

## SECTION 1

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

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

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

Request from Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a Praise in the Park event on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August in Lurgan Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening.

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

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

Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above

Council officers received a request from Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a Praise in the Park event on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August in Lurgan Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening.

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

The aim of the event is to provide a praise in the park event

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

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).	
Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).	
A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.	X

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

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

This was a request to hold a praise in the park event. It is not a rural policy.

## **SECTION 2**

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

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

Yes  No  If the response is No go to Section 2E

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

**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.**

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

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

Rural Development	
Agri-Environment	
Other (Please state)	

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

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**  
 This was a request from Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a Praise in the Park event on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August in Lurgan Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening. It is not a rural policy.

### **SECTION 3**

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

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

Yes  No  If the response is No go to section 3E

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

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders		Published Statistics	
Consultation with Other Organisations		Research Papers	
Surveys or Questionnaires		Other Publications	

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

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

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

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

**3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

This was a request from Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a Praise in the Park event on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August in Lurgan Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening. It is not a rural policy.

## **SECTION 4**

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

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

N/A

## **SECTION 5**

### **Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

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

Yes  No  If the response is No go to Section 5C

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

**If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.**

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**


This was a request from Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a Praise in the Park event on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August in Lurgan Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening. It is not a rural policy.

## **SECTION 6**

### **Documenting and Recording**

**6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.**

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

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Leanne McShane
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Parks Development Officer
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Environmental Services
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	20.05.22
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Barry Patience
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Head of Department
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Environmental Services
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	20.05.2022

# Policy Screening Form

## Policy Scoping

**Policy Title:** Request from the Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a praise in Lurgan Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening.

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

Council officers received a request from the Lurgan Baptist Church to hold a praise service on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August in Lurgan Park from 4.30pm to 5.30pm each evening.

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

The aim of the event is to provide a praise in the park event

## Policy Framework

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to Council to amend the policy?

The application to hold the service was received by the Environmental Services Department by way of an email request.

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

These are events which are open to all religious beliefs.

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

**Who initiated or wrote policy?**

The Council

**Who is responsible for implementation?**

The Council is responsible for implementation

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

No previous negative comments or complaints have been received in relation to these events

## Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

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

Service Participants.

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

<p>Local</p> <p>Good relations Strategy Equality Scheme</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>The Together: Building a United Community Strategy : DUC Equality Commission for Northern Ireland]: Promoting Good Relations a guide for Public Authorities October 2007.</p>
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**Available Evidence**

Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Religious belief	The 2011 Census showed that 43% of the population in the Borough were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 52% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions, while 5% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.
Political opinion	<p>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members, the breakdown of seats by political party is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic Unionist Party – 11</li> <li>• Ulster Unionist Party - 10</li> <li>• Sinn Fein - 10</li> <li>• Social Democratic and Labour Party - 6</li> <li>• Alliance - 3</li> <li>• Independent - 1</li> </ul> <p>A total of 79,309 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 147,977 giving a turnout of 53.6%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the Borough.</p>
Racial group	<p>The 2011 Census showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 98.5% of the usually resident population of the Borough were White and 1.5% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals).</li> <li>• 89.0% of residents in the Borough were born in Northern Ireland. The Borough had 5.4% of residents or 10,846 individuals who were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.</li> </ul> <p>4.1% of residents aged 3+ years or (7,896 individuals) spoke a language other than English or Irish as their main language. Apart from English and Irish, the most common other main languages were Polish (2,919 residents aged 3+ years), Lithuanian (1,736) and Portuguese (834). Of those whose main language is not English or Irish, 34% cannot speak English or cannot speak it well (based on the three legacy council areas).</p>

Age	<p>The population of the Borough was estimated to be 216,205 at 30 June 2019. The profile by age group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-15 years - 23%</li> <li>• 16-39 years - 30%</li> <li>• 40-64 years - 32%</li> <li>• 65+ years - 16%</li> </ul> <p>The Borough has a growing and ageing population. The population of the Borough is projected to increase by almost 8% or 16,675 people over the next 10 years to 2029. The largest percentage increase is projected in the 65 and over age group (29%). Within this age group the number aged 85 and over are projected to increase by an extra 1,781 people (46%).</p>
Marital status	<p>The 2011 Census provides information on the marital status profile of those aged 16 and over in the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) - 34%</li> <li>• Married - 51%</li> <li>• In a registered same-sex civil partnership - 0.1%</li> <li>• Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) - 4%</li> <li>• Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved - 5%</li> </ul> <p>Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership - 7%</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The 2011 Census did not include a question on sexual identity. The Continuous Household Survey provides results on the sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over. In 2017/18 - 2019/20, 98% of respondents to the survey identified as Heterosexual/Straight, 1% as Gay/Lesbian and 1% as Bisexual in the Borough. Note figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.</p> <p>Results from the 2019 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey showed for adults aged 18 and over in NI overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am 'gay' or 'lesbian' (homosexual) - 2%</li> <li>• I am heterosexual or 'straight' - 90%</li> <li>• I am bi-sexual - 1%</li> <li>• Other answer - 1%</li> <li>• I do not wish to answer this question – 7%</li> </ul> <p>Note figures may not sum due to rounding.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49% (98,713) of usual residents were males and 51% (100,980) were females.</p> <p>Population estimates for 2019 show the borough is made up of 107,540 (49.7%) males and 108,665 (50.3%) females</p>
Disability	<p>In 2011, one fifth (20%) of people (or 39,861 individuals) in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities. The Family Resources Survey showed, using data for 2015/16 to 2017/18, 19% of individuals in the Borough were disabled, similar to the level in NI overall (21%).</p> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed as of May 2020 there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,120 or 4.4% of under 16 population and 6,070 or 18.1% of 65 and over population claiming Disability Living Allowance</li> <li>• 5,550 or 16.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance</li> </ul>



	15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).
Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed: 36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children. 12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58% provided 1-19 hours per week,</li> <li>• 17% provided 20-49 hours per week, and</li> <li>• 25% provided 50+ hours per week.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2020, there were 7,940 claimants or 4.7% 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	These service events were held by the Lurgan Baptist Church. The Sunday evening praise services were not solely for their parishioners to attend.
Political opinion	N/A
Racial group	N/A
Age	N/A
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	N/A
Dependants	N/A

### Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief	The events lasted 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event.	Minor
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	None
Age	N/A	None
Marital status	N/A	None
Sexual orientation	N/A	None
Men and women generally	N/A	None
Disability	N/A	None
Dependents	N/A	None

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		The events lasted 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event
Political opinion	N/A	N/A
Racial group	N/A	N/A
Age	N/A	N/A
Marital status	N/A	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A	N/A
Disability	N/A	N/A
Dependents	N/A	N/A

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 events lasted 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event	Minor
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	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		The events lasted 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event
Political opinion	N/A	N/A
Racial group	N/A	N/A

### **Multiple Identity**

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people).

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

The Council acknowledges that no individual belongs exclusively to one equality group. However, the majority of participants of the event are parishioners of Lurgan Baptist Church who are members of the Protestant Community.

### **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?

N/A

### **Screening Decision**

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

Please identify reasons for this below

#### **B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED**

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated or an alternative policy introduced. If so, an EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

These services were held by the Lurgan Baptist Church. The Sunday evening praise services were not solely for their parishioners to attend.

Equality Commission Guidance states that public authorities must consider how the policies it makes and implements affect relationships amongst the people it serves and employs. Promoting Good Relations: a Guide for Public Authorities, October 2007 – The Council-owned Solitude Park is a shared space.

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

Previous events have been approved by council.

The events only take place for a short period of time on Sunday evenings and no previous complaints have been received.

#### **C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED**

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

### **Timetabling and Prioritising**

**If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment**, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3 with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

**Monitoring**

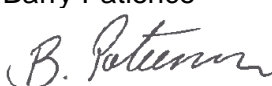
Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive 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

**Approval and Authorisation**

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

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Leanne McShane	Parks Development Officer	20.05.22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Barry Patience 	Head of Environmental Services	20.05.2022

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

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

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

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