

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

Local Government (Rates Support Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011

SR 2011 No. 375

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment (“the Department”) to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 27 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 ("the Act") and is subject to the draft affirmative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Statutory Rule sets out the formula to be used by the Department to calculate the amount of the rates support grant payable to councils.

3. Background

- 3.1. From 1st April 2012, the rates support grant will replace the resources element of the general grant.
- 3.2. The amount of rates support grant payable to councils will be calculated in accordance with regulations made by the Department under section 27 of the Act.
- 3.3. The formula prescribed in the Statutory Rule remains the same as that used to calculate the resources element of the general grant under provision of the Local Government (General Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. In accordance with section 44(1) of the Act, consultation on the draft Statutory Rule was conducted between 17th December 2010 and 24th February 2011.
- 4.2. The Department received a total of thirteen responses to the consultation. None of the comments made by consultees necessitated a change in policy, or an amendment to the draft Statutory Rule.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. Under the terms of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and prior to consultation, the Department carried out an equality screening exercise on the draft Statutory Rule. No adverse impacts for any of the nine section 75 categories were identified. A full Equality Impact Assessment was therefore not required.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not necessary, as the proposals result in no costs or savings for businesses, charities or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The Rule replaces the resources element of the general grant currently paid to councils with the rates support grant, but the formula for calculating the rates support grant remains the same. There will be no additional call on the Departmental budget.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The proposed legislation is considered compatible 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.