

Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: [Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan](#)

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

This is the first Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough developed in response to our ageing population to promote physical and social environments that support healthy and active ageing and a good quality of life for older people in the Borough. The strategy has been developed in partnership and by the Borough's Age Friendly Alliance, supported by the Council.

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

Vision:

People in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area are valued regardless of age and are supported to age well and with confidence.

Outcomes of the Strategy and Action plan are set out as follows

Outcome 1: As we get older, we enjoy good physical and mental health

Outcome 2: As we get older, we participate meaningfully in community life

Outcome 3: As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected

Outcome 4: As we get older, we are independent and involved in decisions that affect us

Outcome 5: As we get older, we are well informed about things that matter to us

Cross-cutting themes:

Inclusive and accessible - We are all growing older, but for some people, this will be more challenging. We will consider the different wants, needs and abilities of all our residents as they get older, and we will take practical steps to ensure that those most at risk of missing out can benefit in full.

Collaborative - Age-friendly is about partnership or working better together. We will pool the collective influence, resources and expertise of the Age-friendly Alliance so that our work has a bigger impact for the people we want to benefit.

Proactive - We will work together to identify new issues – and opportunities – and come up with solutions.

Meaningful engagement -The Age-friendly strategy and action plan is based on what local people told us matters most in their lives. We are committed to continuing to engage with people in a meaningful way so that what they say helps shape how we deliver the actions in this action plan.

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 Public Health Agency has provided funding to the Council to help the Borough adopt the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework. This also is in support of the regional approach from the Department for Communities (DfC) Active Ageing Strategy to lead on the development of Age Friendly Communities, working towards the longer term goal of making Northern Ireland an Age Friendly Region,” (Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2022)

The Public Health Agency fund Council not only to embed an Age Friendly approach into their structures, but also to support and build capacity through partnership working in an Age Friendly Alliance. The Alliance has led on the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the Borough, utilising a co-production approach and engaging a range of representatives from public, community and voluntary sectors including older people.

The Age Friendly Alliance was formed in March 21 which consists of 25 members to include a wide range of CVS organisations and older people. This group will work together to meet the outcomes of the community plan in relation to Age Friendly and promote the best possible health and wellbeing, safety and quality of life outcomes for older adults living in the council district. Following the framework as set out by the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, this group will develop and oversee implementation and evaluation of an Age Friendly Strategy and 3 year Action Plan for the Borough that complements the WHO eight interconnected domains that help to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people.

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

All Section 75 groups should benefit from the ABC Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan which demonstrates the partners' collective commitment to improve quality of life for all people aged 50+ who live, visit and work in the district. Categories which will see the greatest benefit are:

- Older people
- People with a disability
- Carers

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

<p>Who initiated or wrote policy? ABC Age Friendly Alliance developed the strategy and action plan facilitated by external support</p>	<p>Who is responsible for implementation? All Age Friendly Alliance partners will be responsible for Implementation facilitated by Council</p>
---	---

Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?

The success of the Action Plan will be dependent on buy in, commitment and resources of all ABC Age Friendly Alliance Members working in partnership

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)

- Residents aged 50+
- Service users
- ABC Age Friendly Alliance
- Community Planning Partners
- Community & Voluntary Sector
- Business Sector

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

Connected Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2017-2030

Active Ageing Strategy 2016–22

Other Government strategies and policies that have a bearing on this project include:

- NI Programme for Government (draft)
- Mental Health Strategy 2021–31
- Transforming your Care, A Review of Health and Social Care, 2011
- Southern Local Commissioning Group – Local Population Plan 2012-15
- Making Life Better 2013–23
- Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation 2016
- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (draft for consultation 2021)
- Get Moving ABC Framework (2020 – 2030)
- NI Housing Executive Older Peoples Housing Strategy 2021/22 to 2026/27

- Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Local Transport Study 2021
- Public Realm/Environmental Improvement (Department for Communities)

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	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 43% of the population in the Borough were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 52% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions, while 5% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.</p>
Political opinion	<p>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members. A breakdown of results of the Local Government Election in May 2019 for the borough are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Unionist Party – 11 • Ulster Unionist Party – 10 • Sinn Fein – 10 • Social Democratic and Labour Party – 6 • Alliance – 3 • Independent – 1 <p>A total of 79,309 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 147,977 giving a turnout of 53.6%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the borough.</p>
Racial group	<p>The 2011 Census showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98.5% of the usually resident population of the Borough were White and 1.5% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89.0% of residents in the Borough were born in Northern Ireland. The Borough had 5.4% of residents or 10,846 individuals who were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland. <p>4.1% of residents aged 3+ years or (7,896 individuals) spoke a language other than English or Irish as their main language. Apart from English and Irish, the most common other main languages were Polish (2,919 residents aged 3+ years), Lithuanian (1,736) and Portuguese (834). Of those whose main language is not English or Irish, 34% cannot speak English or cannot speak it well (based on the three legacy council areas).</p> <p>Consultation</p> <p>A focus group was held with the Wah Hep Chinese Community Association to gain their views regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where they live • Getting out and about • Healthy, active living • Working and volunteering • Access to information
Age	<p>The population of the Borough was estimated to be 216,205 at 30 June 2019. The profile by age group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-15 years - 23% • 16-39 years - 30% • 40-64 years - 32% • 65+ years - 16% <p>In our borough there are 33,530 people aged 65+ and this number is projected to grow by 65.6% in the next 23 years. The number of residents aged 85+ is projected to rise by 125.8% by 2043, when they will make up 3.5% of the population in the borough, compared to 1.8% in 2019. There are also growing numbers of older people are living with dementia, multiple long term health conditions and in social isolation.</p> <p>Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey: What age are you? (584 responses) 62 respondents aged 50-54 (10.46%) 59 respondents aged 55-59 (9.95%)</p>

	<p>84 respondents aged 60-64 (14.17%) 203 respondents aged 65-74 (34.23%) 139 respondents aged 75-84 (23.44%) 34 respondents aged 85+ (5.73%) 3 respondents preferred not to say age (0.51%) 9 respondents not answered (1.52%)</p>
Marital status	<p>The 2011 Census provides information on the marital status profile of those aged 16 and over in the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) - 34% • Married - 51% • In a registered same-sex civil partnership - 0.1% • Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) - 4% • Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved - 5% <p>Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership - 7%</p> <p>Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey: Who do you live with? (594 responses) 220 responded 'alone' (37.10%) 358 responded 'with others' (60.37%) 10 responded 'in communal accomodation' (1.69%) 9 did not answer (1.52%)</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The 2011 Census did not include a question on sexual identity.</p> <p>The Continuous Household Survey provides results on the sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over. For the combined years of 2016/17 – 2018/19, in the borough 98% of respondents to the survey identified as Heterosexual/Straight, 1% as Bisexual and less than 0.5% for each of Gay/Lesbian and Other. Less than 0.5% also responded don't know/refusal. (Note figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding).</p> <p>Results from the 2019 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey showed for adults ages 18 and over in Northern Ireland overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am 'gay' or 'lesbian – 2% • I am heterosexual or 'straight' – 90%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am bi-sexual – 1% • Other answer – 1% • I do not wish to answer this question – 7% <p>(Note figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding).</p>
<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>The 2011 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49% (98,713) of usual residents were males and 51% (100,980) were females.</p> <p>Population estimates for 2019 show the borough is made up of 107,540 (49.7%) males and 108,665 (50.3%) females.</p> <p>Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey: What gender are you? (582 responses) 177 answered male (29.85%) 404 answered female (68.13%) 1 preferred not to say (0.17%) 11 did not answer (1.85%)</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>In 2011, one fifth (20%) of people (or 39,861 individuals) in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities.</p> <p>The Family Resources Survey showed, using data for 2015/16 to 2017/18, 19% of individuals in the Borough were disabled, similar to the level in NI overall (21%).</p> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed as of May 2020 there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,120 or 4.4% of under 16 population and 6,070 or 18.1% of 65 and over population claiming Disability Living Allowance • 5,550 or 16.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance <p>15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).</p> <p>Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey: Do you have a care package? (542 responses) 21 answered yes (3.54%) 512 answered no (86.34%) 9 answered not sure (1.52%) 51 did not answer (8.6%)</p>

Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed: 36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children. 12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58% provided 1-19 hours per week, • 17% provided 20-49 hours per week, and • 25% provided 50+ hours per week. <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2020, there were 7,940 claimants or 4.7% of 16 and over population claiming Carer's Allowance in the Borough.</p> <p>Respondents taking part in the Age Friendly Survey: I have caring responsibilities for someone (552 responses) 153 agreed (25.8%) 213 disagreed (35.92%) 4 not sure (0.67%) 182 not applicable (30.69%) 41 did not answer (6.91%)</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	<p>The proposed strategy and action plan will have a positive impact on all section 75 categories but in particular the following:</p> <p>People aged 50+</p> <p>People with a disability</p> <p>Carers</p> <p>Comments taken from the Age Friendly Survey indicate that respondents want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More housing options and the ability to downsize in a suitable community • Loneliness and social isolation is an issue with 27% of respondents feeling lonely most of the time and 41% feeling lonely some of the time
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	
Disability	
Dependants	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital inclusion - 32% of respondents would like support to start using the internet or to improve their internet skills • Information needs to be made widely available and more accessible • More community based hubs, clubs and activities
--	---

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	Positive	Minor
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability	Positive	Minor
Dependents	Positive	Minor

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		
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age	Opportunities may arise as the 3 year action plan is implemented and monitored	
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		

Disability	Opportunities may arise as the 3 year action plan is implemented and monitored	
Dependents		

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	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	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

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.

The proposed project will have a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories as well as those with multiple identities

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

In the Action Plan - Outcome 5: As we grow older, we are well informed about things that matter to us
One of the outcomes in the action plan is to develop a communications campaign which challenges the stereotypes of growing older which should promote positive actions

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

In the Action Plan - Outcome 3: As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected
Outcomes in the action plan

- Explore options for a reference forum of people over 50 for dialogue and consultation on plans, policies and strategies that affect them
- Connect older people to influencing structures they can join and the decisions they can influence, eg. Older peoples Networks, Patient & Client Council, Pensioners Parliament

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

N/A

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, an 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.

Implementation of the action plan should mitigate issues

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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 strategy and action plan will be reviewed and revised annually by the Alliance to consider what has worked well and less well over the previous year and new challenges and opportunities. Anticipated timescales for the completion of actions will also be reviewed and revised annually, as necessary. The strategy and action plan will also be included in the review processes for the Borough’s Community Planning Strategic Partnership.

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
Stephanie Rock	Age Friendly Officer	23/3/22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Gillian Topping	Head of Department	23/03/22

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

mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

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

The above officer is 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.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

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 the first ABC Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan developed in response to our ageing population to promote physical and social environments that support healthy and active ageing and a good quality of life for older people in the Borough.

[Age Friendly Strategy](#)

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

Developing a	Policy		Strategy	X	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

ABC Age Friendly Strategy & 3 Year Action Plan

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

Vision:

People in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area are valued regardless of age and are supported to age well and with confidence

Outcomes

Outcome 1: As we get older we enjoy good physical and mental health

Outcome 2: As we get older, we participate meaningfully in community life

Outcome 3: As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected

Outcome 4: As we get older, we are independent and involved in decisions that affect us

Outcome 5: As we get older, we are well informed about things that matter to us

Cross-cutting themes:

- Inclusive and accessible - We are all growing older, but for some people, this will be more challenging. We will consider the different wants, needs and abilities of all our residents as they get older. And we will take practical steps to ensure that those most at risk of missing out can benefit in full.
- Collaborative - Age-friendly is about partnership or working better together. We will pool the collective influence, resources and expertise of the Age-friendly Alliance so that our work has a bigger impact for the people we want to benefit.
- Proactive - We will work together to identify new issues – and opportunities – and come up with solutions.
- Meaningful engagement -The Age-friendly strategy and action plan is based on what local people told us matters most in their lives. We are committed to continuing to engage with people in a meaningful way so that what they say helps shape how we deliver the actions in this action plan.

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.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

N/A

Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

N/A

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**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The vision of the age friendly strategy and action plan is that all people in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area are valued regardless of age and are supported to age well and with confidence. The strategy is not exclusive to people in rural areas but will make a positive impact on them.

It 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, loneliness and social isolation, housing options 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 rural hard to reach areas.

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.

Some of the issues that have come out of the Age Friendly Consultation that are more likely to impact on rural areas are:

- Digital Inclusion
- Transport Issues
- Loneliness and isolation
- Access to services
- Mental Health
- Community support and health services

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	x
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	x
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	x
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.

SECTION 3

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people 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 .
-----	---	----	--	--

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	X
Consultation with Other Organisations	X	Research Papers	
Surveys or Questionnaires	X	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.

Consultation Process

People we spoke to included a good range of people living in the city, towns, villages and countryside; people living alone, with family or in residential care; and people of different ages, from their early fifties to their late nineties.

- 593 age friendly surveys were completed from July 22 – August 22. (283 of which were hard copies)
- A wide representation of all age groups 50+ up to people aged 85 +
- 30% of respondents were male with 68% females giving their views.
- 49% of respondents lived in the countryside or village with 49% stating they lived in a town or city.
- More in-depth interviews with over 50 older people
- 5 focus groups with rural older peoples groups, BME groups and Mens Sheds
- 4 workshops with age friendly alliance members

Research

Desk research was carried out into what has worked well in age-friendly communities, we also asked our Age-friendly Alliance partners to share good examples of their work, and of work they have come across elsewhere. These projects are reflected in the strategy and action plan.

WHO Age Friendly Communities Framework

Stats 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.

What matters most to people here as they grow older in the ABC area

Social participation

Participation in culture, arts and sport tends to decrease with age: 73 per cent of people aged 65 and over took part in 2020/21 compared to 96 per cent of those aged 25 to 34.ⁱ But people we surveyed told us they wanted more and a greater variety of things to do. They also felt that activity that is already happening could

be promoted better.

Health

In the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area, people aged 50 and over may be less likely to rate their health as good or very good than the population in general.ⁱⁱ They also ranked their life satisfaction now as 7.1 out of 10 compared to 7.9 for the whole Northern Ireland population in 2019/20.ⁱⁱⁱ This is likely to be at least in part because of Covid-19.

Loneliness and isolation were already issues, but they were made worse by the pandemic. Nearly a third of people we surveyed told us that they often felt lonely, and half told us they sometimes felt lonely.

Housing

Most people we spoke to could afford to keep their home warm and pay their household bills.^{iv} But housing was a major concern, particularly among those planning for or recently retired. Homes may be too large, have stairs or not be easily adaptable for future needs. Others wanted to understand their long-term care options so they could plan for later life.

Outdoor spaces and buildings

Many people we spoke to felt that the public realm was not accessible as they grew older. They would like to see pavements better maintained to prevent slips, trips and falls; more road crossings; and more seating and public toilets.

Transport

Most older people still drive, and they worry that they will lose their independence if they have to stop. 43 per cent had never used public transport, although others recognised it as a lifeline to help them stay connected.

Information and inclusion

Just over half the people we surveyed don't know or aren't sure where to go to get advice about their rights. Just over a third don't find that information they get from the council and other government organisations is easy to understand. And only 16 per cent of respondents felt that their opinion is valued by government. Older people have a wealth of experience and expertise to offer, and they want to be engaged more in decision making – by government, the health service and others – so that policies and services make a real difference in their lives.

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.

Digital Inclusion

Transport Issues

Loneliness and isolation

Access to services

Mental health

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**.

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.

Digital Inclusion - Connect older people and prospective volunteers to training and support to improve digital inclusion of older people

Transport Issues - Explore partnership initiatives to expose and support older people to access public and community transport

Loneliness and isolation - Support and promote the work of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Loneliness Network, to encourage people to connect

with each other

Access to services:

Map existing activities and services

Work to ensure that individuals know where to go to get advice, and information on social activities and training and learning opportunities

Connect our older people to services that will enable them to live independently for longer in their own homes

Mental health

Action Plan Scope and collaborate to promote good mental health and wellbeing

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

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Stephanie Rock
Position/Grade:	Age Friendly Officer
Department/Directorate	EH
Signature:	<i>S. Rock</i>
Date:	23/3/22
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	GILLIAN TOPPING
Position/Grade:	Head of Department : Env Health
Department/Directorate	Community & Growth
Signature:	<i>Gillian Topping</i>
Date:	23/3/22
