



Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Reporting Period: April 20 24 to March 20 25

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
Development of a Business Continuity Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified.
Request to hold a Charity Music Concert in Lurgan Park	Other	No rural needs were identified.
Revision of a Corporate Health and Safety Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified.
Development of a Corporate Plan	Cross Cutting – rural businesses, tourism, housing, jobs or employment,	The Corporate Plan will have a positive impact on people in rural areas, as the Council will deliver services and activities across the following 5 main priorities. These will be delivered across the entire Borough, including villages, small towns, rural areas and rural residents.

broadband,
transport services,
poverty,
deprivation, rural
crime, rural
development, agri -
environment

- Community Wellbeing
- Economic Growth
- Environment & Place
- Service Delivery
- Staff, Leadership and Resources

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

The Access to Services domain consists of three indicators:

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

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

Our Corporate Plan highlights social and economic key statistics relevant to the entire borough inclusive of both urban and rural areas. These statistics have been referenced under each priority.

All strategies, plans, projects, and services detailed in the Council's departmental business plans will need to be rural needs impact assessed in order to ensure that the Council's statutory duty to promote rural needs is fully considered.

Request to hold a Cultural Event in Solitude Park	Other	No rural needs were identified.
Revision of the Disability Action Plan	Other	To ensure our plan has fully considered the needs of the rural community we involved those living in rural areas during the consultation process and received responses regarding the impact on disabled people living in rural areas. Many of these comments related to areas beyond the Council's remit. Others were shared with the Community Planning Team.
Revision of the Dog Control Enforcement Policy	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of the Equality Action Plan	Other	We involved those living in rural areas during the consultation process to ensure our plan has fully considered the needs of the rural community. There were comments on Community Transport affecting disabled people living in rural areas and these were shared with the Community Planning Team.
Revision of the Environmental Health Quality Management Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified.
Implementation of the Environmental Improvement Scheme - Gilford	Cross Cutting – Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	Access to and within Gilford is critical to all town users, rural and urban. The improvements will make the town more welcoming & user friendly and in return enhance the social and economic well-being of those who live in this rural area.
Implementation of the Environmental Improvement Scheme - Markethill	Cross Cutting – Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	Access to and within Markethill is critical to all town users, rural and urban. The improvements will make the town more welcoming & user friendly and in return enhance the social and economic well-being of those who live in this rural area.
Implementation of the Environmental Improvement	Cross Cutting – Rural	Access to and within Rathfriland is critical to all town

Scheme - Rathfriland	Businesses, Rural Tourism, Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	users, rural and urban. The improvements will make the town more welcoming & user friendly and in return enhance the social and economic well-being of those who live in this rural area.
Implementation of the FE McWilliams Refurbishment	Other	It has been recognised that there is a need for more integrated transport provision to the Gallery. However, the provision of public transport and linkage of the gallery to rural locations is the responsibility of Translink, provider of public transport in the region.
Revision of the General Enforcement Policy	Other	No rural needs were identified.
Development of the Legal Fees Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified.
Development of the Northern Ireland Centenary Stones Policy	Other	The N.I Centenary Stones commemorate 100 years of Northern Ireland. No rural needs were identified.
Development of the Performance Improvement Plan 2024-2025	Internal	No rural needs were identified.
Revision of the Remote Meetings Protocol	Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	Members, officers and residents living in rural areas will benefit from being able to access meetings online.
Revision of the Risk Management Policy	Internal	No rural needs were identified.
Revision of the Smoking Policy	Internal	No rural needs were identified.
Revision of the Street Trading Policy & Procedure	Internal	No rural needs were identified.
Implementation of the Tak£500+ Participatory Budgeting Project 2023/24	Cross Cutting – Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas, Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<p>Tak£500+ is the name the community planning partnership working group selected for the Participatory Budgeting Project. The project aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To empower all communities and support a sense of ownership for investment and decision-making • To better meet needs- as defined by the local community • To strengthen partnership working

- To promote innovation, inclusion and community connections
- To promote the Take 5 public health message

Acknowledging that access to the digital infrastructure and public transport can be more challenging for those living in rural areas

- One of the three voting events is held in a rural setting
- The names and numbers of the Participatory Budgeting Working Group are published in all promotional documents
- An online event was also held for those who could not travel to the in-person events.

The project evaluation for the previous Tak£500+ process in 2022/23 mapped the addresses of voters and project applications. The definition of rural used was anywhere outside the main urban centres of Craigavon, Portadown, Lurgan, Banbridge, Armagh and Dromore. The report highlighted that the overall urban/rural split of voters was 36% urban and 64% rural.

Across all applications (successful, unsuccessful and withdrawn) there was a slightly higher percentage from urban areas (55%) compared to rural (45%).

NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.