

## Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

**Name of Organisation:** Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

**Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:**  
Corporate Plan 2018-2023

### Step 1: Define the Issue

Key questions to consider:

- *What are the objectives of the strategy, policy plan or service?*
- *What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?*
- *How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this policy/strategy/service/plan?*
- *What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?*

The Community Plan and its vision has shaped our new Corporate Plan. The vision has been adopted by the Council as its Corporate vision and it is to have 'a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.' The Council will deliver services/activities across four main themes: Committed Council, Economy, Community and Place.

The Corporate Plan sets out our plans for the forthcoming years. It reflects how we as an organisation commit to the long term outcomes identified in our Community Planning Process, as well as the work we will do to ensure we continue to provide high quality services.

The Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (2015) produced by NISRA provides a default definition of rural where settlements with fewer than 5,000 residents together with open countryside are classified as rural.

As advised in the NISRA report, while a default definition is provided, users should consider defining urban and rural areas in ways that are appropriate for different projects and programmes. In relation to Planning, the distinction between urban and rural is set out in the extant Area Plans. As the Council's new Area Plan progresses, new settlements may be identified. Settlement classification considers issues such as population, location and settlement role, including facilities and services provided and rural catchment.

All strategies, plans, projects, services detailed in the Council's departmental business plans will need to be rural proofed in order to ensure that the Council's statutory duty to promote rural needs is fully considered.

## Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider

*What is the current situation in rural areas?*

*What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?*

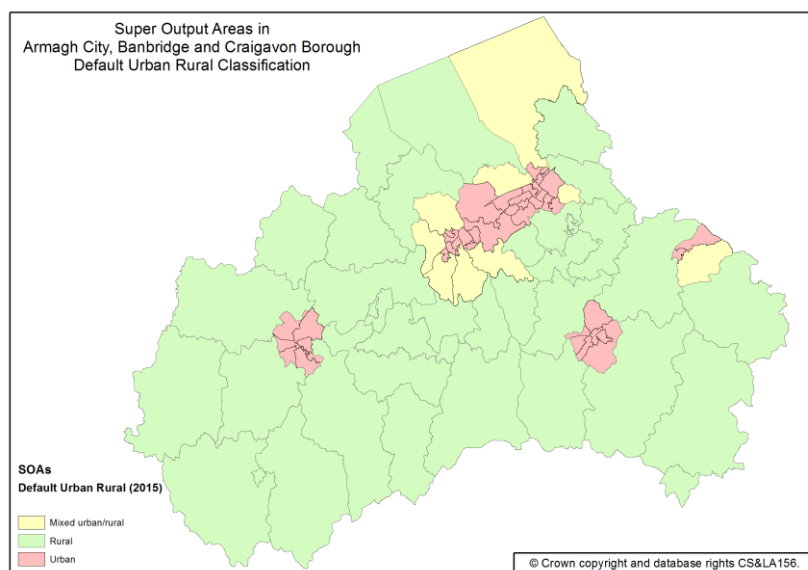
*If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?*

*Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?*

*Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of rural needs?*

Looking at 2011 Census results just over half of the Borough's population (51%) lived in urban areas based on the NISRA default urban / rural settlement classification, while just under half (49%) lived in rural areas (compared to 63% urban and 37% rural for Northern Ireland overall using the NISRA classification).

NISRA also provides the classification at Super Output Area level (SOA), 36 out of the borough's 87 SOAs are classified as rural, with a further 9 being mixed urban/rural. The rural areas cover a large part of the borough.



The NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 provides information on seven distinct types of deprivation, known as domains, along with an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM). Results are available for Super Output Areas (SOAs); there are 890 in Northern Ireland, ranked 1 most deprived to 890 least deprived.

The Access to Services domain is particularly relevant to rural areas; this measures the extent to which people have poor physical and online access to key services. The borough has 9 Super Output Areas (10% of the total 87 SOAs in the Borough) in the top 100 most deprived in NI on the Access to Services domain, each of these are defined as rural on the default NISRA classification.

The Access to Services domain consists of three indicators:

- Service-weighted fastest travel time by private transport
- Service-weighted fastest travel time by public transport
- Proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s

The borough has areas within the top 100 most deprived in NI on each of these three indicators. For example, Bannside SOA in the Borough is the second most deprived SOA in NI in terms of proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s.

Our Corporate Plan is closely aligned to our Community plan. Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the Community planning process. This is an ongoing and inclusive process taking into account the views of local people and stakeholders within our borough.

Our Southern Organisation for Action in Rural areas Programme was designed, developed and informed by three main strands including: Extensive consultation with the community, voluntary, private and public sectors of the community, Analysis of Socio Economic Data and Synergies analysis with strategies

All strategies, plans, projects, services detailed in the Council's departmental business plans will need to be rural proofed in order to ensure that the Council's statutory duty to promote rural needs is fully considered.

### **Step 3:      Develop and appraise options**

Key questions to consider

*Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?*

*If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?*

*Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?*

*What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?*

As part of service delivery for the borough, each Department operates within their Business Plan and seeks to address a number of barriers to delivery e.g.

- Access to Services: partnership working with Translink, Transport NI
- Service Infrastructure: delivered in partnership with Economic Development/Regeneration
- Demographics: as referred to in previous section
- Economic structure & employment: SOAR Programme/Regeneration/Economic Development

Council will continue to effectively deliver services and actively work in partnership with relevant statutory agencies and community and voluntary sector.

Where council faces budget reductions which may lead to a change in service provision, this will be examined thoroughly identifying efficiencies, new methods of delivery, and impact on rural areas.

#### **Step 4: Prepare for Delivery**

Key questions to consider

*Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?*

*Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?*

*What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?*

*Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?*

*Are different solutions required in different area*

Extensive consultation was undertaken as part of the Community Planning process. The Corporate Plan reflects how we as an organization commit to the long term outcomes identified in our Community Planning Process, as well as the work we will do to ensure we continue to provide high quality services.

All strategies, plans, projects, services detailed in the Council's departmental business plans will need to be rural proofed in order to ensure that the Council's statutory duty to promote rural needs is fully considered. This will include identification of efficiencies, solutions and new ways of service provision.

Council will continue to effectively deliver services and in partnership work with relevant statutory agencies and community and voluntary sector.

## Step 5: Implementation & Monitoring

Key questions to consider

*Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?*

*How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?*

*Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?*

All strategies, plans, projects, services detailed in the Council's departmental business plans will need to be rural proofed in order to ensure that the Council's statutory duty to promote rural needs is fully considered.

Whilst the Corporate Plan includes high level actions across the organisation, each individual Departmental Business Plan will contain relevant indicators and targets relevant to each service area and specific rural needs. These will be monitored and reviewed in accordance to Council's strategic framework and in particular through Performance Management Framework.

## Step 6: Evaluation & Review

Key questions to consider

*What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy, strategy, plan or service?*

*Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?*

*How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?*

The Corporate Plan is a high level document which outlines the Council's commitments for the period 2018-2023. There will be a mid-term review and update of the plan. All strategies, plans, projects services detailed in the Council's business plans will be rural proofed. These will be monitored and reviewed in accordance to Council's strategic framework and in particular through Performance Management Framework.

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<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date completed:</b>	<b>December 2017</b>

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