

Rural NI: Our New Approach 2026-2041



“People and Government working together to shape a thriving, sustainable and inclusive rural Northern Ireland”

Have your say

Rural communities are central to Northern Ireland’s social, economic and environmental wellbeing. This consultation invites your views on a new long term rural policy that aims to better understand, champion and support rural Northern Ireland over the next 15 years.

Visit www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rural-ni-our-new-approach or scan the QR code



Join the Conversation. Share Your Views.

CONSULTATION CLOSES: MONDAY 1ST JUNE 2026



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matters

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW RURAL POLICY?

We want to make sure rural communities get the right support over the next 15 years. To do this we need to put the right structures in place so government and rural communities can work together to help rural Northern Ireland thrive. Things have changed in rural Northern Ireland.

- Rural communities are more diverse.
- New government priorities e.g. climate change.
- Tighter public finances.
- Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- The NI Rural Development Programme has closed.

WHAT IS RURAL NI: OUR NEW APPROACH 2026-2041?

- It is a long-term plan for the future.
- It sets out a **vision** for rural Northern Ireland.
- It does not replace the old NI Rural Development Programme funding.
- It will help government and communities **work together**.
- It is using evidence to guide better decision making.
- It is about supporting rural communities in ways that go beyond funding.

WHAT DOES THE DRAFT NEW RURAL POLICY AIM TO DO?

The new policy wants to:

- Work together across government and communities.
- Understand rural communities.
- Champion rural voices.
- Support rural communities.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING YOU?

We want to hear your views on the **proposals** in this plan.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN PROPOSALS?

There are five main proposals including:

Proposal 1: Putting Rural Voices at the Heart of Government

Proposal 2: Local Partnerships for Local Impact

Proposal 3: Understanding Rural

Proposal 4: Strengthening Rural Communities at Local and Regional Level

Proposal 5: Reviewing the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016



**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

You can tell us what you think by completing the consultation online.

Scan the QR code to read the full public consultation document and to respond to the consultation.



Or by visiting www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rural-ni-our-new-approach

You can also contact us by:



Rural Policy Unit, DAERA,
Jubilee House 111 Ballykelly Road,
Ballykelly, Limavady BT39 9HP



028 7744 2071
(Please note this is a voicemail service and a member of the team will call you back.)



RuralPolicyConsultation@daera-ni.gov.uk

**UNDERSTANDING, CHAMPIONING AND SUPPORTING
RURAL NORTHERN IRELAND**