

## SECTION 1

### Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

#### 1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Each year the Council is required under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (Part 12) to develop a Performance Improvement Plan. This legislation provides a framework from which the **Draft** Performance Improvement Plan 2021 -2022 has been developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services. This Performance Improvement Plan will cover the year 2021/22\* and has been aligned with the Programme for Government, the Borough Community Plan, and supports our Corporate Plan. To align with the timeframe for the Council's Corporate Plan (2018-2023), our focus on the Medium Term Recovery Plan (next 2 years), it is recommended that the draft objectives are chosen for \*minimum 2 year period from April 2021 - March 2023 (reviewed after 12 months).

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

Developing a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	✓
Adopting a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Implementing a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Revising a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Designing a Public Service						
Delivering a Public Service						

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above

Performance Improvement Plan 2021/22 and 2022/23

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

The aim of our Performance Improvement Plan is to set out what we will do in the year ahead to deliver on our statutory duty to secure continuous improvement in service delivery and bring about improvement against at least one of the following seven improvement areas as stipulated in Section 84 (2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014: Strategic effectiveness / Service quality / Service availability / Fairness / Sustainability/ Efficiency/ Innovation. Statutory performance indicators and standards, as set out in the Local Government Order (NI) 2015 are also reported on within the Performance Improvement Plan.

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

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).	
Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).	✓
A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **SECTION 2**

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

<b>2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>				
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the response is <b>NO</b> GO TO Section <b>2E</b> .

<b>2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.</b>
<p>The Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) is a high level document; its aim is to set out what we will do in the year ahead to deliver on our statutory duty to secure continuous improvement in service delivery and bring about improvement.</p> <p>This PIP has been developed with the needs of residents, businesses and visitors in mind. It has been informed by our Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Medium Term Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Furthermore a public consultation process across the borough will be undertaken during April /May 2021.</p> <p>The main stakeholders include customers, Elected Members, Staff Members, Statutory agencies, Community and Voluntary organisations, citizens, businesses, those who work in /visit the Borough.</p>

<b>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.</b>
<p>The Performance Improvement Plan will not impact on people in rural areas <u>differently</u> to those people in urban areas.</p> <p>The Performance Improvement Plan, as legally required, has been developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services across the borough.</p>

**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.**

## 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 the Response is <b>NO</b> GO TO Section <b>3E</b> .
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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.**

Council are undertaking a public consultation exercise during April/May 2021.

The consultation paper appendices a hard copy of the questionnaire.

Feedback is available to be submitted via Council Consultation Hub:

[www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/consultations)

We will also use other communication methods, including Consultation Hub, email and intranet promotion, and provide hard copies of consultation paper available in each civic building.

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

Upon completion of Consultation process and analysis of feedback, as per statutory requirements we will publish our Performance Improvement Plan containing Improvement Objectives on the Council website at [www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk).

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.**

Upon completion of Consultation process and analysis of feedback, as per statutory requirements we will publish our Performance Improvement Plan containing Improvement Objectives on the Council website at [www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

## **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.**

The draft Performance Improvement Objectives 21/22 & 22/23 will go out for public consultation during April/May 2021.

Upon completion of Consultation process and analysis of feedback, as per statutory requirements we will publish our Performance Improvement Plan containing Improvement Objectives on the Council website at [www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk).

**If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.**

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

## **SECTION 6**

### **Documenting and Recording**

**6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance**

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.	✓
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<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Denise Girvan
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Improvement Manager
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Performance & Audit Dept, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	March 2021
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Martina McNulty
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Head of Performance & Audit
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Performance & Audit Dept, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	March 2021