In our role as an economic development agency, ESG is about sustainable development; environmental and social sustainability underpinned and supported by good governance. Invest NI has a major role in making a positive impact on the lives of our citizens through our market interventions and project support. Our ESG Strategy outlines how we, and the companies and eco systems we support, can make that positive contribution by looking at how we operate, the services we offer, and the policies we follow, through a social and environmental lens. The Strategy provides us with a framework to assess business practices and performance on sustainability and social issues and provides a way to measure business risks and opportunities in those areas. To do this we must operate from a position of credibility and ensure we are holding the highest standards, so we can confidently expect the businesses we support to do the same.

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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.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy

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.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy

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.

Invest Northern Ireland

1A. Name of Public Authority.

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

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

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

*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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Likely to impact positively.

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.

The intention of the strategy is to have a positive societal impact through the inclusion of a framework to assess our own and our clients’ business practices and performance on sustainability and social issues and identifying risks and opportunities in those areas.

The ESG Strategy will provide the strategic direction for all policies, programmes and support (both internal and external) ensuring that environmental and social considerations are central to how we operate.

The ESG Strategy align with the Department for Economy’s 10X Vision and will operationalise the focus on Innovation, sustainability and inclusivity through our work.

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**

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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

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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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**.

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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The ESG Strategy will not have a negative impact on people in rural areas. The strategy intention is to impact positively through the inclusion of a framework to assess our own and our clients’ business practices and performance on sustainability and social issues and identifying risks and opportunities in those areas.

External stakeholder engagement has not taken place yet, but this is being explored through a stakeholder engagement survey of representative groups / bodies.

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.

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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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.

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:

Paddy Robb

Position/Grade:

ESG Lead / Grade 7

Division/Branch

Transformation

Signature:

Paddy Robb

Date:

16.06.2023

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Pamela Marron

Position/Grade:

Equality Manager

Division/Branch:

Performance Compliance and Co-ordination

Signature:

Pamela Marron

Date:

31/08/23

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 ESG Strategy will not have a negative impact on people in rural areas. The strategy intention is to impact positively through the inclusion of a framework to assess our own and our clients’ business practices and performance on sustainability and social issues, and identifying risks and opportunities in those areas.

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.