

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

This is a new action within an existing strategy.

The action to: *“Implement a Participatory Budgeting (PB) Pilot”*

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	x	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

Our Community Engagement Strategy

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

This action builds upon the commitments set out in “Our Community Engagement Strategy, Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership June 2019 and sets out how the partners will achieve the following aims:

- To enhance our community engagement through agreed standards, defined roles and clear actions
- To maximise opportunities for people to be more involved and have a meaningful say in decisions which affect their lives

The implementation of a Participatory Budgeting (PB) Pilot is an action of the action plan in the Community Engagement Strategy.

Participatory Budgeting is a process that directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending of a defined public budget. This is either through groups pitching for small pots of money to deliver projects or through mainstream investments taken by a public body. The proposed PB project will allocated small pots of money to promote the Take 5 Ways to Wellbeing public health message.

The community planning partnership has established a working group to take forward the PB project and the group has expressed the following aims for the project:

- Local input for joined up community engagement and decision-making
- To involve community in the decision-making around project funding
- Community involvement in council decisions
- Access new groups
- Encourage community self help
- Community empowerment
- To give people a sense of ownership and responsibility for investment in their area
- Help shape local areas
- Encourage local projects
- Clarify to partners what is the perceived need in communities
- To make our contribution to communities
- Strengthen relationships and partnership working
- Create networking opportunities
- Release finance to the community for innovative projects without burdensome process
- Funding for all not just for the form fillers
- Innovation

Take £500 is the name the working group have selected for the PB pilot.

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).	x
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	<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.

The process has moved online as a result of Covid and with pledges from eight community planning partners of up to £24,500 projects can be supported across the borough.

Voting will be by DEA and there will be up to seven successful projects in each DEA in the borough. Up to 49 groups will benefit from financial support. Participatory Budgeting is an innovative way for governments to involve communities in the design and commissioning of services and through TAK£500 residents will be able to commission up to £24,500 of projects to promote mental wellbeing in the borough.

Constituted and non-constituted groups will be able to put forward proposals for small projects of up to

a maximum £500 to contribute to the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing public health message. The 5 Steps to Wellbeing public health message includes: Give, Be active, Connect, Keep Learning and Take Notice.

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 Tak£500 PB project will be available across each of the 7 District Electoral Areas. However as the process has moved online. Access to broadband may impact on people within rural areas. Libraries across the Borough are available to submit an application form. TADA Rural Support Network will actively encourage and support groups to apply.

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	xx
Poverty in Rural Areas	
Deprivation in Rural Areas	
Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Rural Development	
Agri-Environment	
Other (Please state) Community Engagement and Participation	

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	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	x
Consultation with Other Organisations	x	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.

Census 2011 – NISRA
Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 - NISRA

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

Results from the 2011 Census show that just over half of the borough’s population (51%) lived in urban areas while just under half (49%) lived in rural areas. This is based on the NISRA default urban/rural settlement classification where settlements with a population greater than or equal to 5,000 are classified as urban while those with a population less than 5,000 are classified as rural. This compares to 63% urban and 37% rural for Northern Ireland overall. Craigavon Urban Area (which includes Central Craigavon, Lurgan and Portadown), Banbridge, Armagh and Dromore are the four urban areas within the borough, all other settlements are classified as rural according to the NISRA default classification.

The NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 provides information on seven distinct types of deprivation, known as domains, along with an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM). Results are available for the 890 Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland, ranked from 1 most deprived to 890 least deprived.

The Access to Services Domain which measures the extent to which people have poor physical and online access to key services is particularly relevant to rural areas. The borough has nine SOAs (10% of the total 87 SOAs in the borough) in the top 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland on the Access to Services Domain, each of which are defined as rural on the NISRA default classification. Twenty SOAs in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (23% of the total 87 SOAs in the borough) are in the top 20% most deprived SOAs in Northern Ireland in terms of Access to Services. All twenty are classified as rural. The purpose of the Income Deprivation Domain is to identify the proportion of the population on low income. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough has nine SOAs (10% of the total 87 SOAs in the borough) in the top 100 most deprived in Northern Ireland on the Income Deprivation Domain. Three of these nine are rural areas according to the NISRA default classification.

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.

Access to digital infrastructure

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 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.

The Community Engagement Strategy where the PB project is an action from states:

“We acknowledge that good community engagement is at the heart of addressing inequality. Therefore, we will strive to enable and empower the full participation of all our community. We will make extra efforts to actively engage with those who are traditionally underrepresented or face barriers to inclusion including women, children and young people, people with disabilities and rural dwellers.”

The Community Planning Partnership includes a Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Panel to facilitate wider community engagement and to ensure that all communities have the opportunity to make their needs known to the community planning partnership. Nine out of 38 of the organisations on the panel are rural, including TADA, the rural network for the Borough.

The Tak£500 working group have links across the whole borough. Officers have committed to ensuring that groups constituted and non constituted groups are supported to apply for this funding. As the funding the pool will be split evenly across each of the DEA’s rural areas will also benefit.

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.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	[REDACTED]
Position/Grade:	[REDACTED]
Department/Directorate	Community Planning
Signature:	
Date:	25 September 2020
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	
Position/Grade:	
Department/Directorate	
Signature:	
Date:	