

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

Remote meetings Protocol

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

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

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

Remote meetings Protocol

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

This is a new Protocol which has been designed to provide a guide to remote formal meetings to help Members, Officers and the public. Mandatory Standing Orders remain in place and the process for ‘call-in’ will remain unchanged. The provisions of the Code of Conduct apply to remote meetings of the Council in the same way as they do to physical meetings.

As part of the overall emergency response (Coronavirus Act 2020) to the current COVID 19 pandemic The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, issued on the 1st of May, makes provision for remote attendance at, and remote access to Council meetings.

The Regulations enable the Council to hold meetings without all, or any, of the Members being physically present in a room. They allow for remote meetings through electronic and digital means at remote locations using video and telephone conferencing, live webcast and live interactive streaming. In order for Members to be able to attend meetings of the Council remotely, they need not be physically present, provided they are able to hear and be heard (and where practicable, see and be seen by) other Members and members of the public attending remotely or in person.

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

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

Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

N/A

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

This Protocol provides a guide to remote formal meetings to help Members, Officers and the public. It enables the Council to operate effectively while ensuring government requirements on social distancing are met.

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

This Protocol will enable both Staff and Members to participate in Council meetings remotely. However, slower broadband speeds in rural areas may mean that those Members living in rural areas may find it more difficult to connect.

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.

Slower broadband speeds in rural areas may mean that those Members living in rural areas may find it more difficult to connect but these are temporary measures and will only be in place until 7 May 2021 at the latest. These arrangements will be carefully monitored.

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	X	If the Response is NO GO TO Section 3E .
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3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders		Published Statistics	
Consultation with Other Organisations		Research Papers	
Surveys or Questionnaires		Other Publications	
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

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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?

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SECTION 4

Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

N/A

SECTION 5

Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes		No	x	If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C .
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5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

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.

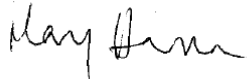

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SECTION 6

Documenting and Recording

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

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.	x
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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Mary Hanna
Position/Grade:	Policy & Diversity Officer
Department/Directorate	Governance and Democratic Services
Signature:	
Date:	11.05.20
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Eamonn Kelly
Position/Grade:	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Department/Directorate	Governance and Democratic Services
Signature:	
Date:	12.05.20