

Recommendation	Management Response	Comments	Lead Business Area	Support	Timeframe
<p>1. The Department has indicated that there will be successor TRPSI programme when the current programme ends in 2016. The Committee recommends that the Departments build on the successes of the current programme, including the vast knowledge already available from the grass roots organisations in rural communities to help inform and shape a new TRPSI programme.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p>	<p>DARD commissioned the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) to undertake an evaluation of the current TRPSI Framework in 2015 with a view to informing a successor Framework. The evaluation took place during the period April – July 2015 following which SIB provided the department with a report on the evaluation which provided a number of recommendations in relation to the development of a successor framework.</p> <p>The department subsequently developed proposals for a successor Framework following engagement with a range of key stakeholders who stressed the important role the Framework plays in tackling rural poverty and social isolation and highlighted the impact the schemes delivered under the Framework have had on the lives of vulnerable rural dwellers. The proposals aimed to build on the success of the current framework and took into account the ARD Committee’s Position Paper, SIB’s draft Report on the Evaluation of the current Framework and the views of key stakeholders.</p> <p>The department carried out a public consultation exercise on the proposals for a successor Framework between November 2015 and January 2016 which included a public stakeholder event. It is now in the process of producing a new TRPSI Framework document which takes into account the outcome of the public consultation and the final report on the evaluation.</p>	<p>SRCB</p>	<p>RDD</p>	<p>Completion of successor Framework by 31 March 2016</p>
<p>2. The Committee recommends</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>The Public Health Agency (PHA), in conjunction with</p>	<p>PHA /</p>	<p>SRCB /</p>	<p>Completion of</p>

<p>that the Department, in conjunction with other departments, fully utilises the data capture and evaluation which MARA has produced and uses it to inform and shape the TRPSI successor programme.</p>		<p>Deloitte has completed an evaluation of the MARA Project. The evaluation has been considered and approved by the Project's Interdepartmental Forum, PHA and DARD and has recently been uploaded on both the PHA and DARD websites and shared with the Lead Delivery Organisations. The data gathered through the MARA Project was shared with a DARD statistician in January 2016. Analysis of the dataset may be used to inform future TRPSI Programmes.</p>	<p>RDD</p>	<p>PED</p>	<p>successor Framework by 31 March 2016</p>
<p>3. (a) The Committee acknowledges the work that DARD has done through its Rural White Paper Action Plan. The Committee recommends that DARD should undertake an evaluation of the extent to which other government departments and the wider public sector considers rural issues in respect of policy, services and resources.</p>	<p>Accepted (subject to availability of AFBI Resources)</p>	<p>DARD has engaged the services of AFBI to undertake a research project that will aim to assess the impact of rural proofing policy in improving access to services and explore alternative models of delivering effective joined-up government in policy development and service provision to rural areas. In particular, the project, which commenced on 1 October 2015, will review the operation of rural proofing and rural championing to identify successes, problems and issues relevant to their effectiveness in achieving rural policy objectives; benchmark rural proofing and rural champion initiatives in other jurisdictions to identify how the effectiveness of rural proofing might be improved and to identify alternatives models for a rural champion approach; and develop criteria for evidence based evaluation of rural proofing and rural championing and make recommendations for reforming current models.</p>	<p>Rural Proofing Branch / AFBI</p>		<p>Research commissioned to start on 1 October 2015. Due to be completed by AFBI by 31 March 2018</p>
<p>3. (b) The Committee further recommends that DARD develops an inter-</p>	<p>Accepted and Implemented</p>	<p>There is currently an Interdepartmental Committee on Rural Policy (IDCRP) which is comprised of senior civil servants from each Department. The IDRCP plays an</p>	<p>SRCB</p>		<p>Implemented</p>

<p>departmental working group with the buy in of Senior Civil Servants within the relevant Departments.</p>		<p>important role in the monitoring and delivery of the Rural White Paper Action Plan and in the development and implementation of rural proofing policy. DARD will give further consideration to what role the IDCRP can play in relation to the successor to the TRPSI Framework.</p>			
<p>4. (a) The Committee recommends that the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development engages proactively with the new Councils to ensure that they are active and vigorous in taking rural issues into account in the development of policy and delivery of services in rural and farming communities.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>DARD is currently engaged in a body of work to enhance the existing rural proofing process by making it a statutory requirement for public authorities. The proposed Rural Needs Bill would introduce a statutory duty on certain public authorities, including councils, to have due regard to the needs of rural dwellers when developing and implementing government policies and strategies and delivering public services. It is proposed that the Bill would also include provision for DARD to publish an annual report to be laid before the Assembly; for DARD to provide guidance, advice and information about rural needs and the meeting of those needs; and for DARD to make arrangements for co-operation and the sharing of information between departments and district councils. Both before and during the public consultation on the policy proposals for the proposed Bill, DARD had wide ranging engagement with NILGA and many other organisations that are representative of the rural community. A number of district councils, as well as NILGA, responded to the public consultation expressing support for the proposed enhancement of the current rural proofing arrangements. DARD will continue to engage with councils in developing arrangements for the implementation of the provisions of the Bill.</p>	<p>Rural Proofing Branch</p>		<p>31 March 2016</p>
<p>4. (b) Furthermore the</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>DARD has regular engagement with Councils through</p>	<p>RDD</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Committee recommends that the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development engages with the Councils to ensure that there is full and meaningful cognizance given and interaction with those community and voluntary groups currently successfully involved in delivery of the TRPSI Framework so as to prevent duplication of, or the overlooking of such groups.</p>		<p>the Rural Development Programme which highlights the role that voluntary and community groups play in delivery of the TRPSI Framework. There will be opportunities for DARD to engage with Councils during the implementation of the successor to the TRPSI framework taking into account the support offered by voluntary and community groups.</p>			
<p>5. (a) That the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development actively engages with DFP to ensure that NISRA is commissioned to undertake an update or review of the NI Multiple Deprivation Indices and that review should also consider the identification of rural deprivation, and specifically the suitability of the indicators employed and geographical areas used.</p>	<p>Partially Accepted</p>	<p>DARD is represented on the cross-Departmental Statistics Coordinating Group which is looking at the future of the NI Multiple Deprivation Measures. The Group is currently considering options for the future of the NIMDM and DARD has put forward its view that a full in-depth review of the measure should be undertaken for various reasons including the fact that, in general, the measure is not considered to be well suited to measuring rural poverty. NISRA has announced that it will proceed with an 'enhanced update' of the deprivation indices, with publication estimated for mid-2017. NISRA officials will brief the Committee in February 2016 on progress.</p>	<p>PED</p>	<p>NISRA</p>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>5. (b)The Committee also recommends that the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	<p>Accepted and Implemented</p>	<p>To inform decisions regarding the future of the NIMDM, NISRA has collected information from all Departments on their current and past use of the indices. While the NISRA exercise did not ask whether</p>	<p>PED</p>	<p>NISRA</p>	<p>Implemented</p>

engages with DFP to ensure it undertakes to establish how government departments are using the indices and if indeed any cognizance is given to the Guidance for Rural Area.		cognizance was given to the Guidance for Rural Areas, DARD has advised that awareness, accessibility and user friendliness of the NIMDM are important and that frequent road shows and newsletters might be useful. These would provide an opportunity to heighten awareness of the guidance and provide direction as to how best the measure might be used with regard to rural areas			
6. That the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development acknowledges that the funding for the TRPSI Framework has been resource based and that consequentially engagement with the stakeholders will be required to ensure that					
(a) suitable capital projects can be identified and	Accepted	DARD continues to engage with a wide range of statutory, community and voluntary rural stakeholders. Engagement in 15/16 has led to the development and establishment of the Rural Micro Capital Grants Programme and the Rural Transport Capital Funding Programme in conjunction with DRD. Consultations on other possible capital grants projects for 16/17 are ongoing.	RDD		Implemented
(b) that such projects can be delivered within the framework.	Accepted	The proposals for the successor to the TRPSI Framework are sufficiently flexible to allow for the funding of suitable capital projects.	SRCB		31 March 2016