* To enhance safety practices at motorsport events and venues.
* To upgrade the physical infrastructure at motorsport events and venues, reducing the hazards for both participants and spectators.
* To enhance the perception of motorsport among participants, spectators and the wider public by promoting best practice safety protocols, ultimately mitigating chances of injury or fatality.

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

This investment in Motorsport is designed to improve the levels of safety for motorsport participants and spectators across the multiple disciplines of the sport.

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Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

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

X

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

Investment in Motorsport Safety

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.

Sport Northern Ireland

1A. Name of Public Authority.

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

x

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N/A

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

N/A

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

None

*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.

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

The programme will support improved safety at events and venues that facilitate motorsport events. Given that many events and venues occur in rural areas, this investment will enhance safety of events whilst mitigating any increased risk of safety related disruption to local business and residents.

Rural communities can become isolated; reporting on rural isolation, NISRA Statistical Review [[NISRA](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/key-rural-issues)] 19.8% of respondents felt of isolation either “Often/Always” or “Some of the time”. Delivering investment into a predominantly rural based activity will help support the communities in these areas, contributing to successful delivery of the event and/or a sense of community around the event/venue.

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.

Motorsport venues and events take place in in a wide range of areas across Northern Ireland, primarily in rural areas. Sport Northern Ireland’s Active Places database holds information about 17 Motorsport venues, approximately 80% of these are in a rural location.

Some of these are fixed venues at dedicated tracks, others are events that take place at temporary venues using the road network (not picked up in the database). Consequently, motorsport events impact communities both rural and urban.

Fixed venues (racing tracks) often draw users and spectators to facilities on a regular basis, drawing people into these rural locations.

Temporary road racing events (including several high-profile international events) impact people living in rural areas not only during the event, but during set up and deconstruction of the temporary facilities. During the course of the event, access is often limited to houses/businesses. Furthermore, the events cause noise and brings crowds of spectators to the area. Although some of the issues are unavoidable, it is important that disruption to the local community and property damage is mitigated when planning these events.

Conversely, local business and residents will often benefit from the tourism these events draw. Improving the safety at motorsport events will improve the running of events and venues for participants, venues and residents.

**X**

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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**.

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**

X

X

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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)

Spectating at sports events

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

X

X

Many motorsport events take place in rural locations; some events incorporate rural and urban settings, such as the North West 200, located between Portrush, Portstewart (NISRA Band E settlements) and Coleraine (NISRA Band C Settlement). Although these three locations ae classified under the NISRA settlement delineation as Urban [[1](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/review-statistical-classification-and-delineation-settlements)], largely the area with a 10mile radius is rural. This event could be considered to have substantial impact on both rural and urban locations, with Tourism NI reporting that the event is estimated to have generate almost £10million for the area in 2024 [[2](https://www.tourismni.com/news/north-west-200-worth-millions-to-northern-ireland-economy/)].

As previously noted, Sport NI is aware 17 Motorsport venues through our Active Place database, approximately 80% of these are in a rural location. These are fixed venues, hosting events regularly. These events/venues will be generating localised economic boost for their areas.

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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).



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**.

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.

Sport NI recognise the benefits of investing in localised needs across rural areas and the social and wellbeing impacts investing in sport and physical activity can have to rural communities. This investment targets a sport that is primarily held in rural areas.

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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Motorsport events should have safety measures in place to address and mitigate any potential risk highlighted as part of their event and venue risk assessment and insurance requirements. Nevertheless, continued support to enhance safety measures will always drive improved standards. Enhancing safety standards will impact participants, spectators, local residents and businesses.

Promoting the highest safety standards will encourage participants and spectators to attend events, driving tourism and the associated economic benefits to the area. Given that most venues are located in rural areas, this encourages people to come to these areas.

To mitigate the disruptive impact of events, enhanced safety measures seek to reduce possible disruption, delays or damages caused by events. Mitigating these issues will impact residents and businesses, who may not only be living on a circuit but within close proximity. Increasing the safety capacity will encourage residents and organisors to work collaboratively, with local residents feeling that they are part of a wider event, consequently, impacting some of the social isolation issues present in rural communities by [[NISRA](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/key-rural-issues)] (see section 2C).

Noise and crowds of spectators are issues that will potentially be faced by rural communities. These issues have not been considered when the policy was implemented however these were already an issue prior to this safety investment. However, there will be positive aspects included with these events happening in rural areas as it will bring foot fall to local towns and improve income for local businesses.

The policy decision has come from the Department for Communities and therefore there was limited scope for adaptations by Sport NI. This includes the location of the circuits and roads used for events.

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**

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

The policy decision is a directive from the Department for Communities, therefore, there was limited scope for adaptations by Sport NI. This includes the location of the circuits and roads used for events.

Nevertheless, Motorsport events should have safety measures in place to address and mitigate any potential risk highlighted as part of their event and venue risk assessment and insurance requirements. Given that the majority of venues and events are located in rural areas, enhancing the safety of Motorsport will have a direct impact on enhancing sports facilities in rural areas.

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**

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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Aaron McGrady

Position/Grade:

Deputy Principal

Division/Branch

Infrastructure

Signature:

Kaaron McGrady

Date:

11/06/2025

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Rebecca Hope

Position/Grade:

Interim Director of Sport (G6)

Division/Branch:

Sport NI

Signature:

R Hope

Date:

30/07/25

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**

The policy decision is a directive from the Department for Communities, therefore, there was limited scope for adaptations by Sport NI. This includes the location of the circuits and roads used for events.

Nevertheless, Motorsport events should have safety measures in place to address and mitigate any potential risk highlighted as part of their event and venue risk assessment and insurance requirements. Given that the majority of venues and events are located in rural areas, enhancing the safety of Motorsport will have a direct impact on enhancing sports facilities in rural areas

This investment will provide safety equipment and provision to exclusively mitigate against safety risks at motorsport venues and enhance the experience of participants, spectators and officials.

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.