

Appendix 2 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title:

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

New policy

The Banbridge Place Plan is a new locality plan for Banbridge. Its aim is to develop a new integrated local plan for the town, incorporating and updating any existing strategies and policies for the town. The plan identifies a series of strategically aligned outcomes and actions for taking forward in the town to help build sustainability, health, connectivity and engagement by residents.

The new plan contains 5 key outcomes and 56 actions and is built on a diverse engagement process throughout its development.

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

The Banbridge Place Plan is the creation of a new locality/community plan for the town

There are five outcomes for the Plan

1. Bridging Banbridge – A connected and accessible town
2. Green Banbridge – An environmentally friendly, sustainable and biodiverse town
3. Healthy Banbridge – An Active town
4. Creative Banbridge – An innovative and digital town
5. Growing Banbridge – An economic hub

These priorities were identified through research and community engagement from December 2022 to June 2023. The draft Place Plan was then further screened with the general public from October to December 2023. Strategic documents such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Programme for Government, and *Connected*, a community plan for Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, 2017-2030 and a policy review of 52 other strategies, policies and plans relevant to the town was also carried out as part of the desktop review, as well as a town health check, adopting methodological approaches from the Department for Communities, MAG Living High Street Craft Kit 2022.

The plan is made up of nine chapters

- Chapter 1 - Starting with the Past and Present of Banbridge lays out the story of the town.
- Chapter 2 – Presents the vision of the Place Plan and paints a picture of a future Banbridge.
- Chapter 3 – Includes the Introduction to the Place Plan and Process giving an overview of the place planning process and shares how the discovery stage has provided an evidence base for the plan.

- Chapter 4 – Case for Change, contains key analysis from desktop research and strategic alignment opportunities that exist across government and with wider stakeholders.
- Chapter 5 - Focuses on Engagement with the community and stakeholders and details how engagement was delivered to gain feedback and highlights what they think of the town.
- Chapter 6 - Challenges and Opportunities are highlighted through the ‘essential qualities health check’ format from the Living High Streets Craft Kit 2022.
- Chapter 7 – Presents the Outcomes that describe the change that Banbridge will undergo: Bridging, Green, Healthy, Creative, Growing.
- Chapter 8 – How do we get there? Details the Actions, clustered into 5 areas: Arts, Heritage and Leisure; Green Innovation; Spaces, Places and Natural Environment; Living Here; and High Street and Investing.
- Chapter 9 – Summarises the Banbridge Place Plan through a Theory of Change style diagram.

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 The Council to amend the policy?

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 places a duty on community planning partners to take forward collaborative actions to realise the outcomes in the community plan, under which this plan aligns. It is anticipated that the Banbridge Place Plan document will constitute a material consideration for the Council when deciding certain applications for planning or other types of consent within the settlement development limit for Banbridge and will also inform the Council’s Local Development Plan.

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

All Section 75 groups should benefit from the implementation of the Banbridge Place Plan. The plan has engaged S75 groups in its development.

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

Who initiated or wrote the policy?	<p>Studio Idir were appointed by ABC Council to develop and write the plan.</p> <p>The plan has been created collaboratively by the Banbridge Place Plan Project Team which is made up of representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ABC Council - Department for Communities - Studio Idir
Who is responsible for implementation?	<p>The Community Planning Strategic Partnership is responsible for its delivery.</p> <p>ABC Council Internal Place Working Group will monitor progress against delivery of the actions detailed within the plan.</p>

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

The Banbridge Place Plan is dependent on buy in, commitment and resources of all community planning partners and strategic and community partners who will be required to help deliver the plan. Delivery of some of the actions will be dependent on securing funding.

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, customers, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

The community, which is defined in its broadest sense in the community planning statutory guidance and includes:

- residents;
- service users;
- voluntary body representatives whose activities benefit our borough;
- businesses; and
- other persons interested in the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the area.

- Community Planning Partners
- Community and Voluntary Sector Panel member
- Business Partnership Alliance
- Elected Members
- Government departments

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

- Connected Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030
- Programme for Government
- Rural Policy Framework NI
- ABC Good Relations Strategy
- Community planning partners' corporate plans
- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Local Development Plan for the ABC Borough
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland
- ABC Agricultural Strategy
- Sustainability for the Future – DAERA's plan to 2050
- ABC Tourism Strategy 2017-2022
- ABC Play Strategy 2018 - 2026
- Get Moving ABC Framework
- Age Friendly Strategy
- ABC Vacancy Study 2019

Available Evidence

The 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. For up to date [S75 Borough Statistics](#)

The following evidence was considered to develop the Banbridge Place Plan

- Online public engagement workshop, February 2023
- Face to Face public engagement workshops – February and March 2023
- Older persons workshop, May 2023
- Banbridge Place Plan Survey x 2, July 2022 and February 2023
- Primary and Secondary Schools Survey, December 2022
- Set up a ‘Place Lab’ in Town Centre – February and March 2023
- Attended an Older Person Event – March 2023
- Attended a students event in local SRC campus – March 2023
- Focus group workshop with young people, aged 12 – 15 years – March 2023
- Online focus workshop for Section 75 representatives – April 2023
- 1 to 1 stakeholder interviews and meetings with strategic and local partners

The Draft Banbridge Place Plan was further screened from October – December 2023 via

- Online survey 6 October – 4 December 2023
- Email feedback received from Stakeholders and Community Planning Strategic Partners
- Online meeting with Section 75 representatives – October 2023
- Online meeting with Stakeholders – October 2023
- Drop-in sessions at various locations– October – November 2023
- Pop up stalls at various locations– October – November
- Stories of Banbridge Historic People event – November 2023
- 1 to 1 meetings with strategic and local partners

Section 75 category	Evidence				
Religious belief	The 2021 Census shows that the majority of the Banbridge settlement belonged to or were brought up in the Protestant religion (53%) compared to 35% who belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion. Similar to the borough where the majority still belong to or were brought up in the Protestant religion 47% in 2021.				
	Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
		2011	2021	2011	2021
	Catholic	34%	35%	43%	44%
	Protestant	59%	53%	52%	47%
	Other	1%	1%	1%	1%
	None	6%	10%	5%	8%
	Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table: Religion or Religion brought up in of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Religion	Survey during Initial Engagement	Survey on Draft Place Plan
No religion	32.74%	26.67%
Protestant – Other	8.93%	14.44%
Catholic	27.38%	31.11%
Christian – Other	8.33%	8.89%
Presbyterian	12.50%	6.67%
Buddhist	0.60%	2.22%
Church of Ireland	5.95%	4.44%
Hindu	0.00%	0.00%
Methodist	1.79%	0.00%
Jewish	0.00%	0.00%
Baptist	0.60%	0.00%
Muslim	0.00%	0.00%
Free Presbyterian	0.00%	0.00%
Sikh	0.00%	0.00%
Brethren	0.60%	0.00%
Other (please describe)	0.00%	2.22%
Not Answered	0.60%	3.33%

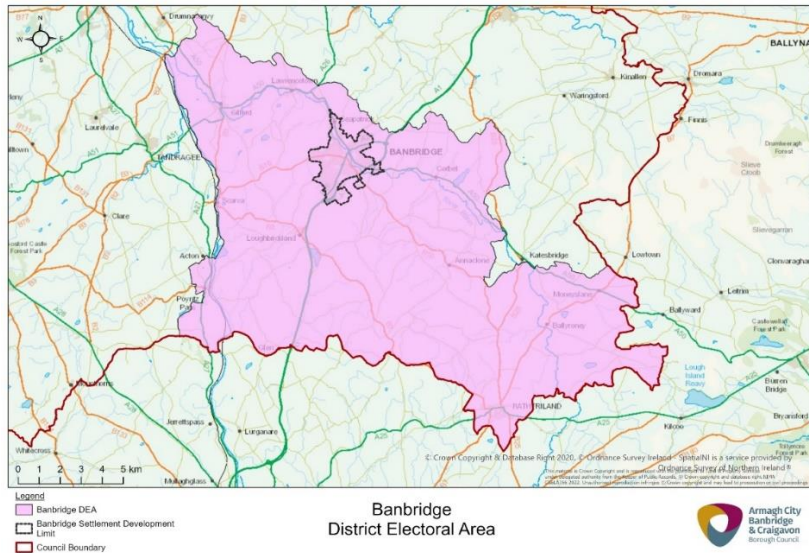
Information about religious belief was captured as part of the community engagement surveys. There is a higher proportion of respondents stipulating that they have no religion than the census data above. The number of people stating that they are protestant or Catholic is also lower than the census data above.

Political opinion

Banbridge DEA is made up of the following political representation:

Alliance – 1
 DUP – 2
 SF – 2
 UUP – 2

The Banbridge DEA representatives were invited to give ideas and feedback on the Banbridge Place Plan on two separate occasions to date during the development stage.



A map showing Banbridge District Electoral Area for the Banbridge Place Plan is above.

Racial group

Ethnicity

On Census Day 2021, approximately 97.2% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area were white. This is just slightly higher than the figure for the borough overall at 96.7%. Mixed race and Chinese are the next biggest ethnic groups in the Banbridge Settlement area even though together they account for just 1.2% of the total population.

Ethnicity	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
White	98.95%	97.18%	98.54%	96.69%
Mixed	0.35%	0.69%	0.30%	0.76%
Chinese	0.27%	0.52%	0.26%	0.31%
Irish Traveller	0.01%	0.35%	0.07%	0.24%
Other Asian	0.13%	0.29%	0.23%	0.27%
Black African	0.01%	0.25%	0.10%	0.52%
Pakistani	0.05%	0.19%	0.10%	0.13%
Indian	0.08%	0.16%	0.19%	0.28%
Black Other	0.01%	0.06%	0.05%	0.24%
Other ethnicities	0.13%	0.31%	0.15%	0.56%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table: Ethnicity of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Across the two surveys over 93% of respondents identified as white which aligns to the census data above.

Country of Birth

In the Banbridge Settlement area approximately 87% of residents were born in Northern Ireland which is slightly higher than the borough as approximately 85.5% of residents were born in Northern Ireland

Approximately 4.4% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area were born in England while 2.3% of residents were born in the Republic of Ireland.

Country of Birth	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Northern Ireland	90.1%	87.0%	89.0%	85.5%
England	4.2%	4.4%	3.1%	3.2%
Scotland	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Wales	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Republic of Ireland	1.5%	2.3%	1.8%	1.9%
Other	3.3%	5.3%	5.5%	8.6%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table: Country of birth of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Main Language

The percentage of the population whose main language was English has fallen from 98.2% in 2011 to 96.8% in 2021 in the Banbridge Settlement area and from 95.7% to 93.2% in the borough overall.

Polish was the second most common main language for residents of the Banbridge Settlement area and the borough overall and this is unchanged from the 2011 Census. Persons with Romanian as a main language account for 0.31% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area while those with Chinese as a main language account for 0.27%. Lithuanian and Portuguese as a main language is less common in Banbridge Settlement area compared to the borough overall.

Main Language	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
English	98.22%	96.77%	95.72%	93.17%
Polish	0.86%	1.08%	1.53%	1.69%
Romanian	-	0.31%	-	0.37%
Chinese	0.05%	0.27%	0.07%	0.09%
Bulgarian	-	0.18%	-	0.70%
Arabic	-	0.17%	-	0.11%
Hungarian	0.01%	0.11%	0.05%	0.17%
Russian	0.02%	0.10%	0.09%	0.15%
Irish	0.06%	0.10%	0.13%	0.20%

Lithuanian	0.10%	0.09%	0.91%	1.24%
Portuguese	0.01%	0.05%	0.44%	0.84%
Spanish	-	0.04%	-	0.06%
Latvian	0.01%	0.04%	0.18%	0.22%
Cantonese	-	0.03%	-	0.05%
Tagalog/Filipino	0.03%	0.01%	0.09%	0.06%
Slovak	0.03%	0.01%	0.10%	0.18%
Other languages	0.61%	0.64%	0.68%	0.71%
Total (Aged 3+)	15,851	16,824	190,526	210,402

Table: Main Language of residents aged 3+ in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Note: The breakdown of languages has been taken from the 2021 Census. Those with no data for 2011 were likely included in the 'other languages' category. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Age

Banbridge Settlement Area had an estimated population of 17,400 on Census Day 2021. There has been a significant increase in the population aged 65+ which has increased by 32% in the Banbridge Settlement Area and 27% in the borough overall. In the Banbridge Settlement area, the population aged between 0-15 years has decreased by 5%.

	Banbridge Settlement Area			Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough		
	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change
All Persons	16,637	17,400	4.6%	199,693	218,656	9.5%
Males	8,118	8,525	5.0%	98,713	108,268	9.7%
Females	8,519	8,875	4.2%	100,980	110,388	9.3%
0-15 Years	3,647	3,468	-4.9%	44,206	48,246	9.1%
16-64 Years	10,713	10,919	1.9%	127,860	135,421	5.9%
65+ Years	2,277	3,011	32.2%	27,627	34,993	26.7%

Table: Gender and age profile of Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

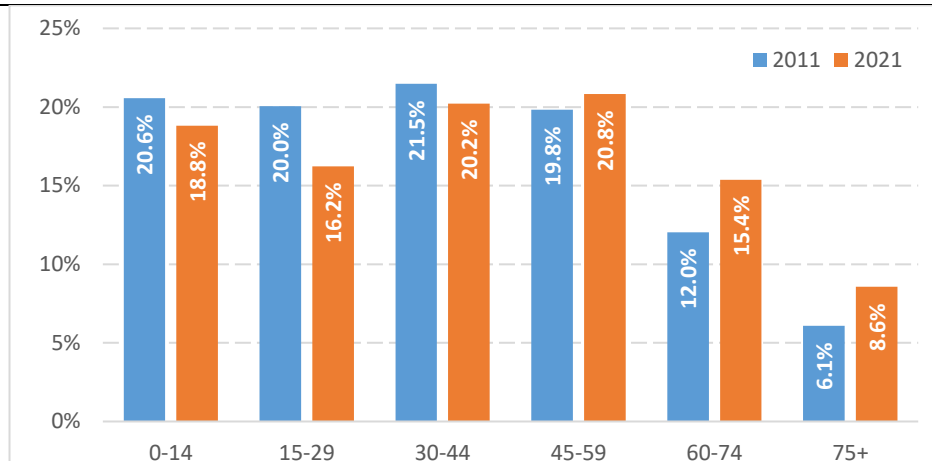


Figure 4: Age Structure of the population of Banbridge Settlement Area in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

Figure 4 presents a more detailed breakdown of the age structure in Banbridge Settlement area in 2011 and 2021. There has been a decline in the proportion of the population aged from 0-44 although this was most significant for those aged 15-29. The proportion of the population aged 60+ has increased from 18.1% in 2011 to 23.9% in 2021, an increase of 5.8 percentage points. In the borough, the population aged 60+ increased by 2.7 percentage points while in Northern Ireland overall, the increase was 3.3 percentage points. Banbridge, like the rest of Northern Ireland and indeed the rest of the world, is experiencing a demographic shift which comes with its own opportunities and challenges.

Age	Survey during Initial Engagement	Survey on Draft Place Plan
0-15	0.00%	0.00%
16-24	3.57%	16.67%
25-34	19.05%	11.11%
35-44	29.17%	22.22%
45-54	20.83%	22.22%
55-64	16.07%	15.56%
65-74	10.71%	10.00%
75-84	0%	2.22%
85+	0.60%	0.00%
Not Answered	0.00	0.00%

The majority of respondents from both surveys were in the 35 – 44 and 45 – 54 year age brackets . Engagement by young people via the survey on draft Place Plan did increase.

Separate engagement activities focused on younger people and older people.

	<p>School packs were issued to Primary School and Secondary Schools for completion. 54 responses were received: 41 from primary school and 13 from secondary school.</p> <p>A focus group session was held with a local youth club and an event for students at a local SRC campus was attended to speak to young people. During the draft Place Plan consultation stage students from a local secondary school came along to one of the drop in sessions held. A play session was organised during this phase of public consultation but due to poor weather conditions and flooding, nobody attended this event.</p> <p>Further engagement was held for older persons via a focused group session and attendance at a local event.</p>																																				
Marital status	<p>On Census Day 2021, 47.5% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area (aged 16 and over) were married while approximately 34% were single. Just 20 people (0.1%) were in a civil partnership.</p> <p>The survey responses came back as follows</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 864 1315 1682"> <thead> <tr> <th>Marital Status</th> <th>Survey during Initial Engagement</th> <th>Survey on Draft Place Plan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Option</td> <td></td> <td>Percent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single, that is, never married and never registered in a same-sex civil partnership</td> <td>22.62%</td> <td>30.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In a registered same-sex civil partnership</td> <td>1.19%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td>64.88%</td> <td>55.56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separated, but still legally married</td> <td>0.60%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</td> <td>0.60%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Divorced</td> <td>4.76%</td> <td>4.44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surviving partner in a same-sex civil partnership</td> <td>1.19%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widowed</td> <td>3.57%</td> <td>5.56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>0.60%</td> <td>2.22%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Marital Status	Survey during Initial Engagement	Survey on Draft Place Plan	Option		Percent	Single, that is, never married and never registered in a same-sex civil partnership	22.62%	30.00%	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	1.19%	1.11%	Married	64.88%	55.56%	Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership	0.00%	0.00%	Separated, but still legally married	0.60%	1.11%	Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	0.60%	0.00%	Divorced	4.76%	4.44%	Surviving partner in a same-sex civil partnership	1.19%	0.00%	Widowed	3.57%	5.56%	Not Answered	0.60%	2.22%
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Sexual orientation	<p>On Census Day 2021, 91% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area (aged 16 and over) were straight or heterosexual while approximately 2% were gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation.</p> <p>Survey respondents statistics are very similar in breakdown to the census data above.</p>																																				

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Men and women generally	<p>On Census Day 2021 there were an estimated 17,400 residents in the Banbridge Settlement area. Of those, approximately 8,875 (51%) were female while 8,525 (49%) were male.</p> <p><u>Gender</u></p> <p>The majority of people who completed the survey were female.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Survey during Initial Engagement</th> <th>Survey on Draft Place Plan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>38.10%</td> <td>47.78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>61.31%</td> <td>50.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-binary</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say</td> <td>0.60%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I prefer to self describe</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>0.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Gender	Survey during Initial Engagement	Survey on Draft Place Plan	Male	38.10%	47.78%	Female	61.31%	50.00%	Non-binary	0.00%	0.00%	Prefer not to say	0.60%	1.11%	I prefer to self describe	0.00%	0.00%	Not Answered	0.00%	1.11%
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Disability	<p>On Census Day 2021, more than 4,300 people, which is almost one quarter of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area had a health problem or disability (long term) which limited their day to day activities. Just under 12% reported that their day to day activities were limited a lot while 13% reported that their day to day activities were limited a little.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Disability</th> <th>Survey during Initial Engagement</th> <th>Survey on Draft Place Plan</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes limited a little</td> <td>8.33%</td> <td>10.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes limited a lot</td> <td>4.76%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>85.12%</td> <td>86.67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I prefer not to say</td> <td>1.79%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>1.11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Disability	Survey during Initial Engagement	Survey on Draft Place Plan	Yes limited a little	8.33%	10.00%	Yes limited a lot	4.76%	1.11%	No	85.12%	86.67%	I prefer not to say	1.79%	1.11%	Not Answered	0.00%	1.11%			
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Dependants	On Census Day 2021, approximately 13,754 residents in Banbridge Settlement area were aged 16+. Of those, approximately 10% (1,414) lived in a one person household and just over 56% (7,710) had no dependent children living at home. Just under 34% (4,630) of residents had dependent children (0-18 years) living at home.		
	Do you have responsibility for the care of?	Survey during Initial Engagement	Survey on Draft Place Plan
	Child/Children	51.19%	37.78%
	Dependent elderly person	7.74%	13.33%
	Person with a disability	5.95%	6.67%
	Other (please describe)	1.19%	0.00%
	No	35.12%	48.89%
	Not Answered	4.76%	1.11%
The majority of respondents who completed the survey had children			

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	No information available
Political opinion	On many accounts during engagement sessions, attendees would have commented that Banbridge is a friendly and welcoming place with strong cross-community and inter-generational connections.
Racial group	No information available
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under half of secondary school respondents reported feeling safe in Banbridge Young people via engagement session expressed issues around feeling safe in Solitude Park especially when getting dark. People expressed during engagement more activities in the evening for young people to socialise <p>Older persons identified issues in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety of accessing Huntly Wood as no footpath Social Isolation Dunbarton Bridge to be accessible for wheelchair and mobility scooters
Marital status	No information available.
Sexual orientation	No information available.
Men and women generally	No information available.
Disability	There is some evidence from the engagement sessions that the town is not fully accessible due to the typography of the steep hill and some expressed that pavements need to be smooth for wheelchair use.

Dependants	No Information available
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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?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief		No negative impact
Political opinion		No negative impact
Racial group		No negative impact
Age	There are actions within the Banbridge Plan to maintain and upgrade existing structured and unstructured play spaces	Positive / Minor
Marital status		No negative impact
Sexual orientation		No negative impact
Men and women generally		No negative impact
Disability	There are actions within the Banbridge Plan to review existing public amenities such as public toilet offering and changing place facility.	Positive / Minor
Dependants		No negative impact

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	Many of the proposals in the plan advocate for the codesign and for community led For example youth led programming of activities and development of intergenerational activities and the introduction of a Positive Action Group for the evening economy. This will give greater ownership to local people and provide opportunities for people to work together.	
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

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	The effective implementation of the Banbridge Place Plan will deliver outcomes to all members of the local community, visitors and workers regardless of religious belief.	Minor
Political opinion	The effective implementation of the Banbridge Place Plan will deliver outcomes to all members of the local community, visitors and workers regardless of political opinion.	Minor
Racial group	The effective implementation of the Banbridge Place Plan will deliver outcomes to all members of the local community, visitors and workers regardless of racial group.	Minor

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	Enhanced public space and shared services that are open and welcome to all in neutral locations.	
Political opinion	Town centre has many focused improvements proposed, which will enhance its position as a main shared space for the town.	
Racial group	Enhanced public space and shared services or events are open and welcome to all.	

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.

No impact anticipated.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

Yes, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership and the Place Board Sub committee involves representatives from a cross section of organisations and they will continue to inform how the outcomes and thematic actions contained within the plan can promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as they are designed eg more accessible paths which are wheelchair and mobility scooter friendly.

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Yes, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership and the Place Board Sub committee involves representatives from a cross section of organisations and they will continue to inform how the outcomes and thematic actions contained within the plan can promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as they are designed eg accessible facilities in the Banbridge Settlement Development Limit area.

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.

It is recommended the Banbridge Place Plan not be subject to an EQIA

The Banbridge Place Plan has been developed following an extensive engagement and research exercise. This included online surveys, engagement with young people and older people, online and live engagement exercises, engagement with Community Planning Partners and the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel.

Desktop research of the available evidence from NISRA and Statutory Partners was compiled to support development of Banbridge Place Plan.

The research showed that children and young people; older people; people with a disability and carers are affected by the current urban form, layout and engagement that happens in the town. Common themes identified were:

- Skills and employment
- Accessibility of walking routes
- Traffic dominance within town centre

These are reflected in the actions in the plan and the partnership commits to ongoing dialogue with S75 groups to ensure that their needs are addressed in its implementation.

Minor impact in relation to disability and accessibility will be addressed within the Banbridge Place Plan via actions AHL3, SP1, SP2, SP6, LH12, HSI3

Play actions will be improved via AHL2, LH5

Action HSI9 focuses on the employability and skills agenda to meet the future needs of the labour market.

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

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

N/A

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.

Policy Criterion

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations
Social need
Effect on people's daily lives

Rating (1-3)

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.

No-

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

Community planning department will monitor the progress through population indicators dashboard. The delivery and implementation of the actions will be monitored every 6 months with each lead point of contact. Progress updates will be discussed at the Community Planning Partnership - Place Board sub committee and Council's Internal Place Working Group.

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/The Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Lissa O'Malley	Place and Strategic Manager	02/02/2024
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Elaine Gillespie	Head of Community Planning Policy & Research	02/02/2024

A copy of the completed screening form should be signed off and approved by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The completed screening form should be attached to the relevant Committee paper when the policy is submitted for approval.

Following approval by Council please forward a copy of the completed approved policy and screening form to:

Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The policy and completed screening form will be made available on the Council's website.

Appendix 3 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.

Banbridge Place Plan

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

Developing a Plan

Adopting a

Implementing a

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

Banbridge Place Plan

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

The aim of the Banbridge Place Plan is to create a locality plan for the Town that aligns strategically with the Community Plan for the Borough. It will be achieved via five outcomes:

- Bridging Banbridge – A Connected and accessible town
- Green Banbridge – An environmentally, friendly, sustainable and biodiverse town
- Healthy Banbridge – An Active town
- Creative Banbridge – An innovative and digital town
- Growing Banbridge – An economic hub

The plans identified 56 actions for implementation to help deliver the above outcomes.

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

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

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 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.

Protecting rural communities and food production is vital for preserving biodiversity, improving health, ensuring food security, maintaining rural (and urban) livelihoods, and protecting the environment. The Banbridge Place Plan advocates a sustainable urban development approach that seeks to protect the rural landscape allowing vital services and activities that need to take place there can continue. The Banbridge Place Plan offers many actions for an enhanced and improved town that caters for rural dwellers that use the town regularly to gain access to services.

The Place Plan will reinforce and enhance rural and urban connections by

- Giving more opportunities for rural businesses to showcase themselves in the town
- Develop a better and more integrated transport system in and out of the town
- Design green and blue infrastructure that connects the wider rural area into the town

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 proposals contained within the plan will be beneficial to both urban and rural dwellers. Due to a number of transport proposals, rural dwellers will benefit as well as urban dwellers from improved transport infrastructure that connects them into the town.

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Tourism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poverty in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deprivation in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Crime or Community Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Agri-Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (Please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

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.

Engagement during the development phase of the Place Plan:

- Area wide survey that gathered 168 responses, many of which came from outside the settlement of Banbridge in February/March 2023
- Engagement sessions held in person and online during February - May 2023 which involved a number of rural dwellers

Engagement on the draft Place Plan:

- Area wide survey received 90 responses, many of which came from outside the settlement of Banbridge – December 2023
- Engagement sessions held in person and online during October and November 2023

which involved a number of rural dwellers

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

- Access to services
- Better transport connectivity

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?

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.

The following issues were considered in relation to the needs of people in rural areas:

- Social isolation and the need for more integrated public transport provision
- Access to services in the town and not competing with rural settlements providing essential more regular services than in Banbridge town
- Employment and access to jobs and opportunities in the town

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.

More and better alternative transport options for getting into and out of the town have been incorporated into the plan to include exploring a study on the future of transport in Banbridge and surrounding rural areas to explore and promote walking, cycling, public transport, implementing more greenways to connect cyclists into and out of the town and looking at traffic congestion in Church Square.

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:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature:

Date: 02/02/2024

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature: *Elaine Gillespie*

Date: 02/02/2024