

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 on behalf of Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership.

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

Connected Covid -19 Response & Recovery Plan for Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership

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

Developing a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	X
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

Connected Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan for Armagh, Banbridge Craigavon Community Planning Partnership

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

The Connected Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan replaces six thematic action plans.

There are five priorities for the recovery plan:

1. Maximise the Community Response and Partnership Working to reduce the Impact of the Virus across our Borough
2. Support Physical, Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing
3. Grow Business, Employment and Skills Development Opportunities

- 4. Target Hardship, Poverty and Inequality
- 5. Tackle Social Isolation and Loneliness

There are two parts to the plan. Part A contains the actions under the first priority. These actions are the urgent short-term things the partnership needs to do together and actions that build on the community response and partnership working that have been identified throughout engagement and research as the strengths we need to build on.

Part A - Maximise the Community Response and Partnership Working to reduce the Impact of the Virus across our Borough.

- Address barriers to services and community support and enhance targeting, communication and coordination of needs and referral pathways
- Tackle food insecurity
- Support recovery and strengthening of employment and skills
- Analyse the resilience of Community and Voluntary Sector post-lockdown
- Continue to engage with and listen to communities to ensure partnership is responsive to existing and emerging needs across our borough.
- Establish Peer Network – current recovery planning group to continue to meet during implementation and includes dissemination of Covid-19 health messages.
- Deliver final phase of Carnegie UK Trust Embedding Wellbeing in NI Project to support peer network and community engagement.

Part B contains additional partnership programmes that are being put in place to address the remaining four priority themes and are also crucial for recovery.

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’.

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 Connected Covid-19 Response & Recovery Plan has actions which will **address barriers to services and community support and enhance targeting, communication and coordination of needs and referral pathways.**

It will also address issues in regards to digital inclusion, rural transport all which impact on people living in rural areas.

There will also be actions to promote the uptake on mental health programmes including for those in the agriculture sector.

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.

As a result of Covid some services have moved online. Access to broadband and digital services will have a greater impact on those that live in rural areas.

TADA Rural Support Network are an active participant within the Recovery Group have been able to share the needs of those living within rural areas to ensure their needs are included in the planning and development of the plan.

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	X
Deprivation in Rural Areas	X
Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Rural Development	X
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.

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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.

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.

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

Access to digital infrastructure

Social isolation

Mental health

Access to services

Poverty

Loneliness

Employment and Jobs

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 plan has been influenced by research and community engagement and as 49% of the borough's population live in rural areas, rural needs have helped influence the actions within the Connected response and recovery plan in particular actions in Part A of the action plan relate to:

- Address barriers to services and community support
- Enhance coordination of food assistance and networks
- Continue to engage with and listen to communities to ensure the partnership is responsive to needs

In part B of the plan there are actions that will tackle social isolation and loneliness and this will include a focus on **Making and Enhancing Connections** which will help create connections with groups that are socially isolated.

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:	Michelle Markey
Position/Grade:	Community Planning Officer
Department/Directorate	Community Planning
Signature:	Michelle Markey
Date:	17 September 2020
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	
Position/Grade:	
Department/Directorate	
Signature:	
Date:	