

Appendix 2 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Procedure for a Community Asset Transfer – disposing body and sponsoring body

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

Under Councils Acquisition and Disposal Policy for Land Property under the Options for disposal an agreed method of disposal is a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The purpose of a CAT is to enable the transfer of surplus or under-used land and buildings from the public sector to community ownership and management - helping organisations to develop those assets and deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits which may not otherwise be achieved.

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

The purpose of the procedure is to clearly set out how Council will progress a disposal through a CAT and what steps it will take and when reports will be taken to Committee

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 procedure has been developed based on the guidance of Land Property Services Strategic Asset Management Unit Disposal of Public Sector Property in Northern Ireland v8 June 2025

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

Transferring assets into community ownership is likely to have a positive impact on a range of section 75 groups both directly and indirectly as the organisations develop those assets and deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits.

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

Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Darren Heasty – Strategic Asset & Investment Manager
Who is responsible for implementation?	The Council

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

No

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

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

- Staff
- Customers
- Other Statutory Bodies
- Community or Voluntary Sector
- Private sector
- Other *Click or tap here to enter text.*

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

Acquisition and Disposal Policy for Land Property is the grounding policy that allows this procedure to be commenced.

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](#)

Section 75 category	Evidence
Religious belief	<p>95,868 (43.8%) of residents in the borough on Census Day 2021 belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 102,063 (46.7%) belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. A further 2,697 (1.2%) belonged to or had been brought up in other religions while 18,028 (8.2%) neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion.</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>
Political opinion	<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> <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>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</p>
Racial group	<p>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 groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (1,652 individuals), Black African (1,132 individuals) and Chinese (683 individuals).</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>

Age	<p>The population of the borough was estimated to be 218,656 on Census Day 2021, the profile of which is shown below</p> <p>0-15 yrs 48,243 (22%) 16-24 yrs 21,774 (10%) 25-49 yrs 72,023 (33%) 50-64 yrs 41,626 (19%)</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>
Marital status	<p>The 2021 Census provides information on the marital and civil partnership status of those aged 16 and over. Almost half of residents aged 16+ in the borough were married 83,523 (49.0%), 60,075 (35%) single, 307 (0.2%) in a civil partnership, 5,833 (3.4%) separated but still legally married or in a civil partnership, 10,253 (6%) divorced or formerly in a civil partnership now legally dissolved, 10,420 (6%) widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership.</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>
Sexual orientation	<p>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.</p> <p>There were 170,413 residents aged over 16yrs and 154,259 (90.5%) identified as straight or heterosexual, 2,497 (1.5%) identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other and 13,657 (8%) did not state sexual orientation.</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>
Men and women generally	<p>The 2021 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (108,268) 49.5% of usual residents were male and (110,388) 50.5% were female.</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>
Disability	<p>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.</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>0-14 yrs 2,759 (6%) 15-39 yrs 7,367 (11%) 40-64 yrs 18,715 (26.5%) 65+ yrs 19,885 (56.8%)</p> <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>
Dependants	<p>The 2021 Census showed that 32% or 27,192 households in the borough contained dependent children.</p> <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"> • 46% provided 1 – 19 hours per week • 24% provided 20 – 49 hours per week • 30% provided 50+ hours per week. <p><i>Census 2021, NISRA</i></p>

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	<p>In order for an asset to transfer to a third sector organisation, it must demonstrate in its application how its intended use links to the borough Community Plan and provide a benefit to the community and the wider public including but not limited to social and economic benefits.</p> <p>This is likely to have a positive impact on a range of section 75 groups</p>
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	
Disability	N/A
Dependants	N/A

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	Positive	Minor
Political opinion	Positive	Minor
Racial group	Positive	Minor
Age	Positive	Minor
Marital status	Positive	Minor
Sexual orientation	Positive	Minor
Men and women generally	Positive	Minor
Disability	Positive	Minor
Dependants	Positive	Minor

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		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Men and women generally		No
Disability		No
Dependants		No

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	Transferring assets into community ownership is likely to have a positive impact on a range of section 75 groups both directly and indirectly, promoting equality and good relations as the organisations develop those assets and deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits	Major <input type="checkbox"/>
Political opinion		Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Racial group		None <input type="checkbox"/>
		Major <input type="checkbox"/>
		Minor <input type="checkbox"/>
		None <input checked="" 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		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No

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.

It is likely a range of people within the community will benefit from this policy.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

N/A

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

Yes No

Please explain

Click or tap here to enter text.

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

The purpose of the procedure is to give a clear process for the disposal of a Council asset through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process and what steps are to be followed.

Transferring assets into community ownership is likely to have a positive impact on a range of section 75 groups both directly and indirectly, promoting equality and good relations as the organisations develop those assets and deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Policy 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.

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).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

It will be reviewed after pilot procedure and in line with changes that may be implemented by LPS SAMU.

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.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Darren Heasty	Strategic Asset and Investment Manager	01/10/2025
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Mark Halliday	Head of Estates and Asset Management	01/10/2025

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

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.

Procedure for the disposal of a Council asset via a Community Asset Transfer (CAT)

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

Procedure for Community Asset Transfer – disposing body and sponsoring body

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

The purpose of the procedure is to set out the process that will be followed when Council have decided to seek to dispose of an asset via a Community Asset Transfer as allowed for in its s Acquisition and Disposal policy

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'

Click or tap here to enter text.

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

This is a technical procedure that sets out the process to be followed for disposing of a Council asset via a CAT. It will not have an impact on the social and economic needs of people living in rural areas.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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 type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas | <input 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 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.

This is a technical procedure that sets out the process to be followed for disposing of a Council asset via a CAT. It will not have an impact on the social and economic needs of people living in rural areas.

SECTION 3

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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

Yes No If response is No go to 3E

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

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

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

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 a technical procedure that sets out the process to be followed for disposing of a Council asset via a CAT. It will not have an impact on the social and economic needs of people living in rural areas.

SECTION 4

Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

This is a technical procedure that sets out the process to be followed for disposing of a Council asset via a CAT. It will not have an impact on the social and economic needs of people living in rural areas.

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:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

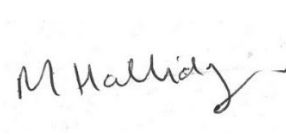
Signature: 

1. Date: 01/10/2025

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature: 

Date: 01/10/2025