

Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 - Interim Local Rural Development Strategy SOAR (ABC)

Brief Description of Policy (please attach copy if available). Please state if it is a new, existing or amended policy.

This is a new strategy which offers an opportunity to develop a connected, dynamic, sustainable and equitable rural society in the new council area. The strategy describes a frame work for the delivery of priority 6 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 in the ACBCBC area. The areas of intervention for grant assistance include – Rural Business Investment, Rural Basic Services, Rural Village Renewal, Broadband and cooperation.

Intended aims/outcomes. What is the policy trying to achieve?

The LAG has adopted the following broad aim to guide it in its management of priority 6 of the new rural programme 2014-2020

“To contribute to the regeneration and development of the rural areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area by –

- Supporting new and existing rural businesses
- Supporting farm diversification businesses
- Regenerating villages
- Ensuring the continued provision of public, private and community services in rural communities, in a manner which is inclusive, sustainable and equitable.”

Policy Framework

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to Council to amend the policy?

The strategy has been developed in order to deliver the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland 2014-2020.

Are any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the policy? If so, please outline.

Due to the nature of the funding it is envisaged that the section 75 groups could benefit by accessing funding. In the guidance to LAGs on the new programme and the development of strategies DARD have requested that “Particular reference should be made on how needs relate to children, young people, women, adults and older citizens and ethnic and minority groups.”

In the future if these target groups do not come forward for funding the LAG may encourage applications by stating in advertising that applications would be welcome from projects which benefit children, young people, women, adults, ethnic minorities and Older People. However this will not exclude others from applying.

Who initiated or wrote the policy (if Council decision, please state). Who is responsible for implementing the policy?

Who initiated or wrote policy? The SOAR (ABC) Local Action Group initiated strategy SOAR (ABC) staff - Rural Development Section of the Council wrote the strategy	Who is responsible for implementation? The SOAR (ABC) Local Action Group
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Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?

Financial – If funds do not become available

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, service users, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

Staff
Statutory bodies
Businesses
Community and Voluntary sector
Local Government

Are there any other policies with a bearing on this policy? If so, please identify them and how they impact on this policy.

There are a number of policies detailed in the documents which has a bearing on this strategy

- Europe 2020
- Programme for Government 2011-2015
- Northern Ireland Economic Strategy
- Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008-2018
- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2035
- Rural White Paper
- DARD Corporate Plan 2014-2016
- DARD Strategic Plan 2012-2020
- NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
- Tackling Poverty and Social Isolation 2011-2015
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI
- Lifetime Opportunities – Anti Poverty Strategy for NI
- Strategy for Children and Young People 2006-2016
- The Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016
- Invest Northern Ireland Corporate Plan 2011-2015
- Northern Ireland Tourist Board Corporate Plan 2011-2015
- Draft Telecommunications Strategy 2015-2017
- Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019
- Rural Homes and People Action Plan 2013-2015
- South East Economic Development

- Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2017
- Regeneration and Development Strategy for Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council 2015-2020
- Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2017
- Town Plans
- Village Plans
- Hamlet Plans
- Lough Neagh and its Waterways Tourism Destination Management Plan 2014-2019
- Craft NI Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Available Evidence

Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Evidence
Religious belief	Open consultation sessions held Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions
Political opinion	Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions
Racial group	Open consultation sessions held Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions In the strategy guidance from DARD they have specified "Particular reference should be made on how needs relate to children, young people, women, adults and older citizens and ethnic and minority groups." This was based on the extensive consultation DARD carried out prior to issuing guidance to the LAGs Ethnic Minorities are a target group as specified by DARD and additional one to one meetings were held with groups The feedback from these meetings indicated that there were issues with social isolation, transport, childcare and racism in their community
Age	Open consultation sessions held Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions In the strategy guidance from DARD they have specified "Particular reference should be made on how needs relate to children, young people, women, adults and older citizens and ethnic and minority groups." This was based on the extensive consultation DARD carried out prior to issuing guidance to the LAGs

	<p>Additional one to one meetings were held with target groups Ameena group Armagh Rural Transport ABC Seniors Network Young Farmers of Ulster SELB Youth Service Southern trust TADA Country Armagh Community Development UFU</p> <p>The feedback from these meetings indicated that there were issues with social isolation and transport in their community</p>
Marital status	<p>Open consultation sessions held</p> <p>Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>Open consultation sessions held</p> <p>Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions</p>
Men and women generally	<p>Open consultation sessions held</p> <p>Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions</p> <p>In the strategy guidance from DARD they have specified “Particular reference should be made on how needs relate to children, young people, women, adults and older citizens and ethnic and minority groups.” This was based on the extensive consultation DARD carried out prior to issuing guidance to the LAGs</p> <p>Additional one to one meetings were held with target groups</p> <p>The feedback from these meetings indicated that there were issues with social isolation, transport and childcare in their community</p>
Disability	<p>Open consultation sessions held</p> <p>Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions</p>
Dependants	<p>Open consultation sessions held</p> <p>Wrote to groups on Section 75 database to ask for their opinions</p>

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information gathered above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this particular policy/decision?

Section 75 category	Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	None
Political opinion	None
Racial group	Social isolation Racism
Age	Some older people have difficulty accessing computers and filling in forms on line can act as a barrier. Social isolation
Marital status	None
Sexual orientation	None
Men and women generally	Child care issues Social isolation
Disability	None
Dependants	None

Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief		
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age	Some older people have difficulty accessing computers and filling in forms on line can act as a barrier.	Minor
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Political opinion	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Racial group	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Age	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Marital status	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	

Sexual orientation	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Men and women generally	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Disability	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	
Dependents	Will keep policy under review on a yearly basis	

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?

Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	None	
Political opinion	None	
Racial group	None	

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No, This policy has no impact on any good relations category.

Multiple Identity

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people). Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

SOAR ABC consulted widely with section 75 groupings and will keep the policy under review.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

Is there an opportunity for the policy to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Funding is available for all members of the community

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Funding is available for all members of the community

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated or an alternative policy introduced. If so, EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

Section 75 groups were contacted. It was raised by some older individuals that it might be difficult filling in a form on line so to assist with this hard copy applications will be made available

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Timetabling and Prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3 with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive or adverse).

Further information on monitoring is available in the Equality Commission's guidance on monitoring (www.equalityni.org).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

The policy will be kept under review and will be monitored on an annual basis.

Approval and Authorisation

A copy of the screening form for each policy screened should be signed off by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The screening recommendation should be reported to the relevant Committee/Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Rosemary Hughes	Rural Development Officer	04/01/2016
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Maria Magennis	Deputy Programme Manager	04/01/2016

Please forward a copy of the completed policy and form to:

mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk or
stephanie.harte@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.

The above officers are also responsible for issuing reports on a quarterly basis on those policies "screened out for EQIA". This allows stakeholders who disagree with this recommendation to submit their views. In the event of any stakeholder disagreeing with the decision to screen out any policy, the screening exercise will be reviewed.