



Department for  
**Regional  
Development**

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AN ROINN

**Forbartha Réigiúnaí**

MÄNNYSTRIE FÜR

**Kintra Pairs Fordèrin**

# Shaping our FUTURE

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**Regional Development Strategy  
(RDS) 2025**

**Draft Equality Impact  
Assessment**

**10 Year Review**

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January **2011**



# Seeking your views

We have decided to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the revised Regional Development Strategy (RDS).

The full document is available on our website  
[www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture/](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/shapingourfuture/)

We are inviting you to give your views on this draft assessment.

The purpose of this consultation is to obtain:

- your views on this draft assessment on the equality impacts of the revised RDS; and
- any further information which could be useful in assessing those equality impacts.

When considering your response the following questions may offer a useful guideline:

Is there any other relevant qualitative or quantitative information you consider should have been taken into account in the analysis of equality impacts?

Do you have any general comments on the aspects of equality covered in this draft assessment?

Are there any other issues that have not been addressed? If so, what are they?

What are your views on the conclusions made in this summary of the impacts?

These are also detailed in Appendix A.

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read Appendix B at the back of this document on the confidentiality of

consultations. This will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

**Please send your comments to us by 31 March 2011**

**Should you need this publication in an accessible format such as large print, Braille or audio alternative formats please contact us by any of the means provided below.**

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# Contents

	Page
Executive Summary	i
1. Introduction	1
2. Background	3
3. Consideration of available data and research	8
4. Assessment of Impacts	14
5. Conclusions	32
6. Mitigation / Alternatives	35
7. Monitoring for adverse impact in the future and publication of results of monitoring	36
8. Consultation	37
9. Policy Decision	38
10. Publication of the Results of the EQIA	39
Appendix A EQIA Consultation Questions	40
Appendix B Confidentiality of Consultations	41
Appendix C The Hierarchy of Settlements and Related Infrastructure	42
Appendix D Estimate Growth Indicators 2008-2025	43
Appendix E List of Consultees	44

# Executive Summary

The revised draft Regional Development Strategy (RDS) replaces the RDS that was published in 2001 and amended in 2008.

The draft RDS contains 27 Strategic Guidance under the headings of:

- The Metropolitan Area centred on Belfast
- Derry City Hub of the North West
- Sub-Regional Centres
- Clusters of Cities and towns
- The rural area
- Gateways and corridors
- Environment
- Society
- Economy

The Guidance aims to provide long-term policy directions, from a strategic spatial perspective. The Strategy will inform and support the Programme for Government (PfG), Budget and Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI). It does not provide a commitment to resources for any specific project.

The policies and projects which deliver the high level objectives of the RDS will be subject to further equality screening by other government departments and public bodies responsible for delivery.

As a high level strategy which applies to all people in the North consideration was given during development of the strategy to potential impacts on all Section 75 Groups within the strategic guidance.

## **Assessment of Impacts**

### **Religious Belief**

Several of the Strategic Guidance are location specific and therefore

could impact on a greater proportion of one community background because of where they live. However, the RDS has focused guidance covering the whole of the North and the overall impact is positive for people of all religious beliefs.

### **Political Opinion**

There has been an historical tendency for voting preferences in the North to closely reflect the religious affiliations of the population. This implies that those issues and differentials identified in relation to persons of different religion may also impact on persons of different political opinion. This being the case the comments above for religious belief are considered to also apply to political opinion.

### **Gender**

The implementation of the revised RDS will have a positive impact on both males and females. Improvements in the transport system will impact particularly positively on women, as they are currently greater users of public transport than men. Promoting economic development opportunities will be positive for both men and women. There will be some positive impact on women in part-time work because of additional employment opportunities but the extent of this will be determined by affordable childcare and flexibility to care for older dependents.

### **Age**

Implementation of the revised RDS has the potential to impact positively on people of all ages, for various reasons. Improving the local transport in rural areas will particularly impact on older people. Improving public transport will particularly impact on people under 25 who are key users of public transport.

### **People with Disabilities**

Investing in the transport infrastructure will benefit all persons with or without a disability. However, enhanced provision of public transport, including improved access and the enhancement of services, particularly at community level is likely to have a more positive impact on persons with a disability.

### **Marital Status**

Investing in public transport will impact positively on those who are

single as they are significantly more likely to use public transport than any other group. However, it is likely that this differential is linked to age as a large proportion of those who are single and never married are likely to be aged under 25.

## **People with Dependants**

No differential impacts on people with and without dependents have been identified. For this reason it is anticipated that the revised RDS will have a positive impact on people, regardless of whether or not they have dependents.

## **Race**

Reflecting the differentials outlined previously, Irish Travellers are at greater risk of poverty, multiple deprivation and exclusion. The RDS guidance seeks to address the barriers to employment, within communities. It is anticipated, therefore, that the guidance will have a positive impact on Irish Travellers. There is no evidence of an adverse impact on other persons of different racial group.

## **Sexual Orientation**

No differential impacts on people of different sexual orientation have been identified. For this reason it is anticipated that the revised RDS will have a positive impact on people, regardless of their sexual orientation. An integrated transport system can help to promote a stronger more cohesive community.

## **Summary**

This EQIA has considered the potential for differential impacts on the 9 categories set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 against the strategic guidance. This assessment has concluded that the revised RDS will positively impact on all Section 75 categories.

## **Good Relations**

There are key positive impacts for good relations within the guidance on Society, Economy, Derry and Belfast. This is due to the promotion of working together to share services and facilities and community integration. SG20 in particular encourages communities to work together in a co-ordinated approach towards urban renewal and regeneration and to achieve balanced communities. In addition, a better integrated transport system can help to promote a stronger more cohesive community.



# 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Section outlines the background to the review of the RDS and the purpose of this document.

## **Equality of Opportunity**

- 1.2 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Department for Regional Development (DRD) in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:
- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
  - between men and women generally;
  - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
  - between persons with dependants and persons without.
- 1.3 In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, DRD must also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
- 1.4 The Department is fully committed to complying with the statutory requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.
- 1.5 Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), the DRD is required when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to:
- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
  - encourage participation by disabled people in public life ('the disability duties').
- 1.6 This consultation document presents the findings of a draft EQIA on the proposed revised RDS.
- 1.7 It has been carried out in accordance with the guidance set

down by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in its Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

- 1.8 This draft EQIA considers the impact that the revised RDS may have for the Section 75 Groupings.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 The RDS is the spatial strategy of the Executive. The Strategy is critically important to the future development for the whole community. It seeks to balance the needs of a resilient, outward looking, more dynamic economy whilst preserving and sustaining that essential quality of life. It provides a framework within which choices can be made on key decisions about the infrastructural development of the North of Ireland.

2.2 The revised draft RDS replaces the RDS that was published in 2001 and amended in 2008.

2.3 The draft Strategy contains Strategic Guidance. They aim to provide long-term policy directions, from a strategic spatial perspective. The Strategy will inform and support the PfG, Budget and ISNI.

2.4 The RDS aims are set out below:

- **Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of the region**

Strong economies, regionally and locally, recognise that urban and rural areas are dependent on each other. The ability to sustain and grow the economy across the Region, within both urban and rural areas, relies upon our ability to collaborate and develop a co-ordinated approach including the prioritisation of investment.

- **Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry as the capital of the North West**

Successful regions have strong and vibrant cities at their core. Belfast drives much of the economic growth and shares it's wealth across the Region. Derry, as the regional capital of the North West, has the capacity and potential for strong economic growth.

- **Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential**

Rural areas contain many unique assets that have been under-developed. There are real opportunities to maximise the potential of rural communities and areas. Towns and villages have a key role in supporting the Region.

- **Promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities**

A healthy community is better able to take advantage of the economic, social and environmental opportunities which are open to it. Improved health and wellbeing is derived not only from easy access to appropriate services and facilities, although this is important, but also from the creation of a strong economy set within a safe and attractive environment. The provision of more social and affordable housing also helps to build strong communities.

- **Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places**

Connectivity improvements will support the network of towns and their associated hinterlands. Neighbouring towns support each other and their hinterlands in the provision of services. Good linkages between towns and rural areas for access to services and business opportunities are vital.

- **Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake**

Protecting the environment is essential for the quality of life of current and future generations. The Region's environment is one of its greatest assets, with its stunning landscapes, an outstanding coastline, a complex variety of wildlife and a rich built and cultural heritage for the ecosystem services it provides, and its sense of place and history for all.

- **Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change**

It is recognised that climate change is one of the most serious problems facing the world. We are all contributors to global warming and need to play our part to reduce and offset our impact on the environment. Reducing harmful carbon dioxide emissions is of great importance and by reducing our carbon footprint can reduce the threat of climate change. Therefore, where it is necessary to use resources, it should be done in sustainable ways. Waste needs to be reduced, reused and recycled and everyone should contribute to reducing the Region's environmental footprint.

- **Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world**

There is already collaboration on a north/south basis promoting the development of gateways and cross border connections. Opportunities exist to further develop this collaboration. East/West linkages are also being developed. In a rapidly expanding and interdependent global marketplace opportunities exist to compete and trade with Europe and the rest of the world. In order to achieve this accessibility, communications, education and employability within the population need to improve.

## 2.5 The draft Strategy contains 27 Strategic Guidance under the headings of:

- The Metropolitan Area centred on Belfast
- Derry City Hub of the North West
- Sub-Regional Centres
- Clusters of Cities and towns
- The rural area
- Gateways and corridors
- Environment

- Society
- Economy

- 2.6 Under the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 Government Departments are required to have regard to the Regional Development Strategy in exercising any development function. It will be the responsibility of Departments to carry out EQIAs in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 2.7 Developing policy also means thinking carefully across overarching policy issues. We have taken into account equality and Lifetime Opportunities, the government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland. Separate assessments are being conducted for the environment, health and rural impacts. The policies and projects which deliver the high level objectives of the RDS will be subject to further equality screening by other government departments and public bodies responsible for delivery.

## Engagement with key groups

- 2.8 The RDS is cross-cutting. We have therefore been actively involved with a number of key groups to assist in the Review.
- **External Working Group**  
This Group ensured that the work was carried out in a robust and open manner. The group represented business, trade unions, local government, the environment, rural development, house builders, academia, the planning profession, industry and investment and a member of the Department's Equality Forum.
  - **The Regional Development Committee (RDC)**  
The RDC provided important inputs throughout the process in developing the revised draft strategy.
  - **Ministerial Sub Group**  
Given the cross-cutting nature of the Strategy an Executive

Sub-Group of Departmental Ministers chaired by Minister Conor Murphy was established.

- **Inter Department Steering Group**

This Group is a working group of senior officials from all Government Departments.

- **Sub Regional Workshops**

Pre consultation workshops were held in November and early December 2008 in 11 locations across the Region. The purpose of the workshops was to share with stakeholders the work that had been done to date in reviewing the Strategy and to listen to views and ideas about specific areas.

## **Shaping the Strategy**

- 2.9 The information gathered from across government departments has helped build the linkages with other key government policies on the economy, sustainability, neighbourhood renewal, rural development and transport.

## 3.0 Consideration of available data and research

3.1 We looked at the following quantitative and qualitative sources of data:

- Information from a series of pre-consultation workshops.
- Information from the External Working Group.
- Northern Ireland Census 2001 – Key Settlements Report.
- The Draft Equality Impact Assessment of the Programme for Government 2008-2011.
- The Equality Impact Assessment of the Accessible Transport Strategy 2005.
- Translink Customer Survey – Autumn 2008.
- 2008 Labour Force Survey.
- 2007/08 School Leavers Survey.
- Department of Education (DENI) statistics on the Indicators of Traveller Education.
- Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI) Quarterly Labour Force Survey April 2007 - June 2007.
- 2010 Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM)
- NI Travel Survey 2006 – 2008
- Northern Ireland Survey of People with Activity Limitations & Disabilities (NISALD) – 2007
- Continuous Household Survey 2009-10

### 3.2 Pre-Consultation Workshops

Eleven pre-consultation workshops were held throughout the North in November and early December 2008. The purpose of the workshops was to share with stakeholders the work that had been done to date in reviewing the Strategy and to listen to their views and ideas about their specific areas.



- 3.3 Approximately 640 invitation letters were issued to local government, public, private and voluntary/community sector. All MLAs were invited. Advertisements were placed in the main daily and weekly papers. A total of 274 people from all sectors attended the workshops.
- 3.4 After a location specific presentation the groups were asked to consider 5 questions. One of these questions was to identify equality issues. The question and summary of feedback from each location are detailed below.

### **Pre Consultation Workshops Question:**

Are there any particular equality or health issues in your area that need to be considered?

## **Feedback**

### **Antrim Borough Council and Newtownabbey Borough Council**

- Encourage greater equality of opportunity in education as a high percentage of Catholic students are transported to Magherafelt due to school closure. Potential for integrated school in the area.
- Need to build sustainable communities.
- Needs of ethnic minorities.

### **Ballymena Borough Council, Larne Borough Council and Carrickfergus Borough Council**

- Lack of access to health services with poor public transport to main hospitals at Mid-Antrim and Coleraine.
- Natural topography makes access to hospitals difficult resulting in longer response times of ambulances.
- Development of more neutral/shared space.
- Still exists pockets of deprivation – socio-economic, education, access to services.

### **Omagh District Council and Fermanagh District Council**

- Access to specialised health services.
- Access to basic health services (A & E).
- Ageing population.
- Rural isolation.
- Lack of social housing.
- Government policies urban orientated and not properly rural proofed.
- Good community relations but invisible walls.
- Rural schools under threat.
- Too cost focused and not enough on value.

### **Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council**

- Issues with closure of services in Lagan Valley Hospital.
- Lot of older people.
- Accessible transport for older people and rural areas.
- Healthcare across boundaries.
- Access to education.
- Need for social housing for singles and older people.

### **Magherafelt District Council, Cookstown District Council and Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council**

- Rural Needs
  - o Housing
  - o Social housing
  - o Rural towns and villages dying
- Health
  - o Lack of acute services
  - o Lower life expectancy
  - o Isolation, particularly those with disabilities with lack of access of health services
  - o Health Impact Assessment for the Area under the RDS

### **Newry and Mourne District Council and Down Borough Council**

- Isolation of elderly in rural areas impacting on health.
- Hospital facilities.
- Closure of rural schools and facilities.

### **North Down Borough Council and Ards Borough Council**

- Bamford Report on mental health.
- Paramilitary influence still exists.
- Current health provision not meeting areas needs.
- TSN policy of InvestNI is ineffective.
- Some very deprived pockets – housing quality.
- Access to services in rural Ards peninsula poor.
- Out of hours GP service poor.
- Pockets of ageing population with associated care needs.

### **Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council and Craigavon Borough Council**

- Area hospital.
- Good leisure facilities – preventative care.
- Problems of flags and emblems.
- Growth of proportion of pensioners – protect their needs with adequate funding/facilities.
- Physical barriers – religion and political opinion.
- Suicides – young males.
- Good health services but need to be more proactive.

### **Coleraine Borough Council, Ballymoney Borough Council, Limavady Borough Council and Moyle District Council**

- Poor public transport makes accessing health clinics and hospitals very difficult in a predominantly rural area.
- Isolation of the elderly due to the high number of unoccupied second homes. Can include disabled residents.

- Limited facilities at Causeway Hospital which does not offer the specialist services required by an aging population eg cancer and renal unit. Residents need to travel to Londonderry/Derry, Belfast or Antrim for specialist care.
- Equality of opportunity for economic development not as good in this area due to disproportionate amount of public investment.

### **Belfast City Council**

- Pockets of social exclusion, tribalism and racism within a segregated society.
- High level of poverty which impacts on health.
- High level of unemployment in some areas which can impact on social housing.
- An aging population impacts on health.
- Current services and infrastructure are designed for car owners.
- Invest in community based health.
- Improve social-community agenda.
- Option for electronic participation in government policy development by citizens throughout the process rather than merely organised pre and post consultation exercises.
- Air quality and the quality of the environment.

### **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

- Health provision.
- Access to NHS dental services
- Regional health authority – cross border basis.
- Lone parent opportunities and support.
- Fuel poverty.
- Lack of female representation (some dispute over this).
- Perception in terms of religion to jobs and education.

## **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 1**

Is there any other relevant qualitative or quantitative information you consider should have been taken into account in the analysis of equality impacts?

## 4.0 Assessment of impacts

- 4.1 The RDS recognises the major challenge of providing and sustaining a high quality of life for all its citizens in the 21st Century and has a role in helping resources and services be better targeted to address disadvantage. As already mentioned, the draft RDS contains strategic guidance and long term policy directions. It does not provide a commitment to resources for any specific project.
- 4.2 The policies and projects which deliver the high level objectives of the RDS will be subject to further equality screening by other government departments and public bodies responsible for delivery.
- 4.3 As a high level strategy which applies to all people in the North consideration was given to potential impacts on all the Section 75 Groups and in respect of good relations against the strategic guidance during development of the Strategy.
- 4.4 The assessment considered the 9 Section 75 categories against the Strategic Guidance which is grouped under the following 9 headings:
  1. The Metropolitan Urban Area centred on Belfast
  2. Derry City the Hub of the North West
  3. Sub-Regional Centres
  4. Clusters of Cities and towns
  5. The rural area
  6. Gateways and corridors
  7. Environment
  8. Society
  9. Economy
- 4.5 There are 27 Strategic Guidance (SG) within the draft Strategy and for ease of reference this assessment has listed them from 1-27. This includes guidance which is specific to the Belfast

Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) and Derry. However, they are not to be read in isolation as all the Strategic Guidance apply to BMUA and Derry. The guidance, which is listed below, is explained first, the equality issues are then discussed and an assessment made of the equality and good relations impacts.

## **1. The Belfast Metropolitan Area centred on Belfast (SG1-SG5)**

**The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA)** is defined as the continuous built up area centred on Belfast with an arc from Jordanstown to Knocknagoney and includes the city of Lisburn, and towns of Bangor, Carrickfergus and Holywood. The guidance for the BMUA centred on Belfast is as follows:

### **SG1: Promote urban economic development at key locations throughout the BMUA and ensure sufficient land is available for jobs**

This means identifying key sites for employment growth well connected to public transport and linked to existing communities and the regeneration of sites for mixed use development with residential, commercial and leisure potential. It also means enhancing Lisburn as a major employment and commercial centre serving a significant catchment, and promoting the regeneration of the town centres of Bangor and Carrickfergus.

### **SG2: Manage the movement of people and goods within the BMUA**

The guidance recognises that transport has a key role to play not only for the economy but is also vital for social inclusion. This means managing travel demand within the BMUA, improving the public transport service, efficient movement of freight, integrating land use and transportation, and the provision of a rapid transit network. It also refers to improving facilities for walking and cycling.

### **SG3: Protect and enhance the quality of the setting of the BMUA and its environmental assets**

The guidance sets out the need to protect areas of high scenic

value and the hills around the Metropolitan Area from urban development and protecting and enhancing the network of open spaces in the BMUA.

#### **SG4: Grow the population of the City of Belfast**

This means supporting a drive to provide additional dwellings on land already zoned for housing and on windfall sites which become available for development. It will require imaginative and innovative design, including mixed use schemes, to ensure that they link into the existing urban fabric. This includes developing transport linkages, regenerating inner and middle city areas and reinforcing the quality of the city centre shopping and business area.

#### **SG5: Enhance the role of Belfast City Centre as the regional capital and focus of administration, commerce, specialised services and cultural amenities**

This can be achieved by ensuring that its role as the regional shopping and office centre is maintained and by developing the City of Belfast as the Region's culture and arts centre and enhancing public areas. Measures are also needed which target social need, community disadvantage across the city and closing the gap in quality of life for those living in deprived areas.

### **Assessment of Impacts**

Strategic Guidance Numbers 1 to 5 on the BMUA recognises its importance as the centre of the regional transport network and the major gateway for national and international trade and that a strengthened BMUA will be at the core of the Region's economy.

The Census Key Settlements Report shows that a greater proportion of BMUA residents come from a Protestant background (61%) than in the Region as a whole (53%) and therefore there is a positive differential for Protestants in respect of both religious belief and the associated read across to political opinion.

There has been an historical tendency for voting preferences



in the North to closely reflect the religious affiliations of the population. This implies that those issues and differentials identified in relation to persons of different religion may also impact on persons of different political opinion. This being the case the comments above for religious belief are considered to also apply to political opinion.

However, many people from outside the BMUA come into Belfast for work or leisure purposes and a vibrant successful Belfast drives much of the Region's economic growth. The wealth created from this growth is shared across the Region with a positive impact on all the other Section 75 Groups.

The RDS covers the whole of the Region with a focus also on the Derry area, the other towns and cities and the rural communities. Considering the RDS overall, there is no differential impact on people of different religious belief or political opinion because of where they live.

A vibrant BMUA will have a positive impact on all Section 75 Groups.

### **Good Relations**

This guidance is considered to have a positive impact on good relations as it will enhance communities throughout the BMUA.

## **2. Derry City Hub of the North West (SG6-SG8)**

The regeneration of Derry is central to the development of the wider North West Region defined as the 4 local Council areas of Derry, Strabane, Limavady and Donegal. The key strategic issues for the North West and Derry are:

### **SG6: Develop a strong North West**

This means enhancing its role as the key centre in the North West for trade and services with high levels of co-operation between Letterkenny and Derry, Strabane and Limavady. Maximising and closing the gap in quality of life for those living in deprived areas and enhancing transport linkages across the Region and to and from the air and sea ports and within the City.

### **SG7: Strengthen the role of Derry as the capital City of the North West**

This means meeting the housing needs of the area, maximising the tourism potential of the City and providing better accessibility to the central area of the City. It also includes continuing to regenerate the City and closing the gap in quality of life for those living in deprived areas.

### **SG8: Protect and enhance the environmental assets of Derry and the North West Region**

This means protecting areas of high scenic value, undeveloped coastline and wetlands from development, and protecting and enhancing the network of open spaces in the settlements of the North West. It also encourages making use of green space to help manage access to important wildlife sites and minimise the potential for damage due to visitor pressure.

## **Assessment of Impacts**

Derry has suffered from isolation, but this is changing. The City's position as the transport hub of the North West will be strengthened. This investment, coupled with the City's airport, port and telecommunications infrastructure, will reduce isolation and mean that it is well placed to contribute strongly to the Region's economic growth.

The 2001 Census Key Settlement Report shows that a greater proportion of residents in the Derry Urban area come from a Roman Catholic background (78%) than in the Region as a whole (44%) and therefore there is a positive differential for Roman Catholics in respect of both religious belief and the associated read across to political opinion.

However, the RDS covers the whole of the Region with a focus also on the BMUA, the other towns and cities and the rural communities. Considering the RDS overall, there is no differential impact on people of different religious belief or political opinion because of where they live.

## **Good Relations**

A strong North West Region and the promotion of regeneration initiatives will have a positive impact on good relations.

### **3. Sub-Regional Centres (SG9-SG10)**

Chapter 4 of the draft RDS identifies the main settlements that have the greatest potential for economic growth. These provide a range of accessible centres for the concentrated development of industrial, commercial, health, education and community services. This guidance identifies the need for an assessment of the roles and functions of settlements to inform development and community plans. Use of the Hierarchy of Settlements and Related Infrastructure (Appendix C) will assist in co-ordinating the delivery of services and facilities. Derry and BMUA are dealt with in Strategic Guidance 1 to 8.

#### **SG9: Promote economic development opportunities at Sub-Regional Centres**

Sub-Regional Centres described in Chapter 4 of the draft RDS are all performing economic roles and have potential for further economic expansion. Downpatrick has a key role to play in covering a significant catchment in the South East. Small businesses and service sector offices could locate in these towns.

#### **SG10: Grow the population in the Sub-Regional Centres**

This guidance refers to the growth of population in smaller settlements and that in some urban centres, such as Newry, Cookstown, Omagh and Ballymena, the percentage of population has declined between 1998 and 2008. If this pattern were to continue, it could affect the role of larger settlements and be contrary to the objectives of the Strategy for strong growth in larger urban areas.

### **Assessment of Impacts**

#### **Religious Belief and Political Opinion**

Chapter 4 of the revised RDS identifies specific locations for economic development. The locations identified are spread throughout the Region and the community background profile (based on the 2001 Census Key Settlements Report) of the towns and cities specified closely matches the Region's profile.

The percentage of the population from a Catholic background in the specified towns and cities is 47% compared with 44% in the North as a whole; and the percentage of the population from a Protestant background in the specified towns and cities is 50% compared with 53% of the population in the North as a whole. Therefore, there is no evidence to suggest an adverse impact on persons of a different religious belief and therefore political opinion, due to the read across from religious belief, because of where they live. Rather, this guidance will have a positive impact on people of all religious beliefs and political opinions.

### **Gender**

Promoting economic development opportunities in general is positive for both men and women. However, there are significant differences in the type of employment that men and women have. The April – June 2010 Labour Force Survey indicated that a higher proportion of women work in part-time employment, 37% compared to 9% for men. This may be due in large part to family/home commitments as almost three quarters of those women working in part-time employment (74%) stated that they did not want to work full-time. The nature of future jobs, the provision of affordable childcare and the flexibility to care for older dependents will determine whether the positive differential impact is on men or women.

### **Age**

There is evidence from the April – June 2010 Labour Force Survey to suggest that younger people aged between 16 – 24 are almost twice as likely to be unemployed (9%) than the working age population as a whole (5%) and may face distinctive barriers to employment due for example to limited previous employment experience. Additional employment opportunities will help to address the differential impact.

### **Race**

The 2001 Census data would suggest that Irish Travellers are more likely to be economically inactive and unemployed than

other racial groups. The employment rate for Irish Travellers aged 16-74 (35%) is significantly below that of all economically active people aged 16-74 (62%). There is no evidence of an adverse impact on other persons of different racial group.

### **Dependants**

There will be some positive impact on women in part-time work because of additional employment opportunities but the extent of this will be determined by affordable childcare and flexibility to care for older dependents.

### **Disability**

The DETI Northern Ireland Quarterly Labour Force Survey (April 2010 - June 2010) indicates that the employment rate for those without disabilities (75%) is almost two and a half times that of people with disabilities (31%). Additional employment opportunities will help to address the differential impact.

### **Marital Status**

It is considered that this guidance has no impact on marital status

### **Summary**

The Sub-Regional Centre Guidance in Numbers 9 to 10 recognises that different areas have different strengths which can be improved to provide economic growth across the Region as a whole. This will ensure that impacts on Section 75 Groups are all positive and help to address existing differential impacts on gender, age and disability.

### **Good Relations**

The economic strategic guidance will have a positive impact on good relations as it encourages towns and cities to work together in a cohesive and inclusive way for the provision of services and facilities.

## 4. Clusters of Cities and Towns (SG11-12)

Whilst the towns selected as potential Sub-Regional Centres are the larger towns in the respective areas, the settlement pattern of the Region is such that within the catchment of many of these potential Sub-Regional Centres lie other large and medium sized towns. Clusters are identified as a strong network of cities and towns with a high degree of overlap reinforcing the need for places to co-operate rather than compete. Given the scale of some places, clustering enables places to work together to create a critical mass to attract economic development and deliver services that are functionally sustainable.

### **SG11: Identify and consolidate the roles and functions of settlements within the clusters**

This guidance recognises the need to identify and consolidate the roles and functions of settlements within the clusters, and to using the Hierarchy of Settlements and related Infrastructure Diagram, to help to identify the level of appropriate services and facilities (Appendix C).

### **SG12: Use the Hierarchy of Settlements and related Infrastructure Diagram (Diagram 4.1), to help to identify the level of appropriate services and facilities**

This guidance highlights the need for co-ordination between those who deliver services. In addition to the Sub-Regional Centres, there are other large and medium sized towns across the Region, such as Antrim and Banbridge, where the population is in decline. Whilst the Sub-Regional Centres or principle city in a cluster should be considered first for growth, regeneration of the urban centres within the clusters will include the need for housing.

## **Summary**

The Sub-Regional Centre Guidance in Numbers 9 to 10 recognises that different areas have different strengths which can be improved to provide economic growth across the Region as a whole. This will ensure that impacts on Section 75 Groups are all positive and help to address existing differential impacts on gender, age and disability.

## **Assessment of Impacts**

### **Religious Belief and Political Opinion**

The Cluster locations identified are spread throughout the Region and the community background profile (based on the 2001 Census Key Settlements Report) of the towns and cities specified closely matches the Northern Ireland profile. The percentage of the population from a Catholic background in the specified towns and cities is 47% compared with 44% in the North as a whole; and the percentage of the population from a Protestant background in the specified towns and cities is 50%, compared with 53% in the North as a whole. Therefore, there is no evidence to suggest an adverse impact on persons of a different religious belief or political opinion because of where they live. Rather this guidance will have a positive impact on people of all religious beliefs and political opinions.

### **Gender**

Promoting economic development opportunities in general is positive for both men and women. However, there are significant differences in the type of employment that men and women have. The April – June 2010 Labour Force Survey indicated that a higher proportion of women work in part-time employment, 37% compared to 9% for men. This is due in large part to family/home commitments as almost three quarters of those women working in part-time employment (74%) stated that they did not want full-time work. The nature of future jobs, the provision of affordable childcare and the flexibility to care for older dependents will determine whether the positive differential impact is on men or women.

### **Age**

Evidence from the April – June 2010 Labour Force Survey suggests that younger people are almost twice as likely to be unemployed (9%) than the working age population as a whole (5%) and may face distinctive barriers to employment due for example to limited previous employment experience. Additional employment opportunities will help to address the differential impact.



## **Race**

The 2001 Census data would suggest that Irish Travellers are more likely to be economically inactive and unemployed than other racial groups. The employment rate for Irish Travellers aged 16-74 (35%) is significantly below that of all economically active people aged 16-74 (62%). The RDS seeks to address the barriers to employment within communities and there is no evidence of an adverse impact on other persons of different racial group.

## **Dependants**

There will be some positive impact on women in part-time work because of additional employment opportunities but the extent of this will be determined by affordable childcare and flexibility to care for older dependents.

## **Disability**

The DETI Northern Ireland Quarterly Labour Force Survey (April 2010 - June 2010) indicates that the employment rate for those without disabilities (75%) is almost two and a half times that of people with disabilities (31%). Additional employment opportunities will help to address the differential impact.

## **Marital Status**

It is considered that this guidance has no impact on marital status.

## **Summary**

The Clustering of Towns in SG Nos 11 to 12 recognises that different areas have different strengths which can be improved to provide economic growth across the Region as a whole. This will ensure that impacts on Section 75 Groups are all positive and help to address existing differential impacts on gender, age and disability.

## **Good Relations**

The economic strategic guidance will have a positive impact on good relations as it encourages towns and cities to work together in a cohesive and inclusive way for the provision of services and facilities.



## 5. The Rural Area (SG13-SG14)

The guidance on Rural Communities is as follows:

### **SG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside**

This guidance recognises the need to provide adequate sites for housing appropriate to the varying functions performed within settlements. This includes establishing the role of multi-functional town centres as prime locations for retail, housing, service, administration, leisure and cultural facilities. Connectivity of rural and urban areas and the revitalisation of small towns and villages are identified as being essential to sustain and service the rural community. It also identifies the need to protect the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development.

### **SG14: Improve accessibility for Rural Communities**

**This means improving the overall connectivity of rural communities to services and other parts of the Region by exploring innovative ways of bringing these services to the communities. It also means integrating local transport and promoting innovative rural transport initiatives.**

### **Disability**

The 2007 NISALD survey has identified accessibility of public transport as an issue, although not a major one, to those with a disability. Just over 16% said they had experienced difficulties when using the public transport services in the previous 12 months.

### **Assessment of Impacts**

The Stakeholder Workshops held during pre-consultation produced evidence to suggest that the elderly and disabled in rural areas did not have adequate access to services and for this reason Strategic Guidance Number 14 was added to the section on rural communities to improve accessibility.

There is therefore ***potential for a positive impact on everyone but particularly on older people and people with disabilities*** following inclusion of Strategic Guidance Number 14.

## **6. Gateways and Corridors (SG15)**

Gateways should be able to deal with goods and passenger traffic efficiently and be considered as an asset by potential investors and local firms alike. However, many of the gateways are intrinsically linked to important nature conservation sites or the aquatic environment, and their development must be appropriately managed to take account of this.

### **SG15: Strengthen the Gateways for Regional competitiveness**

The guidance recognises the need to have high quality connections to and from the air and sea ports and to enhance Gateways and their environmental image.

### **Assessment of Impacts**

Strategic Guidance Number 15 on strengthening the Gateways for regional competitiveness reflects the actions needed to deal with goods and passenger traffic efficiently. These actions will contribute to an improvement in the economy for the Region and therefore will benefit everyone. This guidance is considered to have a positive impact on all 9 of the Section 75 Groups.

### **Good Relations**

Connectivity of rural and urban areas will be positive for good relations as it will help to promote greater desegregation.

## **7. The Environment (SG16-SG19)**

The key environmental factors addressed by the RDS are:

### **SG16: Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality**

The RDS guidance aims to encourage compact development with essential services within easy reach. This includes the design of safe streets linked to public transport, reducing car usage and encouraging more energy efficient forms of

transport. The guidance also encourages improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and increasing the use of renewable energies and renewable heat. The recycle and reuse of land, buildings and materials will help to minimise development in areas at risk from flooding, coastal erosion, land instability and protection of soils.

### **SG17: Manage our waste sustainably**

This guidance relates to the need to investigate innovative ways of reusing and recycling our waste and to view the waste we do produce as a potentially valuable resource and minimise the environmental impacts of waste transport.

### **SG18: Conserve and protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment**

To conserve and protect we should sustain and enhance biodiversity, apply the precautionary principle to development, protect and manage inland water bodies and protect and manage the coast. It also recognises the need to complete national and international environmental designations and to consider the establishment of one or more National Parks and to protect and conserve archaeological remains and historical features of the built environment.

### **SG19: Deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply**

The aim of this guidance is to improve security, sustainability and diversity of supply whilst addressing climate change. This means we need to move away from reliance on fossil fuels by increasing renewable wind and tidal energy. We will also need to strengthen the electricity grid and continue to work with our neighbours on ensuring security and stability of electricity and gas supply.

## **Assessment of Impacts**

Strategic Guidance Numbers 16 to 19 on the Environment reflects the actions needed to reduce our carbon footprint and to protect and enhance our natural and built environment. These actions will contribute to an increased quality of life for everyone. This guidance is considered to have a positive impact on all 9 of the Section 75 Groups. The Draft EQIA on

the PfG assessed the priority 'Protecting and Enhancing our Environment and Natural Resources'. It reached the same conclusion that this would contribute to an increased quality of life for everyone.

### **Good Relations**

The environmental strategic guidance will have no impact on good relations.

## **8. Society (SG20-SG22)**

The guidance in this section supports the aims of 'A Shared Future' by encouraging development of a shared community where people wish to learn, live, work and play together.

### **SG20: Strengthen community cohesion**

This guidance relates to the need to create safe places for people to meet without barriers to access these places and the creation of mixed population communities.

### **SG21: Support urban and rural renaissance**

This guidance is based on the need for a co-ordinated approach to the development of programmes that influence urban renewal and regeneration. It identifies the need to maximise the share of future housing within existing urban areas and the opportunities for higher densities, particularly in areas close to transport corridors, town centres and to community and public facilities, shops, services and places of work. Rural renaissance likewise is about revitalising the centres of small towns and villages so that they meet the immediate needs of the communities they serve.

### **SG22: Manage housing growth to achieve suitable patterns of residential development**

The draft Strategy emphasises the need for a phased approach to the release of housing land and the amount of housing land proposed to zone in a development plan. This means concentrating major housing proposals in sustainable locations, encouraging mixed use development and avoiding areas of significant environmental quality (Appendix D – Estimated Growth Indicators).

## Assessment of Impacts

Guidance numbers 20 to 22 seek to ensure that all parts of the Region make a valuable contribution to the quality of life, wealth and wellbeing of everyone with people at the centre of decisions about where development should happen. The Region's housing needs of all areas are addressed by the housing figures and the guidance reflects communities in both urban and rural areas. The housing figures take account of housing needs across the Region, including both urban and rural areas. The figures are indicative only and it is not appropriate at this level to determine equality impacts. This was supported by the Public Examination Report on the Review of Housing Growth Indicators which commented that it is at Development Plan level that the equality aspects of housing allocations would be most appropriately dealt with. This will be an important element to consider in a planning context.

The guidance refers to carrying out housing needs assessments to establish the need for social, affordable and specialised needs in both urban and rural. Therefore, **it is considered that the guidance will have a positive impact across all 9 Section 75 Groups.**

## Good Relations

This guidance is considered to have a positive impact on good relations and SG20 in particular encourages communities to work together in a co-ordinated approach towards urban renewal and regeneration and to achieve balanced communities.

## 9. The Economy (SG23-25)

Economic development of communities depends to a large extent on how people can connect with a range of facilities and services and how they get to places of work.

### **SG23: Manage the use of road space for the movement of people and goods**

The focus is on managing the use of road space and how we can use our network in a better, smarter way. This means

maximising the potential of the Regional Strategic Transport Network, improving the public transport service and managing the movement of freight.

**SG24: A balanced approach to telecommunications infrastructure that will give a competitive advantage**

The key challenges for the Region will be to improve international and internal connectivity and to ensure that the opportunities provided by access to high quality telecommunication services are fully exploited. The RDS recognises the need to invest in infrastructure for higher broadband speeds and minimise the urban/rural divide. Increasing the take-up and usage of broadband and establishing direct international connectivity are also key issues addressed by the strategic guidance.

**SG25: Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure**

Tourism can make a step change in its contribution to the economy if the public and private sectors work together. This means improving facilities for tourists around the Tourist Signature projects and protecting and improving access to our natural and cultural heritage. It also identifies the need to strengthen urban centres so that they are attractive places to visit and on building on the range of quality venues for events.

## **Assessment of Impacts**

### **Marital Status**

From the 2006 - 08 Travel Survey, it can be seen that those who were single and never married were significantly more likely to use public transport than any other group (9% of journeys) compared with 4% of journeys for the population as a whole. However, it is likely that this differential is linked to age as a large proportion of those who are single and never married are likely to be aged under 25.

### **Disability**

There is evidence that those who are disabled are under-represented on public transport journeys. During 2006 – 2008,

14% of public transport journeys were taken by those with a disability which is not as high as would be expected given that over one-fifth of adult population is estimated to have a disability (21% NISALD 2007; 23% CHS 09/10). Strategic Guidance Numbers 23 to 25 on the Economy recognises the need for accessibility for all Section 75 Groups to services.

## **Conclusion**

SG23 identifies the need for an improved public transport system and promotes walking and cycling and a co-ordinated approach to road safety. This applies throughout the Region and it is anticipated that this strategic guidance would have a positive impact on all Section 75 Groups. It will be particularly positive for women and young people, who are greater users of public transport. The passenger profile of Translink's Autumn 2008 customer survey which surveyed those aged 16 and over states that 55% of passengers were female (compared with 51% of the overall population) and 37% were under 25 (compared with 17% of the overall population).

## **Good Relations**

The Economy strategic guidance will have a positive impact on good relations as a better integrated transport system can help to promote a stronger more cohesive community.

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 2**

Do you have any general comments on the aspects of equality covered in this draft assessment?

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 3**

Are there any other issues that have not been addressed? If so, what are they?



## 5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The assessment of the potential impacts of the proposals included in the review of the RDS has concluded that the implementation of the Strategic Guidance would provide benefits across all equality categories identified by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, with no negative effects on any category.
- 5.2 The narrative which follows highlights the impact of the implementation of the revised RDS on each of the Section 75 Groups.

### **Assessment by Section 75 Group**

#### **Religious Belief**

- 5.3 Several of the Strategic Guidance are location specific and therefore could impact on a greater proportion of one community background because of where they live. However, the RDS has focused guidance covering the whole of the North and the overall impact is positive for people of all religious beliefs.

#### **Political Opinion**

- 5.4 There has been an historical tendency for voting preferences in the North to closely reflect the religious affiliations of the population. This implies that those issues and differentials identified in relation to persons of different religion may also impact on persons of different political opinion. Therefore the comments above for religious belief are considered to also apply to political opinion.

#### **Gender**

- 5.5 The implementation of the revised RDS will have a positive impact on both males and females. Improvements in the transport system will impact particularly positively on women, as they are currently greater users of public transport than men. Promoting economic development opportunities will be positive for both men and women. There will be some



positive impact on women in part-time work because of additional employment opportunities but the extent of this will be determined by affordable childcare and flexibility to care for older dependents.

## **Age**

- 5.6 Implementation of the revised RDS has the potential to impact positively on people of all ages, for various reasons. Improving the local transport in rural areas will particularly impact on older people. Improving public transport will particularly impact on people under 25 who are key users of public transport.

## **People with Disabilities**

- 5.7 Investing in transport infrastructure will benefit all persons with or without a disability. However, enhanced provision of public transport, including improved access and the enhancement of services, particularly at community level is likely to have a more positive impact on persons with a disability.

## **Marital Status**

- 5.8 Investing in public transport will impact positively on those who are single as they are significantly more likely to use public transport than any other group. However, it is likely that this differential is linked to age as a large proportion of those who are single and never married are likely to be aged under 25.

## **People with Dependents**

- 5.9 No differential impacts on people with and without dependents have been identified. For this reason it is anticipated that the revised RDS will have a positive impact on people, regardless of whether or not they have dependents.

## **Race**

- 5.10 Reflecting the differentials outlined previously, Irish Travellers are at greater risk of poverty, multiple deprivation and exclusion. The RDS guidance seeks to address the barriers to employment, within communities. It is anticipated, therefore, that the guidance will have a positive impact on Irish Travellers. There is no evidence of an adverse impact on other persons of different racial group.

### **Sexual Orientation**

- 5.11 No differential impacts on people of different sexual orientation have been identified. For this reason it is anticipated that the revised RDS will have a positive impact on people, regardless of their sexual orientation.

### **Good Relations**

- 5.12 There are key positive impacts for good relations within the guidance on Society, Economy, Derry and Belfast. This is due to the promotion of working together to share services and facilities and community integration. SG20 in particular encourages communities to work together in a co-ordinated approach towards urban renewal and regeneration and to achieve balanced communities. In addition, a better integrated transport system can help to promote a stronger more cohesive community.

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 4**

What are your views on the conclusions made in this summary of the impacts?

## 6.0 Mitigation/Alternatives

- 6.1 When we looked at the guidance as set out in the draft RDS during its early development we identified a gap in addressing the isolation of the elderly and disabled in rural areas. The evidence of a lack of accessibility to services was identified through the Pre Consultation Stakeholder Workshops where this issue was raised at 7 of the 11 workshops held across the Region.
- 6.2 As a result Strategic Guidance No 14 was added to the section on The Rural Area in order to improve accessibility to services in rural areas and to mitigate against this impact.
- 6.3 The assessment of the remaining Strategic Guidance has not identified any potentially adverse impacts. Rather the analysis concludes that the delivery of the RDS has the potential to have a positive impact on all Section 75 Groups. As a result further mitigating action is unnecessary at this stage.
- 6.4 The realisation of the potentially positive impacts will be dependant upon the delivery of actions at departmental and local government level.
- 6.5 To facilitate that outcome, the specific policies, programmes and investment projects which public bodies will deliver in support of the RDS will continue to be subject to equality screening and, where appropriate full EQIA.

## 7.0 Monitoring for adverse impact in the future and publication of results of monitoring

- 7.1 A final monitoring framework will be put in place following the outcome of consultation on this draft assessment.
- 7.2 Many of the impacts considered within this assessment will be monitored by the organisations responsible for the relevant policies to identify any unforeseen impacts of implementation and to ensure that as far as possible all objectives and anticipated positive impacts are being achieved over the period of implementation.

## 8.0 Consultation

- 8.1 In line with the Department's equality obligations and guidance issued by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, this draft EQIA, carried out at a strategic level, is being issued for formal consultation over a 12 week period.
- 8.2 Information on the revised RDS and consultation process is being issued to all consultees listed in the Department's Section 75 database. A full list of consultees is detailed at Appendix E.

## 9.0 Policy Decision

- 9.1 The final document will be prepared following consideration of the comments received during the consultation process and will take account of the final decision made by the Minister on the policy proposals. Thereafter the assessment will be produced in final form.

## 10. Publication of the results of the EQIA

- 10.1 The final EQIA will be issued to all those who responded to the consultation exercise and will be published on the Department's website. This will outline the way in which the consultation responses have influenced the final document. The document will also be available from Regional Planning and Transportation Division – contact details are provided at the front of this document.

# Appendix A

## **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 1**

Is there any other relevant qualitative or quantitative information you consider should have been taken into account in the analysis of equality impacts?

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 2**

Do you have any general comments on the aspects of equality covered in this draft assessment?

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 3**

Are there any other issues that have not been addressed? If so, what are they?

### **EQIA CONSULTATION QUESTION 4**

What are your views on the conclusions made in this summary of the impacts?



# Appendix B

## DEPARTMENTAL POLICY – DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

This explains the Department's Policy on the Disclosure of Information and provides guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act provides the public with the right to request access to information held by the Department. This includes information provided in response to consultations.

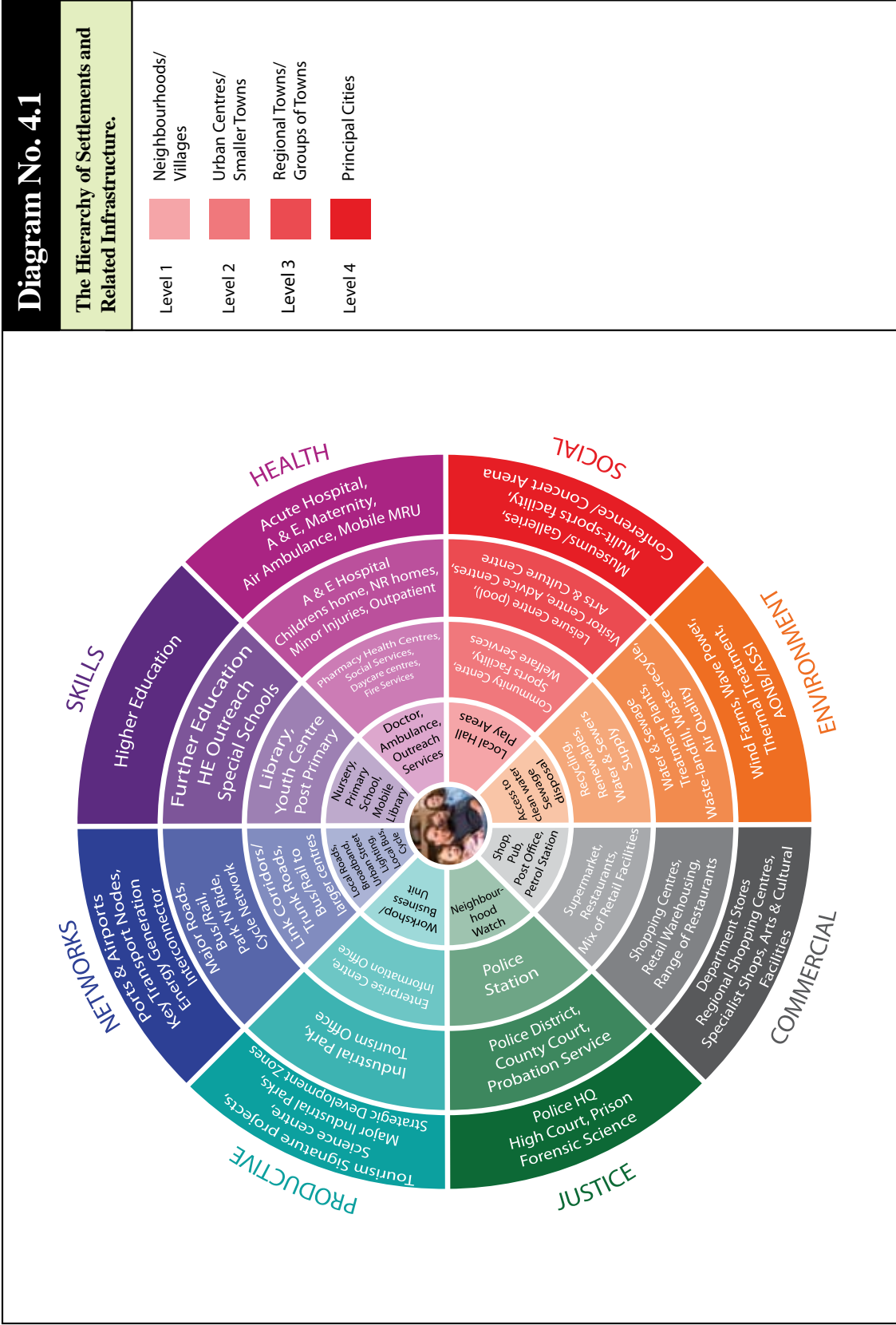
Following the end of the consultation we shall publish details of the responses received. Information you provide in your response, including **personal information**, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with obligations of confidence.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain why. Although we will take full account of your explanation we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded as binding on the Department.

For further information about the confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk))

# Appendix C



# Appendix D

## ESTIMATE GROWTH INDICATORS 2008-2025

	HGI
	2008-2025
BMUA	49900
BMA Rural Hinterland	10700
BMA	60600
Antrim	7300
Ards	9550
Down	9550
Larne	3900
Armagh	5500
Ballymena	6400
Ballymoney	3500
Banbridge	5500
Coleraine	6900
Cookstown	3700
Craigavon	10200
Derry	13700
Dungannon	5000
Fermanagh	6700
Limavady	3900
Magherafelt	4600
Moyle	1800
Newry and Mourne	11200
Omagh	6100
Strabane	3900
Regional Total	189500

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of these figures BMA is the built up area along the shores of Belfast Lough and the Lagan Valley taking in the city of Belfast and adjacent areas of Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and north Down. The rural hinterland is the rural parts of the above districts.

# Appendix E

## **LIST OF CONSULTEES**

Action Mental Health  
Age NI  
Age Sector Platform (ASP)  
All MLAs (109)  
All NI Members of Parliament  
All NI Members of the European Parliament  
Alliance Party of NI  
Alzheimer's Society  
Amalgamated Engineering & Electrical Union (AEEU)  
An Munia Tober  
Antrim Borough Council  
Ards Borough Council  
Armagh City & District Council  
Asperger's Network  
Assembly Library  
Autism NI  
Ballymena Borough Council  
Ballymoney Borough Council  
Banbridge District Council  
Barnardos NI  
Barnardos, Tuar Ceatha Project  
Belfast Butterfly Club  
Belfast City Council  
Belfast Harbour  
Belfast Healthy Cities Project  
Belfast Hebrew Congregation  
Belfast International Airport  
Belfast Islamic Centre  
British Association for Shooting and Conservation  
British Deaf Association (Northern Ireland)  
Bryson Charitable Group  
Business Services Organisation - HSC, Equality Unit  
Campaign for Better Transport  
CaraFriend/ Lesbianline Belfast  
CARDI (Centre for Aging Research & Development in Ireland)

CARE In Northern Ireland  
Carers Northern Ireland  
Carlingford Lough Commission  
Carrickfergus Borough Council  
Castlereagh Borough Council  
Child Poverty Action Group  
Children In Northern Ireland (CiNi)  
Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance  
Children's Law Centre  
Chinese Welfare Association  
Chrysalis Womens Centre  
Church of Ireland House  
Citizen's Advice Bureau  
Citizens Advice Regional Office  
City of Derry Airport  
Coalition on Sexual Orientation (CoSo)  
Coleraine Borough Council  
Coleraine Harbour  
Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)  
Community Development & Health Network NI  
Community Places  
Community Relations Council  
Community Transport Association  
Concordia Partnership for Progress  
Confederation of British Industry (CBI)  
Conservation Volunteers NI  
Cookstown District Council  
Craigavon Borough Council  
Democratic Unionist Party  
Department for Social Development  
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development  
Department of Culture Arts & Leisure  
Department of Education for NI  
Department of Employment & Learning  
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment  
Department of Environment  
Department of Finance & Personnel  
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Derry City Council  
Derry Well Woman

Disability Action  
Disability Action (Derry)  
Down District Council  
Down's Syndrome Association  
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council  
Eastern Health and Social Services Board  
Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland  
Employers Forum on Disability  
Enniskillen Airport (St Angelo)  
Equality Coalition  
Equality Commission for NI  
Equality Forum NI  
Falls Community Council  
Falls Women's Centre  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Fermanagh District Council  
Foyle Women's Aid  
Foyle Women's Information Network  
Freight Transport Association  
Friends of the Earth  
Gay & Lesbian Youth Northern Ireland (GLYNI)  
General Consumer Council for N.I.  
George Best City Airport  
Gingerbread NI  
Health and Safety Executive for NI  
IMTAC  
Indian Community Centre  
Institute of Directors (IOD)  
Institution of Highways and Transportation - Northern Ireland  
Invest Northern Ireland  
Irish Congress Of Trade Unions - NI Committee (ICTUNI)  
Irish Transport Trust  
Labour Party  
Larne Borough Council  
Larne Harbour  
Limavady Borough Council  
Lisburn City Council  
Living Streets (The Pedestrians Association)  
Local Government Staff Commission  
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners

Lower North Belfast Community Council  
Magherafelt District Council  
Magherafelt Women's Group  
MENCAP  
Men's Health Forum In Ireland  
Methodist Church in Ireland  
Mid-Ulster Women's Network  
Mobilise (Formerly Disabled Drivers Association)  
Moyle District Council  
Multi-Cultural Resource Centre  
Newry & Mourne District Council  
Newry & Mourne Senior Citizen's Consortium  
Newry & Mourne Women Ltd  
Newtownabbey Borough Council  
NI Anti-Poverty Network  
NI Association for Care & Rehabilitation of Offenders (NIACRO)  
NI Association for Mental Health  
NI Bird Watchers' Association  
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
NI Chest,Heart & Stroke Association  
NI Commissioner for Children & Young People (NICCY)  
NI Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM)  
NI Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)  
NI Cycling Initiative  
NI Environment Link  
NI Gay Rights Association (NIGRA)  
NI Human Rights Commission  
NI Rural Development Council  
NI Rural Womens Network  
NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)  
NI Tourist Board  
NI Women's Aid Federation  
NIPSA  
NITHC  
North Down Borough Council  
North Eastern Education & Library Board  
North West Community Network  
North West Forum of People with Disabilities (Derry)  
Northern Ireland Office (NIO)  
NSPCC

NUS-USI Northern Ireland Student Centre  
Office of the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland  
Omagh District Council  
Omagh Women's Area Network  
Parents Advice Centre  
Phoenix Natural Gas  
POBAL  
Polish Association N.I.  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
Press for Change  
Progressive Unionist Party  
Quarry Products Association  
Queer Space  
RNIB (NI)  
Road Safety Council for NI  
Royal National Institute for the Deaf (NI) (RNID)  
Rural Community Network  
Rural Support  
S.T.E.P. (South Tyrone Empowerment Programme)  
Save the Children  
SDLP  
SEELB  
Sense NI - for Deafblind People  
Sikh Cultural Centre  
Sinn Fein  
Sperrin Lakeland Senior Citizens' Consortium  
Strabane District Council  
SUSTRANS  
The Cedar Foundation  
The Community Foundation  
The Green Party in Northern Ireland  
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association  
The Law Society of Northern Ireland  
The Men's Project  
The Omnibus Partnership  
The Participation Network  
The Rainbow Project  
The Women's Centre  
The Workers' Party  
Translink



Travellers Movement NI  
Ulster Archaeological Society  
Ulster Scots Agency  
Ulster Scots Heritage Council  
Ulster Society for the Protection of the Countryside - Belfast  
Ulster Unionist Party  
ULTACH  
UNISON NI  
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority  
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust  
Women's Forum  
Women's Information Group  
Women's Support Network  
Womens Resource and Development Agency  
Youth Council for NI  
Youthnet NI