

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
Borough Council

Section 75

Audit of Inequalities

December 2023



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

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Section 1 Background to the Audit of Inequalities

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that:

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity
 - (a) Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - (b) Between men and women generally;
 - (c) Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - (d) Between persons with dependants and persons without

- (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) revised guidance “Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for Public Authorities” recommended that in order to improve outcomes for the section 75 groups Equality Schemes should be accompanied by an Action Plan. It further recommended that an Audit of Inequalities is conducted in order to inform the development of this Action Plan.

The Commission in its guide defines an audit of inequalities as “a systematic review and analysis of inequalities which exist for service users and those affected by a public authority’s policies.”

The Council’s Equality Scheme was approved by the Equality Commission on 25 March 2015. The Scheme included a commitment to conduct an Audit of Inequalities which would inform the development of an Equality Action Plan. Progress made since the Council published its plans in 2015, 2018 and 2020 can be found in the Council’s annual progress reports which are available on the [Council’s website](#)

1.1 How we identified the Inequalities

The Audit of Inequalities carried out by Council has identified a range of equality issues that exist for each section 75 group with supporting evidence which includes regional and local strategies, programmes, initiatives, statistical baseline data and relevant legislation.

- Previous audits and action plans were reviewed
- There was consideration of the Council’s corporate priorities
- Meetings were held with the Council’s Inclusive ABC Working Group.
- Individual meetings were also held with Officers from the different service areas in order to identify appropriate measures.

1.2 Alignment of Equality Actions with the Community Plan ‘Connected’ 2017-2030 and the Council’s Draft Corporate Plan 2023-2027

The Borough's first Community Plan 'Connected' was launched in May 2017. This plan has three strategic themes and nine long term outcomes.

1. Community- Confident, Healthy, Welcoming
2. Economy – Enterprising, Skilled, Tourism
3. Place-Creative, Enhanced, Revitalised

The plan also has three cross-cutting themes.

1. Equality/Good Relations/Inclusion
2. Connectivity
3. Sustainability

The Community Plan and its Vision has shaped our new Corporate Plan. The Vision has been adopted by the Council as its Corporate Vision.

“a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.”

The Council's Corporate Plan 2023-2027 will deliver services/activities across five priorities.

The actions contained within the Council's Draft Equality Action Plan 2024-2027 reflect four of the priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan.

These are:

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

Section 2 Profile of the Borough

The Council area is a unique tapestry of contrasts: ancient-modern, urban-rural, industry-agriculture, waterways-road and railways that set it apart from anywhere else in Northern Ireland and offers exciting opportunities for the future.

Covering an area of 554 square miles, the Borough has a population of approximately 218,656 with 84,642 occupied households and is the second largest LGD in Northern Ireland after Belfast with 11.5% of total NI population. The population is expected to grow to approximately 238,066 by 2033. The Age distribution of the population is as follows:

Age Group	2020	%	2033	%	2043	%
0 – 15 years	48,872	22.5%	46,148	19.4%	47,450	18.9%
16 – 24 years	21,132	9.7%	26,539	11.2%	24,385	9.7%
25 – 49 years	72,155	33.2%	74,541	31.3%	76,934	30.7%
50 – 64 years	40,906	18.8%	43,025	18.1%	46,569	18.6%
65 and over	34,167	15.7%	47,813	20.1%	55,532	22.1%
Total	217,232	100.0%	238,066	100.0%	250,870	100.0%

Age profile of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2020, 2033 and 2043. Source: 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates and 2018 Based Population Projections, NISRA.

The Borough is strategically positioned on the axis of the main East West and North South economic corridors and is supported by high quality road and rail links to both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The Economy

Despite the challenges of the recent economic recession the area can boast of a vibrant and growing economic sector.

- More than 9,390 VAT OR PAYE registered businesses.
- Majority are small medium sized business employing fewer than 50 people.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing make up the largest proportion of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses in 2023 in the borough, 2,480 accounting for 26.4%. This is followed by construction (14.1%) and retail (8.4%). (NI overall - agriculture, forestry and fishing 23.5%; construction 14.1%; retail 7.7%. Professional scientific and technical account for 8.1% of businesses in Northern Ireland compared to 6.2% in ABC).82,854 employee jobs.
- The employment rate for the borough in 2021 was 58.1% for those aged 16+ and 70.9% for those aged 16 to 64, fifth highest of the 11 LGD's in 2021. In terms of GVA per head, at £19,601 per head in 2021, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon were ranked seventh of the 11 LGD's.

The Council

Employing approximately 1204 employees (full time equivalent) and led by 41 Elected Members. The Council is made up of 7 District Electoral Areas and has a budget in excess of £104 million (correct at December 2023)

Section 3 What is our Council responsible for

The roles and functions of Local Government in Northern Ireland are set out in the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and other Miscellaneous Acts and Regulations.

Local Government responsibilities fall into three main areas:

- **Direct Service Provision** - Councils provide a range of local services
- **Representation** – Council nominees sit as representatives on various statutory bodies
- **Civic Leadership** – Councils reflect the views of their community in relation to the planning and delivery of certain regional services

The Council performs the following roles within its local area and district:

- The direct provision of a number of services and facilities,
- The promotion of the arts, tourism, community and economic development,
- The regulation and licensing of certain activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection and public safety,
- Councillors are appointed to represent the Council or elected members in general, on a number of public bodies
- The Council leads a community planning process in partnership with other public service providers in order to collectively address local problems

In the performance of the above roles the Council carries out functions in the following areas:

- The provision of facilities for recreational, social and cultural activities including leisure centres, community centres, parks, open spaces, sports grounds and places of entertainment, theatres, museums and galleries.
- Street cleansing
- Waste collection and disposal
- The provision of burial grounds
- The provision of public conveniences
- Registration of births, deaths and marriages
- Off-Street parking
- The provision of grant aid/financial assistance to support community development
- The delivery of health and recreation and wellbeing programmes
- The administration and delivery of funded and non-funded capital programmes and heritage projects which enhance the economy and the environment.
- The administration and regulation of certain matters relating to the environment, planning, public health and public safety including building control, property certificates, energy performance of buildings, building regulations, housing unfitness, food safety, statutory nuisance, dangerous buildings, air pollution, noise pollution, dog control, animal welfare, consumer protection and health and safety.

To enable the Council to provide the above services and perform its other functions, the Council must levy an annual rate and has the power to:

- Acquire and dispose of land
- Borrow money
- Employ staff
- Procure goods and services

Section 4 Further Information and Alternative Formats

This document can be downloaded from the Council's website at:

www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Alternative languages, audio, magnification, colour contrast and other access functionalities are available by clicking on the Website Accessibility tab at top of the page. If you would like a hard copy /or a copy in an alternative format, not already available on our website, please contact:

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Section 5 Publication

Following a 12-week public consultation the Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan will be submitted to the Equality Commission and will be published on the Council's website.

Section 6 Monitoring and Review

The Audit of Inequalities will be regularly reviewed. The Equality Action Plan will be monitored annually, and results of this monitoring will be included in the Council's Annual Equality Progress Report which will be forwarded to the Commission and made available on the Council's website. Responsibility for monitoring and review of the Action Plan will rest with the Council's relevant Officers in association with the relevant Council Departments and will be carried out every 4 years in line with the Corporate Plan.

Appendix A Equality/Inequality issues by Section 75 Category

Religious Belief and Political Opinion	
Equality/Inequality issues	Source of Evidence
<p>Opportunities for Cross Community Engagements</p> <p>Building respect / tackling sectarianism</p> <p>Feeling safe in communities</p> <p>Equal Opportunities in employment</p> <p>Prejudice & Discrimination</p>	<p><u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u></p> <p>41% Catholic; 14.3% Presbyterian; 15.9% Church of Ireland; 2.5% Methodist; 9% Other Christian denominations; 1.1% Other Religions and 14.7% of the population in the borough had 'No religion' – this is a marked increase on 2011 when only 7.8% had 'No religion'.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in those stating Catholic as their main religion (39.5% - 41%) and Other Christian denominations (7.6% - 9%). The percentage of people whose current religion is Presbyterian, Church of Ireland or Methodist has fallen since 2011.</p> <p>With regards to the 'religion of upbringing', in the Borough, 35,240 (16%) answered 'None' or chose not to answer the 'current religion' question. Those people were then asked a follow-up question on 'religion of upbringing' and over 50% were brought up with no religion while 17% were brought up in the catholic religion and 31% were brought up in the protestant religion.</p> <p>Increase in the number of people who identify as;</p>

Religious Belief and Political Opinion	
Equality/Inequality issues	Source of Evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Irish only’ from 45,163 (2011) to 57,602 (2021). • ‘Irish and Northern Irish’, from 1,692 (2011) to 3,220 (2021), and • ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ from 1,603 (2011) to 2,629 (2021). • Northern Irish only’ increased by just 66 people from 41,407 (2011) to 41,473 (2021). • Either ‘British and Northern Irish’ or ‘Irish and Northern Irish’ or ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ has increased by over 50% from 15,738 (2011) to 23,803 (2021). <p>When compared with Northern Ireland overall, the percentage of residents who identify as ‘British only’ is higher in the borough, 33.5% compared to 31.9%. The borough also has a slightly higher percentage of residents who identify as ‘British and Northern Irish only’. Approximately 26% of residents in the borough identify as ‘Irish only’ compared to 29% in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members. A breakdown of results of the Local Government Election in May 2023 for the borough are as follows:</p>

Religious Belief and Political Opinion	
Equality/Inequality issues	Source of Evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Unionist Party – 13 • Ulster Unionist Party – 6 • Sinn Fein – 15 • Social Democratic and Labour Party – 1 • Alliance – 4 • Independent – 1 • TUV – 1 <p>87,684 votes were polled from an eligible electorate of 155,625 - Turnout 56.34%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the borough.</p> <p><u>Legislation</u></p> <p>Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998</p> <p>ACBCBC Good Relations Borough Statistics – Census 2021</p>

Religious Belief and Political Opinion	
Equality/Inequality issues	Source of Evidence
	Draft Outcomes Framework Consultation 25 January 2021 Together Building a United Community (T:BUC) NI Life & Times Survey – Community Relations 2022 Local Community Action Plan 2024 - 2027 Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018 Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 Fair Employment Monitoring Report (32nd) – 1Jan-31 Dec 21

Racial Group	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
Access to Information Equal Opportunities in employment Health Inequalities for Travellers Prejudice & Discrimination Vulnerability to Exploitation	<p><u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u></p> <p>3.3% of the population in the borough belonged to ethnic minority groups. This is more than double the 2011 figure (1.4%). The figures for NI overall were similar with an increased from 1.8% in 2011 to 3.4% in 2021.</p> <p>6.8% (14,376 people) of the population in the borough aged 3 and over had a main language other than English, up from</p>

Racial Group	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	<p>4.3% (8,146 people) in 2011. In 2021, the most prevalent main languages in the Borough other than English were Polish (1.7%) and Lithuanian (1.2%). Polish and Lithuanian were also the most prevalent main language other than English in Northern Ireland overall.</p> <p>Census 2021 - ACBCBC Good Relations Borough Statistics</p> <p>NISRA, Estimated Net International Migration by Local Government District Mid 2010-Mid 2020</p> <p>Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership NISMP- Briefing Spring 2021</p> <p>Housing Executive Survey 2019</p> <p>Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2021 – 2026</p> <p>The All-Ireland Health Study (University College Dublin, 2010)</p> <p>Equality Commission Report ‘Education Inequalities In NI (March 2015)’</p> <p>Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025</p> <p>Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p>

Racial Group	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	Impact of Brexit on Minority Ethnic & Migrant People in NI <u>Legislation</u> Race Relations (NI) Order 1997

Age	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
Engagement in Decision Making Access to Services Prejudice & Discrimination Health Inequalities Mental ill Health	<u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u> When disaggregated by age, the population increase was greatest in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65+ increased by 7,363 or 26.7%. For those aged 75+, there was a 34% increase. The proportion of the population aged 15-29 fell by 6.4% between 2011 and 2021. For those aged up to 39 years, the number of males outnumber the number of females, albeit only marginally. However, in the 40+ age group, there are more females than males.

Age	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	<p>The population at the end of June 2043 is projected to be 250,870. This is an increase of 33,638 people or 15.5% on 2020 mid-year population estimates. This is projected to be the largest increase in the number of people across all 11 council areas.</p> <p>It is projected that in 2033, the proportion of older people in the borough (those aged 65 and over) will be higher than the proportion of children (those aged 15 and under).</p> <p>Census 2021 - ACBCBC Good Relations Borough Statistics</p> <p>Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK) 2022</p> <p>Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (often referred to as the Right to Play)</p> <p>Power of Sport – Sport NI’s New Five-Year Plan Sport NI</p> <p>DfC Active Aging Strategy (2016-2022)</p> <p>Dept of Health Mental Health Strategy (2021-2031)</p> <p>Dept of Health Making Life Better (2013-2023)</p> <p>NI Housing Executive Older Peoples Housing Strategy (2021/22-2026/27)</p>

Age	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	<p data-bbox="1236 231 1850 260">DfC Public Realm Environmental Improvement</p> <p data-bbox="1236 301 1883 330">Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025</p> <p data-bbox="1236 371 2024 454">Protect Life 2 – A Strategy for Preventing Suicide and Self Harm in Northern Ireland 2019-2024</p> <p data-bbox="1236 496 1395 525"><u>Legislation</u></p> <p data-bbox="1236 553 1888 582">Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006</p>

Disability	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
<p data-bbox="107 860 360 888">Access to Services</p> <p data-bbox="107 930 568 959">Equal Opportunities in employment</p> <p data-bbox="107 1000 454 1029">Prejudice & Discrimination</p> <p data-bbox="107 1070 353 1099">Health Inequalities</p> <p data-bbox="107 1141 322 1169">Mental ill Health</p> <p data-bbox="107 1211 591 1240">Access to Sport and Physical Activity</p>	<p data-bbox="1236 860 1794 888"><u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u></p> <p data-bbox="1236 930 2024 1061">Approximately 22% (48,726) of the population had a limiting long term health problem or disability, representing a slight increase from 20% (39,861) in 2011.</p> <p data-bbox="1236 1102 2024 1233">Almost 57% of the population aged 65+ had a limiting long-term health problem or disability compared to 6% of those aged between 0-14.</p> <p data-bbox="1236 1278 2024 1361">All LGDs experienced an increase in the percentage of people who reported a long-term health problem or disability</p>

Disability	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	<p>which limited day-to-day activities. NISRA report that these changes are in part a reflection of our ageing population.</p> <p>Census 2021 - ACBCBC Good Relations Borough Statistics</p> <p>Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p> <p>NISRA(2021) Quarterly Labour Force Survey Tables – August 2021</p> <p>Department for Communities Labour Market Insights Dashboard/NISRA</p> <p>Key Inequalities in Participation in Public Life (May 2018)</p> <p>Outreach Positive Action A Guide to the Law and Good Practice for Employers, ECNI</p> <p>The NI Sport and Physical Activity Survey 2010, Sport NI</p> <p>The impact of COVID-19 on Disabled Peoples Mental Health and participation in sport and active – Disability SportNI Insight Piece April 20 – March 21</p> <p>NI Assembly Research & Information Service: Sport & Disability in NI (29 January 2021)</p> <p>Local Government Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2023</p>

Disability	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	<p>Mental Health & The COVID-19 pandemic - N.I Assembly Research and Information Service Research Paper April 2021</p> <p><u>Legislation</u></p> <p>Disability Discrimination Act (1995)</p>

Dependants	
Equality/Inequality Issues and relevant data	Source of Evidence
<p>Equal Opportunities in employment</p> <p>Child & Adult Caring responsibilities</p>	<p><u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u></p> <p>Approximately 12% of the population in the borough aged over 5 years old provide unpaid care.</p> <p>Of those providing unpaid care;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.6% provide between 1-19 hours per week while • 3.6% provide 50 or more hours per week. <p>Persons aged between 40 and 64 provided the highest level of unpaid care with roughly one in five persons in this age group providing unpaid care.</p> <p>A total of 24,741 persons aged 5 and over reported that they provide unpaid care. Of these;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57% aged 40 – 64yrs

Dependants	
Equality/Inequality Issues and relevant data	Source of Evidence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% aged 15-39. <p>The census does not ask about who the respondents provide care for</p> <p>Census 2021 – ACBCBC Good Relations Borough Statistics Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p>

Gender	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
<p>Health Inequalities</p> <p>Life Expectancy</p> <p>Female Participation in Sport</p> <p>Prejudice & Discrimination</p>	<p><u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50.5% (110,388) females • 49.5% (108,268) males <p>These proportions have remained relatively static since 2011</p> <p>Census 2021 - ACBCBC Good Relations Borough Statistics Health Inequalities Annual Report 2023 2019-2021 (ABC Life Expectancy & Death Rates 2023)</p>

Gender	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	<p data-bbox="1236 229 2020 312">NI Assembly Research & Information Service – Female Participation in Sport (April 21)</p> <p data-bbox="1236 352 2020 435">Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Borough Statistics ‘Participation in sport statistics</p> <p data-bbox="1236 475 1827 509">Key Inequalities in Employment. (ECNI) 2018</p> <p data-bbox="1236 549 2020 632">Department for Communities Labour Market Insights Dashboard/NISRA</p> <p data-bbox="1236 671 2020 754">Gender Equality at Executive Level of the N.I Public Sector, Ulster University 2016</p> <p data-bbox="1236 794 2020 927">NI Assembly Research & Information Service: Gender, diversity & good relations in a parliamentary context (January 22)</p> <p data-bbox="1236 967 2020 1050">Equality Commission: Key Inequalities in Participation in Public Life (May 2018)</p> <p data-bbox="1236 1090 2020 1123">Source: Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (ARK) 2022</p> <p data-bbox="1236 1163 1917 1197">Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2016-2018)</p> <p data-bbox="1236 1236 1395 1270"><u>Legislation</u></p> <p data-bbox="1236 1310 1693 1343">Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976</p>

Gender	
Equality/Inequality Issues	Source of Evidence
	Sex Discrimination (Amendment of Legislation) Regulations 2008

Sexual Orientation	
Equality/Inequality Issues and relevant data	Source of Evidence
<p>Equal Access to Services</p> <p>Prejudice & Discrimination</p> <p>Equal Opportunities in Employment</p>	<p><u>Summary Census 2021 for the Borough</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90.52% identified as Heterosexual /Straight, • 1.47% identified as Gay/Lesbian, Bisexual or Other • 8.01% Preferred not to say or didn't state anything <p>Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p> <p><u>Legislation</u></p> <p>Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2003</p> <p>The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2006</p>

Marital Status	
Equality/Inequality Issues and relevant data	Source of Evidence

Summary Census 2021 for the Borough

49.01% aged 16+ were married,

35.25% single (never married or never in a registered same-sex civil partnership).

Appendix B Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Statistics

Religious Belief

Census 2021 asked two religion questions, the first question related to 'current religion' of the usual resident population. There was also a follow-up question on 'religion of upbringing' which was asked only of respondents who answered 'None' or chose not to answer the 'current religion' question.

In 2021, the main current religions in the borough were: Catholic (41%); Presbyterian (14.3%); Church of Ireland (15.9%); Methodist (2.5%); Other Christian denominations (9%); and Other Religions (1.1%). In addition, 14.7% of the population in the borough had 'No religion' – this is a marked increase on 2011 when only 7.8% had 'No religion'.

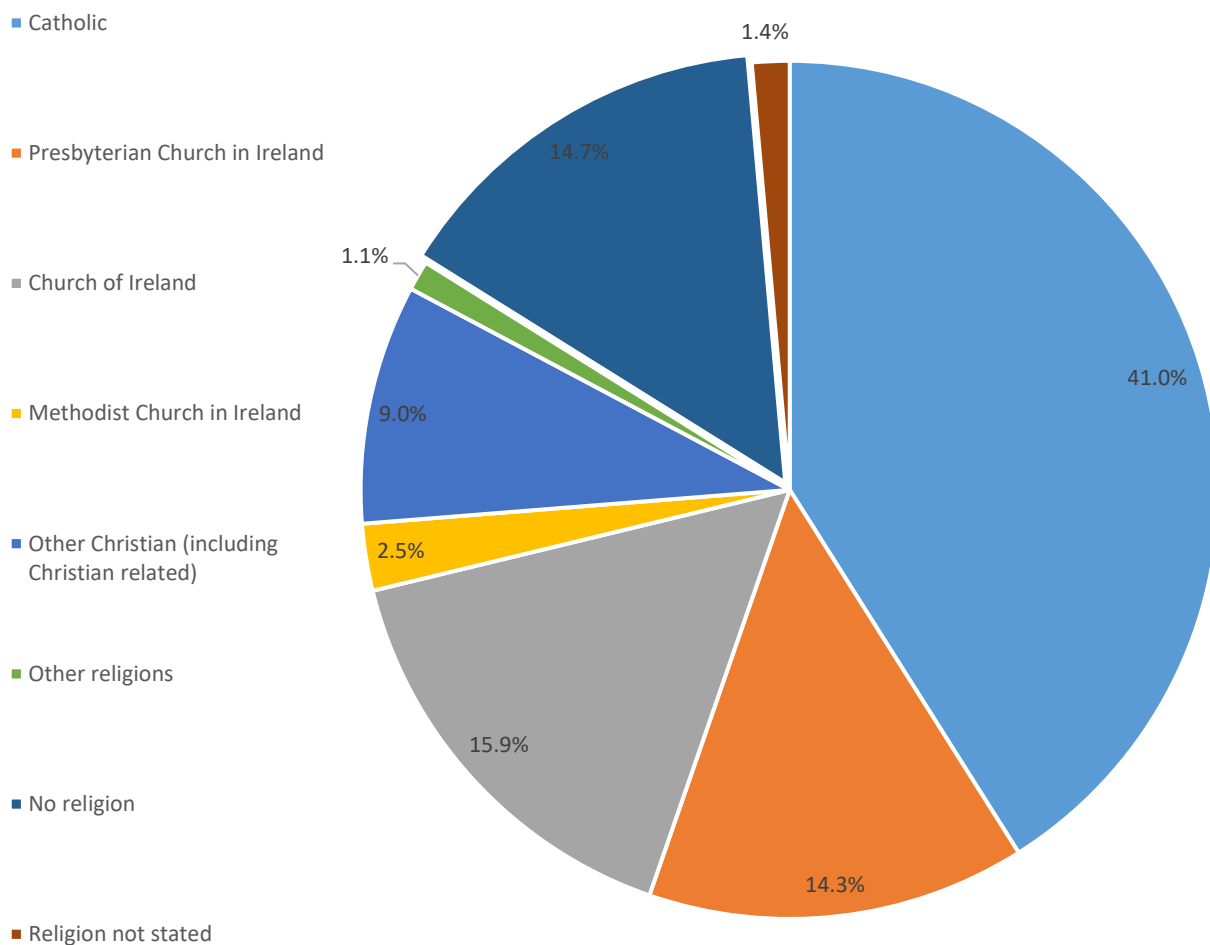


Figure 1: Current Religion of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2021.

Figure 2 presents the main current religions in the borough in 2011 and 2021. While the most significant increase has been in those with no religion, there has also been an increase in those stating Catholic as their main religion (39.5% - 41%) and Other Christian denominations (7.6% - 9%). The percentage of people whose current religion is Presbyterian, Church of Ireland or Methodist has fallen since 2011.

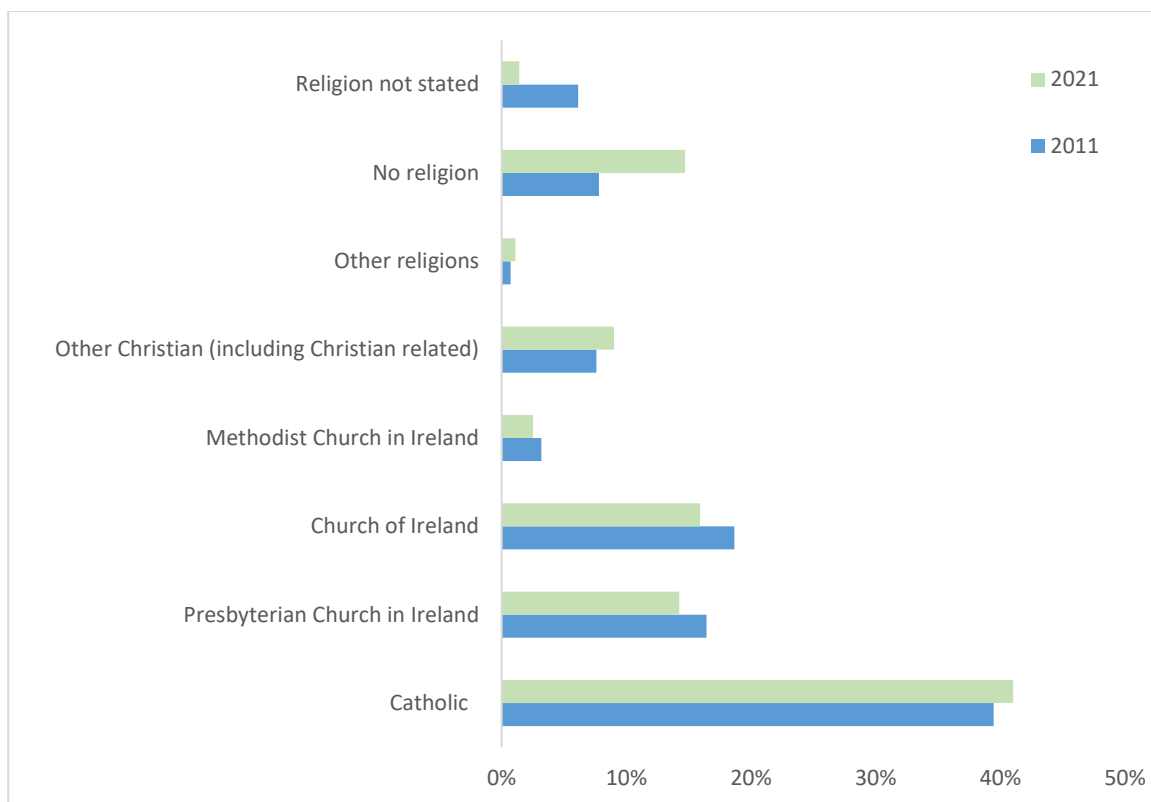


Figure 2: Current Religion of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

With regards to the ‘religion of upbringing’, in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, there were a total of 35,240 (16%) who answered ‘None’ or chose not to answer the ‘current religion’ question. Those people were then asked a follow-up question on ‘religion of upbringing’ and the results are presented in the table below. Over 50% were brought up with no religion while 17% were brought up in the catholic religion and 31% were brought up in the protestant religion.

	Number	%
Catholic	6,131	17.4%
Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	10,825	30.7%
Other religions	256	0.7%
None	18,028	51.2%
Total ‘no religion’ or ‘religion not stated’	35,240	

Table 1: Religion of upbringing of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2021.

National Identity

Census 2021 included a question on national identity which allowed the respondent to record multiple national identities and the analysis of this question can produce statistics in two different ways. The first is how many people consider themselves to be British, Irish, Northern Irish, etc., irrespective of whether they have a single national identity or not. These statistics are entitled *National Identity (nationality based)* and in this classification people can be counted in more than one group.

The *National identity (person based)* relates to how people identify with specific labels such as ‘British only’, ‘Irish only’, ‘Northern Irish only’, ‘British and Northern Irish only’, ‘Irish and Northern Irish only’, etc. In this classification respondents are counted in separate groups which are mutually exclusive.

National identity (nationality based)

On Census day 2021, 96,663 people (44.2%) living in the borough identified as 'British'. This is down from 100,825 people (50.5%) in 2011. In Northern Ireland overall, the percentage has also fallen however there remains a greater proportion in the borough who identify as 'British'.

The number of people living in the borough who identified as 'Irish' has increased from 50,284 people (25.2%) in 2011 to 65,115 people (29.8%). This is still below the Northern Ireland average where 33.3% of the population identify as 'Irish'.

The number of people identifying as 'Northern Irish' was 66,457 people or 30.4% of those living in the borough. This is up from 57,613 people (28.8%) in 2011. In Northern Ireland overall, approximately 31.5% of the population identify as 'Northern Irish'.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, approximately 8.6% of the population recorded their national identity as 'Other' which is above the rate for Northern Ireland at 6%.

	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon		Northern Ireland	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
British	50.5%	44.2%	48.4%	42.8%
Irish	25.2%	29.8%	28.4%	33.3%
Northern Irish	28.9%	30.4%	29.4%	31.5%
English	0.9%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
Scottish	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Welsh	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other	4.6%	8.6%	3.4%	6.0%

Table 2: National Identity (nationality based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

National identity (person based)

As noted above, the national identity (person based) classification relates to the specific single identity or specific multiple identities people recorded in Census 2021.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough on Census day 2021, the largest person-specific national identities were – 'British only' - 73,150 people (33.5%); 'Irish only' - 57,602 people (26.3%); 'Northern Irish only' - 41,473 people (18.9%); and 'British & Northern Irish' – 17,954 people or 8.2% of our population.

While the number of people in the borough who identify only as 'British' is down from 84,571 people in 2011 to 73,150 people in 2021, the number of people in the borough who identify as 'British and Northern Irish' has increased from 12,443 people in 2011 to 17,954 people in 2021 and the number who identify as 'British, Irish and Northern Irish' has increased from 1,603 in 2011 to 2,629 in 2021.

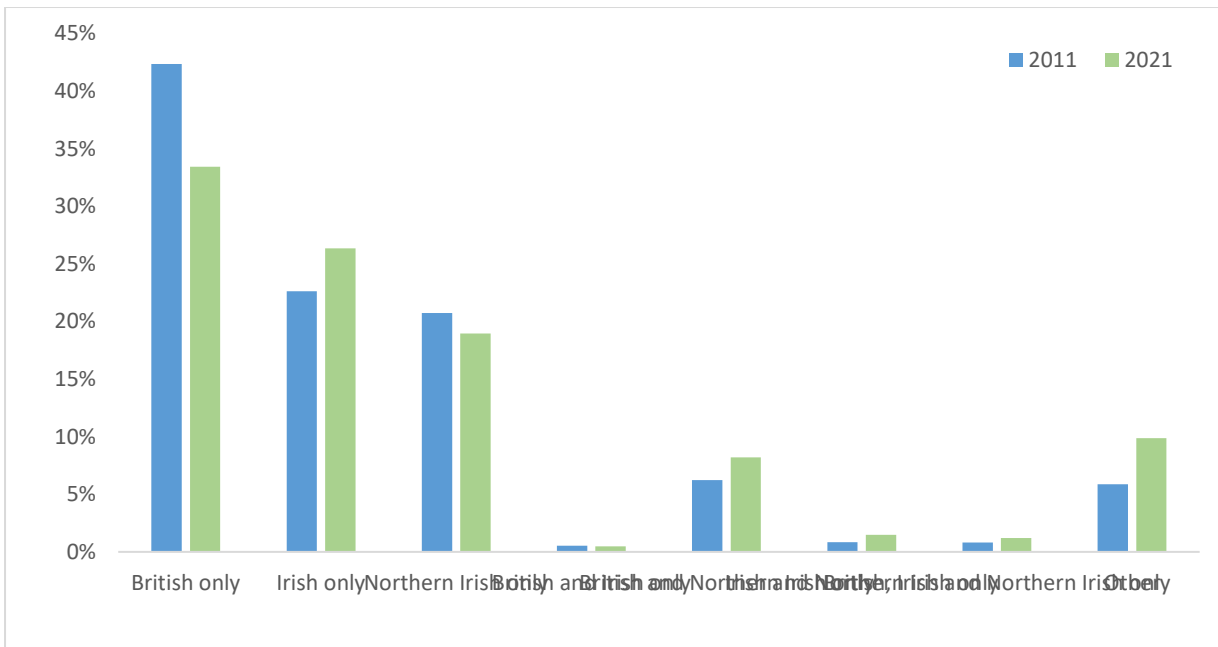


Figure 3: National Identity (person based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

The number of people in the borough who identify as ‘Irish only’ is up from 45,163 in 2011 to 57,602 in 2021. There has also been an increase in the number of people who identify as ‘Irish and Northern Irish’, up from 1,692 in 2011 to 3,220 in 2021, and in those who identify as ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ up from 1,603 in 2011 to 2,629 in 2021.

On Census day 2021, the number of people who were recorded as ‘Northern Irish only’ was much the same as the 2011 figure – increasing by just 66 people from 41,407 in 2011 to 41,473 in 2021. However, the total number of people identifying as either ‘British and Northern Irish’ or ‘Irish and Northern Irish’ or ‘British, Irish and Northern Irish’ has increased by over 50% from 15,738 people in 2011 to 23,803 people in 2021.

When compared with Northern Ireland overall, the percentage of residents who identify as ‘British only’ is higher in the borough, 33.5% compared to 31.9%. The borough also has a slightly higher percentage of residents who identify as ‘British and Northern Irish only’. Approximately 26% of residents in the borough identify as ‘Irish only’ compared to 29% in Northern Ireland.

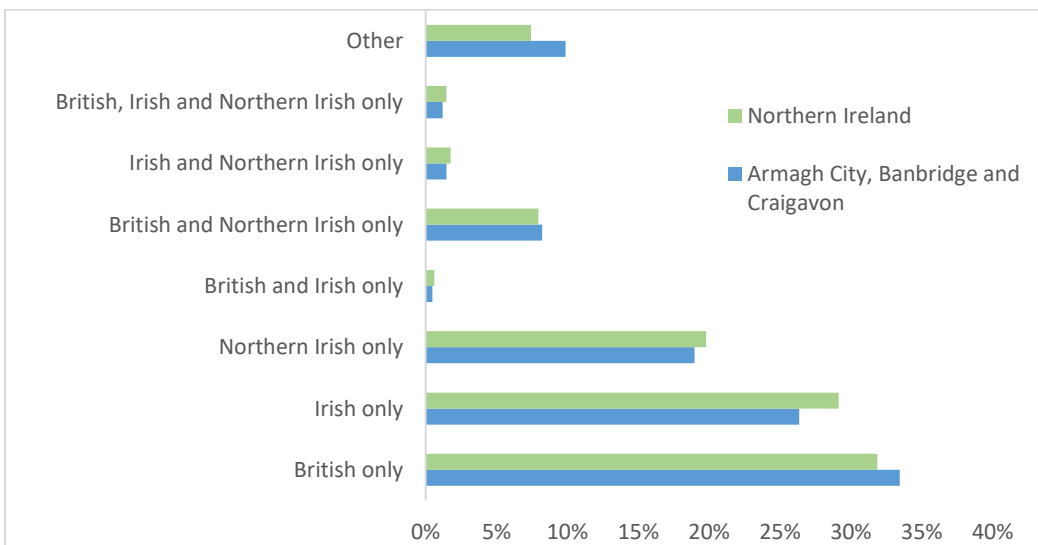


Figure 4: National Identity (person based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland. Source: Census 2021.

Knowledge of Irish and Ulster Scots

The statistics on main language show that Irish was the main language of residents aged 3 and over for only 0.2% of the borough (0.3% in Northern Ireland overall). However, in terms of language ability, Census 2021 shows that 12.2% (25,644 people) in the borough aged 3 and over had some ability in the Irish language. This is up from 10.3% in 2011.

On Census day 2021, 9.7% (20,320 people) in the borough aged 3 and over had some ability in the Ulster-Scots language. This is up from 6% in 2011.

Political Opinion

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members. A breakdown of results of the Local Government Election in May 2023 for the borough are as follows:

- Democratic Unionist Party – 13
- Ulster Unionist Party – 6
- Sinn Fein – 15
- Social Democratic and Labour Party – 1
- Alliance – 4
- Independent – 1
- TUV – 1

A total of 87,684 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 155,625 giving an overall turnout of 56.34%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the borough.

Racial Group – Ethnicity

On census day 2021, 3.3% of the population in the borough belonged to ethnic minority groups. This is more than double the 2011 figure (1.4%). The figures were much the same for Northern Ireland overall where the proportion of the population belonging to ethnic minority groups increased from 1.8% in 2011 to 3.4% in 2021.

	Northern Ireland	Armagh Banbridge Craigavon	City, and
White	96.55%	96.69%	
Irish Traveller	0.14%	0.24%	
Roma	0.08%	0.09%	
Indian	0.52%	0.28%	
Chinese	0.50%	0.31%	
Filipino	0.23%	0.19%	
Pakistani	0.08%	0.13%	
Arab	0.10%	0.05%	
Other Asian	0.28%	0.27%	
Black African	0.42%	0.52%	
Black Other	0.16%	0.24%	
Mixed	0.76%	0.76%	
Other ethnicities	0.19%	0.23%	

Table 3: Usually resident population by ethnic group, 2021. Source: Census 2021.

Racial Group - Country of Birth

The number of people living in the borough who were born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland has increased from 10,816 people (5.5%) in 2011 to 18,836 people (8.6%) in 2021. Of those 18,836 people living in the borough who were born outside of the United Kingdom and Ireland, 20% were born in Poland and 16% in Lithuania with a further 9% born in Bulgaria.

In Northern Ireland overall there has also been an increase from 81,500 people (4.5%) in 2011 to 124,300 people (6.5%) in 2021. Again, the majority of those living in Northern Ireland who were born outside of the UK and Ireland were born in Poland (18%) and Lithuania (8%). People born in India and Bulgaria also account for over 5% each.

Figure 3 presents the percentage of the population born outside the United Kingdom and Ireland by Local Government District in the 2011 and 2021 Censuses. At 8.6%, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon has the third highest percentage of the population born outside the UK and Ireland, after Belfast and Mid Ulster. However, the figures are pointing to an increasingly diverse population in all 11 LGD's on this indicator.

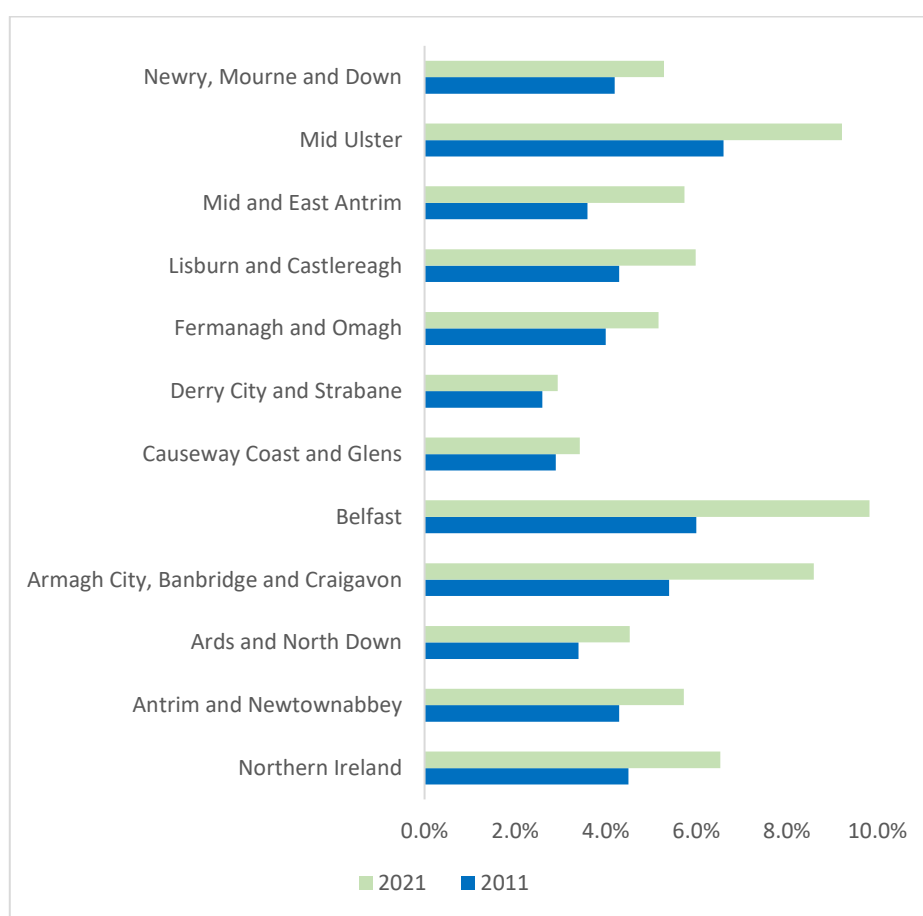


Figure 5: Percentage of population born outside UK and Ireland by LGD (2011 and 2021). Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021

Passports held

Census 2021 included a question on passports held which allowed the respondent to select multiple responses if they held multiple passports. The analysis of the passports question produces two sets of statistics. The first is how many people have a United Kingdom (UK), Ireland, etc., passport irrespective of whether they have a single passport or not. These statistics are entitled Passports held (passport based) and in this classification respondents can be in more than one group if they hold more than one passport.

However, a large number of people hold two or more passports (e.g. holding both UK and Ireland passports) and this leads to the second set of statistics entitled Passports held (person based). In this classification, respondents are included in one group only (e.g. “United Kingdom only”, “Ireland only”, “United Kingdom and Ireland only”).

The figures reported in this section refer to the Passports held (person based) statistics.

On Census day 2021, 172,143 people in the borough (78.7%) held a single passport and 11,333 people (5.2%) held more than one passport. Approximately 16.1% or 35,178 people did not hold a passport.

The number of people in the borough holding a United Kingdom passport solely or jointly was 112,411 people in 2021. This is a decrease from the 116,899 people recorded as holding a United Kingdom passport solely or jointly in 2011.

In the same period, the number of people in the borough holding an Ireland passport solely or jointly increased from 38,952 people in 2011 to 65,124 people in 2021, an increase of 67%. This is consistent with the increasing demand for Ireland passports since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in 2016.

In 2021 there were 16,344 people resident in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (or 7.5% of our population) who held a non-UK/Ireland passport only. This is an increase from 2011, when 8,214 people resident in the borough (or 4.1% of our population) held a non-UK/Ireland passport only and further evidence that the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon is becoming more diverse.

	2011	2021
All usual residents	199,693	218,654
United Kingdom only	56.8%	46.4%
Ireland only	17.9%	24.9%
United Kingdom and Ireland only	1.5%	4.7%
United Kingdom and other (not Ireland)	0.2%	0.3%
Ireland and other (not United Kingdom)	0.1%	0.2%
United Kingdom, Ireland and other	-	0.1%
Other only (not United Kingdom or Ireland)	4.1%	7.5%
No passport	19.4%	16.1%

Table 4: Passports held (person based) of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021.

Racial Group – Language

On census day 2021, 6.8% (14,376 people) of the population in the borough aged 3 and over had a main language other than English. This has increased from 2011 when English was not the main language of 4.3% (8,146 people). In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in 2021, the most prevalent main languages other than English were Polish (1.7%) and Lithuanian (1.2%). Polish and Lithuanian were also the most prevalent main language other than English in Northern Ireland overall.

Main Language	%
English	93.2%
Polish	1.7%
Lithuanian	1.2%
Portuguese	0.8%
Bulgarian	0.7%
All other languages	2.4%
All usual residents aged 3 and over	210,402

Table 5: Top 5 main languages of usual residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Census 2021.

As presented in Figure 4 below, every LGD has seen an increasing number of people living in their district who do not have English as their main language although there is some variation with the increase more significant in some areas. In Northern Ireland overall, in 2011, English was not the main language of 54,540 people aged 3 and over (3.1%). By 2021 this increased to 85,106 people (4.6%). Mid Ulster has continued to have the greatest proportion of people with English not as their main language, rising from 5.7% in 2011 to 8.2% in 2021. This is followed by Belfast (7%) and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (6.8%).

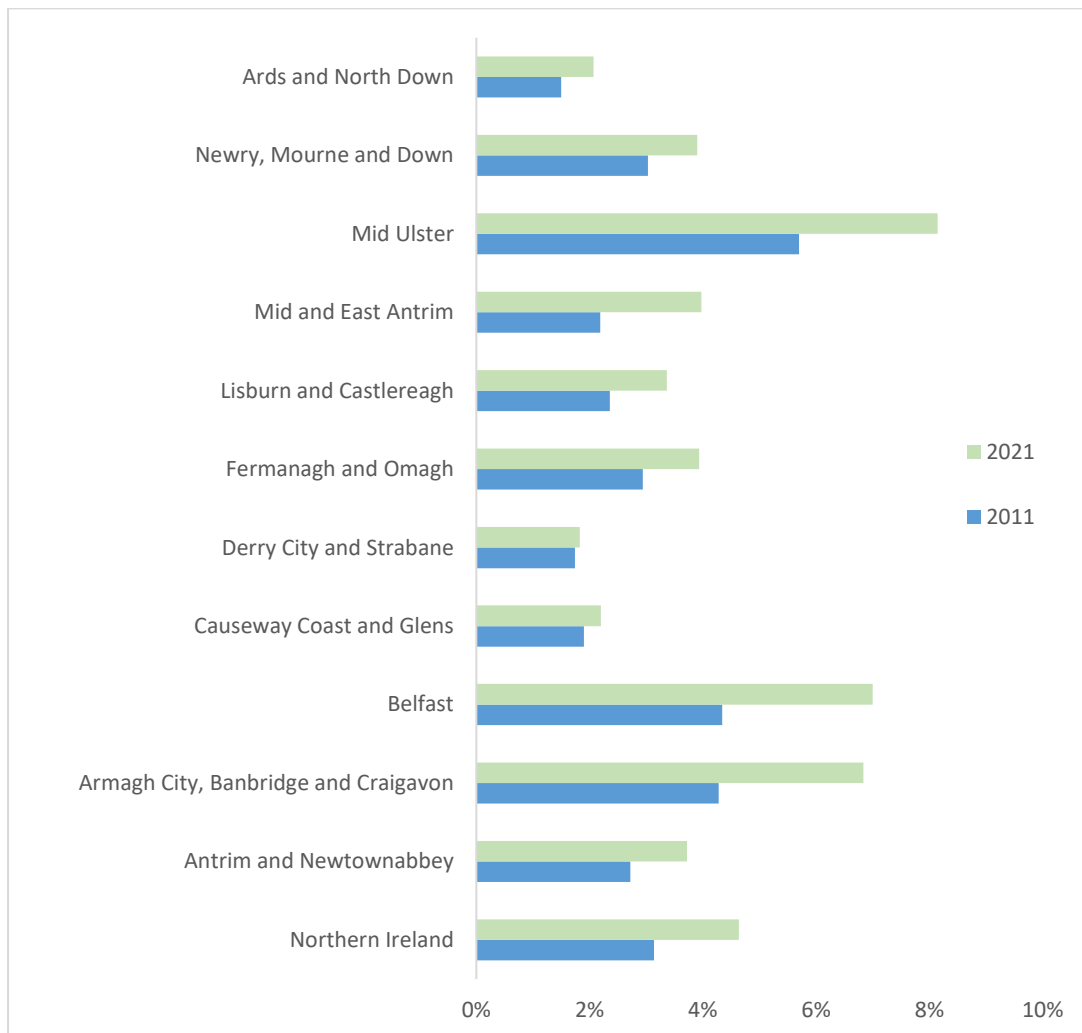


Figure 6: Percentage of population aged 3 and over with English not as their main language by LGD and Northern Ireland overall. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021

Age

When disaggregated by age, the population increase was greatest in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65+ increased by 7,363 or 26.7%. For those aged 75+, there was a 34% increase. The proportion of the population aged 15-29 fell by 6.4% between 2011 and 2021.

For those aged up to 39 years, the number of males outnumber the number of females, albeit only marginally. However, in the 40+ age group, there are more females than males.

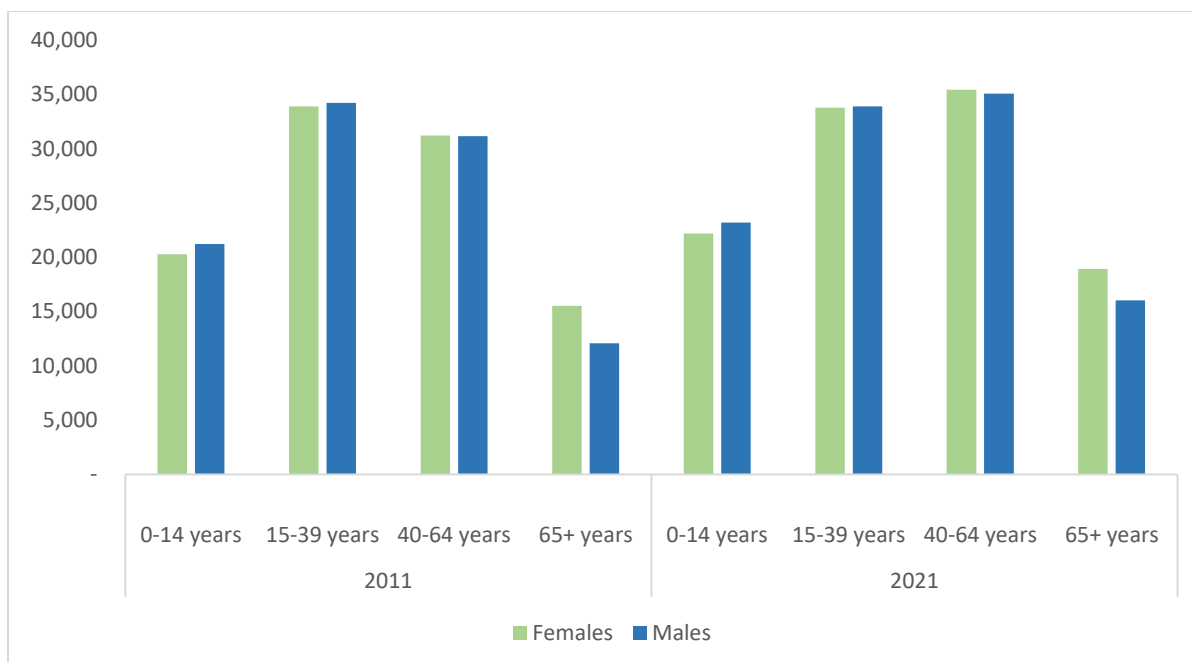


Figure 7: Usually, resident population by broad age band and gender in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021.

The projected population of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is expected to increase year on year up until 2043 (the latest year projections are available). The population at the end of June 2043 is projected to be 250,870. This is an increase of 33,638 people or 15.5% on 2020 mid-year population estimates. This is projected to be the largest increase in the number of people across all 11 council areas. The projected population increase in Northern Ireland between 2020 and 2043 is 93,685 which equates to an increase of approximately 4.9%.

The age profile of the borough is projected to change between 2020 and 2043 with an ageing population. It is projected that in 2033, the proportion of older people in the borough (those aged 65 and over) will be higher than the proportion of children (those aged 15 and under). The proportion of those aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 15.7% in 2020 to 22.1% in 2043. The proportion of those aged under 16 is projected to decrease from 22.5% in 2020 to 18.9% in 2043.

Age Group	2020	%	2033	%	2043	%
0 – 15 years	48,872	22.5%	46,148	19.4%	47,450	18.9%
16 – 24 years	21,132	9.7%	26,539	11.2%	24,385	9.7%
25 – 49 years	72,155	33.2%	74,541	31.3%	76,934	30.7%
50 – 64 years	40,906	18.8%	43,025	18.1%	46,569	18.6%
65 and over	34,167	15.7%	47,813	20.1%	55,532	22.1%
Total	217,232	100.0%	238,066	100.0%	250,870	100.0%

Table 6: Age profile of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2020, 2033 and 2043. Source: 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates and 2018 Based Population Projections, NISRA.

Marital Status

The 2021 Census gives information on marital status. Just under half (49.01%) of the population aged 16 and over in the borough were married, while just over a third (35.25%) were single (never married or never in a registered same-sex civil partnership).

Marital and Civil Partnership Status	Number	Percentage
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	60,075	35.25%

Married	83,523	49.01%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	307	0.18%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	5,833	3.42%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	10,253	6.02%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	10,420	6.11%
All usual residents aged 16 and over	170,411	100%

Table 7: Marital and Civil Partnership Status, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: 2021 Census (MS-A30 Marital and Civil partnership status), NISRA.

Sexual Orientation

The 2021 Census gives information on sexual orientation.

Sexual Identity	ABC Percentage	NI Percentage
Heterosexual/Straight	90.52%	90.04%
Gay/Lesbian	0.81%	1.17%
Bisexual	0.53%	0.75%
Other	0.13%	0.17%
Prefer not to say	4.86%	4.58%
Not Stated	3.15%	3.30%
Persons aged 16 and over	100%	100%

Table 8: Census 2021: MS-CO1: Sexual Orientation

Gender

The 2021 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49.52% (108,268) of usual residents were males and 50.48% (110,388) were females.

Disability

Limiting long term health problem or disability

On Census Day 2021, approximately 22% (48,726) of the population in the borough had a limiting long term health problem or disability. This has increased slightly from the 20% (39,861) who reported a limiting long term health problem or disability in Census 2011. All LGDs experienced an increase in the percentage of people who reported a long-term health problem or disability which limited day-to-day activities. NISRA report that these changes are in part a reflection of our ageing population.

	2011	2021
Antrim and Newtownabbey	19.0%	23.9%
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	20.0%	22.3%
Belfast	23.5%	26.7%
Causeway Coast and Glens	20.2%	25.6%
Derry and Strabane	23.0%	27.1%
Fermanagh and Omagh	20.8%	23.9%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	18.3%	21.7%
Mid and East Antrim	20.0%	25.1%
Mid Ulster	19.4%	21.2%

Newry, Mourne and Down	19.9%	22.9%
North Down and Ards	20.1%	25.3%
Northern Ireland	20.7%	24.3%

Table 9: Percentage of the population with a limiting long-term health problem or disability by LGD, 2011 & 2021. Source: Table CT0313NI, Census 2011 & Table MS-D02, Census 2021.

Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2023 there were 6,010 people or 18.1% of eligible population claiming Attendance Allowance in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 5.3% of population under 16yrs and 14.6% of those aged 65+yrs were in receipt of DLA.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) provides a non-contributory, non-means tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of severely disabled people who claim help with those costs before the age of 65.

Attendance Allowance (AA) provides a non-contributory, non-means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of severely disabled people who are aged 65 and over when they claim help with those costs.

[Benefits Statistics Summary Publication \(National Statistics\) - May 2023 | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/benefits-statistics-summary-publication-national-statistics-may-2023)

Dependants

Persons with a dependant are generally classified as persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; the care of a person with a disability; or the care of a dependant older person.

The 2011 Census showed that 36% or 27,827 households in the borough contained dependent children. Census 2021 results identified approximately 12% of Borough citizens aged over 5 years old provide unpaid care (which covers looking after, giving help or support to anyone because they have a long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age). Of the 24,741 residents aged 5+ providing unpaid care,

46% provide between 1-19 hours per week while

30% provide 50 or more hours per week.

Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2023, there were 8,140 people or 4.8% of the eligible population claiming Carer's Allowance in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Carer's Allowance (CA) is a non-contributory benefit for people:

- who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week
- who are not gainfully employed (i.e. not earning more than £110 per week after certain deductions)
- who are 16 and over
- who are not in full-time education

The severely disabled person must be getting either the highest or middle rate of Disability Living Allowance care component, or Attendance Allowance, or a Constant Attendance Allowance at the maximum rate under the War Pensions or Industrial Injuries Scheme.

Some claimants are entitled to receive Carers Allowance, because they satisfy the conditions listed above, but do not actually receive a payment. This is because they receive another benefit (e.g. Incapacity Benefit for people of working age, or State Pension for people of State Pension age) which equals or exceeds their weekly rate of Carers Allowance. The May 2023 NI statistics show that 65% of claimants are female and 35% male and 31% were of pension age.