



Subject:	Rural Needs: Annual Monitoring Report 18-19
Date:	20 th September 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Stella Gilmartin, Equality & Diversity Officer Lisa McKee, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of report or summary of main issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval the Council's Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for 2018-2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approve the Council's Annual Monitoring Return to (DAERA) for 2018-2019, on a holding basis, subject to ratification by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Background</u> The Council has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service

	design/delivery decisions. The rural population of Belfast is approximately 1,484 people comprising the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The requirement to monitor and report applied to all Northern Ireland departments and district councils from 1st June 2017. The Council is required under section 3(1) of the Act to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1(1) of the Act; • Include that information in their annual report; and • Send that information to DAERA on the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return <p>The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring return relating to the period April 2018 – March 2019 is set out in Appendix 1. The Council currently does not have an annual report. However, a copy of this return, together with the RNIAs mentioned therein will be published on the Council's website.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Officers from across the organisation are involved in completing Rural Needs Impact Assessments and the Equality and Diversity Unit have corporate responsibility for collating this information.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding the implementation of the rural needs duty.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return