

Appendix 1 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan - Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme

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

The Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme will enhance the streetscapes on Main Street and Downpatrick Street.

The plan for the scheme will include high quality design, natural materials and bespoke details to reflect the town's heritage. The works will improve the functionality and accessibility of Rathfriland. The physical improvements in the scheme will help contribute to the economic and social growth of Rathfriland.

The existing footpaths within the scheme area will be upgraded to asphalt with grey granite chippings with granite kerbs and trim/borders sets adjacent to the building line. Additionally, there will be extended pavements/public realm to ease crossing. This extra space would also involve upgrading existing seating and maintaining the various property access levels.

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

The policy aims to deliver upon the Rathfriland Development Plan, 2015, with particular emphasis on improving townscape quality

The policy will:

- Construct high quality pavement finishes
- Provide bespoke lighting, street furniture and decorative features
- Create an attractive public space
- Celebrate the heritage of Rathfriland
- Improve pedestrian flow and
- Create a pleasant experience for users and visitors.

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 The Council to amend the policy?

N/A

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

This policy will benefit people within all the Section 75 categories through the enhancement of Rathfriland physical environment. The policy/scheme will provide improved access and movement to and within public and pedestrian spaces and will enhance the physical appearance of the town for the benefit of all users.

Given the nature of the policy, those within the 'age', 'persons with a disability' and 'persons with dependants' categories will particularly benefit.

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

Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Nicola Wilson, Head of Department: Economic Development
Who is responsible for implementation?	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

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

Financial – Funding has been secured as part of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan.
 Legislation – Unlikely to affect the implementation of the scheme

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

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

- Staff – No impact
- Service users – General public, including: residents, traders, visitors, commercial operators etc
- Utility providers
- Transport providers – Translink, taxi, EA buses
- Statutory bodies – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Dept for Communities (DfC), Department for Infrastructure (DfI), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- Community or voluntary sectors – The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (Imtac), The Royal British Legion Rathfriland Branch, Rathfriland & District Regeneration Company
- Private sector – Local shops, businesses

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

Yes, there is both local and regional policy that has a bearing on this policy. They are:

- NI Programme for Government, Draft Outcomes Framework PfG 2021 – 2026
- DfC Building Inclusive Communities 2020-2025
- DSD/DfC Vital & Viable (2007)
- DSD/DfC Urban Regeneration & Community Development Framework 2013
- DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI (2022)
- DfI Strategic Framework 2023
- ABC Community Plan 2017 – 2030
- ABC Recovery & Growth Framework
- ABC Covid 19 Response & Recovery Plan (updated 2022)
- The NI Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RSD)
- DfE Recovery Plan – Rebuilding a strong economy

Available Evidence

The 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. For up to date [S75 Borough Statistics](#)

Section 75 category	Evidence
Religious belief	The 2021 Census showed that 41.8% (1,043) of the population of Rathfriland were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 50% (1,248) belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1.2% (29) belonged to or had been brought up in other religions, while 7% (175) neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion.
Political opinion	Rathfriland is in Banbridge District Electoral Area In the 2023 local election, 13,812 votes were polled in Banbridge DEA from an eligible electorate of 25,504 giving a turnout of 54.16%. The 7 seats in Banbridge DEA were filled as follows: Sinn Fein (SF), 2 Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), 2 Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), 2 Alliance Party NI (APNI), 1
Racial group	The 2021 Census showed that 97.92% (2,443) of the usually resident population of Rathfriland were White; 0.76% (19) were Black African and Chinese was the next biggest ethnic group accounting for 0.56% (14) of the population.
Age	At Census 2021, the age breakdown of Rathfriland was as follows: 21.7% (541) aged 0-15 years 58.3% (1,455) aged 16-64 years 20% (499) aged 65 and over
Marital status	The results from the 2021 Census showed the marital status profile of those aged 16 and over in Rathfriland to be as follows: 36% (703) were single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) 43.3% (845) married

	0.1% (2) in a registered same-sex civil partnership 3.9% (77) separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) 7.9% (154) divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved 8.8% (172) widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership
Sexual orientation	According to the 2021 Census, 88.7% (1,732) of residents aged 16+ years in Rathfriland were straight/heterosexual. Approximately 1.4% (27) of respondents identified as Gay, lesbian, bisexual, other sexual orientation while 9.9% (194) did not state their sexual orientation.
Men and women generally	At Census 2021, 47.7% (1,191) of residents in Rathfriland at Census 2021 were male while 52.3% (1,304) were female.
Disability	At Census 2021, 14.3% (357) of residents in Rathfriland had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities.
Dependants	In Rathfriland at Census 2021, approximately 31% (321) of households had dependent children

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	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group. All groups will benefit directly and or/indirectly from the policy.
Political opinion	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group. All groups will benefit directly and or/indirectly from the policy.
Racial group	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group. All groups will benefit directly and or/indirectly from the policy.
Age	The scheme will be designed to be fully DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliant. This may also address the needs and priorities of the elderly and those in the very young age group. It aims to provide an improved environment with high quality pavement finishes, tactile paving crossing points and de-clutter street furniture.
Marital status	No needs or priorities identified relating to marital status. It is intended that the policy will benefit people regardless of marital status.
Sexual orientation	No needs or priorities identified relating to sexual orientation. It is intended that the policy will benefit people regardless of sexual orientation.
Men and women generally	No needs or priorities identified on the basis of gender. It is intended that the policy will benefit people regardless of gender.

Disability	<p>The policy has been designed to be fully compliant with DDA. This will address all needs and priorities of those with disabilities.</p> <p>The policy will provide for a range of varying needs for persons with disabilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality, level surface pavement finishes - De-cluttering of street furniture with any new street furniture being located at strategic locations to avoid becoming an obstacle for navigation. - Level, tactile crossing points - Sufficiently wide footpaths will be provided where possible to allow for increased pedestrian comfort space. - Lighting Levels will be improved within the proposals, where possible.
Dependants	<p>It is intended that the scheme project will benefit people regardless of whether or not they have dependants. Enhanced accessibility and better footways will benefit all users.</p>

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	<p>The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on people with different religious beliefs.</p>	None
Political opinion	<p>The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on people with differing political opinions.</p>	None
Racial group	<p>The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on people from different racial/ethnic groups.</p>	None
Age	<p>The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is felt that the policy will have positive impact on people of different ages, particularly for older people.</p>	Minor

Marital status	The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on people of different marital status.	None
Sexual orientation	The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on people of different sexual orientation.	None
Men and women generally	The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is not felt that the policy will have an adverse impact on people of different gender.	None
Disability	The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is felt that the policy will have a positive impact on people with a disability, particularly in relation to physical accessibility of the town.	Minor
Dependants	The policy aims to improve the town centre for all users. It is felt that the policy will have a positive impact on people with dependants, in relation to accessibility of the town.	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		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for people of different religious beliefs.
Political opinion		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for people of different political opinion.
Racial group		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for people of different racial or ethnic group.

Age	The policy has the potential to better promote equality of opportunity for this group in that the physical environment will be enhanced for its users. Improved surfaces which will allow for ease of access for people within this category, particularly the elderly.	
Marital status		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for people of different marital status.
Sexual orientation		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for people of different sexual orientation.
Men and women generally		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for men and women generally.
Disability	The proposed policy will improve accessibility and movement for those with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High quality, level surface pavement finishes - Sufficiently wide footpaths will be provided - Level, tactile crossing points - Lighting Levels will be improved and designed to reach all required specifications and standards. 	
Dependants	The proposed policy will improve accessibility and movement for those with dependents. Improved surfaces, wider footpaths, directional guidance paving and safer crossing points should allow for ease of access for people within this category.	

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	Positive impacts are expected due to the enhanced and regenerated physical environment of shared public space within the town centre.	Minor
Political opinion	As Above	As Above
Racial group	As Above	As Above

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	The enhanced and regenerated shared public space is anticipated to offer opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinions and racial groups.	
Political opinion	As Above	
Racial group	As Above	

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.

<p>Young/elderly people with a disability/dependents People of different racial group/religious belief/political opinion</p> <p>Rathfriland environmental improvement scheme project will benefit all Section 75 groups within the equality categories, including those with multiple identities mentioned above. The enhancement of the physical environment within the town centre will improve surfaces, improve access and movement throughout the town centre with the aim to provide future regeneration opportunities in the area.</p>
--

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

<p>The Rathfriland environmental improvement scheme will include tactile directional guidance paving which will promote awareness of the needs and requirements of those with disabilities. The proposals also include for rationalised surfaces with improved levels and material types together with safer crossing points. Street furniture will be designed to</p>
--

accommodate site users with disabilities. This will help promote positive attitudes towards those with disabilities and the importance of considering their specific needs.

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

As detailed above.

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

The Rathfriland environmental improvement scheme aims to improve the physical environment for all its users. It is considered that the scheme will have a positive impact for all Section 75 groups and in particular for;

Young/elderly people with a disability/dependents
People of different racial group/religious belief/political opinion

The scheme will benefit all Section 75 groups by enhancing and regenerating the physical environment and improving the general appearance of the area with improved surfaces, tactile directional guidance paving, enhanced access and movement throughout the designated area, leading to potential future regeneration opportunities.

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.

N/A

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.

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.

Policy 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.

N/A

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

Responses to the ongoing consultation will continue to be monitored during the implementation of the scheme. Additionally, Council Officers will continue to monitor and action and issues/queries that arise. Where any of these relate to Section 75 groupings these will be discussed with the Management Team and action will be taken to remedy/mitigate against these, where possible.

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/The Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Anne H Reid	Small Settlements Programme Manager	14/08/2024
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Nicola Wilson	Head of Economic Development	21/08/2024

A copy of the completed screening form should be signed off and approved by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The completed screening form should be attached to the relevant Committee paper when the policy is submitted for approval.

Following approval by Council please forward a copy of the completed approved policy and screening form to:

Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The policy and completed screening form will be made available on the Council's website.

Appendix 2 Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

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 & Craigavon Borough The 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.

Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme

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

Developing a Plan

Adopting a Plan

Implementing a Plan

Revising a Plan

Designing a Public Service

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

Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan - Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme

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

The Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme aims to improve the quality and connectivity between streets and carparks, community walkways in the town. It aims to improve accessibility and create a more attractive town setting. The scheme will focus on building a safe streetscape that focuses on safe pedestrian circulation and accessibility for all, whilst also preserving and enhancing Rathfriland town centre. Specific aims include:

- Enhance the streetscape and offer quality design, utilising natural materials with bespoke details.
- Introduce new pavement treatments, lighting, enhanced shared space, street

- furniture, signage and decorative features.
- Improve accessibility throughout the town
- Improve pedestrian flow and
- Help to create a pleasant experience for users and visitors

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)
- Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)
- A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable

Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used

Rural Small Settlement Town with a population between 1,000 & 5,000

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

Rathfriland has a population of 2,490 (2021 census) and is surrounded by a rural landscape.

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 No If response is No go to 2E

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

The Environmental Improvement Scheme focuses on enhancing the physical infrastructure of Rathfriland, it will also enhance the accessibility to and within the town. This will be of benefit to those living and visiting the town from the surrounding rural 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.

N/A

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Tourism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Poverty in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deprivation in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Crime or Community Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agri-Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

N/A

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 No If response is No go to 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultation with Other organisations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Published Statistics | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Research Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveys or Questionnaires | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.

Between September and November 2023, through online questionnaires and on-street surveys, public consultations and face-to-face meetings, Council sought the views from members of the public, statutory consultees, Councillors and key stakeholders on the concept design proposals and options for the scheme. This was open to all within the wider Rathfriland area, including the rural areas.

This included:

Business Surveys 12.09.23 – 16.09.23

On-Street User Surveys 12.09.23 – 16.09.23

Online User Survey 11.09.23 – 25.09.23

Public Consultation 27.09.23

Online survey 26.09.23 – 22.11.23

Consultation with DfI Roads, DfI Street Lighting, Utility providers and Translink have been undertaken throughout the initial design process with comments & recommendations identified during the consultation process helping and influencing the design.

Consultation with IMTAC 30.11.23

Meetings on MAG 15.09.23 & 20.10.23. Report from MAG submitted 24.11.23

Overall feedback has been very positive, broadly welcoming the design proposals and also welcoming opportunities to provide further feedback through successive rounds of consultation.

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

The need for convenient, accessible parking. General access to the local amenities for all visitors.

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?

N/A

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 and within Rathfriland is critical to all town users, rural and urban. The improvements will make the town more welcoming & user friendly and in return enhance the social and economic well-being of those who live in this rural area.

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 No If response is No go to 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.

As detailed above

If the response to Section 5A was YES go to 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:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

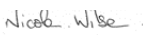
Signature: 

Date: 14/08/2024

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature: 

Date: 21/08/2024