EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 67 (1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 and is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the Order is to specify certain persons and bodies (the functions of which are exercisable in the district of a council) as community planning partners of that council.

3. Background

3.1. The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 conferred a new duty of Community Planning on Councils from 1st April 2015. The Act sets out framework for the operation of community planning. In order to assist with its operation there are a number of public sector organisations which provide key services to citizens across Northern Ireland that would be required to participate for community planning to succeed.

3.2. Section 67 of the Act provides that the Department may, by order, specify the bodies or persons which are to be the community planning partners of a council.

3.3. This provides the legislative authority to make the Order.

4. Consultation

4.1. The Order was subject to an eight week consultation period which closed on 12 December 2014. The Department received 45 responses to the consultation and none were opposed to the Order. The draft Order was approved by the Environment Committee on 28 January 2016 and is subject to subject to affirmative resolution procedure by the Assembly.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been produced for this Order. The proposed Order will apply equally across councils and as a result is neutral in terms of impact.

5.2. The bodies identified in the Order will be statutory partners in council Community Planning Partnerships and will work collaboratively to produce a consensually agreed community plan for council districts. As statutory authorities the bodies named in the Order and the Councils which comprise these Community Planning Partnerships must comply with Section 75 equality requirements. A full Equality Impact Assessment was therefore not considered necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been produced for this Order because the Order does not place any additional burdens on businesses, charities, voluntary bodies or the public sector.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no additional costs implications associated with the introduction of this Order.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Order is considered compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. There are no EU implications associated with the draft Order.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

11.1. None.