

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC) is an independent organisation operating at a regional level across rural Northern Ireland. The RDC was established in 1991, under the DARD Rural Development Programme, and is presently managed by a 15-member Council comprised of rural community representatives drawn from the private sector, local government, ministerial appointees, environmental interests, community banking and the agriculture industry. This voluntary input provides strong corporate governance to a staff team of over 30. As a Council RDC wants to encourage a flourishing and sustainable rural Northern Ireland and believe that rural communities play a vital and significant role in achieving this. Our activities are based on the principle that local people are best placed to identify their needs and propose solutions.

We are involved in the delivery of support services, both financial and practical, to organisations involving people locally in planning regeneration projects that meet the real needs of rural communities. In addition, we are also involved in gathering and analysing data, research and information from a range of sources, sharing of information and building effective partnerships. This unique combination of delivery and research by a broad partnership based organisation makes a significant contribution to rural policy development and delivery in Northern Ireland.

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