

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE – Corporate Policy & Resources Committee 24 August 2021

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY
1.	HOUSING EXECUTIVE	'REACHING RURAL' DRAFT RURAL STRATEGY 2021- 2025	30 SEPTEMBER 2021

'Reaching Rural' has been developed following pre-consultation and discussion with stakeholders and reflects the particular housing challenges which can face our rural tenants and customers and the growing demand and changing policy context for the development of new rural homes.

The draft report considers how we can maintain the momentum achieved over the last Rural Strategy in channelling investment and support into our rural communities and identifies the range of issues which must be addressed through local engagement, investment and collaborative working over the next four years. These issues include but are not limited to:

- The existing shortage of homes which are affordable and accessible;
- Hidden housing need in rural villages and small settlements;
- The often reduced access to basic services, facilities, advice and support; and
- A higher occurrence of less energy efficient homes and fuel poverty.

The areas of work borne out of the Housing Executive's wide range of functions, presents many opportunities for us to help address these issues and to achieve our overarching vision for rural communities:

'Towards vibrant, shared, healthy and sustainable rural communities where everyone has access to decent and affordable housing'

The draft Rural Strategy sets out three high level outcomes, twelve priorities and 29 proposed actions under the three cross cutting themes of:

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- 1. Supporting rural customers;
- 2. Enabling the provision of affordable rural homes; and
- 3. Securing the future of our rural communities.
- https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations.

The Head of Policy & Community Planning has advised Elected Members the NIHE's Rural Unit will also be giving a presentation on their work and remit to the next meeting of the Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Partnership on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 10.30 am.

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