

RDC Annual Report 2001 - 2002

“REALISING POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITY
IN RURAL NORTHERN IRELAND”



Contents

2	General Information
3	Foreword
5	Chairman's Foreword
6	Chief Executive's Review
13	Statement of Chief Executive and Directors' Responsibilities
14	Statement of Internal Control
15	Report of the Auditors
16	Income and Expenditure Account
17	Balance Sheet
17	Cashflow Statement
18-21	Notes to the Financial Statements
22	Accounts Direction
24-30	Grant Aid

General Information

Chairman	Joanna McVey
Dep. Chairman	David Graham
Secretary	Susan Christie
Registered office	17 Loy Street Cookstown BT80 8PZ
Bankers	First Trust Bank 2/4 James Street Cookstown BT80 8LW
Auditors	Finegan Gibson Highbridge House 23/25 High Street Belfast BT1 2AA

Foreword

History

The Rural Development Council (RDC) was established in 1991 as an independent organisation under The Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland. As a key element of that programme the RDC exists to address the needs of rural society through ensuring that rural Northern Ireland makes a full and balanced contribution to the development of the region. The Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development approved the RDC's strategy for the period 2001-2006 in November 2001.

The RDC is a company limited by guarantee and has a current membership of 21. These company directors represent a broad sectoral and geographical mix of rural interest groups including rural communities, agricultural sector, Leader groups, local government, environmental interests, community banking and the private sector. The Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development appoints eight of these members.

Under the 2001 – 2006 Rural Development Programme (RDP), the RDC has evolved from being a deliverer of capacity building and support services to local people involved in rural regeneration to a deliverer of three distinct programmes:

- Local Regeneration projects and programmes for the community based not-for-profit sector
- A Rural Peace Programme
- A Policy and Rural Proofing/Baselining Programme.

In addition to RDP funding, the RDC has received funding from the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB), the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), The Community Fund, Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas (NICO), DARD public expenditure and a number of other clients for services delivered.

Statutory background

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council is a Company limited by guarantee, without a share capital and reports to DARD under Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) guidelines for Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs).

These accounts have been prepared under the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel. A copy of the Accounts Direction is reproduced as an Appendix to these accounts.

Directors

The following acted as directors of the Company during the year ended 31 March 2002.

Joanna McVey (Chairman)
Susan Christie (Secretary)
David Graham (Deputy Chairman)
Sidney Anderson (Appointed 03/12/01)
Caroline Breakey
Eugene Carson (Retired 01/12/01)
Monica Coyle
Leslie Craig
John Dallat (Appointed 03/12/01)
Issac Hanna
Robert Henderson
Stephen Huggett (Appointed 03/12/01)
Jim Ledwith
David McAllister (Appointed 03/12/01)
Gerard McGuckin
Liam McQuaid (Retired 20/09/01)
Peadar Montague (Retired 18/02/02)
Margaret Ritchie (Retired 20/09/01)
Robert Turner (Retired 20/09/01)
Albert Wallace

Each of the members has guaranteed to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up to the extent of £1.

Principal activity

The delivery of support services to organisations that are involving people locally in planning regeneration projects that will meet real needs in disadvantaged rural communities.

Results

The deficit for the year was £459,887 (2001 deficit £25,644) and this amount has been financed out of reserves.

Future developments

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council will continue with the delivery of support services to organisations that are involving people locally in planning regeneration projects that will meet the real needs in disadvantaged rural communities.

Post balance sheet events

There were no important events affecting the company which happened after the balance sheet date.

Research and development

The company is not involved in research and development activities.

Charitable donations

The company did not make any charitable donations during the year.

Disabled persons

The company's policy is to give full and fair consideration to applications for employment made by disabled persons, having regard to their particular aptitudes and abilities.

Fixed assets

Changes in fixed assets are set out in note 8 to the financial statements. The directors do not consider the historical cost of these fixed assets to be materially different from the current valuation.

Prompt payment policy

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Council is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services received in accordance with the Confederation of British Industry's Prompt Payers Code. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of the receipt of the goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later.

Regular reviews conducted during the year to measure how promptly the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council paid its bills found that 100% of undisputed bills were paid within this standard.

Employee involvement

Northern Ireland Rural Development Council implements its business strategy through its staff. In achieving business objectives the involvement of staff in planning and decision-making processes is key. Staff involvement is maximised through the combined use of, for example, monthly organisation-wide briefings, project/improvement teams, and the operation of standard consultation processes.

Auditors

The Auditors, Finegan Gibson, have signified their willingness to continue in office.

Approved by the Board on 20th June 2002

Susan Christie Secretary
Martin McDonald Accounting Officer



Foreword

Chairman's Foreword

During 2001 I had the pleasure, as Chairman, of celebrating the Rural Development Council's (RDC) tenth anniversary. In its first decade the RDC pioneered and supported many innovative approaches to address the challenges of Northern Ireland's rural areas. The ideas, innovation and enthusiasm demonstrated by the communities of these areas have made real inroads into addressing the issues affecting them.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the voluntary effort that has been displayed right across Northern Ireland by these local communities and indeed by the RDC's Council members. In the same period, the staff of the RDC has also given sterling service and managed to restructure and regroup to meet the new challenges of the next decade.

In last year's Annual Report I reflected on the Foot and Mouth outbreak that occurred in March 2001. I am pleased to be reporting again at a time when it has become clear that the partnership approach, adopted by the industry, the rural community, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Minister Brid Rodgers, has been instrumental in finding a way out of the crisis. I also note that the RDC played its part by working with the communities in some of the affected areas to assist with the preparation of local strategies to provide both closure and some sense of future direction.

2001-2002 has also seen the RDC agree its new strategic direction with Minister Rodgers, as part of DARD's Rural Development Programme for the period 2001 – 2006. The new corporate strategy was launched in November 2001, which also marked the opening of the RDC's new round of funding.

One of the most significant events over the year was the launch of Northern Ireland's first ever health check on Ulster's Countryside. The pilot rural proofing and baseline report produced by the RDC has been well received by rural communities and public agencies alike. It provides for the first time comprehensive evidence based analysis, confirming hitherto anecdotal opinions about rural Northern Ireland.

This picture of rural society highlights the issues around a range of key indicators including: affordable rural housing, women's participation in the labour market and their dependency upon part time employment, rural health issues including rural stress, waste

management in general and recycling facilities in particular, public sector employment and the over concentration in urban areas, community infrastructure and their involvement in key delivery bodies impacting upon rural life.

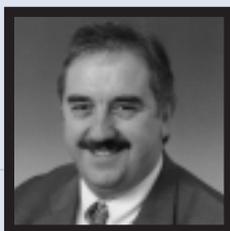
This report marked a watershed in rural communities' understanding of rural issues and clearly established the need for an integrated response from Government within a rural proofing framework. The RDC will continue to press for such a response as we continue to measure change within rural areas against the indicators agreed within the pilot baseline.

As in previous years 2001-2002 saw the appointment of new members and the retirement of others from the Council. The new members appointed are Sidney Anderson, John Dallat, Stephen Huggett and David McAllister all of whom were appointed in December 2001, and those who retired are Eugene Carson; retired December 2001, Liam McQuaid, Robert Turner, and Margaret Ritchie all of whom retired September 2001 and Peadar Montague; retired February 2002. The continued rejuvenation of the RDC board is a measure of the sustainability of the organisation and the support it receives from the rural constituency. I thank all who have given of their time freely to the needs of rural communities.

It has been my privilege to serve as Chairman of the RDC and I look forward to the organisation achieving further success in the coming year as part of a partnership approach with all other key stakeholders within rural Northern Ireland.

Joanna McVey

Chairman



Review

Chief Executive's Review

The past year has seen a major shift in focus for the RDC from providing capacity building support and grant aid to both the community and private sector under a range of EU Programmes to a more focused targeting of the community sector under the Council's Strategy for the period 2001 – 2006. This, coupled with a new 'evidence based policy approach' under the RDC's rural proofing/baseline programme, has assisted the organisation to achieve, and in many instances exceed, operational targets set at the start of the financial year.

The closure of existing EU programmes and the delay in new programmes coming on stream, although resulting in a reduction in the amount of grant aid actually disbursed, did still involve the delivery of almost £2m in grant aid and support services to Northern Ireland's rural communities.

In the period 2001-2002 the RDC secured a £9m budget from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to deliver a range of measures under the EU Building Sustainable Prosperity Programme. In addition, we managed to secure some £4m under the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. Both programmes offer a range of support to rural communities and cover many sectors, including environment, access to services, local economy, arts and culture, part time employment and rural retail support.

The first call for proposals in November 2001 resulted in some 330 applications for support seeking around £26m grant aid from an available budget of £4.5m. This level of demand is evidence of the vibrancy of rural communities and their enthusiasm to identify local development opportunities and find their own solutions to local problems. The RDC looks forward to future application rounds generating innovative proposals for action that might assist the rural community achieve its goals. Applications have been received from a wide range of groups including farm families, women, youth and unemployed - all of which are key targets for The Rural Development Programme.

The submission of applications 'on-line' presented many rural groups with difficulty and as part of the RDC's 'grants information pack' support system we worked closely with many of them. The technical assistance provided was welcomed and acknowledged right across the sector as both innovative and essential to ensuring ease of access to European funds.

The RDC's administration and corporate services function continued to expand and develop over the year with detailed management information systems being introduced to meet the information and financial needs of both our client base and funders. Our internal audit function continued to provide assurance both to council members, and myself as overall Accounting Officer for the organisation. This is quality assured and supplemented by DARD Internal Audit Division as appropriate.

The organisation has, in addition, embraced the concept of 'risk assessment' as a more pro-active means of providing 'assurance' to funders, clients and the devolved administration. I look forward to reporting next year on the outcome of that risk assessment process.

The launch of RDC web site and on-line learning facilities was the outcome from a detailed communications strategy and action plan implemented over the year. Success in securing the e-learning award, from amongst 300 other Northern Ireland entries, in the NTL Golden Eye Web Awards in March 2002 marked a key milestone for the organisation.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the council and staff for their continued support in the last year. The regeneration of Northern Ireland's rural areas will require the support of both rural and urban policy makers, and recognition of the inter-relationship between rural and urban will be a key factor in achieving our collective goals.

Martin McDonald

Chief Executive

Rural Rebuilding pledge from RDC

The Rural Development Council yesterday pledged to play its full part in the rebuilding of the economy of rural Northern Ireland, once the Foot and Mouth crisis was over.

Martin McDonald, the Council's chief executive, praised the reaction of many of Northern Ireland's farmers, both large and small, and acknowledged that their plight and subsequent stress endured by their families during the height of the crisis had concentrated the RDC's mind on the continued importance of farming to the rural community.

Newsletter- Farming Life edition, 14 April 2001

Women - Have your say in south Armagh

The South Armagh Rural Women's Network has launched an initiative which aims to identify the issues of concern to women living in South Armagh.

The initiative, which is being carried out in partnership with the Rural Development Council (RDC) will involve conducting a questionnaire based audit which will be distributed to 1000 women within the area.

Mark Allen, Field Officer for the RDC explains: 'The aim of the audit is to give women of the area an opportunity to speak for themselves on issues they feel strongly about. We want to hear the views of local women on issues such as barriers to education/employment, public services provision, and access to information amongst others.'

Newry Reporter- 26 April 2001

May 2001

Rural Development Council receives new funding slice



The Rural Development Council has received a grant of £50,569 from the Community Fund. The grant is for the provision of publication, research and consultancy costs associated with the undertaking of a study which will provide a baseline to assess the current state and needs of rural communities across Northern Ireland.

Mid Ulster Mail, 03 May 2001

June 2001

Arts initiative praised



The development of the creative potential of young people is essential as a means of furthering educational, economic and community development objectives.

This was the key message delivered by Martin McDonald, Chief Executive of the Rural Development Council at the launch of the Creative Networks Conference.

Addressing delegates at the conference, Mr McDonald praised the work of Wheelworks and Oakleaf and Cookstown and Western Shores Area networks. He congratulated all those who had taken part in the mobile arts initiative.

Mid Ulster Mail, 09 June 2001

Development can help countryside recover from crisis-RDC Chief

The Rural Development Council Chief Executive, Martin McDonald, has told the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee Inquiry that it is preparing for its next five year programme period with the full recovery of rural Northern Ireland from the current crisis as its foremost objective.

Giving evidence as part of the Committee's Inquiry into the forthcoming Rural Development Programme, Mr McDonald said that he believed the meeting was extremely constructive and created a platform for enhanced co-operation between Government, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the RDC. He said 'We have learnt a lot from our first experience of rural development and will use this to shape the forthcoming five year rural development programme which we expect to be innovative, inclusive of all groups and responsive to the continually changing needs of rural communities and the rural economy'.

Farm Week, 15 June 2001

Government must listen to Rural Voice

The Rural Development Council wants to know if government is really listening to the needs of rural Northern Ireland.

At a conference jointly organised by the Council and Rural Community Network (RCN), tough questions were asked about the Government's ability to properly consult rural communities on policies likely to impact on their future.

Martin McDonald said 'As the requirement to consult become less contested, the process of how to consult communities becomes all important. How can the Government or its policy makers listen to and translate the experience of a person who lives in a remote rural area who tries to gain access to services but struggles with debt? Traditionally, their views have tended to be excluded and this must change'.

Business Section, Belfast Telegraph, 19 June 2001

July 2001

8

Glens Communities begin to rebuild after Foot and Mouth Crisis

Cushendall and the surrounding Mid Glens area are starting to rebuild their communities after the damage inflicted by the recent Foot and Mouth crisis.

A local group has presented its list of recommendations to regenerate the area. The steering group was brought together by North Antrim Community Network to reflect a wide range of local interests and the resulting Action Plan shows that this collective approach has worked.

Nigel Flynn, Director of Policy at the Rural Development Council, did much of the work in developing the strategy with the assistance of the local Network and the development groups in the area, congratulated all those involved locally:

'I think the local community should be congratulated for its proactive approach. Gone are the days when communities looked for guidance from on high, this community has taken the initiative and responded quickly to and efficiently. Now they rightly expect the help and support to realise their plans'.

Moyle Chronicle, 05 July 2001

Approval of the Rural Development Council Equality Scheme

The Equality scheme for the Rural Development Council (RDC) was recently approved by the Equality Commission.

The Scheme sets out the RDC's plans for meeting its statutory obligations on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations over a five year period. The various commitments contained in the Scheme will ensure that equality considerations are an integral part of all of the RDC's policies and procedures.

Irish News, 18 July 2001

August 2001

Mid Summer mania in full swing

Mid Summer Mania, a week-long programme of fun events is in full swing in Moneymore. Organised by Cookstown District Council and the Rural Development Council under the banner of Moneymore Learning Community, there is something for the whole family.

Chairperson Patricia Law said this is the first time in recent years that Moneymore has hosted a programme of this size. The aim of Midsummer Mania is to make Moneymore look closely at itself, and to encourage a positive interaction between all parts of the community'.

Mid Ulster Mail, 09 August 2001

September 2001

Looking after the Loughshore

The Loughshore Foot and Mouth Support Group is looking at how to go about securing a package of support to address a broad range of needs in the area, with the aim of helping the whole community. Presently, help with the task is being given by the Rural Development Council.

Mid Ulster Mail, 19 September 2001

Health check on Ulster's countryside

Plans were announced yesterday to pilot the first independent stock take of rural Northern Ireland.

The Rural Development Council will produce Northern Ireland's first State of The Countryside report in a year's time. By mapping precisely the state of life in rural communities through researching

and compiling key data over arrange of social, economic and environmental indicators, the rural baseline will give the RDC a solid starting point from which they can measure all changes, bad and good, to countrylife.

Martin McDonald, RDC chief executive, commented 'The RDC has recently revised its strategic direction in preparation for the new Rural Development Programme 2001-2006. This radical new initiative will underpin the type of support and policy advice we will provide to government and rural communities.

No one can be of any doubt as to the magnitude of change taking place in the rural constituency. A series of agricultural crises has seen farmers and their communities under pressure as never before. The notion of a rural way of life being under threat is a very real one and in the rural baseline we can begin to respond to this fact.

Newsletter, 19 September 2001

Resource facility is launched

Glenullin Resource Centre in Co. Derry opened for business this week after five years of voluntary effort on the part of the local community group Glenullin and Agivey Conservation and Development Group.

(At the launch) Martin McDonald, chief executive of the Rural Development Council said 'I am delighted that the RDC, in association with the EU Peace Programme, has been able to provide

£44,000 towards the development of this magnificent centre....it will surely act as a focus point for a wide range of community and training activities. Furthermore it demonstrates the good work that is being done by so many voluntary organisations in meeting community needs'

Irish News, 06 October 2001

EU offers £300m to ease Troubles Legacy



Plans to plough more than £300m of European Union funding into Northern Ireland projects have now been finalized, Finance Minister Mark Durkan has announced.

The money, which will last for five years, is likely to be the last additional lump sum Northern Ireland will receive from the EU. Twelve Intermediary Funding Bodies (IFBs), responsible for almost

£120m of the cash, have also been appointed. Each IFB, such as the Rural Development Council, will be responsible for a specific measure under Peace II. 'The challenge now is to ensure that the money goes as quickly as possible to those who need it most,' Mr Durkan said.

Irish News, 12 October 2001

October 2001

10

RDC celebrates decade of Rural Achievement

Ten years after it was set up the Rural Development Council is making a continuing success. Martin McDonald, Chief Executive of the Rural Development Council has said that this year has been a particularly busy one for all involved in rural development with Programme closure and grant expenditure deadlines looming.

'This year marks the end of a decade in which the Rural Development Council has pioneered and supported innovative approaches to address the issues and challenges of Northern Ireland's rural areas; a decade in which the ideas, innovation and enthusiasm of rural communities have begun to make real inroads into the problems facing rural areas.'

Mr McDonald added: 'The voluntary input from people right across Northern Ireland to the regeneration of rural areas has been remarkable. In the RDC's ten year existence, rural development has moved up the Government's agenda, to a point where our devolved administration fully accepts the need to 'rural proof' policy and investment for its impact upon rural areas.'

Newsletter, Farming Life edition, 13 October 2001

November 2001

Dallat appointed to Rural Council

SDLP Councillor John Dallat, Mayor of Coleraine, has been appointed to the Rural Development Council following his nomination by Coleraine Borough Council.

Mr Dallat is the first member from Coleraine to join the public body. He said 'I am delighted to accept the appointment which was made on merit. Apart from my experience as a councillor and assembly member I have a diploma in rural development, which I believe is a valuable qualification to enable me to contribute positively to the work of the Rural Development Council.

The RDC has been to the forefront in developing strategies and policies which will bring new hope to rural dwellers who suffer very real economic and social disadvantage. I feel privileged to join the other council members who are dedicated to targeting social need and ensuring that financial and other resources are directed in a fair way towards those who most need them.

Coleraine Times, 07 November 2001

Open for business - £80M Rural Development programme launched

Brid Rodgers, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development this week urged people living in rural areas to bring forward ideas and plans for innovative rural development projects for grant aid support.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of the new £80m Rural Development Programme. It will provide opportunity and support for people living in rural areas of Northern Ireland to develop their own ideas and improve living standards.

'One of the key elements will be to strengthen the capacity of rural communities. With Rural Development Programme funding the Rural Development Council and Rural Community Network will provide the resources to support, advise and assist people living in rural communities and community organisations who wish to acquire the knowledge and experience needed to help develop their communities' said Mrs Rodgers.

Farm Week, 16 November 2001

Future looking good as skincare company follows scent of internet

Northern Ireland's answer to Body Shop guru Anita Ruddick aims to capitalize on the increasing demand for natural skincare products with the launch of a new website.

Elizabeth Smith is the tour de force behind Erinvale Natural Skincare- a cottage industry which she runs from her home in Dungannon.

The Rural Development Council helped fund the initial costs of the website. It has attracted many local enquiries, but there have also been orders from further afield. According to Elizabeth, the website has been a huge boost for business.

Newsletter, Business Section 18 December 2001

Rural groups urged to turn ideas into action

The Rural Development Council (RDC) has issued a reminder to all groups interested in applying to its funding programmes that the closing date for applications to its funding programmes is Friday 01 February 2002.

The Programmes, which aim to assist local groups interested in bringing about change in their area, are targeted at the community, voluntary sector and are part of the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland. Over the next five years through these programmes, the RDC will invest some £10-12m in projects in Northern Ireland's rural communities.

Joanna McVey, Chairman of the RDC has invited all groups within the sector to come forward with projects or proposals to address their identified local priorities.

'The priorities for funding under these programmes have been identified as a result of extensive consultation with rural stakeholders. Through these programmes the RDC can offer a range of advice and funding that will enable rural communities to take action to address the economic, social and environmental conditions affecting their local area.

We aim to help rural communities become viable and sustainable rural communities and believe that to do this we must let the

people who live in them decide what they need and then help them to get it. The first call for applications to these programmes will close on February 1st 2002 and I urge community and voluntary groups in these areas to get involved and submit their applications as soon as possible'.

Larne Gazette, 16 January 2002

Martin has a mammoth task ahead

Newry man Martin McDonald has quite a considerable task ahead on February 1. Along with the Rural Development Council's (RDC) committee members, chief Executive Martin will wade through hundreds of applications to deliver funding to local communities.

'The Programme was officially launched in November and calls to communities to apply have been ongoing. Part of our role is to attempt to break down mystical barriers that exist, as much of rural development is caught up in jargon. We want to bring forward people with good ideas for projects, and give the ordinary rural punter open assistance.'

Newry Democrat, 22 January 2002

February 2002

12

Rural Communities celebrate success

Rural communities in North Antrim recently celebrated their success in piloting the Learning Regions Project. The project involved four rural communities through the North Antrim Community Network area and was supported locally by the Network and regionally by the Rural Development Council.

The Rural Development Council provided joint funding for piloting the project through the Special Support Programme for Peace & Reconciliation.

Moyle Chronicle, 07 February 2002

Loughshore Foot and Mouth Recovery Plan

The farmers' group set up as a result of the Foot and Mouth outbreak in Mid Ulster should find out why it had happened and if it could happen again. This is one of the recommendations contained in the Loughshore Foot and Mouth Recovery and Development Plan published on Tuesday in Ballyronan.

Looking to the future the Plan identifies a number of themes around which regeneration in the Loughshore could take place.

Shortly after a case of Foot and Mouth Disease was confirmed in the area last April a group of farmers got together to form an action group. During autumn and winter this group – the Loughshores Support Group- worked closely with the Rural Development Council to draw up a recovery plan.

Farmweek, 08 February 2002



March 2002

Success at the Waterfront



The inaugural NTL Business GoldenEye Web Awards, held at the Belfast Waterfront Hall on 28th February, have been hailed by all concerned as a major success. The awards evening attracted 300 people- industry leaders, design companies, their clients and interested observers alike.

The Rural Development Council website www.rdc.org.uk designed by Silverink in Hollywood, was the winner of the e-learning category and runner up in the best overall category. Commenting on the win, Martin McDonald, Chief Executive of the RDC, said:

'The RDC website is an essential tool in informing the public about rural development and how it affects them. For many people the website is the first point of contact on the organisation, and thus it needs to be snappy and to the point'.

Business Eye, March 2002

Statement of Chief Executive and Directors' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Chief Executive and directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the year end and of its income and expenditure, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year. Additionally, these accounts have to be in a form and on the basis determined by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel including being on an accruals basis.

In preparing those financial statements, the Chief Executive and directors are required to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements;
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The Chief Executive and directors are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The Chief Executive and directors have a general responsibility, taking steps as are reasonably available, to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

In addition, in appointing the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council as Accounting Officer for the company, the Accounting Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has placed on the Chief Executive a responsibility for ensuring the regularity and propriety of the public finances, a requirement which is set out in the company's financial memorandum.

Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control

As Accounting Officer, I acknowledge my responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council's (RDC) Strategy approved by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, whilst safeguarding the public funds and the company's assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in the Financial Memorandum.

The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the strategy and relating aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The company's internal control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including the segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget that is reviewed and agreed by members of the Executive and Audit Committee and Council.
- Regular reviews by the members of periodic and annual financial reports that indicate financial performance against the forecasts.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined capital investment and control guidelines.
- As appropriate, formal project management disciplines.
- An Internal Audit Officer within the RDC provides an independent and objective opinion regularly to the Executive and Audit Committee on the Company's control and corporate governance.

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the strategy and relating aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

We have carried out appropriate procedures to ensure that we have identified the company's objectives and risks. As a result, risk ownership has been allocated to the appropriate staff and the company has set out its attitude to risk to the achievement of the company's strategy.

The Executive and Audit Committee has ensured that procedures are in place for verifying that aspects of risk management and internal control are regularly reviewed and reported on. There will be a full risk and control assessment before reporting on the year ending 31st March 2003.

In addition to the actions mentioned above, in the coming year the company plans to:

- Complete Risk Assessment Workshops with the Senior Management Team and the Executive and Audit Committee.
- Develop a company Audit Plan, based on Risk identification and priority.
- Action and monitor company Audit Plan.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has an internal audit unit, which, through a service level agreement, provides the RDC with an internal audit service. This internal audit unit operates to standards defined in the Government Internal Audit Manual.

The work of the internal audit unit is informed by an analysis of the risk to which the RDC is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. As least annually the Head of Internal Audit provides me with a report on internal audit activity in the RDC. The report includes the Head of Internal Audit's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the RDC's system of control.

My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors, the Executive and Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor, the executive managers within the RDC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports.

Martin McDonald
Accounting Officer
Date: 20 June 2002

Report of the Auditors

We have audited the financial statements on pages 16 to 21 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 18.

Respective responsibilities of the Chief Executive, directors and auditors

As described on page 13, the Chief Executive and directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and the regularity and propriety of the public finances. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit on those statements and, in accordance with our instructions, on the regularity of the financial transactions included in them and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error and that, in all materials respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions are in conformity with the authorities which govern them. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

Opinion

With respect to the Accounting Officers statement on financial control on page 14, in our opinion the Accounting Officer has provided the disclosures required by DAO/DFP 5/01 and the statement is not inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit work on the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs at 31 March 2002 and of the excess of its expenditure over income for the year then ended, and comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and in all material respects the income and expenditure have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Highbridge House
23/25 High Street
Belfast
BT1 2AA

FINEGAN GIBSON
Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors
Date: 20 June 2002

Income and Expenditure

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2002

	Note	2002 £	2001 £
Income			
Grants receivable	2	1,755,191	4,268,660
Other income		1,731	15,852
		<u>1,756,922</u>	<u>4,284,512</u>
Expenditure			
Grants paid		1,071,150	3,211,087
Support services	5	919,476	897,475
		<u>1,990,626</u>	<u>4,108,562</u>
Other expenditure			
- Administration	5	232,971	216,896
		<u>2,223,597</u>	<u>4,325,458</u>
Total expenditure			
Operating deficit			
Interest receivable		(466,675)	(40,946)
		6,788	15,302
Deficit for the financial year			
Tax charge on ordinary activities		(459,887)	(25,644)
		-	-
Deficit before notional credit			
Notional costs credit		(459,887)	(25,644)
		(29,354)	(1,636)
Balance at start of year		629,141	656,421
		<u>139,900</u>	<u>629,141</u>
Balance at the end of the year			

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the income and expenditure account above.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet & Cash Flow

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2002

	Note	2001 £	2000 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	51,339	33,410
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	9	-	1,823
Cash at bank and in hand	10	96,278	602,895
		<u>96,278</u>	<u>604,718</u>
Creditors			
Amount falling due within 1 year	11	(7,717)	(8,987)
Net current assets		<u>88,561</u>	<u>595,731</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>139,900</u>	<u>629,141</u>
Funds	14	<u>139,900</u>	<u>629,141</u>

Approved on 20th June 2002

Joanna McVey Chairman
Susan Christie Secretary
Martin McDonald Accounting Officer

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these financial statements

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2002

	Note	2002 £	2001 £
Net cash (outflow) /inflow before returns on investments	10	(454,297)	19,505
Returns on investment			
Interest received		6,788	15,302
Net cash inflow from returns on investments		<u>6,788</u>	<u>15,302</u>
Investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	8	(59,108)	(35,164)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		<u>(59,108)</u>	<u>(35,164)</u>
(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	10	<u>(506,617)</u>	<u>(357)</u>

The notes on pages 18 to 22 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2002

1. Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of fixed assets to current costs. The directors do not consider the current cost of any of the year's transactions or closing balances to be materially different from the historical cost.

Basis of accounting

Income and expenditure are treated on the accruals basis of accounting.

Without limiting the information given, the accounts meet the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and Accounting Standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Grants paid

Grants are treated as paid if they have been authorised for payment by the members and paid prior to the year end.

Pension scheme

The Company operates a defined benefit pension scheme for its employees. Scheme funds are administered by independent trustees and are completely separate of the Company's finances.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line basis
Computer equipment	33.3% straight line basis

Taxation

The Council, as a corporate body, is liable to corporation tax on its investment income. Provision is made for such a liability in any year where it arises.

Value added tax

The company is not VAT registered and as such the figures in these accounts are inclusive of value added tax where charged.

Funds

The Company operates the following types of funds:

- **Restricted funds**

For funds which were given to the Council for spending on specific purposes which are within the overall aims of the Council, over a period of more than one year.

- **Core funds**

For all other funds which are expendable by the members at their discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the Council, within the financial year.

2. Grant Income

	2002 £	2001 £
New programmes:		
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)		
Public expenditure monies	340,000	-
Local regeneration	307,550	-
Policy	150,000	-
Rural baselining	29,794	-
	<hr/> 827,344	<hr/> -
International Fund for Ireland – Rural Baselining	29,794	-
The Community Fund – Rural Baselining	25,284	-
NI Community Relations Council –		
Consultancy Professional Fees	5,155	-
Peace 2 Programme	95,525	-
Old Programmes:		
Rural Development Programme	67,000	1,000,000
EU LEADER Programme	49,715	292,050
International Fund for Ireland –		
Developing Rural Enterprise	88,654	-
EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme	566,720	2,976,610
	<hr/> 1,755,191	<hr/> 4,268,660

Grant-in-aid is received from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development under Note 2 line 1.

3. Staff costs

The average number employed by the company, including directors, was;

	2002 NO	2001 NO
Corporate Services	11	11
Operations	7	7
Policy	5	5
Programmes	7	7
Total number employed	30	30

The costs incurred in respect of these employees were:

	Programme		2002 £	2001 £
	Support £	Administration £		
Wages and salaries	472,562	186,834	659,396	660,374
National insurance	31,583	12,319	43,902	45,057
Pension costs	15,708	7,666	23,374	23,095
	519,853	206,819	726,672	728,526

4. Directors and Chief Executive

The remuneration of the Chairman and Chief Executive was £8,710 (2001 £7,732) and £55,230 (2001 £52,601) respectively. The Chief Executive is on secondment from DARD and as a consequence the company paid a further £7,840 (2001 £7,511) in contributions to the Northern Ireland Civil Service pension scheme.

No remuneration was paid to the other Directors during the year. Directly incurred expenses are reimbursed, if claimed.

5. Analysis of expenses

	2002 £	2001 £
Wages and salaries	726,672	728,526
Consultancy fees	28,769	46,155
Programme promotional costs	62,186	61,377
Travel and subsistence	44,088	48,665
Staff training and development	35,971	30,342
Temporary employees	17,990	8,012
Recruitment costs	10,281	7,385
Printing, publishing and stationery	13,501	17,652
Performance review and strategy development	-	3,525
Legal and professional fees	13,858	10,675
Auditors remuneration	4,000	3,760
Telephone and postage	20,989	24,873
Rent and rates	42,983	31,052
Light and heat	4,415	5,417
Insurances	7,523	12,851
Cleaning	5,918	5,776
Repairs and maintenance	17,247	13,402
Sundry expenses	7,747	3,888
Bank interest and charges	24,432	-
Depreciation	41,179	52,674
Return of unspent grants	52,052	-
Notional cost of capital	(29,354)	(1,636)
	1,152,447	1,114,371

Applied as:

Support services	919,476	897,475
Administration	232,971	216,896
	1,152,447	1,114,371

6. Related party transactions

The NI Rural Development Council is treated as a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. During the year, there were various material transactions at open market value with the Department which is regarded as a related party.

None of the board members, members of the key management staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the NI Rural Development Council during the year.

7. Pension scheme

The company operates a defined benefit scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested in Northern Ireland Local Government Scheme, NILGOSC. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the fund and amounted to £23,374 (2001 £23,095).

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Building improvements £	Fixtures & fittings £	Total £
Cost:			
As at 1 April 2001	63,524	337,952	401,476
Additions	-	59,108	59,108
Cost at 31 March 2002	63,524	397,060	460,584
Depreciation:			
As at 1 April 2001	63,524	304,542	368,066
Charge for year	-	41,179	41,179
As at 31 March 2002	63,524	345,721	409,245
Net Book Value:			
As at 1 April 2001	-	33,410	33,410
As at 31 March 2002	-	51,339	51,339

The directors do not consider the current values of fixed assets to be materially different from the net book values as shown above.

9. Debtors

	2002 £	2001 £
Other debtors	-	1,823

10. Notes to the cash flow statement

Reconciliation of income and expenditure to net cash (outflow)/inflow:

Operating deficit	(466,675)	(40,946)
Notional cost credit	(29,354)	(1,636)
Depreciation charge	41,179	52,674
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(1,270)	1,828
Decrease in debtors	1,823	7,585
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(454,297)	19,505

Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents during the year:

Balance at 1 April 2001	602,895	603,252
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(506,617)	(357)
Balance at 31 March 2002	96,278	602,895
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 March 2002	96,278	602,895

11. Creditors (amounts due within one year)

Accruals	7,050	7,287
Corporation tax	667	1,700
	7,717	8,987

12. Guarantee

The Council is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

13. Losses and special payments

There were no losses or special payments in the year (2001 £nil).

14. Funds

Funds at the year end are represented by:

	Fixed assets £	Current assets £	Current liabilities £	Net assets £
Peace and reconciliation		32,564	(667)	31,897
Credit Plus	1,316	3,433	-	4,749
Learning Regions	615	-	-	615
Developing Rural Enterprises	-	4,619	-	4,619
General	-	29,936	-	29,936
New programme	49,408	18,778	(7,050)	61,136
Peace II	-	6,948	-	6,948
Total per balance sheet	51,3399	96,278	(7,717)	139,900

15. Commitments

At the 31 March 2002 the Company had grant aid of £nil (2001 £1,049,043) committed but not paid.

16. Key corporate financial targets

The key corporate financial targets as agreed with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the new programmes are a comparison of actual expenditure against budgeted expenditure during the year. The results achieved in the year to 31 March 2002 were as follows:

	Budgeted expenditure to 31/03/02 £	Actual expenditure to 31/03/02 £	Variance £
Corporate Services			
Core Costs	340,000	342,559	(2,559)
Programmes	25,500	26,922	(1,422)
Building Sustainable Prosperity (BSP)	69,800	60,928	8,872
	435,300	430,409	4,891
Operations			
Administration	151,068	128,324	22,744
Technical Support	116,682	104,424	12,258
	267,750	232,748	35,002
Policy and Regional			
Development			
Policy	150,000	150,000	-
Rural Baseline	125,500	91,209	34,291
	275,500	241,209	34,291
Peace II			
Administration	140,601	68,660	71,941
Technical assistance	30,375	19,945	10,430
	170,976	88,605	82,371
Total expenditure	1,149,526	992,971	156,555

The above figures will not match those reported in the Income and Expenditure account as they have been prepared on a cash basis rather than the accrual basis of accounting.

Accounts Direction

ACCOUNTS DIRECTION GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

1. The Rural Development Council shall prepare accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 1998 and subsequent years comprising:

- (a) a foreword;
- (b) an income and expenditure account;
- (c) a balance sheet;
- (d) a cash flow statement; and
- (e) a statement of total recognised gains and losses,

including such notes as may be necessary for the purposes referred to in the following paragraphs.

2. The accounts shall give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year.

3. Subject to this requirement, the accounts shall be prepared in accordance with:

- (a) Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the United Kingdom (UK GAAP);
- (b) the disclosure and accounting requirements contained in "The Fees and Charges Guide" (in particular those relating to the need for appropriate segmental information for services or forms of service provided) and in other guidance which the Department of Finance and Personnel may issue from time to time in respect of accounts which are required to give a true and fair view;

- (c) the accounting and disclosure requirements give in "Government Accounting Northern Ireland" and in "Executive NDPBs: Annual Reports and Accounts Guidance", as amended or augmented from time to time,

insofar as these are appropriate to the Rural Development Council and are in force for the financial year for which the statement of accounts is to be prepared.

4. Clarification of the application of the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order and accounting standards is given in Schedule 1 attached. Additional disclosure requirements are set out in Schedule 2 attached.

5. The income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be prepared under the historical cost convention modified by the inclusion of:

- (a) fixed assets at their value to the business by reference to current costs; and
- (b) stocks at the lower of net current replacement cost (or historical cost if this is not materially different) and net realisable value.

6. This direction shall be reproduced as an appendix to the accounts.

Signed by authority of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

R J Jordan
5th October 1998

SCHEDULE 1 APPLICATION OF THE ACCOUNTING AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMPANIES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER AND ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Companies (Northern Ireland) Order

1. The disclosure exemptions permitted by the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order shall not apply to the Rural Development Council unless specifically approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel.
2. When preparing its income and expenditure account, the Rural Development Council shall have regard to the profit and loss account format 1 prescribed in Schedule 4 to the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order.
3. When preparing its balance sheet, the Rural Development Council shall have regard to the balance sheet format 1 prescribed in Schedule 4 to the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order. The balance sheet totals shall be struck at “Total assets less current liabilities”.
4. The foreword and balance sheet shall be signed by the Accounting Officer and dated.

SCHEDULE 2 ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

1. The foreword shall, inter alia:
 - (a) State that the accounts have been prepared in a form directed by the Department of Agriculture with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel;
 - (b) Include a brief history of the Rural Development Council.
2. The notes to the accounts shall include details of the key corporate financial targets set by the Department of Agriculture together with the performance achieved.
3. The grants paid out and committed by the Rural Development Council during the financial year for which the statement of accounts is to be prepared shall be listed, with details of the beneficiary of the grant and the purpose for which it was granted, as an annex to the accounts.
4. An annex to the accounts shall reproduce the Rural Development Council’s priorities for grant aid, including details of eligibility for grant aid, levels of grant aid, procedures for application and methods of assessment and other forms of Rural Development Council grant aid.

Grant Aid

Priorities

In this 1994-99 Strategy period, (the programme period to which these grants relate), the Rural Development Council's mission was to assist local communities in disadvantaged rural areas to develop quality projects that will create sustainable employment.

The Council's priorities for grant aid were:

- **Project development**
- **Job creation**
- **Inclusion of disadvantaged groups**
- **Assistance for local partnerships**
- **Development of rural policy**

PLANET Programme

PLANET is a specialist modular project planning service to help community groups at every stage of development. It includes the provision of practical support (such as mentoring, facilitation, information & practical advice), training and grant assistance.

Eligibility for Funding

Any local group interested in planning and/or implementing projects may apply provided that the following basic criteria are met:

- **Located in a Disadvantaged Rural Area**
- **Constituted (or in the process of)**
- **Open to Cross Community Participation**
- **Willing to address social inclusion issues**
- **Contributes to development strategies at a local level**

Additional criteria may be required depending on the programme module selected

Levels of Grant Aid

One method of support under the programme is that of grant aid to facilitate the group's progression within their agreed work plan. Grant Aid levels are as follows:

PLANET 1 - £2,500
 PLANET 2 - £5,000
 PLANET 3 - £2,500

A maximum grant rate of 80% can be awarded with the exception of agreed training costs which can be funded at 100%.

Application Procedure and Method of Assessment

Requests for funding by groups on the programme is via application form. The application is initially assessed for eligibility. Once determined eligible, applications are scored against an agreed matrix based on the criteria and ranked on a competitive basis. Recommendations are made to a Scoring Committee with both internal and external representatives. Decisions of the Committee are presented for ratification at the next Council Management Committee monthly meeting.

SEDIRA

Supporting Economic Diversification in Rural Areas - is a LEADER II funded Programme designed to assist businesses in rural areas with the development of economic projects that contribute to the diversification of the local economy and create sustainable employment.

Eligibility

Any business located in a rural area was eligible to apply. Following public advertisement, applications were assessed against a number of criteria:

- **Degree of Innovation**
- **Potential economic impact including job creation, export orientation**
- **Contribution to economic diversification**
- **Value of the business as a demonstration model**
- **Participation of previously marginalised groups in the labour market**

Levels of Grant Aid

Grant aid was awarded for technical assistance, training and SME development. In accordance with LEADER guidelines, the maximum level of grant aid was 50%.

Application Procedure and Method of Assessment

Applications were invited by public advertisement, assessed by an Officer of the Council and a recommendation was made to a sub-committee of the Council. The Sub-committee was delegated with the authority to accept or reject applications.

DRE

Developing Rural Enterprise is a LEADER II funded initiative with assistance from the International Fund for Ireland and LEDU. The Programme's aim is to promote the development and expansion of entrepreneurship in rural areas through the delivery of Enterprise Development Programmes and the provision of funds for Specialist Technical support.

Eligibility for Funding

Any organisation that has a role in the development of enterprise in rural areas was eligible to apply. Following a series of promotional activities and issue of a call for proposals applications were assessed against a number of criteria:

- **Eligibility of Project Promoter**
- **Conformity with DRE Objectives**
- **Location of beneficiaries – in a rural area**
- **Eligibility of support under LEADER II**
- **Deadweight**
- **Displacement**
- **Partnership**

Grants were also made available to Special Support Programmes that were managed and delivered by DRE.

Levels of Grant Aid

Grant Aid was awarded in accordance with LEADER II Operating Rules which stipulate that the maximum level of grant aid was 50%, except in the case of Technical Support when a 75% ceiling on grant aid is applicable.

Application Procedure and Method of Assessment

Eligible Organisations were invited to submit a Project Outline proposal which was assessed for eligibility by an Officer of the Council and a recommendation made to the Programme Committee. Promoters of projects which satisfied the Basic Entry Criteria were invited to submit a full application. These applications were assessed by a sub-committee and recommendations presented to the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee was delegated with the authority to accept or reject applications.

Community Based Actions (CBA)

Community Based Actions is funded from Measure 1 of sub programme 2b Rural Regeneration of the EU Special Support Programme for Peace & Reconciliation. The Programme is designed to facilitate reconciliation between the two communities in rural areas by supporting ideas, activities and projects put forward by community groups representative of their area.

Eligibility

Any community group or rural collective representative of, and targeting a geographically based community or community of interest located in a rural area was eligible to apply. Applications were assessed against a number of criteria:

- **Impact on reconciliation**
- **Level of social inclusion**
- **Targeting areas of social need or areas affected by violence**
- **Applicant's capacity to manage the proposed activity**
- **Financial and social sustainability**

Grants were also made available for programmes addressing identified rural issues such as participatory planning, CAP Reform, local enterprise trading.

Levels of Grant Aid

The maximum grant awarded was £60,000. The maximum level of grant aid was 80%. Programme grants were available at 100%.

Application Procedure and Method of Assessment

Project applications were invited by public advertisement, assessed by an officer of the Council and a recommendation made to the sub-committee of the Council. The sub-committee was delegated with the authority to accept or reject applications.

Group name	Funding Programme	Purpose of Grant	Total Committed	Grant Paid 2001/2002	Total Spend to 31/03/02
Armagh City & District Council					
Ballyhegan & Kilmore District Rural Assoc.	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,460.00	£246.00	£2,460.00
Clady Community & Development Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,600.00	£460.00	£4,600.00
Darkley Community Group	EUSSPPR	Development of a community building providing opportunities for interaction	£61,400.00	£15,727.24	£61,400.00
F.A.I.R.	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,981.12	£2,481.20	£4,981.12
Glenanne Loughgilly & Mountnorris	SPARD	Improvement of access to local forests	£6,000.00	£3,000.00	£6,000.00
Markethill Gardening Club	EUSSPPR	Environmental Scheme to enhance the local area	£19,997.85	£5,817.88	£19,997.85
Mid Armagh Community Network	EUSSPPR	Promotion of arts and culture to increase understanding between the communities	£23,960.00	£835.49	£23,960.00
Newtownhamilton Regeneration Partnership	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,472.50	£1,987.78	£4,472.50
Stagehands	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£12,633.60	£4,075.22	£12,633.60
R Reaney	LEADER II	Manufacture of indoor & outdoor floor tiles from local limestone	£15,000.00	£1,372.18	£15,000.00
R Reaney	LEADER II	Website Design & marketing	£924.50	£924.50	£924.50
Ballymena Borough Council					
Braid Sheddings Sheep Association	EUSSPPR	Support for innovative on/off farm activities	£8,393.15	£1,164.22	£8,393.15
Glenravel Environmental Improvement Assoc.	EUSSPPR	Establishment of community transport initiative to increase access to services	£26,426.00	£548.33	£26,426.00
Glenravel Environmental Improvement Assoc.	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,908.46	£490.00	£4,908.46
Portglengone Enterprise Group Ltd	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,924.55	£424.55	£4,924.55
V McCloy	LEADER II	Manufacture & supply of housing units for oil-fired burners	£12,000.00	£199.14	£12,000.00
The Village Garden (Broughshane) Ltd	LEADER II	Establishment of community based daffodil breeding process	£10,912.49	£5,912.49	£10,912.49
Ballymoney Borough Council					
Dunloy Development Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,890.00	£489.00	£4,890.00
North Antrim Agricultural Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,878.52	£384.37	£4,878.52
Coleraine Borough Council					
Aghadowey Regeneration & Project Group	EUSSPPR	Education & Training Project	£10,904.61	£48.92	£10,904.61
Bushmills & District Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	£5,000.00
Coleraine Citizens Advice Bureau	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£18,361.58	£305.29	£18,361.58
Glenullin & District Women's Group	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£3,624.00	£136.65	£3,624.00
Portrush Community Development Group	EUSSPPR	Promotion of arts and culture to increase understanding between the communities	£8,880.36	£4,451.62	£8,880.36

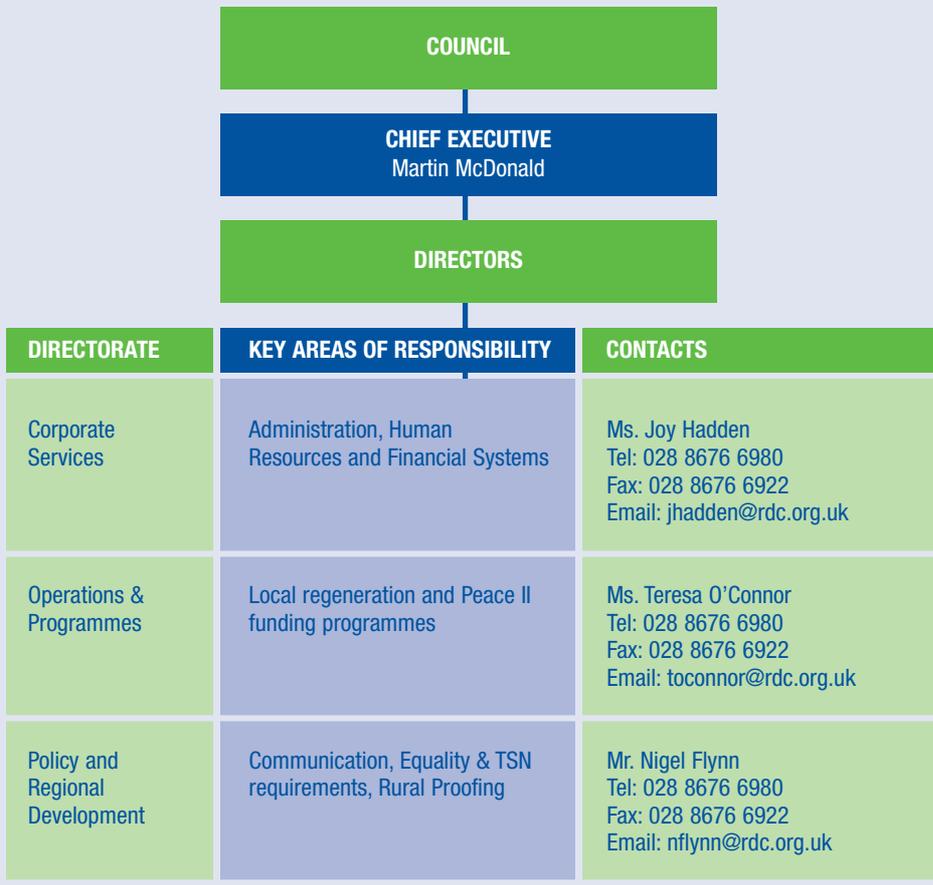
Group name	Funding Programme	Purpose of Grant	Total Committed	Grant Paid 2001/2002	Total Spend to 31/03/02
Cookstown District Council					
Ballinderry Producers Co-operative	EUSSPPR	Support for innovative on/off farm activities	£18,400.00	£5,364.86	£18,400.00
Benefits Uptake Campaign	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£40,593.48	£13,265.16	£40,593.48
I Gault	LEADER II	Manufacture & supply of stud welding products	£20,996.28	£1,003.72	£20,996.28
I Gault	LEADER II	Website design & marketing	£1,649.71	£1,649.71	£1,649.71
S McGarrity	LEADER II	Business Plan	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
S McGarrity	LEADER II	Website design & marketing	£2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	£2,500.00
B Quinn	LEADER II	Manufacture of a range of products for use in the water cooler industry	£23,000.00	£23,000.00	£23,000.00
J Quinn	LEADER II	Website design & marketing	£2,469.14	£2,469.14	£2,469.14
Craigavon Borough Council					
Donaghcloney Rural Needs Development Group	EUSSPPR	Environmental Scheme to enhance the local area	£36,177.85	£27,256.07	£36,177.85
Derry City Council					
Claudy Community Trading Group	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,435.89	£83.59	£4,435.89
Coshquin Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,456.00	£206.00	£2,456.00
Curryrierin Community Association	SPARD	Economic Appraisal & Business Plan	£4,280.40	£266.98	£4,280.40
Foyle Land Base	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,134.00	£2,134.00	£2,134.00
Kildoagh & Killaloo District Community Assoc.	SPARD	Economic Appraisal & Business Plan	£2,203.36	£2,203.36	£2,203.36
Park & District Farmers Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,250.00	£1,000.00	£2,250.00
S.A.L.T. Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£250.00	£2,500.00
Strathfoyle Womens Activity Group	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£500.00	£5,000.00
Down District Council					
Castlewellan Regeneration Ltd	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,250.00	£1,000.00	£2,250.00
Dromara Village & District Comm Assoc	EUSSPPR	Cultural Communication Through Creativity	£4,989.00	£765.50	£4,989.00
East Down Rural Community	EUSSPPR	Action Research Project	£5,440.26	£448.43	£5,440.26
Eco-Seeds	LEADER II	Marketing Awareness Initiative for ECO Seeds products	£1,800.00	£775.00	£1,800.00
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council					
BARD	EUSSPPR	Cultural Activities Centre	£12,000.00	£747.71	£12,000.00
BARD	EUSSPPR	Development of a community building providing opportunities for interaction	£60,000.00	£31,230.72	£60,000.00
BARD	SPARD	Feasibility Study	£5,507.53	£2,212.87	£5,507.53
Donaghmore Historical Society	EUSSPPR	Promotion of arts and culture to increase Understanding between the communities	£50,000.00	£8,572.67	£50,000.00
Galbally & District Rural Disabled Group	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£23,600.00	£1,690.57	£23,600.00
Muintir Na Mointeach	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£3,957.00	£1,457.00	£3,957.00
South Tyrone Area Partnership	LEADER II	SME Product development training programme	£28,500.00	£1,499.38	£28,500.00
Tamnamore Community Development Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,524.06	£24.06	£4,524.06
E Smith	LEADER II	Website design & marketing	£2,475.13	£2,475.13	£2,475.13
C McCartan	LEADER II	Website design & marketing	£2,500.00	£2,000.00	£2,500.00

Group name	Funding Programme	Purpose of Grant	Total Committed	Grant Paid 2001/2002	Total Spend to 31/03/02
Fermanagh District Council					
Aughakillymaude Community Association	SPARD	Economic Appraisal & Business Plan	£6,316.80	£1,316.80	£6,316.80
Belcoo & District Historical Society	EUSSPPR	Environmental Scheme to enhance the local area	£51,211.00	£6,747.54	£51,211.00
Cooneen/Coonian Community Association	EUSSPPR	Development of a community building providing opportunities for interaction	£33,500.00	£1,615.81	£33,500.00
Derrygonnelly & District Community Enterprises	EUSSPPR	Development of the tourism potential of the area	£20,300.00	£4,910.00	£20,300.00
Erne East Community Partnership	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	4,919.31	£2,419.31	£4,919.31
Garrison Mart Committee	EUSSPPR	Renovation of Garrison Mart	£60,000.00	£60,000.00	£60,000.00
ITEC	SPARD	PLANET 3 Global Grant	£2,172.29	£922.29	£2,172.29
Kinawley Community Partnership	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£500.00	£5,000.00
Knocks Community Association	SPARD	Economic Appraisal & Business Plan	£4,432.05	£609.05	£4,432.05
Sliabh Beagh Development Association	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£14,750.00	£4,019.42	£14,750.00
Tempo Farmers Group	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£250.00	£2,500.00
Topped Mountain Historical Society	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,963.48	£2,463.48	£4,963.48
M Armstrong	LEADER II	Business Plan	£4,000.00	£524.70	£4,000.00
Larne Borough Council					
Ashfield Riding for the Disabled Group	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£3,284.62	£1,459.83	£3,284.62
Carnlough Community Development Group	EUSSPPR	Establishment of community transport initiative to increase access to services	£60,000.00	£800.00	£60,000.00
Limavady Borough Council					
Benedy Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£250.00	£2,500.00
Burnfoot Community Development Association	SPARD	Economic Appraisal & Business Plan	£3,619.01	£1,314.11	£3,619.01
Dromboughil Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	£5,000.00
Gortnahey Community Association	SPARD	Economic Appraisal & Business Plan	£3,619.01	£1,314.11	£3,619.01
Roe Agricultural Marketing Society	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,480.80	£1,230.80	£2,480.80
Lisburn Borough Council					
J Law	LEADER II	Feasibility Study	£1,966.80	£1,235.55	£1,966.80
J Law	LEADER II	Website design & marketing	£2,500.00	£120.00	£2,500.00
Magherafelt District Council					
Loughinsholin Tourism Association	SPARD	Employment of Development worker	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Magherafelt Womens Group	EUSSPPR	Women Working Together	£39,600.00	£3,321.50	£39,600.00
Magherafelt & District Potato Growers Network	LEADER II	Development of a growers network	£7,500.00	£2,882.47	£7,500.00
Moneyrenew Learning Communities Project	LEADER II	Programme of animation and community participation	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Moneyneena & District Development Group	EUSSPPR	Development of a community resource and tourism centre	£60,000.00	£11,355.30	£60,000.00
Sieve Gallion Rural Development Association	EUSSPPR	Establishment of a community business	£35,000.00	£4,249.10	£35,000.00
Tobermore Community Projects	EUSSPPR	Establishment of a community business specialising in micro light flying	£15,987.44	£15,987.44	£15,987.44
Workspace (Draperstown) Ltd	EUSSPPR	The Plantation of Ulster Visitor Centre	£35,653.50	£1,492.61	£35,653.50
Workspace (Draperstown) Ltd	LEADER II	Sales Force – Small companies in wider markets	£27,650.00	£22,284.24	£27,650.00
Workspace (Draperstown) Ltd	LEADER II	Network 2000	£26,500.00	£18,158.84	£26,500.00
Moyle District Council					
Moyle Enterprise Company	LEADER II	Youth enterprise training and mentoring	£8,747.36	£8,747.36	£8,747.36
Rathlin Island Co-operative	EUSSPPR	Development of the tourism potential of the area	£17,220.00	£5,519.12	£17,220.00

Group name	Funding Programme	Purpose of Grant	Total Committed	Grant Paid 2001/2002	Total Spend to 31/03/02
Newry & Mourne District Council					
Altnaveigh House Enterprise & Culture Society	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,507.96	£2,007.96	£4,507.96
Bessbrook Development Company	SPARD	PLANET 3 Global Grant	£2,121.19	£871.19	£2,121.19
Burren Heritage Association	EUSSPPR	Development of Burren Heritage Centre	£21,362.40	£727.84	£21,362.40
Culloville & District Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£250.00	£2,500.00
Friends of Millview	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	£5,000.00
Kilkeel Development Association	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£9,800.00	£369.88	£9,800.00
Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency	LEADER II	Entrepreneur linkage programme	£22,875.00	£22,875.00	£22,875.00
Ring of Gullion Tourism Ltd	EUSSPPR	Ring of Gullion	£31,444.32	£31,444.32	£31,444.32
Women on Rural Development	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,200.00	£950.00	£2,200.00
Omagh District Council					
Broughderg Area Development Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	£5,000.00
Cavan Development Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,250.00	£1,000.00	£2,250.00
Clanabogan Development Initiative	EUSSPPR	Promotion of arts and culture to increase understanding between the communities	£22,775.50	£16,759.50	£22,775.50
Drumduff/Drumnakilly Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,991.14	£2,491.14	£4,991.14
Loughmacrory Community Development Assoc.	SPARD	PLANET 3 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£1,250.00	£2,500.00
Mid Ulster Community Arts	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,980.00	£498.00	£4,980.00
Mountjoy & District Community Development As.	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£4,965.50	£465.50	£4,965.50
Omagh Forum for Rural Associations	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£17,000.00	£653.18	£17,000.00
Omagh Womens Aid	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£31,630.01	£2,796.78	£31,630.01
White Hare Playgroup	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£1,250.00	£2,500.00
Strabane District Council					
Ballylaw Regeneration Group	EUSSPPR	Ballylaw Community Centre	£63,000.00	£60,000.00	£63,000.00
Dennet Interchange	SPARD	PLANET 3 Global Grant	£2,361.70	£1,111.70	£2,361.70
Douglas Bridge Cross Community Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,500.00	£250.00	£2,500.00
Eden Youth Association	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,479.96	£1,229.96	£2,479.96
Mary Gray Rural Development Association	SPARD	PLANET 2 Global Grant	£5,000.00	£500.00	£5,000.00
Meigh Restorative Justice	SPARD	PLANET 1 Global Grant	£2,250.00	£1,000.00	£2,250.00
Mourneberg Community Care	SPARD	Feasibility Study	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Mourneberg Partnership	EUSSPPR	Development of the tourism potential of the area	£30,000.00	£23,710.00	£30,000.00
Spamount & District Community Association	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£11,800.00	£11,800.00	£11,800.00
Spamount & District Community Association	SPARD	Feasibility Study	£5,000.00	£3,597.35	£5,000.00

Group name	Funding Programme	Purpose of Grant	Total Committed	Grant Paid 2001/2002	Total Spend to 31/03/02
Regional					
FARM (NI)	LEADER II	Formation of farming & retailing movement	£22,520.00	£7,845.00	£22,520.00
Forum for Community Work Education	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£26,578.00	£7,038.43	£26,578.00
Initiative Economic Development	EUSSPPR	Development of Training resources	£30,637.00	£30,637.00	£30,637.00
Lets Go West	LEADER II	Technical support post	£17,866.68	£3,697.93	£17,866.68
Lets Go West	LEADER II	The Credits programme	£31,416.23	£14,816.23	£31,416.23
NIPLEA	LEADER II	"REBOP" – Part-time employment/business programme	£154,288.75	£60,505.57	£154,288.75
Rural Community Network	EUSSPPR	Peace I – Administration of programme	£19,166.28	£19,166.28	£19,166.28
Rural Community Network	EUSSPPR	Peace II – Administration of programme	£16,500.00	£16,500.00	£16,500.00
Rural Community Network	EUSSPPR	Programme to assess the Gender Proofing CAP Reform in Northern Ireland	£135,323.65	£34,245.18	£135,323.65
Rural Community Network	EUSSPPR	A programme to identify the most appropriate consultation mechanisms	£99,186.00	£26,201.07	£99,186.00
Rural Community Network	EUSSPPR	Mediation skills development programme	£82,657.04	£26,315.79	£82,657.04
Rural Community Network	EUSSPPR	Implementation of the CBA Grant Programme	£66,918.20	£66,918.20	£66,918.20
Rural Development Council	EUSSPPR	Participatory planning programme	£96,415.00	£25,785.25	£96,415.00
Rural Development Council	EUSSPPR	Farmers Managing Change Programme	£43,557.50	£38,462.62	£43,557.50
Rural Development Council	EUSSPPR	Learning Regions Programme	£33,012.87	£33,012.87	£33,012.87
Sustainable Agricultural Development Group	LEADER II	Development of a NI Organic Accreditation Scheme	£8,749.73	£6,609.86	£8,749.73
Voluntary Services	EUSSPPR	Promotion of arts and culture to increase understanding between the communities	£95,858.00	£40,968.98	£95,858.00
Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster	EUSSPPR	Promotion of activities to maximise community participation	£59,800.00	£6,157.67	£59,800.00
Youth Action N.I.	EUSSPPR	Pilot sessions to improve the relationship between young people and adults of both communities in South Tyrone	£32,171.50	£12,162.00	£32,171.50
TOTAL			£2,639,432.96	£1,061,959.71	£2,639,432.96

How is the Organisation structured?





17 Loy Street
Cookstown
County Tyrone
Northern Ireland
BT80 8PZ

Tel 028 8676 6980
Fax 028 8676 6922

www.rdc.org.uk
info@rdc.org.uk

