

Appendix 3 Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

SECTION 1

Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough The Council

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027

1C Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Developing a | Plan |
| Adopting a | <i>Choose an item.</i> |
| Implementing a | <i>Choose an item.</i> |
| Revising a | <i>Choose an item.</i> |
| Designing a Public Service | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delivering a Public Service | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above

Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

The Corporate Plan sets out the ambitious aims and strategic direction for the organisation over the next four years 2023 - 2027. It is one of a suite of strategic documents which the council uses to manage its business effectively.

The Community Plan gives us the WHY of what we are doing - the overarching strategy for the Borough, which was developed by all the relevant statutory partners in consultation with local people and communities.

The Corporate Plan explains WHAT we as the Council are doing to contribute to the community planning outcomes as well as outlining any other key priorities for us as an organisation. It is the roadmap for delivering the Community Plan.

The Corporate Plan details three values that will shape the culture, behaviour, decision making and overall identity of the organisation.

People Centred - Inclusive and welcoming, a place where people and staff are valued. Engage positively in partnership working, empowering others to achieve success.

Leaders - Be positive, inspiring and serve passionately to achieve our aspirations. Demonstrate resilience, respect and adaptability.

Responsible - Respect, protect and enhance our place. Accountable in how we manage our resources and decisions. Consistently deliver our services effectively and obtain value for money.

Council will deliver services and activities across the following 5 main priorities.

- Community Wellbeing
- Economic Growth
- Environment & Place
- Service Delivery
- Staff, Leadership and Resources

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used

NA

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

NA

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

SECTION 2

Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If response is No go to 2E

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The Corporate Plan will have a positive impact on people in rural areas, as the Council will deliver services and activities across the following 5 main priorities and the commitments detailed under each area. These will be delivered across the entire Borough, including villages, small towns, rural areas and rural residents.

- Community Wellbeing
- Economic Growth
- Environment & Place
- Service Delivery
- Staff, Leadership and Resources

Environment & Place

Our Commitments:

- Actively respond to the climate crisis and support others to do likewise
- Seek investment to preserve the uniqueness of our heritage and places
- Shape our places to be attractive, accessible, healthy, safe & clean

Community Wellbeing

Our Commitments:

- Encourage participation in arts and culture
- Provide opportunities which improve quality of life and wellbeing for our communities and staff
- Support and empower communities

Economic Growth

Our Commitments:

- Maximise the potential of our MSW Growth Deal
- Provide opportunities for growth, investment and skills development in our local economy
- Seek investment in infrastructure and connectivity

Service Delivery

Our Commitments:

- Continuously improve our services
- Monitor and communicate our performance

- Seek and use regular customer engagement and feedback

Staff, Leadership and Resources

Our Commitments:

- Communicate and engage with staff, communities and others
- Strengthen our governance, efficiency and civic leadership
- Value staff

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

The priorities contained within the Corporate Plan will be beneficial to both urban and rural dwellers. Services will be delivered throughout the borough. There will be no difference in the impact.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Rural Businesses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Tourism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poverty in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Deprivation in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Crime or Community Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agri-Environment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (Please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

NA

SECTION 3
Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If response is No go to 3E

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Consultation with Rural Stakeholders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultation with Other organisations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Statistics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Research Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveys or Questionnaires | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Methods or Information Sources
(include details in Question 3C below) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

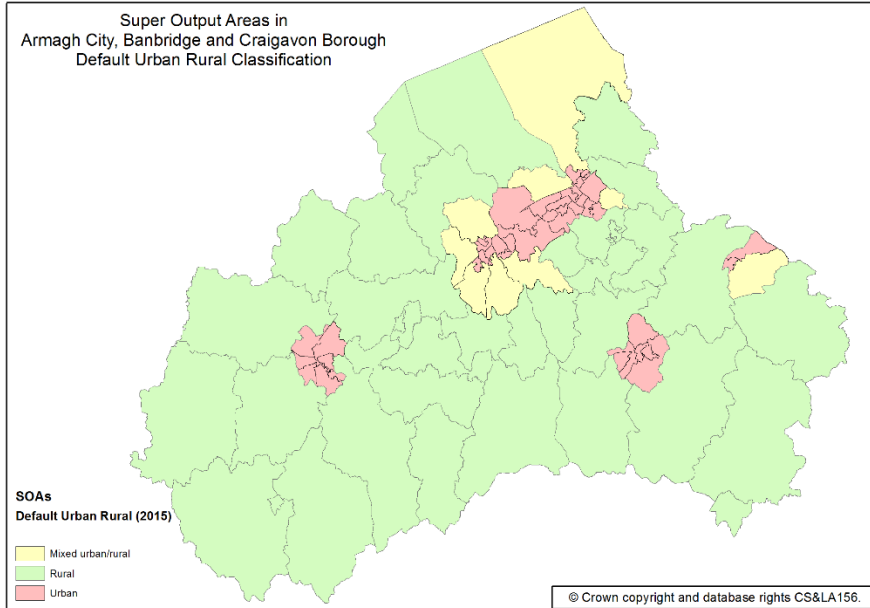
The following groups of people were consulted throughout the development phase of the Corporate Plan.

- Elected Members representing rural areas
- Consultation with employees via a Survey 7 December 2022 – 27 January 2023
- Workshop with employees from Council living across the borough - 19 June 2023

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

Results from the 2011 Census show that just over half of the borough's population (51%) lived in urban areas while just under half (49%) lived in rural areas. This is based on the NISRA default urban/rural settlement classification. This compares to 63% urban and 37% rural for Northern Ireland overall.

NISRA also provides the classification at Super Output Area (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. 3

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 highlights social and economic key statistics relevant to the entire borough inclusive of both urban and rural areas. These statistics have been referenced under each priority.

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

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4
Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

The Corporate Plan has been developed through engagement with Elected Members and employees taking into consideration other policies and strategies of Council which have been rural needs impact assessed. Business plans have also been considered. Relevant policies and strategies have been referenced in the Corporate Plan under each priority.

SECTION 5
Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If response is No go to 5C

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The Corporate Plan is a high level document which outlines the Council's priorities for the period 2023 – 2027. Consideration of borough statistics has been taken into account and rural needs impact assessments of all strategies, plans, projects, services detailed in the Council's departmental business plans will ensure that rural needs have been identified.

If the response to Section 5A was YES go to 6A.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

SECTION 6

Documenting and Recording

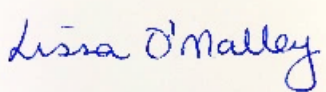
6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained, and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by: (Lissa O'Malley)

Position: (Place and Strategic Manager)

Department / Directorate: (Community Planning/ Strategy & Performance)

Signature: 

Date: 28/09/2023

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by: (Elaine Gillespie)

Position: (Head of Department)

Department / Directorate: (Community Planning/ Strategy & Performance)

Signature:

Date: 28/09/2023