

## 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

**Banbridge Town Centre Public Realm Scheme**

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

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

**Banbridge Town Centre Public Realm Scheme**

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

The Banbridge Public Realm Scheme aims to improve the quality and connectivity between streets and car parks in the town, improve accessibility in the town centre and create an attractive civic space. The scheme will focus on building a safe streetscape that focuses on safe pedestrian circulation and accessibility for all, while preserving and enhancing the character of the town centre. Specific aims attaching to each phase of the scheme include:

#### Phase 1

- Improving and updating of the public realm throughout the project area;
- Creating a new civic space in the town centre at Scarva Street/Downshire Place junction;
- Improving pedestrian linkages between Primary Retail Core and car parks / secondary streets;
- Enhancing the River Bann and Downshire Bridges;
- Installing an event infrastructure at The Cut;
- Improving accessibility and wayfinding in the town centre

#### Phase 2

- Enhancing heritage quarter and Area of Townscape Character;
- Improving and updating the public realm in Church Square;
- Improving connectivity.

### 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).	X
A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.	

#### *Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

An urban 'market town' (Banbridge, population of 16,637 in the 2011 Census), surrounded by an extensive rural hinterland.

#### *Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

The town is set in a rural location in County Down with a large resident population but also serving as a commercial centre for the adjoining rural district.

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

N/A

## **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 <b>NO</b> GO TO Section <b>2E</b> .
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#### **2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

While the Public Realm Scheme focuses on enhancing the physical environment of Banbridge, it will improve accessibility to and within the town. This will be of considerable benefit to those living and visiting the town, including those from its rural hinterland.

#### **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.**

Parking and vehicular access within the town will be enhanced and this will be of particular benefit to those visiting the town from surrounding rural 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	X
Rural Tourism	X
Rural Housing	
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	X
Education or Training in Rural Areas	
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	X
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.**

N/A

### 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	X	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	X	Research Papers	
Surveys or Questionnaires	X	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.**

Between January 2020 and March 2020, through online questionnaires and face-to-face meetings, the Council sought views from statutory consultees, councillors, key stakeholders and members of the public on the concept design proposals and options attached to the two phases of the scheme. This extended to those from the surrounding rural hinterland

This included an information session (28<sup>th</sup> January 2020) for Elected Members, Banbridge Regeneration Company, Banbridge Chamber of Commerce and traders/businesses and a public consultation event on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 together with an initial meeting with Section 75 User Groups.

In total, 42 responses were received during the information session held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 with a further 72 questionnaires returned during the public consultation event (16 written & 56 on-line).

Two written submissions were also received from RNIB Northern Ireland /Guide Dogs NI and the Mae Murray Foundation.

A separate meeting with Age Friendly representatives was held on the 27 February 2019

A targeted meeting with Linen Hall Street Traders was held on the 18th February 2019

Consultation with DfI Roads, Utility providers, Translink and Historic Environment Department (HED) has been undertaken throughout the initial design process, with comments and recommendations identified during the consultation process helping or influencing the design in relation to meeting design standards required.

Overall feedback has been very positive, broadly welcoming the design proposals and also welcoming opportunities to provide further feedback through successive rounds of consultation.

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

The need for safe and convenient parking and access generally within the town centre for visitors and including those from rural areas.

**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?**

N/A

## 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.**

Access to and within Banbridge town centre is critical to those from the rural hinterland who use the town on a regular basis. The improvements will make the town more 'user friendly' for those travelling from rural areas who wish to avail of services and shopping, and hence will enhance the social and economic wellbeing of those 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?**

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No		If the response is <b>NO</b> GO TO Section <b>5C</b> .
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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.**

See above.

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.**

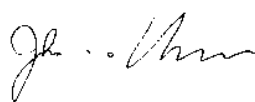
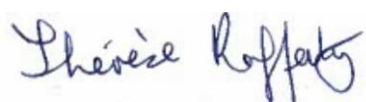
## SECTION 6

### 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

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

X

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Dr John M D Kremer
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	External Consultant (RPS Associate)
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	N/A
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	11/8/2020
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Therese Rafferty
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Head of Department
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Regeneration
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	28 January 2021