

Appendix 1 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title:

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

The Tak£500+ Project is the Partnership's annual Participatory Budgeting (PB) grants programme. A PB pilot was first delivered in 2020/21 as an action within the Community Engagement Strategy. Following a learning report and PB Roundtable process, the Partnership committed to delivering PB annually and to exploring opportunities for mainstreaming the approach.

Further PB projects were delivered in 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2025/26. The 2026/27 Tak£500+ Project will be the fifth PB grants initiative delivered by the Community Planning Partnership and led by the council.

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

The project contributes to two outcomes in Connected, the community plan:

Connected Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.

Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.

One of the statistics used by the partnership to measure progress towards the Connected Community Outcome is the percentage of people who feel they have an influence in decisions taken in their neighbourhood. Latest figures show that only 19% of people in the borough feel that they have an influence, and this has been decreasing over time.

This action also builds upon the commitments set out in "Our Community Engagement Strategy, Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership June 2019, which sets out how the partners will achieve the following aims:

- To enhance our community engagement through agreed standards, defined roles and clear actions
- To maximise opportunities for people to be more involved and have a meaningful say in decisions which affect their lives

Participatory Budgeting is a process that directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending of a defined public budget. This project enables local groups—constituted

or non-constituted—to propose small projects (up to £1,000) that promote the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing: Give, Be Active, Connect, Keep Learning, Take Notice.

The community planning partnership has established a working group to take forward the PB project and the group has expressed the following Shared Purpose for the project:

- to empower all communities and support a sense of ownership for investment and decision-making
- to better meet needs, as defined by the local community
- to promote innovation, inclusion and community connections
- to promote the Take 5 public health message
- to strengthen partnership working
- to increase people's pride in place including connecting people and communities to heritage in all its forms.

Tak£500+ is the name the working group have selected for the PB project.

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?

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 placed a statutory duty on councils to act as a lead partner in a community planning process for their area. Community planning is “a process led by councils in conjunction with partners and communities to develop and implement a shared vision for their area, a long term vision which relates to all aspects of community life and which also involves working together to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people's lives”.

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 places a duty on community planning partners to take forward collaborative actions to realise the outcomes in the community plan.

Statutory Guidance for community planning states that community planning partnerships should: “*seek the views of the community, encourage them to express their views, and take their views into account in the community planning process.*”

Community is defined in its broadest sense and includes:

- our residents;
- our service users;
- voluntary body representatives whose activities benefit our district;
- our businesses; and
- other persons interested in the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the area.

Participatory Budgeting will help the community planning partnership to meet this duty, but there is no requirement for partnerships to implement or develop a specific Participatory Budgeting Project.

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

All Section 75 categories are expected to benefit from this PB Project

Through its Community Engagement Strategy, the Community Planning Partnership has adopted the Scottish Community Engagement Standards which include a standard on inclusion. These standards will be applied to the PB project.

The PB project will be open to children and young people from 8 years and above who will be able to apply for funding and/or be given a vote on projects.

In the previous PB project nearly a fifth of voters (19.8%) were aged between 8 and 15 years and 5.9% were aged 16-24 demonstrating the project's strong reach among young people. There is no upper age limit for voting or submitting an idea.

It is anticipated that up to 120 projects may be submitted. In previous years, targeted outreach to Section 75 groups has resulted in a diverse range of successful projects benefiting specific S75 groups, including projects for children, young people, older peoples' groups, men's sheds, women's groups, disability groups, carers and parents' groups.

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?	ABC Community Planning Partnership's PB Working Group has designed the PB process.
Who is responsible for implementation?	<p>Council, as the action lead for this project, has included the PB action within the Business Plan for the Community Planning, Policy and Research department.</p> <p>The Community Planning Strategic Partnership is responsible for the PB project through its Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee.</p> <p>A Participatory Budgeting Working Group has been formed to design and implement the process.</p>

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

The strategy is dependent on buy in and commitment of all community planning partners across the partnership.

To date partners have pledged a total of £25,000 for the PB Funding pool and it is anticipated that more partners will commit money to the process as in previous years.

The project will require an intensive promotion exercise to reach small groups from across the Borough. It will be required to draw on the reach of all our community planning partners

including our Community and Voluntary Sector Panel and Elected Members to encourage groups to take part.

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

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

The community, which is defined in its broadest sense in the community planning statutory guidance and includes:

- residents;
- service users;
- voluntary body representatives whose activities benefit our borough;
- businesses; and
- other persons interested in the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the area.

Council, elected members and CPSP and the Shared Leadership & Community Engagement Sub-Committee and PB working Group.

Members of the community planning partnership's PB Working Group include: Housing Executive, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Department for Communities, PSNI, Sport NI, Ark Housing Association, Choices Housing, and CVS Panel members: West Armagh Consortium, Portadown Rugby Club, Cedar Foundation, ABC Community Network and Volunteer Now, Armagh Rural Transport and Lislea Development Association.

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

- Our Community Engagement Strategy: Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership June 2019 – action in the strategy
- Connected Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 (updated 2025) – delivery mechanism for the plan and contributing to the realisation of two outcomes, see above
- Connected Recovery Plan – Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership March 2026 (refreshed version) – action in the plan
- ABC Council Corporate Plan
- Heritage Places Strategy
- Get Moving ABC Framework 2020-2030
- Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2025
- ABC Good Relations Strategy

Also Contributes to a range of Regional Strategy's including: Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Making Life Better-Strategic Framework for Public Health, Active Living-Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for N.I etc

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 following evidence was considered to develop the Tak£500+ Participatory Budgeting Project 2026/2027

- Census (2021)
- NISRA statistics
- Feedback from partners within PB Working Group
- Findings from previous project evaluations and project statistics

Section 75 category	Evidence																		
Religious belief	<p>The 2021 Census showed that 43.8% of the population in the borough were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 46.7% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. 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="392 875 1383 1122"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion or religion brought up in</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Catholic</td> <td>95,868</td> <td>43.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td> <td>102,063</td> <td>46.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other religions</td> <td>2,697</td> <td>1.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>18,028</td> <td>8.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All usual residents</td> <td>218,656</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 1. Religion or religion brought up in, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021. Source: 2021 Census, NISRA.</i></p>	Religion or religion brought up in	Number	Percentage	Catholic	95,868	43.8%	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	102,063	46.7%	Other religions	2,697	1.2%	None	18,028	8.2%	All usual residents	218,656	100%
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All usual residents	218,656	100%																	
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 (DUP) – 13 • Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) – 6 • Sinn Fein – 15 • Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) – 1 • Alliance – 4 • Independent – 1 • Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) - 1 <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>																		

Racial group

Racial Group - Ethnicity

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).

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%
Total	218,658	100%

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

Racial Group - 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%
Total	218,656	100%

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

Racial Group - Language

Results from Census 2021 show that 6.6% of residents in the borough aged 3+ years (13,947 individuals) spoke a language other than English or Irish as their main language. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in 2021, the most prevalent main languages other than English or Irish 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%
Total (Aged 3+)	210,402	100%

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 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%
Total	218,656	100.0%

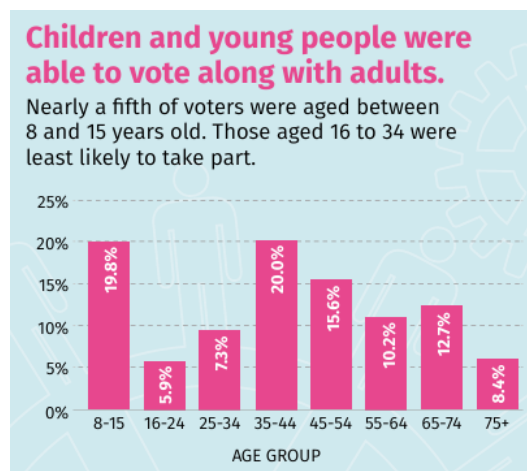
Table 5: Age profile of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census Day 2021. Source: Table MS-A06 Age Structure, Census 2021

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.

As stated above anyone aged eight and over can vote at the Tak£500+ voting events, where funding allocations are determined.

The graph below shows the age profile of voters at the voting events from the previous Tak£500+ process. Voting events were held in June and July 2026.

Graph 1: Age profile of voters attending Decision Making Events.



	No.	%
08-15	678	19.8%
16-24	202	5.9%
25-34	251	7.3%
35-44	685	20.0%
45-54	533	15.6%
55-64	350	10.2%
65-74	435	12.7%
75+	289	8.4%
	3,423	

Marital status

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 (49.0%) while just over 35% were single (never married or never in a registered same-sex civil partnership).

Table 6: Marital and civil partnership status of residents aged 16+ in Armagh

Marital and Civil Partnership Status	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	
	Number	%
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

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.

	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	
	Number	%
All usual residents aged 16 and over	170,413	100.0%
Straight or heterosexual	154,259	90.5%
Lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)	2,497	1.5%
Gay or lesbian	1,378	0.8%
Bisexual	901	0.5%
Other sexual orientation	218	0.1%
No sexual orientation stated	13,657	8.0%
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

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.

Gender	Number	Percentage
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Males	108,268	49.5%
Females	110,388	50.5%
All usual residents	218,656	100%

Table 8. Usual resident population, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2021.

Source: 2021 Census, NISRA.

Disability

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 age¹. 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
0-14	45,420	2,759	6.1%
15-39	67,700	7,367	10.9%
40-64	70,547	18,715	26.5%
65+	34,990	19,885	56.8%
All ages	218,657	48,726	22.3%

Table 9: 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 February 2024 there were:

- 2,940 or 3% of under 16 eligible population and 4,570 or 6.8% of pension age eligible population claiming Disability Living Allowance.
- 6,380 or 18.8% of 66+ population claiming Attendance Allowance.
- 20,940 Personal Independent Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).

Dependants

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

The 2021 Census showed that 32% or 27,192 households in the borough contained dependent children.

Respondents to the 2021 Census were asked whether they provide any unpaid help or support to anyone because of long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 12% of the population aged 5 years old and over (or 24,743 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:

- 46% provided 1 – 19 hours per week
- 24% provided 20 – 49 hours per week

¹ [Census 2021 Main statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistical bulletin - Health \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/census2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-statistical-bulletin-health)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30% provided 50+ hours per week. ▪ <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at February 2024, there were 8,240 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"> • who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week • who are not gainfully employed (i.e. not earning more than £128 per week after certain deductions) • who are not subject to immigration control • who are not in full-time education • are aged 16 and over
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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	Building on the statistical evidence of needs developed to date, the purpose of this project is to ensure that all Section 75 groups are able to decide on how funding is allocated in the borough through the Tak£500+ PB Scheme.
Political opinion	Building on the statistical evidence of needs developed to date, the purpose of this project is to ensure that all Section 75 groups are able to decide on how funding is allocated in the borough through the Tak£500+ PB Scheme.
Racial group	<p>Minority ethnic communities may experience barriers such as language differences. In previous processes application numbers from this group are lower and few have been successful in achieving the number of votes to receive funding. The PB working group have identified a recommendation in the Evaluation and Learning Report 2025/26 which will continue to prioritise engagement with groups underrepresented and develop an action plan to increase diversity.</p> <p>To support inclusion groups can seek interpretation services to attend the decision-making events. Using the reach of our partnership we will increase promotion to help connect with all groups.</p> <p>These measures ensure everyone can engage meaningfully in the process.</p>
Age	We are aware that age can have implications for engagement preferences and participation. Older people may face different challenges in terms of the online application and digital vote. To address this, the PB project provides both online and in-room information sessions, and targeted bespoke information session will be provided through Age Friendly Officer, the Seniors Network. Support

	<p>to vote will be available at the events and a hard copy vote will also be available on the decision making day on request.</p> <p>These measures ensure everyone can engage meaningfully in the process.</p>
Marital status	Building on the statistical evidence of needs developed to date, the purpose of this project is to ensure that all Section 75 groups are able to decide on how funding is allocated in the borough through the Tak£500+ PB Scheme.
Sexual orientation	Building on the statistical evidence of needs developed to date, the purpose of this project is to ensure that all Section 75 groups are able to decide on how funding is allocated in the borough through the Tak£500+ PB Scheme.
Men and women generally	Building on the statistical evidence of needs developed to date, the purpose of this project is to ensure that all Section 75 groups are able to decide on how funding is allocated in the borough through the Tak£500+ PB Scheme.
Disability	<p>Disabled people may require accessible venues, alternative communication formats, assistance with form completion, or practical support at events. The PB project offers online and in-room information sessions, interpretation on request, quiet spaces, accessible materials and staff support.</p> <p>We will rely on the support of our PB Working Group partners to help extend our reach and to help increase our awareness of the support needs required. Sign language interpretation will be available where required.</p> <p>These measures ensure everyone can engage meaningfully in the process.</p>
Dependants	<p>People with dependants, including parents and carers, may have limited availability to attend events during evenings or weekends. To address this, the PB project provides online information sessions during school hours and child-friendly Saturday voting events to accommodate those with caring responsibilities. Carers may also require flexible engagement methods, such as telephone support or assistance completing applications.</p> <p>These measures ensure everyone can engage meaningfully in the process.</p>

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)
<p>Religious belief Political opinion</p>	<p>Greater numbers of Protestants than people from other religious backgrounds reside in the borough. However, the Project PB Project will not have a detrimental impact upon those with other religious beliefs, nor does it adversely affect the ability and/or opportunities for people from other religious backgrounds to participate within the project programme.</p> <p>The project will require an intensive promotion exercise to reach small groups from across the Borough. It will be required to draw on the reach of all our community planning partners including our Community and Voluntary Sector Panel and Elected Members to encourage groups to take part to ensure participation from everyone irrespective of religious belief and political opinion</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>
<p>Racial group</p>	<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.</p> <p>However, the Project PB Project will not have a detrimental impact upon those from minority ethnic groups nor does it adversely affect the ability and/or opportunities for people</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>

	<p>from minority ethnic groups to participate within the project programme.</p> <p>The previous evaluation recommended widening membership of the PB Working Group to increase its diversity. As a result members of the Inequalities & Inclusion Team from the SHSCT have agreed to join the PB Working Group to support participation of Minority Ethnic Groups.</p> <p>The project will require an intensive promotion exercise to reach small groups from across the Borough. It will be required to draw on the reach of all our community planning partners including our Community and Voluntary Sector Panel and Elected Members to encourage groups to take part to ensure participation from everyone.</p>	
Age	<p>Positive opportunities for children and young people to apply for funding and to be involved in public decision making. Children and young people aged 8 years and above will be given the opportunity to put forward ideas and vote on projects that will benefit their area.</p> <p>There may be opportunities for intergenerational working and intergenerational projects may be identified.</p> <p>According to NINIS, in 2020 49% of people aged 65+ in ABC had never accessed the internet. The PB Working Group are working with</p>	Minor positive

	Council's Environmental Health department to provide support for older people to access PB online and the in room events.	
Marital status		Minor positive
Sexual orientation		Minor positive
Men and women generally		Minor positive
Disability	<p>Information and voting events will occur in room this time, instead of online as happened in the first project. Potential for barriers to accessing events.</p> <p>Consequently, there will be an online information event, the phone numbers of all PB WG members have been promoted so that people can call for information and support and the Guide to Accessible events will be used to plan events.</p>	Minor positive
Dependents	<p>Information events are in the evening during the week in council venues. To ensure those who may not have childcare can access the events, there is an online event during school hours.</p> <p>Voting events are on Saturdays and will be child friendly.</p>	Minor positive

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	<p>Yes, The PB process itself promotes equality by giving all Section 75 groups the opportunity. The approach is inclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering all groups the opportunity to put forward an idea ▪ influence how public funds are allocated locally ▪ propose project ideas 	
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ vote on the issues that matter to them <p>These opportunities are strengthened through targeted outreach, accessible event design, multiple participation methods and inclusive communications. The market stall approach and the spread of voting encourages dialogue.</p>	
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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 process is designed to be collaborative and to build cross community relationships. At voting events, participants are required to speak with all applicants in their area before casting their votes, providing opportunities for dialogue, mutual understanding and strengthened community connections. Celebration events will further support relationship building by bringing groups together to reflect on their projects. Findings from the previous PB project showed a positive impact on good relations, with 98% of successful groups who responded to the evaluation survey agreeing they had strengthened good relations in the community and 90% indicating they helped bring people from different backgrounds together.	Minor positive
Political opinion	The collaborative nature of the PB process encourages engagement across political	Minor positive

	<p>viewpoints. Engagement at voting events requires participants to interact with all applicants, helping to develop trust and understanding regardless of political background. Celebration events provide an additional opportunity for shared learning and connection.</p> <p>Findings from the previous PB project showed a positive impact on good relations, with 98% of successful groups who responded to the evaluation survey agreeing they had strengthened good relations in the community and 90% indicating they helped bring people from different backgrounds together.</p>	
Racial group	<p>The PB process promotes interaction between people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds through required conversations between voters and applicants at voting events, supporting improved understanding and community cohesion. Celebration events will also help to promote positive interaction. However, lower participation rates among minority ethnic communities indicate a need for continued targeted engagement.</p> <p>Findings from the previous PB project showed a positive impact on good relations, with 98% of successful groups who responded to the evaluation survey agreeing they had strengthened good relations in the community and 90% indicating they helped bring people from different backgrounds together.</p>	Minor positive

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	<p>The PB process is intentionally collaborative and designed to strengthen cross-community relationships. At voting events, participants are required to speak with all applicants in their area before casting their votes, creating opportunities for dialogue, improved understanding, and positive interaction between groups. Celebration events will further bring successful groups together to share learning, recognise achievements and build new connections.</p>	
Political opinion	<p>The PB process is intentionally collaborative and designed to strengthen cross-community relationships. At voting events, participants are required to speak with all applicants in their area before casting their votes, creating opportunities for dialogue, improved understanding, and positive interaction between groups. Celebration events will further bring successful groups together to share learning, recognise achievements and build new connections.</p>	
Racial group	<p>The PB process is intentionally collaborative and designed to strengthen cross-community relationships. At voting events, participants are required to speak with all applicants in their area before casting their votes, creating opportunities for</p>	

	<p>dialogue, improved understanding, and positive interaction between groups. Celebration events will further bring successful groups together to share learning, recognise achievements and build new connections.</p> <p>However, further work is required to understand and address the lower levels of participation from minority ethnic groups. The previous evaluation recommended widening membership of the PB Working Group to increase its diversity. As a result members of the Inequalities & Inclusion Team from the SHSCT have agreed to join the PB Working Group to support participation of Minority Ethnic Groups.</p>	
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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.

A comprehensive promotional campaign, drawing on the full reach of the community planning partnership, will help to promote participation in the project by people with multiple identities.

Previously many of the funded projects have been targeted to benefit groups such as older women, children with disabilities, and older men.

The application form for the 2026/27 will ask groups to highlight which section 75 category their project will benefit enabling the PB working group to increase their understanding of this in future years. Therefore, we will have enhanced data to inform the equality screening for the following process.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

The Community Planning Strategic Partnership includes representatives from a wide range of organisations, all of whom will continue to shape how actions within the plan can help promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.

Where applications are submitted by groups that include disabled people, or where projects are designed to benefit disabled people, voters will be able to learn about these initiatives by speaking directly with the groups during the required engagement at voting events.

Disabled people are encouraged to attend events, ensuring visibility and inclusion. In previous years, for example, members of the Deaf community have taken part in celebration videos, helping to highlight their experiences and contributions.

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

Yes, the Community Planning Partnership includes a Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Panel. Currently there is participation by disability service providers. We will ensure to use their reach when promoting the PB funding opportunity and events. The project will provide opportunities for people with disabilities to be actively involved in public life through community action and being involved in public decisions about budget allocation.

All events are held in accessible venues, and additional support can be provided for those with specific needs. For this year's process we have added an additional measures.

Examples include:

- Interpretation on request
- Quiet spaces for participants who may require reduced-stimulus environments
- Assistance with form completion, either in person or by phone
- Support from staff or volunteers during events to aid mobility or communication
- Accessible digital materials, including large-print versions
- Online information sessions or telephone support is available to help everyone needing support completing forms.

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.

The Tak£500+ project aims to ensure that all Section 75 groups are able to contribute to decisions that will benefit the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and the people who live in it.

The process is collaborative, it builds relationships and connections and will help foster links between groups.

The project will require an intensive promotion exercise to reach small groups from across the borough. It will be required to draw on the reach of all our community planning partners including our Community and Voluntary Sector Panel and Elected Members to encourage groups to take part.

The application form is short and straightforward with applicants providing details on their proposal and it will be checked against a predetermined criteria eg: Safe, legal, feasible, deliverable.

Advice and clarification on applications will be provided to help groups to move through the next stage.

Mitigations include:

Age

- Children and young people aged 8 years and over can propose projects and vote
- Information sent to schools and youth services
- Age Friendly Officer is a member of the PB WG, the project is promoted through the Age Friendly Alliance and ABC Seniors Network
- EA Youth Services are a member of the PB Working Group
- Linking Generations NI is a member of the PB Working Group
- Targeted bespoke information session with youth services

Disability

- Online information event as well as in room events
- Guide to Accessible events will be used to plan events
- Cedar Foundation have joined the PB Working Group for the 2026/27 process

Dependents

- Online information event during school hours
- Voting events will be child friendly and on Saturdays

Racial Group

- Bespoke targeted information sessions will be developed and delivered to support groups to apply
- Interpretation services will be made available if required.

Additional support

The PB WG members' phone numbers have been included on promotional material so that they can provide additional support with applications if necessary.

Community Engagement Standards – Inclusion & Support

The community planning partnership has adopted the Scottish Community Engagement Standards which include standards on inclusion and support. The PB WG will evaluate how inclusive the project is and whether adequate support was provided for everyone to be able to take part. The PB WG assessed themselves as scoring 5/6 for inclusion and 5/6 for support for the previous PB project Tak£500+.

PB Charter for Northern Ireland – Inclusive and Supported

The community planning partnership has adopted the PB Charter for Northern Ireland the PB working group will evaluate how inclusive and supported the project was. For the previous Project the PB working group assessed themselves as scoring 4/5 for being inclusive and 5/5 for supported.

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.

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.

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

The action will subject to ongoing monitoring. The successful applicants will take part in a Celebration Event to share how their projects has benefitted the borough area.

Evaluation of the project programme will be completed by the working group and will inform and refine a repeat PB process.

The application form for the 2026/27 will ask groups to highlight which section 75 category their project will benefit enabling the PB working group to increase their understanding of this in future years. Therefore, we will have enhanced data to inform the equality screening for the following process.

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
Michelle Markey	Community Planning and Engagement Officer	27/3/2026
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Jennie Dunlop	Community & Strategic Planning Manager	27/03/2026

A copy of the completed screening form should be signed off and approved by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The completed screening form should be attached to the relevant Committee paper when the policy is submitted for approval.

Following approval by Council please forward a copy of the completed approved policy and screening form to:

Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The policy and completed screening form will be made available on the Council’s website.

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 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.

Tak£500+ Participatory Budgeting Project 2026/27, an action from the Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon Community Planning Partnership's Community Engagement Strategy and Connected Action Plan. It is also an action within the Community Planning Policy and Research Business Plan for 2026/27.

This is the fifth Tak£500+ PB process in the borough since 2020.

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

Developing a *Choose an item.*

Adopting a *Choose an item.*

Implementing a **Strategy**

Revising a *Choose an item.*

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

Our Community Engagement Strategy, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Community Planning Partnership.

<https://www.armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/involving-our-communities/>

Connected A Community Plan for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 (updated 2025) action plan.

Connected Action Plan 2026-2029 Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Community Planning Partnership

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

The project contributes to two outcomes in Connected, the community plan:

Connected Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.

Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.

One of the statistics used by the partnership to measure progress towards the Connected Community Outcome is the percentage of people who feel they have an influence in decisions taken in their neighbourhood. Latest figures show that only 19% of people in the borough feel that they have an influence, and this has been decreasing over time.

This action also builds upon the commitments set out in “Our Community Engagement Strategy, Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership June 2019, which sets out how the partners will achieve the following aims:

- To enhance our community engagement through agreed standards, defined roles and clear actions
- To maximise opportunities for people to be more involved and have a meaningful say in decisions which affect their lives

Participatory Budgeting is a process that directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending of a defined public budget. This project enables local groups—constituted or non-constituted—to propose small projects (up to £1,000) that promote the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing: Give, Be Active, Connect, Keep Learning, Take Notice.

The community planning partnership has established a working group to take forward the PB project and the group has expressed the following Shared Purpose for the project:

- to empower all communities and support a sense of ownership for investment and decision-making
- • to better meet needs, as defined by the local community
- • to promote innovation, inclusion and community connections
- • to promote the Take 5 public health message
- • to strengthen partnership working
- • to increase people's pride in place including connecting people and communities to heritage in all its forms.

Tak£500+ is the name the working group have selected for the PB project.

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

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

SECTION 2

Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes

No

If response is No go to 2E

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

It is anticipated that people and groups from rural areas will be impacted by the project in the following ways:

- They will be involved in decisions about investment in their areas
- Their needs will be better met through innovative ideas that come from them
- They will learn about the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing public health message and will have opportunities to put it into action
- They will build connections and partnerships with community groups in their areas and with statutory agencies involved in the project

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 project involves information events, submitting an application form (grant applicants), attending voting marketplace events (applicants and voters) and celebration events (successful applicants).

People in rural areas may have issues with accessing public transport and/or broadband to apply or attend the events.

The Tak£500+ Evaluation Report from the 2025/26 project highlighted that the overall Urban/Rural Split of Voters was 40% Urban and 60% Rural.

Across the successful projects there was a slightly higher percentage from urban areas (53%) than rural (47%) and two of the DEAs in the borough with higher numbers of rural residents have had lower numbers of applications to the scheme. There are Cusher and Lagan River.

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 checked="" 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) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

SECTION 3

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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

Yes No If response is No go to 3E

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

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<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.

- Census 2021 – NISRA
- Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 – NISRA
- Statement of Progress 2023-2025, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Community Planning Partnership
<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/our-progress-towards-outcomes/>
- Project Statistics and Evaluation Reports from previous Tak£500+ processes and evaluation report [TAK£500+ - YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR SAY, YOUR WAY! - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council](#)

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

The needs of the whole borough were considered but the rural needs have also been considered as the results from the 2021 Census show that just over half of the borough's population (51.5%) lived in urban areas while just under half (48.5%) lived in rural areas.

This is based on the 2015 Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements which recommended a default urban-rural classification, with the boundary at a settlement population of 5,000 (Bands A – E are urban Bands F – H are rural), to be used in the absence of a programme specific definition. Essentially settlements larger than 5,000 people / Band E or above could be considered Urban. Craigavon Urban Area (which includes Central Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown), Banbridge, Armagh and Dromore are the four urban areas within the borough, all other settlements are classified as rural according to the NISRA default classification. In Northern Ireland overall, 63% of the population are classed as living in urban areas and 37% in rural areas.

NISRA also provides the classification at Super Output Area (SOA), 36 out of the borough's 87 SOAs are classified as rural with a further 9 being mixed urban/rural. The rural areas cover a large part of the borough.

The Access to Services domain is particularly relevant to rural areas; this measures the extent to which people have poor physical and online access to key services. The borough has 9 Super Output Areas (10% of the total 87 SOAs in the Borough) in the top 100 most deprived in NI on the Access to Services domain, each of these are defined as rural on the default NISRA classification. 3

The Access to Services domain consists of three indicators:

- Service-weighted fastest travel time by private transport
- Service-weighted fastest travel time by public transport
- Proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s

The borough has areas within the top 100 most deprived in NI on each of these three indicators. For example, Bannside SOA in the Borough is the second most deprived SOA in NI in terms of proportion of properties with broadband speed below 10Mb/s.

One of the population indicators in Connected, the community plan, is the percentage of people who feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the decisions made in their neighbourhood. This figure is only available for the borough as a whole and the most recent estimate for the period 2022-2024 shows that just 19% of people feel they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made

The evaluation of the last Tak£500+ process showed that most voters lived in rural areas. Overall the Urban-Rural Split of Voters was Urban 40% (1267) and Rural 60% (1967).

However, the report also highlighted that there were more applications from urban areas and most of the funded projects were from urban areas. For successful projects, there was a slightly higher percentage 53% (62) that were from urban areas, with 47% (54) from rural areas. Unsuccessful projects there was a higher percentage from rural areas with 61% (17) compared to urban areas with 39% (11). 52% (81) of overall applications received were from an urban areas and 48% (75) were from rural areas. In addition, there are two DEAs with high rural populations (Cusher and Lagan River) with lower numbers of applications compared to other DEAs.

The 2025/2026 Tak£500+ programme further demonstrated the unmet needs faced by rural communities, with several successful projects directly responding to themes identified through earlier Participatory Budgeting rounds, including social isolation, limited access to services, and the need for improved community connectivity.

One group in their application shared feedback from participants benefiting from the programme stating "Community events are so beneficial to the local area" and "Please do these again". "The opportunity to meet socially is also important as isolation still exists here."

Other projects stated that they will "promote positive wellbeing through inclusion and connection."

The Tak£500+ Evaluation Report 2025/26 found that 94% (49) of successful groups from across the borough agreed that they had reduced Isolation and Loneliness.

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social

and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4

Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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

Mental health and wellbeing (borough-wide)
Influence over local decision making (borough wide)
Access to digital infrastructure (may be a bigger need in rural areas)
Access to public transport (may be a bigger need in rural areas)

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.

Mental Health and Wellbeing & Influence Over Local Decision Making

The Community Engagement Strategy where the PB project is an action from states:

“We acknowledge that good community engagement is at the heart of addressing inequality. Therefore, we will strive to enable and empower the full participation of all our community. We will make extra efforts to actively engage with those who are traditionally underrepresented or face barriers to inclusion including women, children and young people, people with disabilities and rural dwellers.”

The Community Planning Partnership includes a Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Panel to facilitate wider community engagement and to ensure that all communities have the opportunity to make their needs known to the community planning partnership. The 60 organisations on the panel include rural organisations, such as TADA, the rural network for the Borough and the two volunteer bureaux: Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Bureau and Volunteer Now.

The Tak£500+ working group have links across the whole borough. Officers have committed to ensuring that groups constituted, and non-constituted groups are supported to apply for this funding.

The project provides opportunities for communities to implement an evidence based public health message around wellbeing.

Increasing the number of applications from rural areas

Increasing the number of applications from rural areas, including Access to Digital Infrastructure and Public Transport

- Applications can be posted, emailed or submitted on the council website
- Information sessions will be held in three more rural areas within the borough and include 3 online events for those who may not be able to travel to the in person events
- The names and phone numbers of the PB Working Group are published in all promotional documents for anyone to contact them and receive information about applying and support
- Armagh Rural Transport have indicated that they will join the PB Working Group for the next round of PB
- Further research and engagement will be undertaken to understand lower participation from some areas, including meetings with community groups and representatives in those areas.

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.

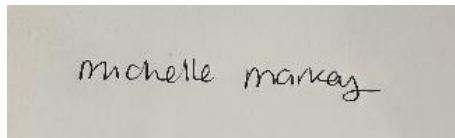
I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained, and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature:



Michelle Markey

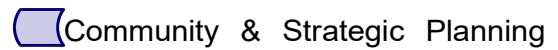
Date:

27/03/2026

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

 Jennie Dunlop

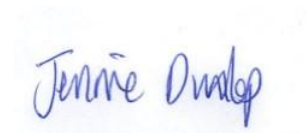
Position:
Manager

 Community & Strategic Planning

Department / Directorate:
Research

 Community Planning, Policy &

Signature:



Jennie Dunlop

Date:

27/03/2026