

## 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.

Banbridge Place Plan

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

Banbridge Place Plan

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

The aim of the Banbridge Place Plan is to create a locality plan for the Town that aligns strategically with the Community Plan for the Borough. It will be achieved via five outcomes:

- Bridging Banbridge – A Connected and accessible town
- Green Banbridge – An environmentally, friendly, sustainable and biodiverse town
- Healthy Banbridge – An Active town
- Creative Banbridge – An innovative and digital town
- Growing Banbridge – An economic hub

The plans identified 56 actions for implementation to help deliver the above outcomes.

**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**

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

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.**

Protecting rural communities and food production is vital for preserving biodiversity, improving health, ensuring food security, maintaining rural (and urban) livelihoods, and protecting the environment. The Banbridge Place Plan advocates a sustainable urban development approach that seeks to protect the rural landscape allowing vital services and activities that need to take place there can continue. The Banbridge Place Plan offers many actions for an enhanced and improved town that caters for rural dwellers that use the town regularly to gain access to services.

The Place Plan will reinforce and enhance rural and urban connections by

- Giving more opportunities for rural businesses to showcase themselves in the town
- Develop a better and more integrated transport system in and out of the town
- Design green and blue infrastructure that connects the wider rural area into the town

**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 proposals contained within the plan will be beneficial to both urban and rural dwellers. Due to a number of transport proposals, rural dwellers will benefit as well as urban dwellers from improved transport infrastructure that connects them into the town.

**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 type="checkbox"/>            |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas                | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas   | <input 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 type="checkbox"/>            |
| Deprivation in Rural Areas                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Rural Crime or Community Safety                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Rural Development                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agri-Environment                                    | <input 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.**

**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
- Consultation with Other organisations
- Published Statistics
- Research Papers
- Surveys or Questionnaires
- Other Publications
- Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below)

**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.**

- Area wide survey that gathered 168 responses, many of which came from outside the settlement of Banbridge in February/March 2023
  - Engagement sessions held in person and online during February - May 2023 which involved a number of rural dwellers

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

- Access to services
- Better transport connectivity

**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 following issues were considered in relation to the needs of people in rural areas:

- Social isolation and the need for more integrated public transport provision
- Access to services in the town and not competing with rural settlements providing essential more regular services than in Banbridge town
- Employment and access to jobs and opportunities in the town

**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.**

More and better alternative transport options for getting into and out of the town have been incorporated into the plan to include exploring a study on the future of transport in Banbridge and surrounding rural areas to explore and promote walking, cycling, public transport, implementing more greenways to connect cyclists into and out of the town and looking at traffic congestion in Church Square.

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:  (Jennifer McKibben)

Position:  (Project Officer)

Department / Directorate:  (Community Planning)

Signature: *J McKibben*

Date: 05/09/2023

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:  (Elaine Gillespie)

Position:  (Head of Department)

Department / Directorate:  (Community Planning Policy & Research)

Signature: *Elaine Gillespie*

Date: 05/09/2023