

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

Play Strategy 2018 – 2026 – Play Park Local, Neighbourhood and District

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		x				
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

Play Strategy 2018 – 2026 – Play Park Local, Neighbourhood and District

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

Existing Strategy 2018 - 2026

The Purpose of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Play Strategy is to establish a strategic framework within which all decision making as it relates to the provision of fixed play and non-fixed play can take place.

<https://getactiveabc.com/homepage/play-development/>

There are three Play Area Designations in the Play Strategy 2018-2023 and this rural needs impact assessment relates to all three designations. This is a new rural needs impact assessment based on the Play Strategy Policy developed in May 2019.

In rolling out this strategy we aim to ensure that children and young people living in or visiting the council area are best able to meet their play needs. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council have therefore agreed a number of key aims:

- To make Parks and open spaces attractive and welcoming to children and young people, allowing them an opportunity to engage in a wide range of play activities within the natural environment.
- To ensure that fixed play areas are attractive, welcoming, safe challenging, accessible and inclusive whilst providing a high level of play value for all children and young people.
- To ensure that all future fixed play provision is targeted at those areas of greatest need, leased on an ongoing review of underlying demographics requirements.
- To encourage adults within the community to acknowledge the play needs of children and young people and recognise the positive contribution play makes to society.
- To provide children and young people, parents and communities with opportunities to engage in the planning process as it relates to meeting local play need.
- To establish a portfolio of approaches to meeting play need, incorporating not only fixed play but also street and community play, play volunteer schemes and other non-fixed approaches.
- To ensure that all appropriate council staff receive the training they require in order to implement and oversee the roll-out of the play strategy.
- To embed the play strategy within emerging Community Planning process ensuring broad, collective responsibility for meeting play need across the partnership.

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	X	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.

LOCATION, ACCESSIBILITY AND DEMOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF FIXED PLAY

In order to determine the level of geographical accessibility afforded by existing fixed play areas council have established a GIS mapping system which enables underlying demographic data to be mapped over play area locations. Through the GIS system council are able to determine the level of population coverage associated with each fixed play area. This has allowed for the identification of areas of over and under supply. In order to establish an effective means of determining the level of population coverage associated with each fixed play area, council have reviewed the predominant accessibility standard in use across the UK, the Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards'. The Fields in Trust 'Accessibility Benchmark Standards for Outdoor Play' (also known as the Six Acre Standards) has been used across the UK to provide a means of determining the geographical catchment to be served by a fixed play area based on its size and scope. The Accessibility Benchmark Standard (ABS) is based around 3 identified types of play area and establishes a set of distance thresholds which set the catchment area for each 'type' of play space.

Whilst acknowledging the value of the Fields in Trust ABS in establishing a set of distance criteria, there has been a long-standing view across local government that the standards do not naturally translate across to the situation within Northern Ireland. This is primarily due to differences in population spread, in particular the largely rural, dispersed nature of settlements and the population base in Northern Ireland. As a result council has sought to develop its own tailored categorisation for fixed play areas with associated distance criteria which relate more closely to existing local fixed play provision, underlying demographic patterns and local geography

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.

No because of rationale above in 2B

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)	Ability to enjoy healthy lifestyle

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	X	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.

20 consultations completed either online/community and school since the commencement of the Capital Play Development Programme. Online consultation can be found at:

<https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.citizenspace.com/health-and-recreation>

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

Residents in rural areas have the right to enjoy a healthy lifestyle so it is important that they have access to play parks.

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.

Residents in rural areas have the right to enjoy a healthy lifestyle so it is important that they have access to play parks.

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	X	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.

SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

Based on the designated Settlement Development Limits (SDL) classification (a statistical delineation of settlements in Northern Ireland defined by the Planning Service), the council area comprises a combination of rural and urban areas with the population located across a range of residential classifications including rural settlement based, dispersed rural living and urban residential. Key settlements identified within the SDL include:

Armagh City, Keady, Banbridge, Magheralin, Craigavon Urban Area and Bleary, Markethill, Dollingstown, Rathfriland, Dromore, Richhill, Gilford and Waringstown.

Due to differences in population spread, in particular the largely rural, dispersed nature of settlements and the population base in Northern Ireland, Council has sought to develop its own tailored categorisation for fixed play areas with associated distance criteria which relate more closely to existing local fixed play provision, underlying demographic patterns and local geography.

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.	x
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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Joan Noade
Position/Grade:	Play Development Officer
Department/Directorate	Health and Recreation
Signature:	
Date:	January 2021
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Jonathan Hayes
Position/Grade:	Head of Department (Interim)
Department/Directorate	Health & Recreation / People Directorate
Signature:	
Date:	January 2021