

# Policy Screening Form

## Policy Scoping

**Policy Title: Small Settlement Rural Business Support Grant**

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

This is a new grant scheme which aims is to assist commercial property owners to improve the aesthetic quality of the building stock and respective streetscape within Waringstown, Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

Property owners wishing to undertake works to enhance the lettability, functionality and appearance of their property will be able to apply for grant assistance through the Scheme.

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

The grant schemes has two tiers aimed at supporting businesses located with small settlements with a population between 1000 and 4999. Impacting positively on the following rural settlements – Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

**Tier 1 - Small Settlement Facade Grant** aims to support businesses to improve their facade, while creating a more welcoming environment to existing/new customers while also enhancing the wider benefits for the small settlement. The maximum grant value to applicants under this scheme will be £3,000.

**Tier 2 - Small Settlement Meanwhile Space Grant** aims to help businesses transform underused space. The grant will be used to improve and reconfigure the interior of the building so it can be brought into use or better utilised, thus creating more opportunities for start-ups/growth of existing businesses and overall benefit the local economy. The maximum grant value to applicants under this scheme will be £20,000.

**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?

This policy is not in response to any statutory requirement or legal advice etc. The aim of this project is to encourage property owners to invest in their buildings,

thereby improving the vitality and vibrancy of the rural areas of Waringstown, Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

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

The Council will not consider applications from Applicants that discriminate against Section 75 groupings.

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

**Who initiated or wrote policy?**

The policy was initiated by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Economic Development Department.

**Who is responsible for implementation?**

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and a team of professional advisors.

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

Financial – availability of funding  
Legislation – Unlikely to affect the implementation of the scheme

**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)

The main stakeholders affected by the policy will be council officers and the business community.

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

Yes, there is both local and regional policy that has a bearing on this policy. They are:

- Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030
- Regeneration & Development Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council 2015-2020
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council- Corporate Plan 2018-2023
- NI Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland

- Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework 2013

### 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.

Consultation Method	Dates
Engagement with Economic Development Team, other teams within council	Various engagement over 2022
Reports to Economic Development and Regeneration Committee	October 2022

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> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

	<p>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> <li>• Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership - 7%</li> </ul>
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.</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"> <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> <li>• 15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).</li> </ul>
Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children.</li> <li>• 12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support: <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> </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	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for any of the section 75 groups.
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	
Disability	

Dependants	
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<b>Screening Questions</b>
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**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 policy aims to improve the vitality and vibrancy of rural areas in the Borough it is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on any of the Section 75 groups.	None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None
Age		None
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		None
Men and women generally		None
Disability		None
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	Applied equally to all individuals and communities
Political opinion	No	
Racial group	No	
Age	No	
Marital status	No	
Sexual orientation	No	
Men and women generally	No	
Disability	No	
Dependants	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	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		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	Applied equally to all individuals and communities	None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

**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.

N/A

**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

The Small Settlement Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 aims to improve the physical environment for all its users. It is considered that the scheme will not have an adverse impact on any of the Section 75 groups.

The Council will not consider applications from Applicants that discriminate against Section 75 groupings.

The aim of this project is to assist commercial property owners to improve the quality of the building stock and respective streetscape within Waringstown, Tandragee,

Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

Property owners wishing to undertake works to enhance the lettability, functionality and appearance of their property will be able to apply for grant assistance through the Scheme to encourage commercial property owners to invest in their buildings and reduce long term vacancy, thereby improving the vitality and vibrancy of our Borough for all users.

**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.

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

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

Not Required

**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.

N/A



**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

The response to the implementation of this programme will 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
Rosemary Hughes	Regeneration Officer	12.10.22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Julie Ann Spence	Task force Manager	12.10.22

**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.**

# Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

## 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 The 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.**

Small Settlement Business Support Grant Scheme 2022

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

Developing a

Adopting a

Implementing a

Policy

Revising a

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**

Small Settlement Business Support Grant Scheme 2022

This is a new grant scheme which aims is to assist commercial property owners to improve the aesthetic quality of the building stock and respective streetscape within Waringstown, Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

Property owners wishing to undertake works to enhance the lettability, functionality and appearance of their property will be able to apply for grant assistance through the Scheme.

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

The grant schemes has two tiers aimed at supporting businesses located with small settlements with a population between 1000 and 4999. Impacting positively on the following rural settlements – Waringstown,

Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

Tier 1 - Small Settlement Facade Grant aims to support businesses to improve their facade, while creating a more welcoming environment to existing/new customers while also enhancing the wider benefits for the small settlement. The maximum grant value to applicants under this scheme will be £3,000.

Tier 2 - Small Settlement Meanwhile Space Grant aims to help businesses transform underused space. The grant will be used to improve and reconfigure the interior of the building so it can be brought into use or better utilised, thus creating more opportunities for start-ups/growth of existing businesses and overall benefit the local economy. The maximum grant value to applicants under this scheme will be £20,000.

The scheme fits with the Corporate Priority under Place Directorate

‘Support business development and business growth’.

‘Increase the tourism, hospitality and entertainment economy’.

Tackle physical and social deprivation: PR1

Secure investment in infrastructure and connectivity: PR2

Ensure our neighbourhoods are more attractive, healthier, safer and cleaner: PR3

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**

**Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used**

N/A

**Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.**

N/A

**Reason 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

No

If response is No go to 2E

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

The grant schemes has two tiers aimed at supporting businesses located with small settlements with a population between 1000 and 4999. Impacting positively on the following rural settlements – Waringstown, Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.

Grant will be available under Tier 1 - Small Settlement Facade Grant which aims to support businesses to improve their facade, while creating a more welcoming environment to existing/new customers while also enhancing the wider benefits for the small settlement. The maximum grant value to applicants under this scheme will be £3,000 and Tier 2 - Small Settlement Meanwhile Space Grant aims to help businesses transform underused space. The grant will be used to improve and reconfigure the interior of the building so it can be brought into use or better utilised, thus creating more opportunities for start-ups/growth of existing businesses and overall benefit the local economy. The maximum grant value to applicants under this scheme will be £20,000.

**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.**

This scheme will impact positively by providing much needed financial support through a grant scheme.

**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.

Policy relates to Quality Management System and no impact on rural areas.

### **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 response is No go to 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

Consultation with Other organisations

Published Statistics

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 scheme is an innovative grant scheme which aims to encourage owners and tenants to invest in their buildings in the rural areas of Waringstown, Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary. The funding has been provided by the Department for Communities (DFC) and the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) as part of the COVID – 19 Recovery Small Settlement Regeneration Programme.

#### **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 response is No go to 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.**

This scheme is an innovative grant scheme which aims to encourage owners and tenants to invest in their buildings in Waringstown, Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary. The funding has been provided by the Department for Communities (DFC) and the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) as part of the COVID – 19 Recovery Small Settlement Regeneration Programme.

If the response to Section 5A was YES go to 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.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by: Rosemary Hughes  
Position: Regeneration Officer  
Department / Directorate: Tourism, Arts, Culture & Heritage Development  
Signature: Rosemary Hughes  
Date: 12.10.22

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by: Julieann Spence  
Position: Taskforce Manager  
Department / Directorate: Economic Development  
Signature: Julieann Spence  
Date: 12/10/22