

# 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 Scheme is a grant scheme which aims is to assist commercial property owners to improve the aesthetic quality of the building stock and respective streetscape across all towns and villages in the Borough.

Property owners wishing to undertake external painting works to enhance the Let ability, functionality and appearance of their property will be able to apply for grant assistance through the Scheme.

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

The Scheme outcomes will:

Impact positively on the streetscape of towns and villages across the Borough , both in urban and rural areas

Enhance buildings that are currently unoccupied and occupied

### 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?

This policy is not in response to any statutory requirement or legal advice etc. The aim of this project is to encourage property owners to invest in their buildings, thereby improving the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages across the Borough.

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

The Council will not consider applications from Applicants that discriminate against Section 75 groupings.

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

<b>Who initiated or wrote the policy?</b>	The policy was initiated by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Economic Development Department in line with previous schemes rolled out by Council
<b>Who is responsible for implementation?</b>	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)?**

Financial – availability of funding Legislation – Unlikely to affect the implementation of the scheme

**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.**

Yes, there is both local and regional policy that has a bearing on this policy. They are:

- Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030
  
- Regeneration & Development Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council 2015-2020
  
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council- Corporate Plan 2023-2027
  
- NI Regional Development Strategy 2035
  
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland

**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	The 2021 Census showed that 41% identified as Catholic and 41.7% identified as either belonging to Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1.1% belonged to other religions, while 14.7% didn't belong to a religion
Political opinion	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members, the breakdown of seats by political party is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic Unionist Party – 13</li> <li>• Ulster Unionist Party - 6</li> <li>• Sinn Fein - 15</li> <li>• Social Democratic and Labour Party - 1</li> <li>• Alliance - 4</li> <li>• Independent – 1</li> <li>• TUV-1</li> </ul>

	<p>This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the Borough.</p>
Racial group	<p>The 2021 Census showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>6.8% of residents aged 3+ years or (14,376 individuals) spoke a language other than English as their main language. Apart from English, the most common other main languages were Polish (3,551 residents aged 3+ years), Lithuanian (2,611) and Portuguese (1,777).</p>
Age	<p>The population of the Borough was estimated to be 218,656 on 21 March 2021. The profile by age group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-15 years – 22.1%</li> <li>• 16 – 24 years 10%</li> <li>• 25 – 49 years 32.9%</li> <li>• 50 – 64 years 19%</li> <li>• 65 and over 16%</li> </ul> <p>This represented a 26.7% increase in the 65+ age group and a 25.62% increase in the 50-64yr age group since the last census in 2011.</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 (49.0%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) – 35.3%</li> <li>• Married - 49%</li> <li>• In a registered same-sex civil partnership - 0.2%</li> <li>• Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) – 3.4%</li> <li>• Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved – 6.0%</li> <li>• Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership – 6.1%</li> </ul>
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>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.</p>

Men and women generally	The 2021 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 49.5% (108,268) of usual residents were males and 50.5% (110,388) were females.
Disability	<p>2021 Census results identified 22.3% of Borough citizens as having a limiting long term health problem or disability, affecting 36,488 households. Of those citizens in the Borough with a limiting long term health problem or disability, 56.8% are in the 65+ age group.</p> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed as of November 2022 there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,510 or 5.2% of under 16 population and 5,030 or 15.2% of 66 and over population claiming Disability Living Allowance</li> <li>• 5,930 or 17.9% of 66 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance</li> </ul> <p>18,540 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).</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"> <li>• 46% provided 1 – 19 hours per week</li> <li>• 24% provided 20 – 49 hours per week</li> <li>• 30% provided 50+ hours per week.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at November 2022 there were 8,120 claimants, or 4.8% of 16 and over population, claiming Carer's Allowance in the borough.</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	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Political opinion	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Racial group	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Age	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.

Marital status	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Sexual orientation	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Men and women generally	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Disability	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.
Dependants	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this specific section 75 group.

### 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?**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Policy Impact</b>	<b>Level of impact (Major/minor/none)</b>
Religious belief	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people with different religious beliefs	None
Political opinion	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people with different political	None
Racial group	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people from different racial/ethnic groups	None

Age	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on any age	None
Marital status	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people of different marital status	None
Sexual orientation	This policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people of different sexual orientation	None
Men and women generally	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people of different gender	None
Disability	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on disabled people	None
Dependants	The policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of towns and villages. It is not likely that the policy will have an adverse impact on people with dependents	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
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Religious belief	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Political opinion	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Racial group	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Age	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Marital status	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Sexual orientation	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Men and women generally	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Disability	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Dependants	No	Applied equally to all individuals and communities

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>Details of Policy Impact</b>	<b>Level of impact (major/minor/none)</b>
Religious belief	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None
Political opinion	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None
Racial group	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>If yes, provide details</b>	<b>If no, provide reasons</b>
Religious belief	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None
Political opinion	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None
Racial group	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None

**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.

N/A

**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

N/A

## Screening Decision

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

Please identify reasons for this below

The ABC Borough Wide Paint Scheme aims to improve the physical environment for all its users. It is considered that the scheme will not have an adverse impact on any of the Section 75 groups.

The Council will not consider applications from Applicants that discriminate against Section 75 groupings.

The aim of this project is to assist commercial property owners to improve the aesthetic quality of the building stock and respective streetscape within urban and rural town centres. Property owners wishing to undertake external painting works to enhance the lettability, functionality and appearance of their property will be able to apply for grant assistance through the scheme to encourage vacant commercial property owners to invest in their buildings, attract tenants and reduce long term vacancy, thereby improving the vitality and vibrancy of our towns and villages for all users.

### **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.

Not required

### **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](http://www.equalityni.org)).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

Click or tap here to enter text.

### Approval and Authorisation

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

<b>Screened by</b>	<b>Position/Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
David Curley	Task Force Manager	02/04/2026
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Elaine Cullen	ED Infrastructure Manager	08/04/2026

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

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

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

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

## Appendix 2 Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

### SECTION 1

#### Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

**1A. Name of Public Authority:** Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough The Council

**1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.**

ABC Borough Wide Paint Scheme

**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**

ABC Borough wide Paint Scheme

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

This is a grant scheme that will target commercial properties within the urban and rural town centre boundaries of towns and villages across the Borough regardless of population size.

The primary aim of the Borough Wide Paint Scheme is to assist commercial property owners

to improve the aesthetic quality of the building stock and respective streetscapes.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (the 'Council') has committed to deliver the scheme to support property owners. The scheme will create opportunities for tenants and improve the vitality and vibrancy of urban and rural towns and villages

The Scheme outcomes will:

- Impact positively on the streetscape of urban and rural towns and villages
- Enhance buildings that are currently unoccupied and occupied

The scheme 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?**

This project will support all urban and rural towns and villages across the Borough. Including rural areas below 5,000 to 1,500 and 1,500 and below. All areas, including rural areas will have a positive impact from this scheme, as it is available to all property owners and those leasing properties across all areas.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| A definition of 'rural' is not applicable                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used**

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'

N/A

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

N/A

## **SECTION 2**

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

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

Yes                        No                        If response is No go to 2E

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

All property owners and those leasing properties will have an opportunity to apply for financial assistance to improve the overall appearances of their properties in rural towns and villages across the Borough

**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 policy will not have a different impact on people living in rural areas. Everyone will be treated equitably and will have the same opportunity to apply.

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Rural Businesses                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Tourism                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Housing                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas                   | <input checked="" 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
- Deprivation in Rural Areas
- Rural Crime or Community Safety
- Rural Development
- Agri-Environment
- Other (Please state)

*Click or tap here to enter text.*

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

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

N/A

### **SECTION 3**

#### **Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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

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

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

- Consultation with Rural Stakeholders
- Consultation with Other organisations
- Published Statistics
- Research Papers
- Surveys or Questionnaires
- Other Publications
- Other Methods or Information Sources

(include details in Question 3C below)

x

**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.**

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders through the ABC Agriculture Strategy

Published Statistics

Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers

Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications.

Place Plans for Armagh, Banbridge & Dromore

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

This scheme is an innovative grant scheme which aims to encourage owners and tenants to invest in their buildings, it will have a positive effect in both rural and urban towns and on the surrounding rural hinterland.

**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.**

All issues pertaining to the rural development of rural towns and villages and the positive impacts that projects like this have on rural businesses and rural communities have been

considered

**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.**

This scheme is an innovative grant scheme which aims to encourage owners and tenants to invest in their buildings, it will have a positive effect on both rural and urban towns and villages and the surrounding rural hinterland.

**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.**

N/A

**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: (David Curley)

Position: (Town Centre Taskforce Manager)  
Department / Directorate: (Economic Development/  
Community & Well Being)

Signature:

Date: 02/04/2026

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by: (Elaine Cullen)

Position: (ED Infrastructure Manager)

Department / Directorate: (Economic Development/  
Community & Well being)

Signature:

Date: 08/04/2026