits to communities; * Provide exciting, active and inclusive places for children and young people’s play and recreation in both equipped and natural settings; * Support and encourage access to high quality open space close to where people live that meets the needs of different ages, abilities and backgrounds; * Safeguard key tourism, heritage and recreation assets, reinforcing local identity and civic pride; * Protect and enhance the natural environment, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change; and * Promote opportunities for sustainable travel through greater connectivity of open spaces.   The strategy will benefit all citizens living in rural and urban areas alike. Rural needs have been given due consideration through the screening exercise undertaken by the Council. There is a need for people in rural areas to have access to quality open spaces for play and leisure, convenient to where they live. The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council’s Open Space Strategy has considered this need. It has also considered the role of open spaces in supporting people’s health and wellbeing and as a driver for leisure and tourism development.  Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council’s open space provision contributes to the perception of the district as an attractive place for visitors which supports the development and sustainability of rural businesses. The strategy also considers the benefits of environmental sustainability.  The Strategy takes into account the need for equitable provision of quality open space across the district, including in rural areas. It takes into account the specific need for rural dwellers to have access to leisure and play facilities that are convenient and accessible as well as the need for council to support the development and sustainability of rural tourism and businesses.  A public consultation on the Open Spaces Strategy is planned for December 2021 and all stakeholders will be involved, including individual residents, community groups and other organisations from rural and urban areas. If any issues are identified by rural consultees, consideration will be given to these before the strategy is finalised. |
| Development of a Draft Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 (as required by the Disability Discrimination Act Disability Duties). | Cross-cutting | A Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) was completed for the draft action plan. The RNIA concluded that the proposed actions should apply equitably to disabled people in rural areas. There was consideration of issues faced by some rural people, for example, in accessing services and information, isolation, transport, employment opportunities, etc, which are exacerbated for those with a disability. The disability action plan commits Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to consider the needs of people with disabilities when planning and delivering services and this includes people in rural areas. The draft plan was consulted on and consultees included rural representative groups and rural community groups. No issues specifically related to rurality were raised in the consultation but the plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated if necessary. |
| Development of Draft Equality Action Plan 2021-2025 (a commitment in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council’s (LCCC) Equality Scheme). | Cross Cutting | A Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) was completed. There was consideration of whether the proposed actions in the plan would impact differently on people in rural areas. The RNIA concluded that there should be no differential impact. LCCC’s commitment to equality screen policies, projects and programmes ensures that attention is given to who is affected by council policies and plans and that any differential impacts are identified at the planning stage. This includes potential impacts on people in rural area as well as the various equality groups. The draft plan was consulted on and consultee database included groups that are based in rural areas. No particular rural issues were raised in the consultation but commitments to consultation should ensure that any issues are highlighted and mitigations considered. |
| Proposal to increase cemetery provision - Lisburn New Cemetery Extension Phase 1. | Other  Council service – cemetery provision | The Council is in the planning process for extending an existing Council Cemetery, Lisburn New Cemetery Extension to offer additional burial plots. This is a new proposal to meet demand for burial space.  To meet the demand of burial space given that current burial plot capacity is approx. 2.5 years.  We have considered whether there will be any different impact on people in rural areas who need cemetery provision.  Aims & Objectives of the proposal:   1. Provision of future burial capacity of approx. a further 700 plots within Lisburn New Cemetery Extension. 2. Ensure consistent approach to Interments for all. 3. Provision of Interment Ground for all   We have considered whether the proposal to extend this existing cemetery will meet the needs of all potential service users. We note that people in rural areas may have further to travel to access our cemetery but have concluded that the travel distances are not unreasonable. Rural communities tend to be connected to local denominations and or linked to rural cemeteries which are still in use for burials. In terms of access to information about services which is increasingly provided online, provision is already made for those who do not have access to the internet because of where they live.  The provision of additional cemetery capacity by extending Lisburn New Cemetery will benefit all those who require the service, whether they live in urban or rural areas. Council procedures for managing cemetery services also apply equally to urban and rural.  The plan will not impact differently – cemetery provision is open to all. No feedback has been received relating to how this proposal would impact on rural communities.  The public can consult via the planning process and also the Council will be conducting a 12 week consultation on a draft Council Cemetery Strategy. This will afford the public an opportunity to comment on future burial needs. | |
| Blaris Road Car Park. | Cross Cutting | To develop a Car Park on the Blaris Road to provide car parking facilities which will not only service Navigation House but the adjoining Towpath and associated Greenways.  The land where the car park is being developed, was gifted to Lagan Navigation Trust by the developer, Blue Horizon Developments, and then leased to the Council who then had the funds to develop a Car park that could cater for Navigation House, the adjoining Towpath and associated Greenways.  Development of the Lagan Greenway is identified as a priority project within the DFI Strategic Plan for Greenways.  We have also received a number of complaints from residents of Blaris Drive and Blaris Green that the public were parking on the curbs in their development in order to visit the towpath which made them unsafe and unusable.  Whilst this project is being carried out in the outskirts of Lisburn, many people living in rural areas tend to use the towpath and/or travel past where the car park is being developed.  The purpose of the development of the car park is to service Navigation House, the adjoining Lagan tow path and the newly opened greenway route which connects this location to the Sprucefield park & ride and on to the Maze Long Kesh area.  In addition, the availability of car parking in the area will encourage visitors to park here and cycle into Lisburn City Centre connecting the rural community to the urban, providing access to local commercial businesses, reduce traffic congestion in the City Centre and provide overflow parking facilities for those visitors travelling by car to access Navigation House. This also supports the further development of the Lagan Greenway which is identified as a priority project within the DFI Strategic Plan for Greenways.  The plan will not primarily impact on people in rural areas differently, it will have a neutral impact on both urban and rural dwellers equally.  According to the Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016), just under half of the population (47.2%) in the L&CCC area live in rural areas. In the last decade to 2016, suburban areas have seen the highest growth rate of 22.1% with five wards alone covering over half of the districts growth – Ballymacross (44.3%), Carrowreagh (9.7%), Maghaberry (7%), Glenavy (6.3%) and Derriaghy (6.2%). |
| Acquisition and Installation of a Bus Shelter in Maghaberry. | Rural Businesses  Rural Tourism  Transport Services or Infrastructure/  Rural Development | This project is intended to benefit any residents or visitors to Maghaberry who use or would like to use public transport.  The main benefits will be increased comfort e.g. built in seating and safeguarding users by providing a shelter from the weather. The Bus Shelter will impact people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas due to the Bus Shelter being situated in the rural village of Maghaberry.  Benefits Include:   * Improved accessibility for users; * Creation of a Safe Space to aid local transportation; and * To make it more appealing and to provide a better experience for its users thereby encouraging use   The acquisition and installation of a Bus Shelter in Maghaberry is funded through the District Electoral Area Investment Programme. This project was brought forward by local councilors of the area who were informed by the local residents of the need for a Bus Shelter. |
| Acquisition and Installation of a Bus Shelter in Glenavy | Rural Tourism | This project is intended to benefit any residents or visitors to Glenavy who use or would like to use public transport.  The main benefits will be increased comfort e.g. built in seating and safeguarding users by providing a shelter from the weather. The Bus Shelter will impact people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas due to the Bus Shelter being situated in the rural village of Glenavy.    Benefits include:   * Improved accessibility for users * Creation of a Safe Space to aid local transportation * To make it more appealing and to provide a better experience for its users thereby encouraging use   The acquisition and installation of a Bus Shelter in Glenavy is funded through the DEA Investment Programme. This project was brought forward by local councilors of the area who were informed by the local residents of the need for a Bus Shelter. |
| Development and installation of a Parklet Scheme. | Rural Tourism | Parklet Scheme focuses on COVID recovery of hospitality businesses. Whilst it is recognised that many residents in rural areas work, shop and socialise in the city centre the project will not have an immediate impact on any of the rural policy areas outlined above.  Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department for Communities allocated grant funding to the council to support businesses who had to close. Following the lockdowns, the impact of social distancing on all hospitality businesses meant they were unable to be at full capacity which resulted in the introduction of a Parklet Scheme to help with the capacity issues and support social distancing.  We launched an Expression of Interest process in which if the hospitality business met the criteria of the Parklet Scheme they would be eligible for the installation of a Parklet outside of their premises.  This has led to the delivery of 4 Parklets in the council area.  Whilst this project is being carried out in the urban center’s off LCCC namely Lisburn City Centre, Carryduff and Dundonald, many people living in rural areas either tend to work and/or shop in the businesses and facilities located in the urban center of the council area. The purpose of the Parklet Scheme help hospitality businesses increase their capacity outside their premises to create spaces to promote social distancing, improve vibrancy of the area and improve footfall to businesses.  Case studies on parklets from other areas suggest that parklets have positive impacts on mental health and wellbeing. The development of green spaces can also contribute to tackling socio-environmental challenges.  The plan will not primarily impact on people in rural areas differently, it will however be slightly advantageous to people who live in the urban areas where the Parklets are situated although the Parklets are open to all who want to visit and use them.  The objectives of the Parklet scheme include;   * To create spaces to eat and drink outdoors to support social distancing; * To increase capacity and sales for businesses; * To improve vibrancy of the area; and * To improve footfall to businesses and the area. |
| Orientation & Walkability Strategy. | Cross Cutting | The purpose of the Strategy is to promote navigation and way finding throughout Lisburn City Centre via cycling and walking through the use of different types of signage and their placement at the gateways to the City Centre and Lagan Towpath.  The plan will not primarily impact on people in rural areas differently, it will have a neutral impact as the gateways to the City Centre will affect town dwellers and rural dwellers equally.  The Strategy focuses on navigational improvements to the Lagan towpath and Lisburn City Centre. Whilst it is recognised that many residents in rural areas work, shop and socialise in the City Centre the project will not have an immediate impact on any of the rural policy areas outlined above.  However, tourism businesses in rural areas may benefit if they chose to market their business through city centre facilities such as the visitor information centre in Lisburn Square, the Council website and the city centre events Facebook page. By improving the city centre and attracting visitors into the city, businesses in the outlying rural villages who wish to prosper from Tourism to Lisburn and Castlereagh will benefit if they utilise the opportunity to promote their businesses.  The signs will be located near the gateways as you enter the City Centre boundary. However, the project aims to make improvements throughout the City Centre to ensure it is a well-connected and welcoming regional city with a vibrant and independent character which will attract visitors and residents to work and shop local.  Benefits include:   * To contribute to environmental sustainability. Providing a great environment for pedestrians and cyclists; * A more welcoming and better connected city. To create a positive sense of arrival and ensure that the expanded city centre is easy to access and get around by a wide choice of modes of travel to include walking and cycling; * To enhance permeability through creative place making. To enable visitors to navigate easily throughout Lisburn City Centre; * Promote way-finding / navigation through City Centre. Considering the various entry point’s visitor’s use to access the city either by car, train, bus or on foot and looking at how we can improve the sense of welcome for visitors and create a sense of connection to the heart of the city.   Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) published a Masterplan which received feedback through a public consultation which was advertised via the Councils website, consultation workshops were also held in the Council Offices in Lagan Valley Island. The consultation events were attended by statutory bodies representing the Council area and attended by residents across the Council area, many from rural villages in the Lisburn area. The results of the consultation have been reflected where appropriate to inform the final Masterplan document.  Furthermore, the feedback from the public consultation made it apparent that we needed to invest in signage and navigation around Lisburn City Centre. By doing, the hope is that this would help extend and enrich the City Centre experience and help to provide obvious connections between the Centre and surrounding residential areas. A series of signage would aid this transition and create a sense of welcome to the City Centre and promotion of active travel e.g. walking and cycling. |
| Heritage Shopfront Scheme. | Rural Businesses/ Rural Tourism | Funded through the Department for Communities, this grant is offered to small business owners with properties within the eligible area, to enhance the appearance and condition of their shop fronts and signage, making the Conservation Area a more attractive place for both occupiers and visitors.  The Council recognise the importance of the City retaining Conservation status, this scheme focuses on enhancing the conservation area and supports businesses operating in the conservation area to retain shop frontages that complement the character and appearance of the City Centre.  Following on from recent City Centre revitalisation schemes and shop front renewal programmes there has been a review of heritage business signage and shop front facades across the conservation areas in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council areas namely Lisburn City Centre, Moira and Hillsborough. The review was undertaken by City Centre Management and the Councils Planning team in response to a number of queries received from new businesses in the area regarding signage.  All businesses within the Lisburn, Moira and Hillsborough Conservation Area are eligible to apply. Therefore, having a positive impact on the rural economy and those who live in these areas.  The project aims benefit as many eligible businesses in these areas as much as possible.  The plan will not impact on people in rural areas differently, it will have a positive impact as urban town and rural dwellers in the eligible Conservation Areas are eligible to apply for funding.  Benefits include:   * To support businesses, whose shop fronts currently sit outside of planning regulations, from a heritage perspective, and help the businesses to replace their shop front façade and signage in order to conform to the guidelines as per the Lisburn Conservation area guide; and * To create a more pleasing City Centre environment by improving heritage shop fronts, resulting in wider benefits for the public realm and civic pride. |
| Light Festival. | Rural Businesses /Jobs or Employment | Whilst this project is delivered in the urban centres of Lisburn City, Carryduff and Dundonald, many people living in rural areas visit these areas to enjoy the Light Festival. The Light Festival is advertised widely across the council area and is for the benefit of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) residents although we know the reach of the light festival goes beyond the council area.  The Light Festival will not primarily impact on people in rural areas differently, it will have a neutral impact as the Light Festival is delivered for the benefit of town dwellers and rural dwellers equally.  The overall council wide Christmas programme is delivered as such which includes Christmas light switch ons in many of the surrounding rural villages. Pole mounts are also installed across many of the rural villages to the benefit of residents living in those areas.  All residents of the LCCC area will benefit from the Christmas Programme.  The Light Festival is advertised widely across the council area and we know the reach of the light festival goes beyond the council area.  The objectives of the Light Festival include;   * Promoting urban center’s as a positive lifestyle destination e.g. shopping, entertainment, arts and culture; * Changing the perception of the City Centre as a Christmas visitor destination; * Animating the City Centre over the Christmas period; * Improving the public’s perceptions of the area as a result of this project; and * Working in partnership with local City Centre businesses to maximise the economic contribution into the Council area by attracting spend from inward investors and visitors as well as residents.   Monitoring of events held in these areas such as Christmas Markets and family friendly events has indicated that rural residents travel into the urban centers to partake in the festivities.  Information sources include; the council website and social media channels as well as local community groups.  Surveys are carried out pre (November) and post (January) Light Festival and associated events (throughout December) in order to inform and justify the delivery of events year on year.  All residents of the LCCC area and neighboring council areas will benefit from the Christmas Programme. |
| Enterprise and Business Support Programmes 2021-2022 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit. | Rural Businesses/ Jobs or Employment | The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016); Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas, Education or Training in Rural Areas, Poverty in Rural Areas, Deprivation in Rural Areas, Rural Development, Agri-Environment.  The Business Solutions Programmes will have a positive impact benefitting people in rural areas through increasing employment opportunities and supporting local businesses and supporting business growth and ensure that a broad range of services is easily accessible to the rural communities.  In addition to adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 Lisburn Castlereagh City Council will embrace the principles outlined in our community plan, Sustainable Development, Equality and Participation across all programmes. |
| Collaboration Projects 2021-2022 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit. | Rural Businesses/ Jobs or Employment / Rural Tourism | The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council will embrace the principles outlined in our community plan which are Sustainable Development, Equality and Participation across all programmes. |
| Inward Investment and International Trade Projects 2021-2022 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit. | Rural Businesses /Jobs or Employment/ Broadband or mobile communications | The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council will embrace the principles outlined in our community plan which are Sustainable Development, Equality and Participation across all programmes. |
| Economic Development Communications 2020-2022 delivered by the Business Solutions Section within Economic Development unit. | Cross Cutting | The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and adherence to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.  The content of the websites and e-zine are focussed on bringing a benefit to our local community in economic and social terms. A negative impact on our rural communities is not anticipated but there is a small risk of some people in rural areas not having access to the material. However, a report from Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency in 2018 shows that 88.4% of homes in Lisburn and Castlereagh have access to broadband which is higher than the NI average. |
| Northern Ireland Business Start-Up (NIBSUP). | Cross Cutting | The social and economic needs identified by Interim Local Rural Development Strategy (2016) and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is subject to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.  This NI Business Start-Up programmes allow people in rural areas to consider business ideation, concept and set up. While supporting local entrepreneurs, and facilitating an opportunity for increased services and possibility of employment in rural areas. Promotion of this project is through multiple media strands tv,radio, billboards etc |
| Royal Hillsborough Programme of Events 21/22. | Other - Council service | The series of events to mark the conferring of Royal Status on Hillsborough Village is expected to benefit all individuals irrespective of background or circumstances including people in all age brackets, as well as those with disabilities and those with dependents who live in the Hillsborough area and further afield.  The events will take place between October 21 and March 22 and there will be a wide range of activities to ensure inclusivity throughout the rural village.    Whilst these events are open to all residents who live in the LCCC area, they are primarily targeted to the local rural dwellers and priority will be given to the local inhabitants of Hillsborough. Furthermore, some events will be ticketed with local residents receiving priority and then opened up to the wider community should numbers permit. |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh Safety Advisory Group (SAG). | Rural Development/Jobs and Employment | The Council in partnership with the NIFRS, PSNI and NIAS operate Lisburn & Castlereagh Safety Advisory Group. The SAG provides expert advice to outdoor event organisers to ensure a safe event for attendees and the local community.  **Purpose:**  To provide support, advice and expert knowledge from different sectors to event organsiers who are organizing an outdoor event.  **Aims & Objectives of the proposal:**  1. Give a background to why the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) is in existence  2. Inform event organisers of the SAG process  3. Stipulate what the SAG does and does not do  4. Provide advice to event organisers regarding their outdoor event.  **Rural Needs considered:**  We have considered whether the SAG policy will have any impacts on those living in rural areas. Those living in rural communities will be no more affected by this policy than those living in more urban settings. However, it is recognised that outdoor events may pose greater difficulties/risk in rural areas. Reasons for this are outlined below. The SAG policy will be adhered to consistently and equitable to any event organisers and therefore will not have an impact on rural event organisers.  **Impacts on Rural Communities:**  Rural areas will not necessarily have the same infrastructure than those in urban areas have such as internet, lighting, road networks/transport etc. Events in rural communities may pose greater risk. Therefore, the need for rural communities to engage with SAG is important to support with addressing issues at an early stage in the planning of their event.  Some of the risks that rural communities may face when organizing events include:   1. Poor infrastructure such as lighting. 2. Small/minor roads networks creating traffic issues 3. Access to emergency services in an emergency 4. Connectivity with internet, communication devices with poor network coverage. 5. Affect connectivity/access for homeowners during the event.   Types of annual events may include community Christmas tree light switch on’s, agricultural shows and concerts.  **Consultation:**  No consultation process was carried out in relation to this policy. It is available on the Council website for the public to view. Event organisers are encouraged to ensure an appropriate media and information campaign is provided to anyone who may be affected by an event and advise of the necessary contact of the event. |
| European Social Fund – Call 3: Match Funding Assistance. |  | The Northern Ireland European Social Fund Operational Programme 2014-2020 (ESF) Programme identified the following needs:  Jobs and/or Employment in Rural Areas  Education and/or Training in Rural Areas  Deprivation in Rural Areas  Rural Development  The strategic aim of the ESF Programme is to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion by reducing economic inactivity, and to increase the skills base of those currently in work and future potential participants in the workforce. Those who will be directly targeted will either be economically inactive or long term unemployed, irrespective of their location (either rural or urban), background or circumstance. This scheme will have direct and indirect benefits for some groups of service users, however, the aim of the scheme disadvantage groups. Ultimately, this programme will benefit a wide range of groups particularly youth and those with disabilities within the LCCC area.  The European Social Fund (ESF) is the EU’s most important instrument for helping EU citizens with finding better jobs and for ensuring fairer job opportunities for all.  Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have previously provided match funding assistance for European Social Fund Calls 1 and 2. The projects funded have achieved considerable success, surpassing their targets on some occasions. In call 2 the match funding supported 93 vulnerable people back into employment and delivered 1124 accredited and non- accredited training courses.  Given that this fund is directly focused upon improving employability outcomes across disadvantaged groups, it was agreed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council would provide another match funding opportunity against this latest call for applications for the European Social Fund Call-3.  Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council have allocated a total of £100,000 to match fund successful applicants from DfE’s third call of the European Social Fund (ESF). The timeframe for projects will run from April 2022 for 12 months. This is a competitive grant funding process with all award decisions made on the basis of merit.  The ESF Match Fund is open to consortia of organisations that aim to be representative of the communities or audiences the project is targeting. Eligible applicants are any non-profit organisation that has secured Call 3 ESF funding through the Department for Economy (DfE) that is operating from or within Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area. |

**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.