

## Appendix 1 Equality Screening Form

### Policy Scoping

**Policy Title:**  **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Heritage Strategy** 

**Brief Description of Policy (please attach copy if available). Please state if it is a new, existing or amended policy.**

New

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Heritage Strategy is a new strategy for the Borough. Its aim is to have joined-up leadership for heritage, with communities, partners and the Council working together. It will mean sustainable delivery, supported by clear governance, adequate resources and more diversified funding.

The Heritage Strategy identifies a series of strategically aligned objectives and actions for taking forward in the Borough to support heritage in all its forms; Built, Natural and Cultural. It will mean better places, with buildings, parks and landscapes maintained, reused, and brought back to life. It will also mean wider participation, where volunteers are supported, young people are engaged, and a broader range of inclusive stories is shared.

The new plan contains 10 key objectives and 18 actions and is built on a diverse engagement process throughout its development.

### **Intended aims/outcomes. What is the policy trying to achieve?**

The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Heritage Strategy is the creation of a new Heritage Strategy for the Borough. The aim of the strategy is to have joined-up leadership for heritage, with communities, partners and the Council working together.

The Heritage Strategy identifies a series of strategically aligned objectives and actions to support heritage in all its forms; Built, Natural and Cultural. It will mean better places, with buildings, parks and landscapes maintained, reused, and brought back to life. It will also mean wider participation, where volunteers are supported, young people are engaged, and a broader range of inclusive stories is shared.

The Strategy details three themes:

- Establish & Advocate
- Protect & Invest
- Engage & Support

Alongside these themes, ten objectives have been identified to guide our strategic direction over the next decade. Their aim is to strengthen leadership and coordination, improve the care and use of buildings and landscapes and expand opportunities for communities and young people to connect with heritage.

Ten Objectives:

1. Establish collaborative governance, leadership and partnership structures to embed heritage as a priority across the Borough
2. Enhance the sustainability of local heritage by celebrating new and existing contributions and providing recognition and networks
3. Advocate and prioritise heritage across local, regional and national bodies
4. Promote the Borough's identity to support heritage-led regeneration and attract investment
5. Build a strong evidence base by auditing and mapping our heritage, giving us the tools to make informed decisions and unlock investment
6. Champion collaborative action to ensure our built, natural and cultural heritage is revitalised and resilient for the future
7. Identify, protect and enhance opportunities for growth and development of key designated sites within the Borough
8. Create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with our heritage.
9. Increase participation by expanding volunteering and by supporting informal and formal education opportunities
10. Help and support communities to access the resources they need to explore their heritage

Informed by these objectives, a set of actions has been developed to respond directly to our communities' priorities, i.e. stronger leadership, visible investment in places and more inclusive participation. A mid-point review in 2031 will track progress, refresh evidence and shape the next phase of delivery through to 2036.

The Heritage Strategy is made up of nine chapters:

Chapter 1, introduces the heritage of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, The Place, The People and support of the Heritage Places Strategic The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Chapter 2, provides an overview of heritage in the borough in its various forms; Built, Natural and Cultural – heritage both tangible and intangible.

Chapter 3, introduces a compendium of heritage institutions within the Borough, those who play a vital role in the education, tourism and community life, connecting both local and global heritage.

Chapter 4, an overview of the numerous designated heritage assets, including individual buildings, monuments and green spaces, as well as areas that have collective heritage value.

Chapter 5, highlights the heritage strengths of the Borough; the potential, opportunity and grass roots energy, alongside the challenges of collaboration, fiscal, performance, environment and disconnect with community.

Chapter 6, aligns a wide range of policies and strategies at local, regional and national level which support and influenced heritage in the Borough. These frameworks highlight how heritage connects to our three strategic themes.

Chapter 7, focuses on how we approached engagement with the community, stakeholders, how we engaged with people to gain feedback to inform this strategy. It also shares an overview of what they told us.

Chapter 8, this chapter looks to the future, setting out the vision for 2036, along with the themes that will guide how heritage in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough can flourish over the next decade and beyond.

Chapter 9, shares the action plan that translates the themes and objectives into practical steps, over 2029-2036. It also highlights the importance of partnership for the delivery of the strategy, and details on the evaluation framework.

## **Policy Framework**

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to The Council to amend the policy?

The development of this strategy has been supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund's Heritage Places strategic initiative. This Heritage Strategy is the first output of this new approach and provides a strong foundation for future action.

In October 2023, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was announced as one of the first nine of up to 20 places across the UK to be designated a Heritage Place by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Heritage Places is part of the Heritage Fund's ten-year strategy, Heritage 2033, which aims to make heritage integral to local life - making better places to live, work and visit. This designation is a real opportunity to take a long-term strategic, heritage-led approach to placemaking in order to boost pride and make stronger connections across whole places rather than individual projects. It invites partnership and collaboration between local communities, key stakeholders and Council.

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the policy?  
If so, please outline.**

All Section 75 groups should benefit from the implementation of the Heritage Strategy. The draft strategy has engaged Section 75 groups in its development, and we will hold further engagement workshops during the public consultation stage.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy (if The Council decision, please state). Who is responsible for implementing the policy?**

<b>Who initiated or wrote the policy?</b>	This strategy has been created collaboratively through the Heritage Places Project Team which is made up of representatives from ABC Council. Starling Start and Arris Heritage Consulting were appointed by ABC Council to develop, engage and write the strategy.
<b>Who is responsible for implementation?</b>	The Heritage Strategy is for the entire ABC Borough, it will be implemented through strong partnership with the community, key stakeholders along with the Council.

**Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?**

The Heritage Strategy is dependent on buy in, commitment and resources of all potential partners and strategic and community partners, along with the Council, who will be required to lead the delivery of the strategy.

## Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (Tick all that apply)

Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Customers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Statutory Bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community or Voluntary Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Private sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	Residents; Businesses; other persons interested in the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the area; Business Partnership Alliance; Elected Members;

**Are there any other policies with a bearing on this policy? If so, please identify them and how they impact on this policy.**

*Click or tap here to enter text.*

### Available Evidence

The Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories. For up to date [S75 Borough Statistics](#)

The evidence gathered between August 2024 and October 2025 from the following engagement methods/sessions was considered to develop the Heritage Strategy, and a total of **7781** people (which included Section 75 groups) have been consulted:

- Online Surveys (217 responses),
- Drop-ins (285 conversation across 7 DEAs/PCSP Age Friendly Conference)
- 1-2-1 Meetings (72 conversations)
- Stakeholder Workshops (132 participants across 20 workshops)
- Schools Programme (36 Schools – Primary, Secondary, Further Education)
- Events (21)

Section 75 category	Evidence																		
Religious belief	<p><b>Religious Belief</b>  43.8% of residents in the borough on Census Day 2021 belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 46.7% belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. A further 1.2% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions while 8.2% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="409 534 1378 893"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="409 534 822 635">Religion or Religion Brought Up In</th><th data-bbox="822 534 1092 635">Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</th><th data-bbox="1092 534 1378 635">%</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="409 635 822 676">Catholic</td><td data-bbox="822 635 1092 676">95,868</td><td data-bbox="1092 635 1378 676">43.8%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="409 676 822 754">Protestant and Other Christian</td><td data-bbox="822 676 1092 754">102,063</td><td data-bbox="1092 676 1378 754">46.7%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="409 754 822 795">Other</td><td data-bbox="822 754 1092 795">2,697</td><td data-bbox="1092 754 1378 795">1.2%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="409 795 822 835">None</td><td data-bbox="822 795 1092 835">18,028</td><td data-bbox="1092 795 1378 835">8.2%</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="409 835 822 893"><b>Total</b></td><td data-bbox="822 835 1092 893"><b>218,656</b></td><td data-bbox="1092 835 1378 893"><b>100.0%</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 1: Religion or religion brought up in of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Religion or Religion Brought Up In – MS-B23, Census 2021, NISRA.</i></p>	Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	%	Catholic	95,868	43.8%	Protestant and Other Christian	102,063	46.7%	Other	2,697	1.2%	None	18,028	8.2%	<b>Total</b>	<b>218,656</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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Political opinion	<p><b>Political Opinion</b>  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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) – 13</li> <li>• Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) – 6</li> <li>• Sinn Fein – 15</li> <li>• Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) – 1</li> <li>• Alliance – 4</li> <li>• Independent – 1</li> <li>• Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) - 1</li> </ul> <p>A total of 87,684 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 155,625 giving a turnout of 56.34%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the borough.</p> <p>The ABC elected members/DEA representatives were invited to give ideas and feedback on the Heritage Strategy on two separate occasions to date during the development stage.</p>																		
Racial group	<p><b>Racial group</b></p> <p><b>Ethnicity</b>  Results from the 2021 Census showed that 96.7% of the usually resident population of the borough were white and 3.3% were from minority ethnic</p>																		

Ethnicity	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	%
White	211,429	96.69%
Irish Traveller	534	0.24%
Roma	205	0.09%
Indian	617	0.28%
Chinese	683	0.31%
Filipino	406	0.19%
Pakistani	278	0.13%
Arab	116	0.05%
Other Asian	581	0.27%
Black African	1,132	0.52%
Black Other	519	0.24%
Mixed	1,652	0.76%
Other ethnicities	506	0.23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,658</b>	<b>100%</b>

groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (1,652 individuals), Black African (1,132 individuals) and Chinese (683 individuals).

*Table 2: Ethnic group of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table: MS-B01 Ethnic Group, Census 2021, NISRA.*

### Country of Birth

Results from the 2021 Census show that 85.5% of residents in the borough were born in Northern Ireland. The borough had 8.6% of residents, or 18,836 individuals, who were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.

Country of Birth	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	%
Northern Ireland	186,924	85.49%
England	7,003	3.20%
Scotland	1,419	0.65%
Wales	332	0.15%
Republic of Ireland	4,142	1.89%
Other EU countries	13,490	6.17%
Other non-EU countries	555	0.25%
Africa	1,114	0.51%
Middle East and Asia	2,520	1.15%
North America, Central America and Caribbean	622	0.28%
South America	246	0.11%
Antarctica, Oceania and Other	289	0.13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,656</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 3: Country of birth of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-A16 Country of Birth, Census 2021, NISRA.*

### Main Language

Results from Census 2021 show that 6.8% of residents in the borough aged 3+ years (14,376 individuals) spoke a language other than English as their main language. 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%).

Main Language	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	%
English	196,026	93.17%
Polish	3,551	1.69%
Lithuanian	2,611	1.24%
Irish	429	0.20%
Romanian	768	0.37%
Portuguese	1,777	0.84%
Arabic	234	0.11%
Bulgarian	1,469	0.70%
Chinese (not otherwise specified)	183	0.09%
Slovak	375	0.18%
Hungarian	357	0.17%
Spanish	116	0.06%
Latvian	468	0.22%
Russian	322	0.15%
Tetun	269	0.13%
Other languages	1,447	0.69%
<b>Total (Aged 3+)</b>	<b>210,402</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 4: Main language of residents aged 3+ in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-B12 Main Language, Census 2021, NISRA.*

### Age

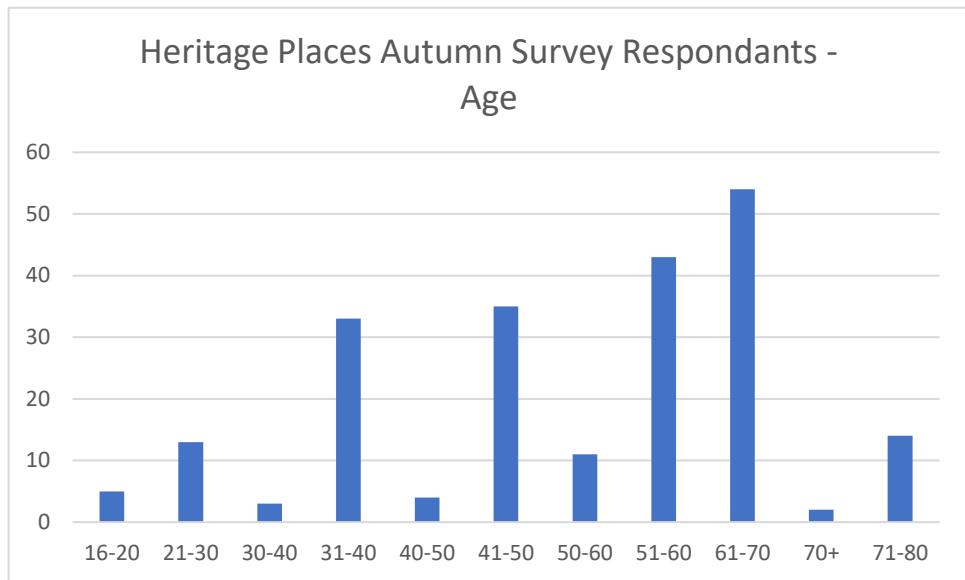
#### Age

The population of the borough was estimated to be 218,656 on Census Day 2021, the profile of which is shown below.

Age Group	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	%
0 – 15 years	48,243	22.06%
16 – 24 years	21,774	9.96%
25 – 49 years	72,023	32.94%
50 – 64 years	41,626	19.04%
65 and over	34,990	16.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,656</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Table 5: Age profile of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census Day 2021. Source: Table MS-A06 Age Structure, Census 2021*

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.



The majority of survey respondents were in the 61–70 years age bracket, followed closely by 51–60 years.

A combination of 90.32% of the survey respondents were aged 30+ years. This highlights a lack of engagement by children and young people via the survey.

This was recognised during the engagement phase and separate activities for children and young people were delivered: -

- Schools programme with 32 Schools (Primary & Secondary)
- Traditional Play activities

To further engage with persons with the Age Friendly category we attended PCSP Age Friendly event and arranged an event as part of Age Friendly Month (Oct 2025).

Marital status	<b>Marital Status</b>		
	<b>Marital and Civil Partnership Status</b>	<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	<b>%</b>
	All usual residents aged 16 and over	170,411	100.0%

Single (never married or never registered civil partnership)	60,075	35.3%
Married	83,523	49.0%
In a civil partnership	307	0.2%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	5,833	3.4%
Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	10,253	6.0%
Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership	10,420	6.1%

*Table 6: Marital and civil partnership status of residents aged 16+ in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Marital and Civil Partnership Status – Table MS-A30, Census 2021, NISRA.*

Sexual orientation	<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		
	The question on sexual orientation was new for the 2021 Census and was asked of all people aged 16 and over. However, while completing the census is a legal obligation, there was no statutory penalty for those people who failed to provide an answer to the question on sexual orientation. Just 1.5% of the population aged 16 and over in the borough identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+) while 90.5% identified as straight or heterosexual and 8% did not provide an answer to the question.		
		<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>	
		<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
	All usual residents aged 16 and over	170,413	100.0%
	<b>Straight or heterosexual</b>	<b>154,259</b>	<b>90.5%</b>
	<b>Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
	Gay or lesbian	1,378	0.8%
	Bisexual	901	0.5%
	Other sexual orientation	218	0.1%
	<b>No sexual orientation stated</b>	<b>13,657</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
	Prefer not to say	8,290	4.9%
	Not stated	5,367	3.1%

*Table 7: Sexual Orientation of residents aged 16 and over in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2021. Source: Table MS-C01, Census 2021.*

Men and women generally	<b>Men and Women Generally</b> The 2021 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49.5% (108,268) of usual residents were male and 50.5% (110,388) were female.
Disability	<b>Disability</b> According to the 2021 Census, more than one in five people in the borough (22% or 48,726 individuals) had a limiting long-term health problem or disability.

Census 2021 results are disaggregated by broad age bands and the results show the prevalence of a limiting long-term health problem or disability is related to age<sup>1</sup>. Almost 57% of the population aged 65+ in the borough had a limiting long-term health problem or disability compared to 6% of those aged between 0-14.

	Population	With a limiting long term health problem or disability	Percentage
<b>0-14</b>	45,420	2,759	6.1%
<b>15-39</b>	67,700	7,367	10.9%
<b>40-64</b>	70,547	18,715	26.5%
<b>65+</b>	34,990	19,885	56.8%
<b>All ages</b>	<b>218,657</b>	<b>48,726</b>	<b>22.3%</b>

*Table 8: Limiting long-term health problem or disability by age band, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Table MS-D02, Census 2021.*

Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed that as of May 2025 there were:

- 3,250 or 6.7% of under 16 eligible population and 4,150 or 12% of pension age eligible population claiming Disability Living Allowance.
- 6,960 or 20.2% of 66+ population claiming Attendance Allowance.
- 22,540 Personal Independent Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).

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 can claim help with those costs before the age of 16. Claimants who were 65 or over at the time of introduction of PIP in NI (June 2016) and who were receiving a life-time award will continue to receive DLA, providing they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

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 of State Pension Age and over when they claim help with those costs. It can be awarded for a fixed or an indefinite period.

Personal Independent Payment (PIP) provides a non-contributory, non means-tested and tax-free contribution towards the disability-related extra costs of people aged over 16 who claim help with those costs. Claimants who were 65 or over at the time of introduction of PIP in NI (June 2016) and who were receiving a life time award continue to receive DLA, providing they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

<b>Dependants</b>	<b>Dependants</b> The 2021 Census showed that 32% or 27,192 households in the borough contained dependent children.
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<sup>1</sup> [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Health \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/nisra-statistics/nisra-statistics-by-topic/health-and-well-being/nisra-2021-main-statistics/nisra-2021-main-statistics-health-and-well-being-statistical-bulletin/)

	<p>Results from the 2021 Census also show that 12% of the borough's population aged 5 years old and over (or 24,741 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 46% provided 1 – 19 hours per week</li> <li>▪ 24% provided 20 – 49 hours per week</li> <li>▪ 30% provided 50+ hours per week.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2025, there were 8,410 people (4.8% of eligible population) claiming Carer's Allowance in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Carer's Allowance (CA) is a non-contributory benefit for people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week</li> <li>• who are not gainfully employed (i.e. not earning more than £196 per week after certain deductions)</li> <li>• who are not subject to immigration control</li> <li>• who are not in full-time education</li> <li>• are aged 16 and over</li> </ul> <p>The severely disabled person must be getting either the highest or middle rate of Disability Living Allowance care component, or the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment, or Attendance Allowance, or a Constant Attendance Allowance at the maximum rate under the War Pensions or Industrial Injuries Scheme.</p> <p>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. Where the overlapping benefit paid is less than the weekly rate of CA, only the amount of CA which exceeds the amount of the overlapping benefit is paid. Carers who are on low income and entitled to Carer's Allowance (whether in payment or not) may receive extra money with their Income.</p>
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## **Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information gathered above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this particular policy/decision?

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Needs, experiences and priorities</b>
Religious belief	No information available
Political opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was strong support for promoting a shared history that embraces diverse traditions, helping to</li> </ul>

	<p>foster understanding, inclusion, and healing within the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants stressed the need to address fragmentation and ensure rural, urban, and isolated areas are connected physically and through shared identity.</li> <li>Participants also agreed that heritage must reflect the full diversity of the borough, from Orange traditions to Irish language, from farming heritage to literary legends. People want to see <b>everyone</b> in the story.</li> </ul>
Racial group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement showed that Heritage can be mixed and varied. Many of the families we spoke to were multi-national and heritage cannot be inclusive to one community. Heritage must be inclusive of all communities within our borough.</li> <li>They emphasised that heritage can be inclusive when it reflects all cultures, and that all forms of heritage deserve respect.</li> <li>One delegate highlighted the integration of Polish and Northern Irish traditions, noting the warmth of community connections while also stressing the need for greater respect and education to ensure heritage is truly encompassing.</li> </ul>
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants highlighted the importance of intergenerational learning and respect as a core aspect of heritage.</li> <li>They emphasised the need to educate younger generations about past sacrifices, to encourage respect for older people, and to pass on traditions such as family trees, manners, and social values. Intergenerational understanding was seen as vital for strengthening community ties and ensuring continuity of shared values</li> <li>Young people are often missing, with a gap in meaningful engagement for teens and young adults.</li> <li>Survey respondents highlighted the importance of enhancing heritage education in schools, ensuring that younger generations develop a deeper understanding of their local history and traditions.</li> <li>Communities want children and young adults actively involved, as learners, creators, and cultural leaders</li> </ul>
Marital status	No information available
Sexual orientation	No information available
Men and women generally	No information available
Disability	No information available
Dependants	No information available

## Screening Questions

**1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?**

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief		No negative impact
Political opinion	There are actions proposed within the Heritage Strategy Action Plan to deliver community led programmes, events, activities and classes for people of all political opinion.	
Racial group	There are actions proposed within the Heritage Strategy Action Plan to deliver community led programmes, events, activities and classes for people of all backgrounds.	
Age	There are actions proposed within the Heritage Strategy Action Plan to deliver community led programmes, events, activities and classes for people of all ages.	
Marital status		No negative impact
Sexual orientation		No negative impact
Men and women generally		No negative impact
Disability		No negative impact
Dependants		No negative impact

**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?**

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	Many of the proposed actions in the Heritage	
Political opinion		

Racial group	Strategy advocate for the co-design and for community involvement, e.g. the need for stronger partnership with the community, stakeholders and council working together; for community led programmes and provide opportunity for people to meet and work together.	
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

**3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?**

Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	The effective implementation of the Heritage Strategy will deliver outcomes for all members of the local community, visitors and partners regardless of religious belief.	Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>
Political opinion	The effective implementation of the Heritage Strategy will deliver outcomes for all members of the local community, visitors and partners regardless of political opinion.	Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>
Racial group	The effective implementation of the Heritage Strategy will deliver outcomes for all members of the local community, visitors and partners regardless of racial group	Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/>

**4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	Opportunities for the collaboration and exploration of heritage for all	

	groups, through networks and cocreated programmes.	
Political opinion	Opportunities for the collaboration and exploration of heritage for all groups, through networks and cocreated programmes.	
Racial group	Opportunities for the collaboration and exploration of heritage for all groups, through networks and co-created programmes.	

### **Multiple Identity**

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people). Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

No impact anticipated

### **Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

Is there an opportunity for the policy to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Yes, the Heritage Strategy will develop a partnership involving representatives from a cross section of organisations to inform how the outcomes and actions contained within the strategy can promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as they are designed.

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Yes  No

Please explain

Yes, the Heritage Strategy will develop a partnership involving representatives from a cross section of organisations to inform how the outcomes and actions contained within the strategy can promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as they are designed

## **Screening Decision**

### **A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY**

Please identify reasons for this below

N/A

### **B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED**

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated, or an alternative policy introduced. If so, an EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

It is recommended the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Heritage Plan not be subject to an EQIA. The Heritage Strategy has been developed following an extensive engagement and research phase. This included online surveys, engagement with young people and older people, live engagement exercises, and engagement with local community groups, key stakeholders and partners. Desktop research of the available evidence from NISRA and Statutory Partners was compiled to support the development of the Heritage Strategy. Common themes identified were:

- Promoting a shared history, where “everyone is in the story”
- Heritage cannot be inclusive to one community, it must be of all communities in our borough
- Intergenerational learning should be a core aspect of heritage
- Younger generations need to develop a deeper understanding of their local history and traditions.

These are reflected in the actions in the strategy, and the strategy commits to the development of a partnership to engage in ongoing dialogue with S75 groups to ensure that their needs are addressed in its implementation.

### **C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED**

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

N/A

### **Timetabling and Prioritising**

**If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment**, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3 with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

<b>Policy Criterion</b>	<b>Rating (1-3)</b>
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the Council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

Yes  If yes give details *Click or tap here to enter text.*

No

### **Monitoring**

Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive or adverse).

Further information on monitoring is available in the Equality Commission's guidance on monitoring ([www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org)).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

It is the intention of this Heritage Strategy to implement a Local-level framework over the entire lifecycle of the strategy and not just at the end. A mid-point review in 2031 will track progress, refresh evidence and shape the next phase of delivery through to 2036. As delivery milestones become more specific, progress on achieving the objectives will be reported on, annually.

### **Approval and Authorisation**

A copy of the screening form for each policy screened should be signed off by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The screening recommendation should be reported to the relevant Committee/The Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

<b>Screened by</b>	<b>Position/Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Sarah Cargill	Regeneration Project Officer	24/11/2025
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Brian Johnston	Head of Tourism, Arts & Culture	26/11/2025

**Please forward a copy of the completed policy and form to:**

**[Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)**

**who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.**

**The above officer is also responsible for issuing reports on a quarterly basis on those policies “screened out for EQIA”. This allows stakeholders who disagree with this recommendation to submit their views. In the event of any stakeholder disagreeing with the decision to screen out any policy, the screening exercise will be reviewed.**

## Appendix 2 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.**

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Heritage Strategy

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

Developing a  Policy  Strategy  Plan/Procedure  Activity

Adopting a  Policy  Strategy  Plan/Procedure  Activity

Implementing a  Policy  Strategy  Plan/Procedure  Activity

Revising a  Policy  Strategy  Plan/Procedure  Activity

Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

**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**

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Heritage Strategy

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

The Strategy details three themes:

- Establish & Advocate
- Protect & Invest

## - Engage & Support

Alongside these themes, ten objectives have been identified to guide our strategic direction over the next decade. Their aim is to strengthen leadership and coordination, improve the care and use of buildings and landscapes and expand opportunities for communities and young people to connect with heritage.

### Ten Objectives:

1. Establish collaborative governance, leadership and partnership structures to embed heritage as a priority across the Borough
2. Enhance the sustainability of local heritage by celebrating new and existing contributions and providing recognition and networks
3. Advocate and prioritise heritage across local, regional and national bodies
4. Promote the Borough's identity to support heritage-led regeneration and attract investment
5. Build a strong evidence base by auditing and mapping our heritage, giving us the tools to make informed decisions and unlock investment
6. Champion collaborative action to ensure our built, natural and cultural heritage is revitalised and resilient for the future
7. Identify, protect and enhance opportunities for growth and development of key designated sites within the Borough
8. Create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with our heritage.
9. Increase participation by expanding volunteering and by supporting informal and formal education opportunities
10. Help and support communities to access the resources they need to explore their heritage

Informed by these objectives, a set of actions has been developed to respond directly to our communities' priorities, i.e. stronger leadership, visible investment in places and more inclusive participation. A mid-point review in 2031 will track progress, refresh evidence and shape the next phase of delivery through to 2036.

### **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**

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'

N/A

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

N/A

## **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.**

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is 51.1% urban, 48.9% non-urban, the Heritage Strategy advocates an approach that seeks to include, support and make visible the smaller towns, villages and rural places that feel forgotten. This approach seeks to protect the rural landscape but also to serve the people in rural areas to access support and activities to ensure that they are included in the Borough's story.

The strategy will impact positively on people in rural areas who visit, shop, and live in the Borough. The Heritage Strategy offers many actions to deliver community led programmes, events, activities and classes for people across the entire Borough, including those from rural areas.

**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 actions contained within the Heritage Strategy will be beneficial to both urban and rural dwellers.

**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 type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input 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)	

*Click or tap here to enter text.*

**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.**

N/A

### **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**

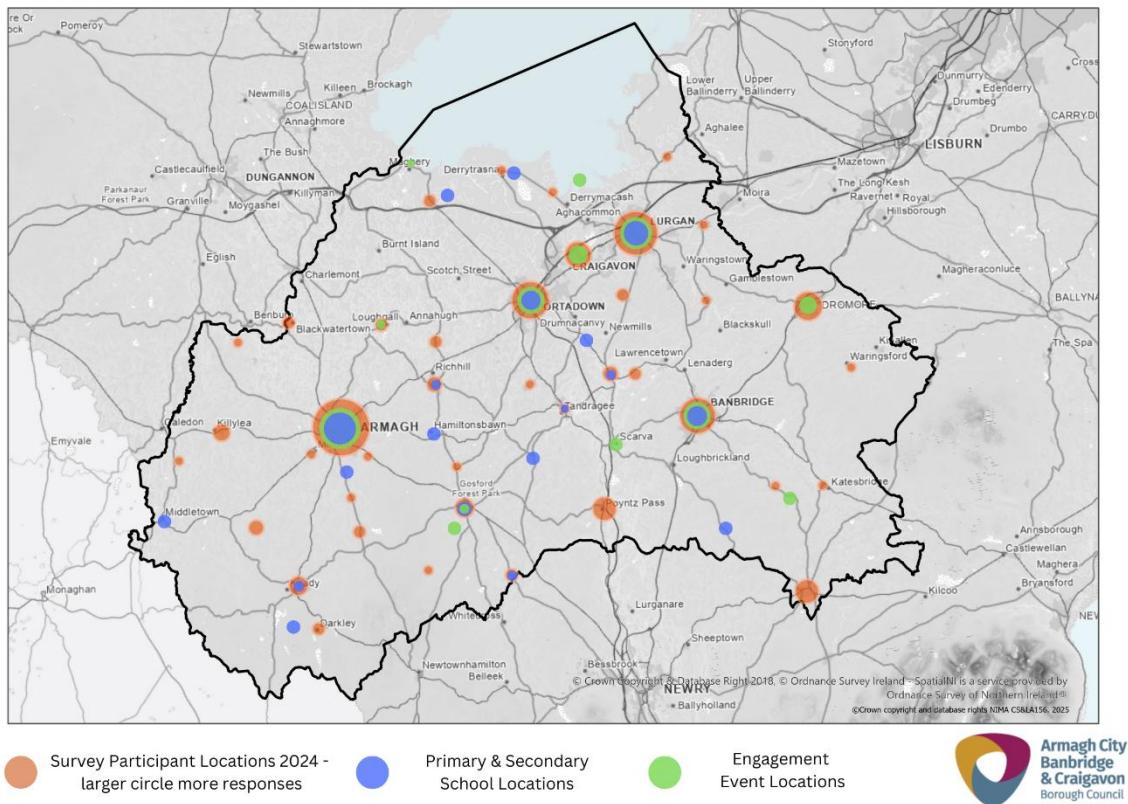
**If response is No go to 3E**

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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.**

- A Borough-wide online survey that gathered 217 responses, many of which came from rural settlements and locations. The map below shows the locations from each survey response



- Engagement events held in person during August 2024 and October 2025 involving a number of rural dwellers.
- A school's programme which engaged with 1440 children across 36 schools, some of which were in rural locations throughout the Borough.

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

Visibility, support and inclusion in the Borough's Heritage Story.

**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?**

N/A

## **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.**

Rural places feel forgotten. Smaller towns and villages want visibility, support, and inclusion in the Borough's story. Everyday stories matter, from field names to family recipes, people want 'ordinary' heritage to be celebrated.

## **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 actions identified in the Heritage Strategy have been informed by thorough research and extensive engagement with the community, key stakeholders, Section 75 groups with the goal of bringing tangible and effective changes in the Borough to support heritage in all its forms; Built, Natural and Cultural. It will mean better places, with buildings, parks and landscapes maintained, reused, and brought back to life. It will also mean wider participation, where volunteers are supported, young people are engaged, and a broader range of inclusive stories is shared.

**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.**

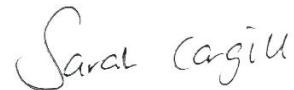
I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained, and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:  Sarah Cargill

Position:  Regeneration Project Officer

Department / Directorate:  Tourism, Arts & Culture

Signature:



Date: 26/11/2025

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:  Brian Johnston

Position:  Head of Tourism, Arts & Culture

Department / Directorate:  Tourism, Arts & Culture

Signature:



Date: 27/11/2025