

## Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Sport NI

#### 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.

Support and expansion of parkrun events in rural Northern Ireland

#### 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 type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" 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 or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

parkrun Rural Accessibility and Inclusion Initiative 2025

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

- Encourage sustained participation in physical activity across rural NI via parkrun
- Tackle rural-specific barriers—transport, infrastructure, promotional outreach
- Ensure accessibility for disabled and under-represented groups through tailored support
- Monitor rural participation trends to guide future programme enhancements

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

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

☒

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

☐

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

☐

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural.'*

N/A

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

N/A

## 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.**

parkrun events are free, weekly, community-based activities attracting rural participants. Physical location and travel challenges mean the initiative may affect rural communities differently—positively by improving access, but negatively if support is insufficient.

**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.**

- Rural participants often face transport issues, unsuitable course surfaces, or fewer nearby events .
- Disabled individuals in rural settings face amplified access barriers without dedicated support mechanisms.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text" value="Social Inclusion in rural areas"/>

**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.**

N/A

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input checked="" 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.**

- Engagement with Parkrun and Athletics NI
- Reference to DAERA broadband/connectivity statistics ([belfastcity.gov.uk](http://belfastcity.gov.uk), [daera-ni.gov.uk](http://daera-ni.gov.uk)) and course-suitability research ([belfastcity.gov.uk](http://belfastcity.gov.uk)).

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

- Rural residents may need reliable transport to events
- Venue infrastructure must include firm surfaces, access points, signage
- Disability-focused support (tail walkers, marshals) needs greater awareness and availability
- Promotion and communication channels must effectively reach dispersed rural communities

**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?**

N/A

## 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.**

The issues raised for people residing in rural areas included the following.

- Transport solutions (e.g., ride-share coordination, liaison with community transport services)
- Venue audits for accessibility (surface, parking, ease of navigation)
- Flexible scheduling and clear communication via online and offline channels

These considerations address DAERA–highlighted rural barriers around transport, connectivity, and access to services ( [belfastcity.gov.uk](http://belfastcity.gov.uk) ).

## 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.**

- Toolkit and training developed for all parkrun organisers on accessibility and inclusive volunteer deployment
- Funding of small promotional campaigns (flyers, community noticeboards) in rural villages
- Partnership work with disability sports and rural groups to tailor participation and support mechanisms

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.**

## 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.

☒

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<b>Position/Grade:</b>	DP
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Sport Development, Sport NI
<b>Signature:</b>	R Geary
<b>Date:</b>	18/06/2025
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Rebecca Hope
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Interim Director of Sport
<b>Division/Branch:</b>	Sport NI
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>R Hope</i>
<b>Date:</b>	22.09.25