EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023

SR 2023 No. 78

1. Introduction

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

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 89(1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the Order is to amend the economic development performance indicator and standards, set out in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015 as requested by the Department for the Economy.

3. Background

3.1. The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 specifies performance indicators and standards against which a council's performance will be measured, including economic development indicators and standards in respect of business start-up activity.

3.2. The Department for the Economy has requested minor amendments to the indicator and standards set out in the 2015 Order which are used operationally as part of monitoring for an ongoing Invest NI programme – the "Go For It" programme. The amendments will reflect the current phase of this programme and reflect a better understanding of the regional picture for business start-up activity

4. Consultation

4.1. The Department carried out a public consultation from 22 December 2021 until 28 February 2022 on the proposed amendments. A total of 9 responses were received. All respondents were supportive of the proposed changes.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. The provisions of the Order are technical in their nature and do not give rise to any equality concerns. No new policy is being implemented. No equality issues were raised in response to the consultation.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered necessary. There will be no impact on businesses, charities or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Department is satisfied that these regulations comply with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable