

## 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 and Craigavon Borough 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

The Banbridge Town Dressing Project is part of the Banbridge Benefits Realisation Project which was aimed at supporting the town as it entered into a new era in its development and particularly given the opening of the multi-million fund Game of Thrones Studio Tour.

The Banbridge Dressing Project aims to install 40 no. 6m and 8m Flagpoles. It is believed once installed the flag poles will greatly enhance the gateways and approaches to the town centre, and will allow the council to showcasing Banbridge at particular periods in the year through banners. The locations have been specifically selected because of their prominence.

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

Developing a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Adopting a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Implementing a	Policy	x	Strategy		Plan	
Revising a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	

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

Banbridge Town Dressing Project.

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

The Banbridge Town Dressing Project is part of the Banbridge Benefits Realisation Project which was aimed at supporting the town as it entered into a new era in its development and particularly given the opening of the multi-million fund Game of Thrones Studio Tour.

The dressing project aims to install 40 no. 6m and 8m Flagpoles. It is believed once installed the flag poles will greatly enhance the gateways and approaches to the town centre, and will allow the council

to showcase Banbridge at particular periods in the year through banners. The locations have been specifically selected because of their prominence. As a result of the planning permission process 2 sites were removed from the scheme.

The Project outcomes will:

- Impact positively on the streetscape of Banbridge

**The Project fits with the Corporate Priority under Place Directorate**

*‘Support business development and business growth’.*

*‘Increase the tourism, hospitality and entertainment economy’.*

*Tackle physical and social deprivation: PR1*

*Secure investment in infrastructure and connectivity: PR2*

*Ensure our neighbourhoods are more attractive, healthier, safer and cleaner: PR3*

**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.	x

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

Project is only for Banbridge which is urban however visitors to Banbridge from rural areas will benefit.

**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 the response is No go to section 2E

**2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on**

**people in rural areas.**

This Project will benefit people within Banbridge through the enhancement of the physical environment within this settlement.

The Project will:

- Impact positively on the streetscape of Banbridge

The Project will enhance the physical appearance of the streetscape and this will benefit all users by sharing information

**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.**

n/a

**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	
Rural Tourism	
Rural Housing	
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	
Education or Training in Rural Areas	
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	
Poverty in Rural Areas	
Deprivation in Rural Areas	
Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Rural Development	
Agri-Environment	

Other (Please state)

**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 the response is No go to section 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		Published Statistics	
Consultation with Other Organisations		Research Papers	
Surveys or Questionnaires		Other Publications	

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below)

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

n/a

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

n/a

**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?**

This is an innovative Project which aims to encourage pride in the Banbridge area, even though it is urban based it will have a positive effect on the surrounding rural hinterland.

## 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.**

n/a

## 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 the response is No go to section 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.**

n/a

**If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 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.**

This is an innovative Project which aims to encourage pride in the Banbridge area, even though it is urban based it will have a positive effect on the surrounding rural hinterland.

## **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.

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Rosemary Hughes
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Regeneration Officer
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Tourism Arts Culture and Heritage
<b>Signature:</b>	Rosemary Hughes
<b>Date:</b>	18/11/22
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Sara McGeary
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Manager
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Tourism, Art Culture and Heritage
<b>Signature:</b>	Sara McGeary
<b>Date:</b>	18/11/22

## Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

**Policy Title: Banbridge Town Dressing Project**

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

The Banbridge Town Dressing Project is part of the Banbridge Benefits Realisation Project which was aimed at supporting the town as it entered into a new era in its development and particularly given the opening of the multi-million fund Game of Thrones Studio Tour.

The dressing project aims to install 40 no. 6m and 8m Flagpoles. It is believed once installed the flag poles will greatly enhance the gateways and approaches to the town centre, and will allow the council to showcase Banbridge at particular periods in the year through banners. The locations have been specifically selected because of their prominence. As a result of the planning permission process 2 sites were removed from the scheme.

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

As part of its ongoing commitment to urban regeneration, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council proposes to install 40 No. 6m and 8m Flagpoles which will enhance the gateways and approaches to the town to highlight particular periods in the year through banners.

**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 Council to amend the policy?

The policy is not in response to any statutory requirements or legal advice.

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

The policy will benefit people within all the section 75 categories through the enhancement of Banbridge's physical environment. The policy will provide improved information sharing and will enhance the physical appearance of the town for the benefit of the users.

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

Who initiated or wrote policy?	Who is responsible for implementation?
The policy was initiated by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Councils Tourism, Arts and Culture Department	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

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

Planning Permission – approvals gained however during the planning permission process a number of planning objections were made on the grounds of issue with noise and traffic disruption.

These concerns were taken on board and 2 sites were removed from the planning process. To address the concerns raised banners will be secured top and bottom in order to ensure any noise is kept to a minimum and DfI will be consulted as to the impact on traffic and their guidance has been used to inform the project on how to proceed.

While we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.

## **Main stakeholders in relation to the policy**

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, service users, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

**Staff:** Those members of Council staff who will be involved in the design and management of the project

**Service users:** All those who use or visit Banbridge, who conduct business in the area or have any interest in the long term well-being of the town and its hinterland.

**Other public sector organisations:** Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, government departments (including DfI) and other relevant agencies and bodies, both public and private sector.

**Voluntary/community/trade unions:** Staff trade unions and associations. Representative groups engaged during consultation and beyond.

**Other, please specify:** Private sector companies engaged during the design and delivery of the scheme include; RPS, NIE Networks, NI Water, British Telecommunications (BT), Phoenix Natural Gas, Openeir, and transport providers such as Translink

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

Several key statutory and non-statutory documents provide the backcloth for this project. The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) is the strategic planning framework for Northern Ireland as a whole. The RDS provides a holistic approach to regional development based on social, economic, transportation and environmental issues. The scheme and associated schemes are linked to a raft of government policies and strategies and include the following:

- NI Programme for Government
- NI Regional Economic Strategy 2035
- Shared Future Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland 2005
- Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework 2013
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council Corporate Strategies, Annual Reports and Business Plans



- Banbridge Town Centre Masterplan 2015
- Banbridge , Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015
- Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper 2018
- Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030
- Regeneration & Development Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council- Corporate Plan 2018-2023

### Available Evidence

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.

Section 75 category	Evidence
All section 75 categories	<p>On Census Day 2011, in Banbridge District Electoral Area there were 33,206 people living in 12,846 households, giving an average household size of 2.58. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% were aged under 16 years</li> <li>• 14.1% were aged 65 and over;</li> <li>• 37 years was the average (median) age of the population;</li> <li>• 49.3% of the usually resident population were male and 50.7% were female;</li> <li>• 99.2% were from the white (including Irish Traveller) ethnic group;</li> <li>• 36.4% belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 58% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion;</li> <li>• 58.7% indicated that they had a British national identity, 18.3% had an Irish national identity and 31.7% had a Northern Irish national identity*.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7.6% had some knowledge of Irish;</li> <li>• 7.5% had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots; and</li> <li>• 1.6% did not have English as their first language;</li> <li>• 20.2% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities;</li> <li>• 80.2% of people stated their general health was either good or very good;</li> <li>• 12.2% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others;</li> <li>• 70.8% of households were owner occupied and 25.71% were rented;</li> <li>• 32.8% of households were owned outright;</li> <li>• 10.8% of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years;</li> <li>• 8.1% were lone parent households with dependent children;</li> <li>• 16.0% of households did not have access to a car or van;</li> <li>• 22.7% had a degree or higher qualification;</li> <li>• 41.5% had no or low (Level 1*) qualifications;</li> <li>• 68.9% were economically active,</li> <li>• 31.1% were economically inactive;</li> <li>• 61.8% were in paid employment;</li> <li>• 4.2% were unemployed.</li> </ul>
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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?

Section 75 category	Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for those from both communities. While we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.

Political opinion	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for those from both communities. While we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.
Racial group	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for all.
Age	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for all.
Marital status	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for all.
Sexual orientation	The proposed redevelopments must help promote a safe and environment for those from LGBT communities.
Men and women generally	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for all.
Disability	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for all.
Dependants	The proposed scheme must help promote safe and welcoming environments for all.

### 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	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be	minor

	<p>afforded due regard. While we don't anticipate difficulties there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.</p>	
Political opinion	<p>Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard. While we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.</p>	minor
Racial group	<p>Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.</p>	none
Age	<p>Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.</p>	none
Marital status	<p>Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.</p>	none
Sexual orientation	<p>Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure</p>	none

	that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.	
Men and women generally	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.	none
Disability	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.	none
Dependents	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the town centre, which will be for the benefit of all communities. Future consultation will ensure that the needs of all Section 75 categories continue to be afforded due regard.	none

**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		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for different religious beliefs.
Political opinion		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for different political opinion.
Racial group		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for different racial groups.
Age		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for the elderly.
Marital status		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for different marital status.

Sexual orientation		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for different sexual orientation.
Men and women generally		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for men and women generally.
Disability		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for those with disability.
Dependents		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for those with and without dependents.

**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	Positive impacts are expected due to the enhanced and regenerated physical environment of shared public space in and around Banbridge. While we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.	minor
Political opinion	Positive impacts are expected due to the enhanced and regenerated physical environment of shared public space in and around Banbridge. While we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.	minor
Racial group	The policy will benefit all site users, within all the Section 75 groups. It is not expected that the scheme will have any negative impact on racial group.  Positive impacts are expected due to the enhanced and	none

	regenerated physical environment of shared public space in and around Banbridge.	
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**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		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
Political opinion		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
Racial group		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

**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.

The project will benefit all Section 75 groups within the equality categories, including those with multiple identities. The enhancement of the physical environment will improve the town providing future regeneration opportunities.
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**Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

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

no

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

No

### Screening Decision

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

Please identify reasons for this below

#### **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.

Not to be subject to an EQIA with mitigating measures/alternative policies.

The scheme aims to install 40 no. 6m and 8m Flagpoles. It is believed once installed the flag poles will greatly enhance the gateways and approaches to the town centre, and will allow the council to showcase Banbridge at particular periods in the year through banners. The locations have been specifically selected because of their prominence. As a result of the planning permission process 2 sites were removed from the scheme.

The scheme will benefit all Section 75 groups by enhancing and regenerating the physical environment and improving the general appearance leading to potential future regeneration



opportunities. However, while we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.

The following measures will mitigate any potential impact on equality and good relations:

1. While events are being advertised it is less likely that other flags will be flown
2. Similar flag poles have been erected in Armagh City but to date there have not been any issues.
3. The Council's Emerging Issues Working Group will address any potential difficulties if required.

#### Non Equality Issues

Planning objections on the grounds

Noise – The Banners secured top and bottom in order to ensure any noise is kept to a minimum

Traffic Disruption – DfI consulted as to the impact on traffic. Planning objections were taken into account and 2 sites were removed from the scheme.

### **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.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
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.

N/A

**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

The response to the implementation of this scheme will be monitored.

## 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/Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Rosemary Hughes	Regeneration Officer	22/11/22
Approved by	Position/Job title	Date
Sara McGeary	Manager	22/11/22

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

**[mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:mary.hanna@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.**