

ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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AMENDMENT RECORD SHEET

Remove and destroy old pages. Insert new pages as indicated.

Revision Number	Page Number	Date Revised	Description of Revision

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is committed to making sure decisions are evidence-based, taking into account the views and experiences of all our stakeholders including residents, businesses and service customers. Seeking the views and opinions of the communities we serve and all our stakeholders is vital to making informed decisions. We are committed to undertaking consultations with a 'one council approach' using clear, robust and accountable processes.

Public Consultation is the process by which we seek views and opinions to inform our decision-making and continually improve service delivery. Listening to what people have to say about certain policies or proposals on the services we provide and about what they want to see happen in the Borough will lead to better, more responsive services and ultimately an improved quality of life for all. It is an essential step forming part of our overall Community Engagement to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and or decisions.

This Policy will help co-ordinate and promote best practice to those involved in conducting and reporting on public consultation.

2.0 AIM / PURPOSE

The aim of this Policy is to improve the services and operations of the Council by understanding the views of our stakeholders who are affected by our decisions. It sets the context and guiding principles on public consultation for Council.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- To improve the quality and reach of public consultation.
- To develop our ability to make effective use of public consultation techniques.
- To maximise equality of public consultation.

3.0 SCOPE

This Policy covers all statutory and non-statutory public consultations undertaken or commissioned by Council. However, it is not applicable in any instance where there is already a defined statutory process for consultation e.g. consultation in relation to planning applications or the Local Development Plan.

A separate process led by Human Resources exists for employee and Trade Union consultation; therefore, this Policy does not include consultation in relation to employee related matters. This Policy does apply to any Third Party undertaking public consultation on behalf of Council.

4.0 POLICY DETAIL

Public Consultation is the formal stage of seeking views on proposed strategies/policies /plans etc. from our residents, ratepayers, businesses, charities, voluntary and community sector, statutory partners, other public bodies, Section 75 Groups and anyone with an interest in Council business or the subject area being consulted on. This normally follows a period of internal and external stakeholder engagement when views and opinions are sought to inform draft policy/proposal development prior to public consultation.

In line with "A Fresh Start– The Stormont Agreement Guidelines on Good Practice in Public Consultation Engagement", we aim as far as is practicable to:

- (i) enhance decision-making by ensuring all voices are heard and all relevant data is considered;
- (ii) improve the acceptability of decisions reached by showing how opinions received have shaped the outcome and demonstrating inputs were taken seriously even in cases where they were not incorporated in the final outcome;
- (iii) build capacity both internally in terms of relationships with interested parties and externally in enabling stakeholders to understand how best to influence policy, political and decision-making processes.

The level of consultation required and undertaken will be proportionate and therefore will differ depending on the issue consulted on.

We will ensure our consultation is inclusive and improves equality of opportunity, enabling greater participation in consultation especially from marginalised groups.

5.0 HOW WE WILL CONSULT

Consultation is often quite specific or time bound, relevant to the decisions being made as a result. It is important that consultees have enough information to consider the matter and enough time to respond. The recommended period for undertaking a public consultation exercise, which includes an Equality Impact Assessment, is 12 weeks (in accordance with the Council's Equality Scheme). All other Council public consultations will be undertaken for a maximum of 8 weeks. However, this may vary dependant on the level of stakeholder engagement up until the point of public consultation or other relevant factors. It is therefore important that a decision to vary from the 8 weeks is justified and documented.

Accompanying 'Guidance for Undertaking Public Consultation' will be provided for staff with detailed information on the key steps to take and the various consultation methods available, for example:

- Face to Face e.g. focus groups/workshops
- In writing e.g. letters/emails/online questionnaires & surveys via website and social media.

When undertaking public consultation we will take into account and follow where practicable the 'Cabinet Office Consultation Principles 2016' as set out in Appendix 1.

The Councils Consultation Hub is our primary chosen platform for collating and storing responses and reporting on public consultation exercises.

6.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To ensure that a consistent and coordinated approach to consultation everyone has a role to play.

Elected Members

In their role as community leaders, Elected Members play a key role in consultation as they have a unique relationship with residents and the wider community and can relay views from their involvement with local groups, partnerships, businesses and organisations operating within the Borough.

Executive Management Team and Heads of Department

The Executive Management Team and Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that all Council staff understand and apply consultation methods in line with

this Policy. They are responsible for ensuring there is sufficient time and resource allocated to undertake meaningful and effective consultation exercises.

Council Officers

Within departments, each public consultation will have an identified lead Officer responsible for planning, designing and undertaking the exercise. They are responsible for ensuring they follow this Policy and the associated Officer Guidance. There are other corporate roles including those in customer relations, policy development and marketing and communications for example who will facilitate and guide public consultation exercises in conjunction with departments as required.

7.0 RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES

Guidance for Developing Council Policy. (SGC/P1.0/Ver4.0)

Undertaking Public Consultation Internal Officer Guidance (currently in draft).

Community Engagement Strategy (June 2019)

8.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1-Cabinet Office Consultation Principles 2016

Appendix 2-Equality Policy Screening Form

Appendix 3-Rural Needs Impact Assessment

Cabinet Office Consultation Principles 2016**A. Consultations should be clear and concise**

Use plain English and avoid acronyms. Be clear what questions you are asking and limit the number of questions to those that are necessary. Make them easy to understand and easy to answer. Avoid lengthy documents when possible and consider merging those on related topics.

B. Consultations should have a purpose

Do not consult for the sake of it. Ask departmental lawyers whether you have a legal duty to consult. Take consultation responses into account when taking policy forward. Consult about policies or implementation plans when the development of the policies or plans is at a formative stage. Do not ask questions about issues on which you already have a final view.

C. Consultations should be informative

Give enough information to ensure that those consulted understand the issues and can give informed responses. Include validated assessments of the costs and benefits of the options being considered when possible; this might be required where proposals have an impact on business or the voluntary sector.

D. Consultations are only part of a process of engagement

Consider whether informal iterative consultation is appropriate, using new digital tools and open, collaborative approaches. Consultation is not just about formal documents and responses. It is an on-going process.

E. Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time

Judge the length of the consultation on the basis of legal advice and taking into account the nature and impact of the proposal. Consulting for too long will unnecessarily delay policy development. Consulting too quickly will not give enough time for consideration and will reduce the quality of responses.

F. Consultations should be targeted

Consider the full range of people, business and voluntary bodies affected by the policy, and whether representative groups exist. Consider targeting specific groups if appropriate. Ensure they are aware of the consultation and can access it. Consider

how to tailor consultation to the needs and preferences of particular groups, such as older people, younger people or people with disabilities that may not respond to traditional consultation methods.

G. Consultations should take account of the groups being consulted Consult stakeholders in a way that suits them. Charities may need more time to respond than businesses, for example. When the consultation spans all or part of a holiday period, consider how this may affect consultation and take appropriate mitigating action.

H. Consultations should be agreed before publication

Seek collective agreement before publishing a written consultation, particularly when consulting on new policy proposals. Consultations should be published on gov.uk.

I. Consultation should facilitate scrutiny

Publish any response on the same page on gov.uk as the original consultation, and ensure it is clear when the government has responded to the consultation. Explain the responses that have been received from consultees and how these have informed the policy. State how many responses have been received.

J. Government responses to consultations should be published in a timely fashion

Publish responses within 12 weeks of the consultation or provide an explanation why this is not possible. Where consultation concerns a statutory instrument publish responses before or at the same time as the instrument is laid, except in exceptional circumstances. Allow appropriate time between closing the consultation and implementing policy or legislation.

K. Consultation exercises should not generally be launched during local or national election periods.

If exceptional circumstances make a consultation absolutely essential (for example, for safeguarding public health), departments should seek advice from the Propriety and Ethics team in the Cabinet Office.

Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Undertaking Public Consultation Policy

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

This is a new public consultation policy.

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

The aim of the policy is to improve the services and operations of the Council by understanding the views of our stakeholders who are affected by our decisions. It sets the context and guiding principles on public consultation for Council.

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?

It has been developed as a method of good practice, based on various guidance documents mentioned throughout the Policy and recommended by the NIAO.

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

All Section 75 Categories will benefit from this Policy.

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

<p>Who initiated or wrote policy? Martina McNulty, Head of Department: Performance and Audit Department Denise Girvan, Improvement Manager, Performance and Audit Department</p>	<p>Who is responsible for implementation? All Council departments and staff and Third Parties who undertake consultation on behalf of Council.</p>
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Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?

None specifically known.

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).

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Residents, rate payers, businesses, statutory purchasers, other NI Councils, Community & Voluntary Groups, Section 75 groups, all other public bodies, those with potential to do business with Council or in the Borough- Customers and all service users and any person who seeks, is entitled to or receives a service from the Council., and- Council staff or anyone providing services on behalf of Council including contractors, and- Elected Members.- Third parties undertaking consultation on behalf of Council. |
|--|

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

Guidance for Developing Council Policy. (SGC/P1.0/Ver4.0) Community Engagement Strategy (June 2019)
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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. **(Details correct at November 2020)**

	A range of information was collated and analysed, a summary of the information for the Borough is shown below, further details and tables of statistical results are available in the Council's Audit of Inequalities.
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	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members, the breakdown of seats by political party is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Democratic Unionist Party – 11• Ulster Unionist Party - 10• Sinn Fein - 10• Social Democratic and Labour Party - 6• Alliance - 3• Independent - 1 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.
Racial group	The 2011 Census showed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 98.5% of the usually resident population of the Borough were White and 1.5% were from minority ethnic groups. The main

	<p>ethnic minorities were Mixed (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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).
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"> • 0-15 years - 23% • 16-39 years - 30% • 40-64 years - 32% • 65+ years - 16% <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"> • Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) - 34% • Married - 51% • In a registered same-sex civil partnership - 0.1% • Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) - 4% • Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved - 5% • Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership - 7%
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"> • I am 'gay' or 'lesbian' (homosexual) - 2% • I am heterosexual or 'straight' - 90% • I am bi-sexual - 1% • Other answer - 1% • I do not wish to answer this question – 7% <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.</p> <p>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"> • 2,120 or 4.4% of under 16 population and 6,070 or 18.1% of 65 and over population claiming Disability Living Allowance • 5,550 or 16.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance • 15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).
Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed:</p> <p>36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children.</p> <p>12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided unpaid care.</p> <p>Of those who provided unpaid support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% provided 1-19 hours per week, • 17% provided 20-49 hours per week, and • 25% provided 50+ hours per week. <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	N/A
Political opinion	N/A
Racial group	As outlined in the policy there are a range of consultation methods and decisions will be taken regarding the most appropriate. A range of formats will be available if required.
Age	As outlined in the policy there are a range of consultation methods and decisions will be taken regarding the most appropriate. Different methods may need to be considered for older people and younger people
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	As outlined in the policy there are a range of consultation methods and decisions will be taken regarding the most appropriate. Different methods may need to be considered for disabled people. A range of formats will be available if required. Staff assistance will also be available where required.
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?

We will ensure our consultation is inclusive and improves equality of opportunity, enabling greater participation in consultation especially from marginalised groups.

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group	Different formats may be required	Minor
Age		None
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		None
Men and women generally		None
Disability	Different consultation methods may need to be considered for disabled people. Different formats may be required	Minor
Dependants		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		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Men and women generally		No
Disability		No
Dependents		No

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	N/A	N/A
Political opinion	N/A	N/A
Racial group	N/A	N/A

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	N/A	N/A
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 Public Consultation Policy is available to all our customers and will consider the views of a range of customers.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

Different consultation methods will be considered where necessary. A range of formats will be available on request if required and staff assistance will also be available where required.
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Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Different consultation methods will be considered where necessary A range of formats will be available on requests if required and staff assistance will also be available where required.

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.

This policy will be available for all our Customers. However, it is possible that those of a different race, older and younger people and those with a disability may require assistance. As a mitigation, different consultation methods will be considered, a range of formats will be available on request and assistance from staff will be available where required.

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).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

This policy will be reviewed in December 2021.

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
Denise Girvan Mary Hanna	Improvement Manager Policy & Diversity Officer	17 May 2021
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Martina McNulty	Head of Performance & Audit	17 May 2021

RURAL NEEDS IMPACT ASSESSMENT (RNIA)



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

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 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

Development of a policy in relation to undertaking public consultation. Noting that it does not include internal employee consultation or statutory consultation in relation to the Planning Service and the Local Development Plan.

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

Developing a	Policy	X	Strategy		Plan	
Adopting a	Policy	X	Strategy		Plan	
Implementing a	Policy	X	Strategy		Plan	
Revising a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Designing a Public Service						
Designing 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

Public Consultation Policy

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

The aim of this policy is to improve the services and operations of the Council by understanding the views of our stakeholders who are affected by our decisions.

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.

The Policy is for the whole Borough.

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	X	No		If the response is NO GO TO Section 2E .
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2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

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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.

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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) X -See above

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.

It will likely have a positive impact as the Policy directs we will endeavor to ensure there are a range of consultation methods in place to ensure reach to our rural populations.

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	X	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).			

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?

The Public Consultation Policy is applicable to all our rural populations.

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	X	If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C .
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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.

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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.

The Public Consultation Policy is applicable to all our rural populations.

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.	X
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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Denise Girvan
Position/Grade:	Improvement Manager
Department/Directorate	Performance & Audit Department, Performance Directorate
Signature:	
Date:	29 April 2021
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Martina McNulty
Position/Grade:	Head of Department : P&A
Department/Directorate	Performance & Audit Department, Performance Directorate
Signature:	
Date:	29 April 2021