

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

Each year the Council is required under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (Part 12) to develop a Performance Improvement Plan. This legislation provides a framework from which the Draft Performance Improvement Plan 2022-2023 is developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services. This Performance Improvement Plan will cover the year 2022-23 and has been aligned with the Programme for Government, the Borough Community Plan, and supports our Corporate Plan and Medium Term Recovery Plan. It will contain a set of performance improvement objectives which are the subject of this rural needs impact assessment.

The six draft Performance Improvement Objectives are:

PIO1: We will improve the availability of more inclusive services for those with autism and their carers.

PIO2: We will increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity from groups least likely to participate and maintain or increase the number of quality accreditations for outdoor places and indoor spaces.

PIO3: We will reduce the average number of day's sickness absence lost per employee.

PIO4: We will increase the information available to the public on Councils agreed service standards and how well we are performing.

PIO5: We will implement recommendations from the Building Control and Planning Service Reviews and improve processing times for building control and planning applications.

PIO 6: We will improve our understanding of Council's carbon footprint, energy and resource consumption to inform the development of a Sustainable Development & Climate Change Strategy.

| 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--|----------|--|------|---|
| Developing a | Policy | | 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

Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23 for inclusion in the Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23.

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

The aim of our Performance Improvement Plan (the Plan) is to set out what we will do in the year ahead to deliver on our statutory duty to secure continuous improvement in service delivery and bring about improvement against at least one of the following seven improvement areas as stipulated in Section 84 (2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014: Strategic effectiveness / Service quality / Service availability / Fairness / Sustainability / Efficiency / Innovation. This is set out in a number of performance improvement objectives which will be detailed within the Plan and the draft objectives are subject of this RNIA.

Statutory performance indicators and standards, as set out in the Local Government Order (NI) 2015 are also included within the Performance Improvement Plan.

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

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 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.

Looking at 2011 Census results just over half of the Borough's population (51%) lived in urban areas based on the NISRA default urban / rural settlement classification, while just under half (49%) lived in rural areas (compared to 63% urban and 37% rural for Northern Ireland overall using the NISRA classification).

As advised in the NISRA report, while a default definition is provided, users should consider defining urban and rural areas in ways that are appropriate for different projects and programmes. In relation to Planning, the distinction between urban and rural is set out in the extant Area Plans. As the Councils new Area Plan progresses, new settlements may be identified. Settlement classification considers issues such as population, location and settlement role, including facilities and services provided and rural catchment.

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

The Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (2015) produced by NISRA provides a default definition of rural where settlements with fewer than 5,000 residents together with open countryside are classified as rural.

As advised in the NISRA report, while a default definition is provided, users should consider defining urban and rural areas in ways that are appropriate for different projects and programmes. In relation to Planning, the distinction between urban and rural is set out in the extant Area Plans. As the Councils new Area Plan progresses, new settlements may be identified. Settlement classification considers issues such as population, location and settlement role, including facilities and services provided and rural catchment.

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

SECTION 2

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

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

| | | | | |
|-----|---|----|--|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes | ✓ | No | | If 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.

The Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) is a high level document; its aim is to set out what we will do in the year ahead to deliver on our statutory duty to secure continuous improvement in service delivery and bring about improvement. This is set out in a number of performance improvement objectives which will be detailed within the Plan and the draft objectives are subject of this RNIA.

This PIP is developed with the needs of residents, businesses and visitors in mind. It is informed by our Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Medium Term Recovery Plan.

An 8 week public consultation process across the Borough will be undertaken commencing in February 2022.

The main stakeholders include customers, Elected Members, Staff Members, Statutory agencies, Community and Voluntary organisations, citizens, businesses, those who work in /visit 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 Performance Improvement Plan **will not impact on people in rural areas differently** to those people in urban areas.

The Performance Improvement Plan, as legally required, is developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services across the borough.

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

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| 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.

SECTION 3

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

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| 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 . |

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| 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). | | | |

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| 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. |
| <p>Council are undertaking a public consultation exercise on our draft Performance Improvement Objectives which forms the main part of the Performance Improvement Plan commencing in February 2022.</p> <p>The consultation paper appendices a hard copy of the questionnaire. Feedback is available to be submitted online via Council's Consultation Hub: https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.citizenspace.com</p> <p>We will also use other communication methods, including social media, email and intranet promotion, and make hard copies of the consultation papers available in each of our 3 main civic buildings in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.</p> |

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| 3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority? |
| No specific needs have been identified in relation to the 6 improvement objectives at this stage |

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| If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A. |
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| 3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas? |
| See above |

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.

We will consider the details of any matters raised during the public consultation exercise in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

SECTION 5

Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

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

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|-----|-------------------------------------|----|--|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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.

The draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23 will go out for public consultation during February 2022 for 8 weeks. We will consider the details of any matters raised during the public consultation exercise in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Upon completion of the public consultation process, analysis of feedback and any necessary changes as per statutory requirements we will publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2022-23 containing the Improvement Objectives by 30 June 2022 on the publications section of the Council's website at www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

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.

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

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| I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled. | ✓ |
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| Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by: | Martina McNulty |
| Position/Grade: | Head of Department |
| Department/Directorate | Strategy & Performance Department |
| Signature: | |
| Date: | 31 January 2022 |
| Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by: | Sharon McNicholl |
| Position/Grade: | Strategic Director |
| Department/Directorate | Strategy & Performance Directorate |
| Signature: | |
| Date: | 31 January 2022 |