

Appendix 1 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title:  Lurgan Community Centres Project: Mourneview & North Lurgan Community Centre

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

This is a new capital investment policy which proposes to:

- (i) demolish and rebuild Mourneview Community Centre with an upgraded, co-located play park.
- (ii) refurbish, reconfigure and extend North Lurgan Community Centre; and
- (iii) dispose of the Avenue Road Community Centre asset.

The policy sits within the Council's Review of Community Facilities and the Capital Plan (Priority B).

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

The policy seeks to deliver a step change in community provision within Lurgan by creating modern, fully accessible, and energy-efficient facilities that can host a broader range of programmes and activities, thereby increase participation and generate sustainable income.

A key outcome is full compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), ensuring that all retained centres are inclusive and welcoming for people with disabilities through features such as step-free access, accessible WCs, and improved wayfinding. By embedding sustainable design and energy-efficiency measures, the project will reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, supporting financial resilience and environmental responsibility.

These improvements directly align with the Council's Corporate Plan 2023–27 priorities under Environment & Place and Community Wellbeing, and advance the Community Plan vision for connected, healthy communities. Ultimately, the centres will act as vibrant hubs for social interaction, health and wellbeing, and community empowerment.

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 has been developed in alignment with key strategic and statutory frameworks, including the Draft Programme for Government mission areas of People and Planet, the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2023–27, the

Community Plan, and the Play Strategy “Get Inspired – Let’s Play” (2018–2026). It also reflects the Council’s legal obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to ensure accessibility and inclusivity in all public facilities.

While the overarching direction is shaped by these commitments, the Council retains discretion over the detailed scope and design of the project, subject to planning approvals, procurement regulations, and lease negotiations with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) regarding the Mourneview play park site. This framework ensures that the policy is both strategically robust and operationally flexible, enabling delivery of high-quality, compliant facilities that meet community needs.

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

The policy is expected to deliver clear benefits across multiple Section 75 categories, including age, disability, men and women generally, people with dependants, racial group, and those of differing religious belief or political opinion through the provision of shared, neutral spaces.

These benefits will arise from the creation of larger, flexible multipurpose areas designed to accommodate a wide range of activities, alongside improved accessibility features that ensure full inclusion for disabled users. Safer layouts and modern design standards will enhance personal security and comfort for all users, while targeted programmes such as health and wellbeing initiatives, lifelong learning opportunities, and cost-of-living support will address specific needs within the community.

Collectively, these measures will foster equality of opportunity and promote participation across diverse groups, strengthening social cohesion and community resilience

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?	Nathan White
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)?

Delivery of this policy is influenced by several key factors.

- Financial considerations include securing and phasing the £2.51 million capital budget, managing contingency allowances, and ensuring cost control throughout the project lifecycle.
- Technical challenges arise from the age and condition of the existing building fabric, the need for asbestos removal, and site constraints that may affect design flexibility and construction sequencing.
- Legal and estates issues include negotiating lease arrangements with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for the Mourneview play park site and determining the most appropriate disposal route for Avenue Road Community Centre, which may involve a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).
- Finally, programme risks relate to procurement lead times, the temporary decanting of bookings during construction works, and managing community expectations to maintain confidence and engagement throughout the project.

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM2017) highlights stark contrasts in deprivation levels. North Lurgan's nearest SOA, Drumnacree 1, ranks 83 out of 890 Super Output Areas (SOAs) 1 being the most deprived and 890 being the least, placing it firmly within the most deprived decile, while Mourneview's SOA ranks 301, within the fourth decile. These figures confirm that both areas experience considerable socio-economic challenges, particularly in North Lurgan, where deprivation is acute. This context reinforces the strategic importance of investing in modern, energy-efficient, and fully accessible community centres that can deliver health, wellbeing, and learning opportunities, while fostering social cohesion and equality of opportunity.

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	Contractors and design team

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

This policy is underpinned by a range of strategic and operational frameworks that guide its development and implementation. These include:

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2023–27, which sets priorities for sustainable, inclusive community development.
- Community Plan 2017–2030, which articulates a long-term vision for connected and healthy communities; and the
- Play Strategy 2018–2026, which promotes accessible, high-quality play spaces for all age groups.
- The policy also aligns with the Council's Equality Scheme, ensuring compliance with statutory duties under Section 75 and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).
- In addition, it supports the Council's climate and energy efficiency commitments, embedding sustainability and carbon reduction measures into design and delivery.
- Finally, the project will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy, ensuring transparency, value for money, and adherence to legal and regulatory requirements throughout the procurement process.

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	Religious affiliation differs sharply: Mourneview is predominantly Protestant or other Christian (74%), with 18% Catholic, whereas Parklake (North Lurgan) is largely Catholic (78%) with 18% Protestant. These contrasting demographic profiles underscore the importance of designing and operating the centres as neutral, inclusive spaces that promote good relations and equitable access for all communities.
Political opinion	Political opinion in the areas covered by this policy generally follows long-established patterns linked to community and religious demographics in Northern Ireland. In North Lurgan, particularly within the Drumnacree area, political alignment is predominantly nationalist. This reflects the high proportion of residents from a Catholic background, as indicated in the 2021 Census, and is supported by recent local and Assembly election results in which nationalist parties - primarily Sinn Féin and the SDLP- consistently secure a majority share of the vote. These trends demonstrate a long-standing and stable political profile within the community. In contrast, the broader Mourneview area has historically been understood as having a unionist identity; however, recent demographic and electoral data indicate a more mixed political landscape. While there is a notable Protestant population in parts of the area, electoral outcomes over recent council cycles show increasing support for nationalist parties, meaning it can no longer be accurately described as predominantly unionist. The political profile of Mourneview is therefore best recognised as diverse, with both unionist and nationalist representation evident. These differing local political dynamics reinforce the importance of ensuring that both centres operate as neutral, shared spaces. Maintaining political neutrality is essential for promoting inclusion, good relations, and equitable access for individuals from all political, cultural, and community backgrounds.
Racial group	Census 2021 data indicates that the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area has a small – 3.3% but steadily growing minority ethnic population. While the overall proportion remains low compared to the Northern Ireland average, this trend highlights the need for proactive measures to ensure inclusion and equality of opportunity. The policy will address this by embedding culturally sensitive practices, promoting and offering programmes that reflect the diversity of the community. Clear communication, accessible information, and staff training will help create welcoming environments for minority ethnic residents, ensuring that the redeveloped and refurbished centres operate as safe, inclusive spaces for all.

Age	Census 2021 data shows that the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough has a relatively young demographic profile, with approximately 20.8% of residents aged 0–14, compared to the Northern Ireland average of 19.2%. This trend is even more pronounced in the immediate catchment areas for the two project sites. Mourneview ward has an estimated population of around 3,200, with 21% aged 0–14 and 14% aged 65+, while Parklake ward (North Lurgan) has approximately 3,400 residents, including 23% aged 0–14 and 12% aged 65+. These demographic characteristics reinforce the importance of designing centres that cater to intergenerational use, provide dedicated youth spaces, and integrate play provision, ensuring the facilities meet the needs of families and younger residents while remaining inclusive for all age groups
Marital status	There are high proportions of households with dependants (34% and 36%) North Lurgan and Mourneview and lone-parent families (12% and 14%). Census data and local profiling indicate that both North Lurgan and Mourneview have a notable proportion of households with dependent children, including a significant share of lone-parent families. These patterns highlight the need for community facilities that are flexible, affordable, and family-friendly. The redevelopment and refurbishment proposals will address this by providing multipurpose spaces that can accommodate childcare-friendly activities, parent-and-child programmes, and affordable booking options for community groups. By integrating safe play areas, accessible layouts, and inclusive scheduling, the centres will support the practical needs of families while promoting social inclusion and wellbeing across the community.
Sexual orientation	The 2021 Census marked the first time sexual orientation data was collected in Northern Ireland, revealing that approximately 2.1% of adults identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or another minority sexual orientation, with some variation across local government districts. While ward-level disclosure is limited for confidentiality reasons, both North Lurgan and Mourneview are part of a borough where LGBTQ+ residents form an important, though relatively small, segment of the population. To ensure these individuals feel safe and welcome, the policy commits to inclusive design and operational practices, including staff training on equality and diversity, clear anti-discrimination policies, and visible inclusion statements within the centres. These measures will help create neutral, supportive environments where LGBTQ+ users can access programmes and facilities without fear of prejudice, reinforcing the Council's commitment to equality of opportunity for all.
Men and women generally	The employment rate for those aged 16–64 in the borough was 79.3% in 2024 across the borough. This

	implies an economic inactivity rate of approximately 20.7%, which is significantly lower than the rates in Mourneview (28%) and Parklake (30%) underscoring the need for inclusive, accessible facilities and targeted programmes. Gender-related considerations remain important in both North Lurgan and Mourneview, where female economic inactivity rates tend to be higher than average, often linked to caring responsibilities and limited access to affordable childcare. The redevelopment and refurbishment proposals will address these barriers by creating safe, welcoming environments and offering flexible, multipurpose spaces that support daytime programmes and family-friendly activities. Features such as improved lighting, clear sightlines, and secure layouts will enhance personal safety; while scheduling that accommodates school hours and childcare needs will encourage greater participation by women. These measures aim to promote equality of opportunity for men and women alike, ensuring that both centres serve as inclusive hubs for social, cultural, and wellbeing activities.
Disability	Both areas show notable levels of disability or long-term health problems (28% in Mourneview and 30% in Park lake) compared to the 22% borough average. Census 2021 data shows that a substantial proportion of residents in both North Lurgan and Mourneview report a limiting long-term health condition or disability, reflecting a clear need for fully accessible community facilities. At present, neither centre meets modern accessibility standards, creating barriers for disabled users and those with mobility or sensory impairments. The proposed redevelopment and refurbishment will address these gaps by incorporating step-free access throughout, installing accessible WCs, improving parking provision, and integrating features such as hearing enhancement systems and tactile signage. These measures will ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and promote equality of opportunity, enabling disabled people to participate fully in community life and benefit from the programmes and services offered within the centres.
Dependants	Census data indicates that approximately one-third of households in the borough have dependent children, and this pattern is reflected in both North Lurgan and Mourneview, where family households form a significant part of the local demographic. These areas show strong demand for facilities that support family life and provide safe, affordable spaces for children and parents.

	The proposed redevelopment and refurbishment will address this need by incorporating multipurpose rooms suitable for parent-and-child activities, afterschool programmes, and low-cost community sessions. By creating flexible, welcoming environments and integrating play provision at Mourneview, the policy will help reduce barriers to participation for families, promote social inclusion, and enhance wellbeing across the community.
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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	There is a need for centres to operate as shared, welcoming spaces with fair booking policies; avoiding symbols that may be associated with one community only and a commitment; to balanced outreach across communities.
Political opinion	Avoid perceived bias by implementing transparent booking systems e.g., using online Ensure neutral governance by: Engaging all elected representatives equally. Applying codes of conduct & completing declaration mitigate against political symbols or partisan messaging. Promoting Good Relations programming that fosters cross-community engagement. This helps build trust and ensures the centres are shared spaces, not dominated by any one political group.
Racial group	Accessible information such as (plain English) will be required; a zero-tolerance approach to racism; support events; staff that are respectful and understand the needs of a diverse community
Age	The buildings will need to be designed for intergenerational use to include safe youth spaces; age-friendly seating, lighting and acoustics and play provision integrated at Mourneview
Marital status	Programming will need to be mindful of single/lone parents, offering flexible timings and concessions where appropriate.

Sexual orientation	Visible inclusion statements will be required, staff training and private booking options for support groups.
Men and women generally	Personal safety will need to be prioritised (CCTV, lighting, sightlines); Programme scheduling needs to take account of carers and their working patterns
Disability	Any new build or renovation needs to consider disability access requirements and engage disabled people and representative groups in the process. Examples include Changing Places-style WC (subject to scope); step-free access; hearing loops; tactile signage.
Dependants	Any new design needs to incorporate child-friendly spaces; buggy storage; safe routes to play park; affordable family sessions.

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	Provision of neutral, shared facilities across interfaces; potential positive impact through inclusive programming.	Minor positive
Political opinion	Neutral governance and transparent booking to avoid perceived bias through standardised criteria for approving bookings; Neutral oversight e.g., bookings managed by staff trained in equality and Good Relations and monitoring usage to ensure no group is disproportionately excluded or favoured.	Minor positive
Racial group	Improved accessibility and targeted outreach can increase participation of minority ethnic residents.	Minor positive
Age	Wider youth/family offer in new centre; age-friendly design benefits older people.	Minor to Major (positive overall)

Marital status	Flexible, affordable provision supports lone-parent households.	Minor positive
Sexual orientation	Inclusive practice/training improves access and safety for LGBTQ+ users.	Minor positive
Men and women generally	Safer design and scheduling of programmes that supports increased female participation; spaces for men's health/activities.	Minor positive
Disability	Improved disability access to include step-free access, accessible WCs and improved parking/wayfinding.	Major positive
Dependants	Family-friendly spaces and adjacency to refurbished play park at Mournview strengthens provision.	Minor to Major 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	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Political opinion	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Racial group	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Age	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Marital status	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Sexual orientation	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Men and women generally	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Disability	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	
Dependants	Yes – see actions in Mitigations & Actions section.	

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	Shared, neutral facilities and programming; potential to host community initiatives.	Major ☐ Minor ☒ None ☐
Political opinion	Transparent governance and codes of conduct reduce perceptions of bias.	Major ☐ Minor ☒ None ☐
Racial group	Events celebrating diversity and anti-racism; accessible communications.	Major ☐ Minor ☒ None ☐

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	Yes – targeted community programming	
Political opinion	Yes – targeted community programming	
Racial group	Yes – targeted community programming	

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.

Design and programmes consider intersectionality (e.g. disabled minority ethnic women; young LGBTQ+ people). Monitoring will collect anonymised equality data (voluntary) to track reach and outcomes

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

There is the potential to promote positive attitudes through inclusive design, staff training, accessible communications, quiet hours, and disability-led programming.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please explain

There will be an opportunity for disabled people and disability groups to get involved in the consultation on the design

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

Click or tap here to enter text.

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 policy proposal to

- (i) Demolish and rebuild Mourneview Community Centre with an upgraded, co-located play park.
- (ii) Refurbish, reconfigure and extend North Lurgan Community Centre; and
- (iii) Dispose of the Avenue Road Community Centre asset

will have benefits for a range of section 75 categories, including age, disability, men and women generally, people with dependants, racial group, those of different religious belief and political opinion

Service continuity will be maintained during works by transferring bookings (e.g. to Avenue Road prior to disposal) and offering transport support for priority groups.

- We will liaise with disability groups to finalise layouts (incl. accessible WCs, parking, hearing loops).

- We will develop an Inclusive Use Policy covering neutrality, hate speech, safeguarding and reasonable adjustments.
- There will be targeted, affordable programmes for children/young people and lone parents to offset any cessation of the playscheme.
- Voluntary equality monitoring will be undertaken at booking/registration; which will be reviewed quarterly to address gaps in reach.
- Communications will be in plain English with alternative formats and translation made available on request.

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	1
Social need	1
Effect on people's daily lives	1

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 N/A

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

KPIs: usage will be monitored by equality category, number of groups under the booking category (Concession, Community standard Rate, Commercial & Statutory) which will highlight the categories of bookers utilising the facilities, activity range (Leisure, Training, Internal, Community), satisfaction, income, and incident reports. Baseline captured pre-works; reported quarterly to EMT and Committee.

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
Nathan White	Facilities & Infrastructure Manager	24/10/2025
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Ruth Allen 	Head of Department: Community Development	19/02/2026

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.

Lurgan Community Centres – Mourneview (new build) and North Lurgan (refurbishment & extension)

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

Lurgan Community Centres Project: Mourneview & North Lurgan Community Centre

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

The policy seeks to deliver a step change in community provision within Lurgan by creating modern, fully accessible, and energy- efficient facilities that can host a broader range of programmes and activities, thereby increase participation and generate sustainable income.

A key outcome is full compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), ensuring that all retained centres are inclusive and welcoming for people with disabilities through features such as step-free access, accessible WCs, and improved wayfinding. By embedding sustainable design and energy-efficiency measures, the project will reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, supporting financial resilience and environmental responsibility.

These improvements directly align with the Council's Corporate Plan 2023–27 priorities under Environment & Place and Community Wellbeing, and advance the Community Plan vision for connected, healthy communities. Ultimately, the centres will act as vibrant hubs for social interaction, health and wellbeing, and community empowerment.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Although the capital works are concentrated in an urban setting within Lurgan, the Council's approach to community development is borough-wide, ensuring that rural communities also benefit indirectly from this investment. The enhanced capacity and functionality of the Lurgan centres will complement, not displace, existing rural provision by enabling outreach programmes, shared resources, and mobile delivery models that extend services beyond the town. For example, improved facilities in Lurgan can act as hubs for training, health and wellbeing initiatives, and cultural activities that are then delivered in partnership with rural venues such as village halls and community centres.

Staff and equipment can be deployed flexibly to support rural events; This integrated approach reflects the Council's commitment to maintaining a balanced mix of urban and rural provision across a wide range of service areas (Community Development, Leisure, Tourism Culture & Arts, Economic Development, and Community Safety Partnership services etc), supported by funding streams such as the Financial Assistance Programme (FAP), which provides capital, running costs & programming grants to sustain and enhance rural facilities alongside urban investment.

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.

Both Mourneview and North Lurgan Community Centres, while located in urban Lurgan, serve as key hubs for surrounding rural communities. Mourneview's rural catchment includes Waringstown, Donaghcloney, Magheralin, Aghagallon, Derrymacash, Gawley's Gate, Kilmore, and the rural fringes of Tullygally and Lough Road. Similarly, North Lurgan supports outreach to Aghacommon, Derrytrasna, Derrytagh North, Silverwood, Clanrolla, and the rural hinterlands around Craigavon Lakes and Oxford Island. These areas, characterised by limited access to dedicated community infrastructure, rely on the Lurgan centres for programmes, events, and services that promote wellbeing, inclusion, and social cohesion.

Although the capital works are concentrated in an urban setting within Lurgan, the Council's approach to community development is borough-wide, ensuring that rural communities also benefit indirectly from this investment. The enhanced capacity and functionality of the Lurgan centres will complement, not displace, existing rural provision by enabling outreach programmes, shared resources, and mobile delivery models that extend services beyond the town. For example, improved facilities in Lurgan can act as hubs for training, health and wellbeing initiatives, and cultural activities. In addition, the Council's Community Development services actively support rural communities through a range of programmes such as Age Friendly initiatives, the Health Inequalities team, Good Relations work, and Peace Plus projects. These services are reinforced by financial assistance schemes and the Council's Financial Assistance Programme (FAP), which provides funding opportunities for rural groups to enhance local groups. This integrated approach reflects the Council's commitment to maintaining a balanced mix of urban and rural provision across various service areas.

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

Rural Businesses	☐
Rural Tourism	☐
Rural Housing	☐
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	☐
Education or Training in Rural Areas	☒
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	☐
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	☐
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	☒
Poverty in Rural Areas	☒
Deprivation in Rural Areas	☐

- Rural Crime or Community Safety ☐
- Rural Development ☒
- Agri-Environment ☐
- Other (Please state)

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

- NISRA Census 2021: Published 30 November 2023 – used for ward-level demographic analysis.
- NIMDM2017: Published by NISRA – used for deprivation rankings and postcode-level mapping.
- Council internal data: Facility usage reports from 2020–2024.
- Equality Screening Form: Completed October 2025.
- Business Case: Finalised November 2024.
- Community Plan & Corporate Plan: Current strategic documents guiding service delivery.

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

Rural communities within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough face a distinct set of social and economic challenges that have been carefully considered in the development of the Lurgan Options Capital Project. One of the most pressing needs is access to affordable, local facilities that can serve as hubs for community life. Due to geographic isolation and limited public transport options, rural residents often struggle to attend programmes held in urban centres. This creates a demand for flexible scheduling, including daytime and early evening sessions. Additionally, Community Development Department officers deliver a range of programme across the rural space.

Cost-of-living pressures are another significant concern in rural areas, where economic inactivity and lower household incomes are more prevalent. Families, lone parents, and older residents in these communities benefit from low-cost or subsidised programmes that support wellbeing, education, and social inclusion. The Council's Financial Assistance Programme (FAP) plays a vital role in addressing this need by offering small capital grants to rural groups, enabling them to maintain and improve local facilities, running costs & programming. This ensures that rural communities are not disadvantaged in accessing funding compared to their urban counterparts.

Health and wellbeing needs are also prominent in rural areas, where access to services can be limited. The project supports the delivery of inclusive health programmes, physical activity sessions, and mental health initiatives that can be tailored to rural populations. These are particularly important for older adults and individuals with disabilities, who may face additional barriers to participation. The emphasis on DDA compliance and accessible design in the retained centres ensures that rural residents with mobility or sensory impairments can engage fully in community life.

Education and training opportunities are essential for rural residents, especially those seeking pathways to employment or personal development. The centres will offer learning programmes, workshops, and community education sessions. This helps bridge the gap in access to formal education and supports economic resilience in rural areas.

Finally, there is a strong need for inclusive, family-friendly provision that reflects the demographic profile of rural communities. Many rural households include dependent children and older adults, requiring intergenerational spaces that are safe, welcoming, and adaptable. The integration of play provision, buggy storage, and accessible layouts in the project design responds directly to these needs. By creating environments that support families and promote social cohesion, the Council is helping rural communities thrive despite the structural challenges they face.

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?

Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

In developing the Lurgan Options Capital Project, the Council has carefully considered a range of issues that affect rural communities, ensuring that the social and economic needs identified in Section 3 are meaningfully addressed through both design and delivery. Although the capital works are located in urban Lurgan, the Council's community facilities strategy operates on a borough-wide basis, with a strong emphasis on equitable access for rural residents.

One of the key considerations was the urban location versus borough-wide service impact. The Council recognised that investment in urban centres like Mourneview and North Lurgan could have positive ripple effects across rural areas, particularly if the centres are designed to support outreach programming and shared resources. Mourneview serves a rural catchment that includes Waringstown, Donaghcloney, Magheralin, Aghagallon, Derrymacash, Gawley's Gate, Kilmore, and the rural fringes of Tullygally and Lough Road. North Lurgan supports outreach to Aghacommon, Derrytrasna, Derrytagh North, Silverwood, Clanrolla, and the rural hinterlands around Craigavon Lakes and Oxford Island.

These areas have limited access to dedicated community infrastructure and rely on the community centre & town hall & leisure provision in Lurgan for programmes, events, and services that promote wellbeing, inclusion, and social cohesion.

The Council also examined the importance of maintaining a balanced mix of rural and urban provision across its service areas, including Community Development, Health & Recreation, Tourism & Arts, Economic Development, and the Community Safety Partnership. This balance is essential to avoid service centralisation and to ensure that rural residents continue to have access to localised support, especially in areas with limited infrastructure.

Transport and travel barriers were also a significant factor. Rural residents often face longer journeys and limited public transport options, which can hinder participation. To mitigate this, the project includes flexible scheduling such as daytime and early evening slots to deliver programmes where demand is identified. These measures help reduce the burden of travel and improve accessibility for rural users.

Finally, as mentioned previously the Council considered the availability of funding streams to support rural communities (not inclusive) ensuring that investment is not solely concentrated in urban areas. This commitment to funding equity reinforces the Council's inclusive approach and supports long-term sustainability.

SECTION 5

Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

☒

No

☐

If response is No go to 5C

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The policy has been shaped to ensure that rural community's benefit from the enhanced capacity and modernisation of the Mourneview and North Lurgan Community Centres. These centres serve not only their immediate urban neighbourhoods but also a wider rural catchment, including areas such as Waringstown, Donaghcloney, Magheralin, Aghagallon, Derrymacash, Derrytrasna, Aghacommon, and the rural hinterlands around Craigavon Lakes and Oxford Island.

To reflect rural needs, the project includes:

- Flexible scheduling of programmes (e.g. daytime and early evening slots) to accommodate travel limitations common in rural areas.
- Coordination with rural groups to deliver activities where local demand is identified, ensuring that rural residents are not disadvantaged by the urban.
- Retention of funding equity through the Council's Financial Assistance Programme (FAP), allowing rural groups to apply for wide range of support and services.
- Inclusive design principles, ensuring that the centres are fully accessible and welcoming to all, including those from rural communities with higher rates of disability and economic inactivity.
- Strategic planning that maintains a balanced mix of rural and urban provision across Council services, avoiding centralisation and ensuring continued investment in rural infrastructure.

These measures demonstrate a clear and deliberate effort to ensure that rural needs are not only acknowledged but actively addressed in the implementation of the Lurgan Options Capital Project.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

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:

Manager

Department / Directorate:

Signature:



Date: 27/01/2026

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature:



Date: 19/02/2026