



Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority:

Reporting Period: April 20 to March 20

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
Armagh Free Presbyterian Church – Request to hold a bible camp in Killylea Recreation Area	Other	No rural needs were identified.
Development of a Contract Management Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Development of the Banbridge Place Plan	Cross Cutting: Rural Businesses/Rural Tourism/Transport Services or Infrastructure in	We recognised the potential rural implications of this policy as a result of area wide surveys and engagement sessions with stakeholders both in person and online. The social and economic needs identified as a result of this engagement were:

	Rural Areas/Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to services • Better transport connectivity <p>The following issues were considered in relation to the needs of people in rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation and the need for more integrated public transport provision. • Access to services in the town and not competing with rural settlements providing essential more regular services than in Banbridge town. • Employment and access to jobs and opportunities in the town. <p>More and better alternative transport options for getting into and out of the town have been incorporated into the plan to include exploring a study on the future of transport in Banbridge and surrounding rural areas to explore and promote walking, cycling, public transport, implementing more greenways to connect cyclists into and out of the town and looking at traffic congestion in Church Square.</p>
Revision of Clean Neighbourhoods Enforcement Policy	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Community Facility Charges	Other	No rural needs were identified
Implementation of a Corporate Complaints Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Efficiency Plan	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified

Revision of Environmental Health Fees Policy	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Fee Setting of a Street Trading Policy & Procedure	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Food Sampling Policy	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Land and Property Inspection Policy	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Learning and Development Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Implementation of a Policy -Light Up for Israel and book of condolence for all the innocent victims in the Middle East	Other	No rural needs were identified
Lurgan Park – Request from Lurgan District LOL 6 to use Lurgan Park for car parking approximately 2000 cars on Wednesday 12 July 2023	Other	No rural needs were identified
Development of a Museums Access Policy Statement – Armagh County Museum/FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio/Craigavon Museum at the Barn	Other	No rural needs were identified
Development of Performance Improvement Objectives	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Performance Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Portadown Running Festival	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Procurement Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Revision of the Public Right of Way Policy	Cross Cutting: Rural Businesses/Rural Tourism/Transport Services or	We recognised that the investigation, assertion and management of public rights of way has the potential to have both positive and negative impacts on the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farming community

Infrastructure in
Rural
Areas/Deprivation
in Rural
Areas/Rural
Development/Agri-
Environment

- other rural businesses
- other landowners and householders along routes and
- those that reside in and visit rural areas.

However, 2023 research for the GreenspaceNI map estimates that there is only a total of 165 miles of asserted public rights of way in the whole of Northern Ireland. As so few public rights of way have been asserted and considering the lengthy and often difficult process involved if the status of a route is contested, it is anticipated that the impact on people in the wider rural area will not be extensive.

Potential adverse impacts are likely to be localised to the vicinity of the alleged public right of way – impacting on individuals or a localised area.

Potential positive impacts will be mainly local. Physical and mental health and wellbeing are improved through access to the outdoors. Access to the outdoors can facilitate the more active lifestyles which central and local government strategies aim to promote.

In terms of considering the impact on individuals, particularly landowners, the procedure provides for a 2 stage consultation process with landowners prior to a

decision being made as to assertion or otherwise.

Landowners are invited to provide evidence for or against the public right of way claim. There is also an opportunity for interested parties to make representations in person to a committee of the Council between the 2 decision making stages. However, legally, the only consideration is 'Does the evidence show beyond a reasonable doubt that the route is a public right of way.' If it does, the Council is bound to assert.

Mitigations:

- The Order provides that the Council shall have regard to the needs of agriculture and forestry and the need to conserve the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of its functions under the Order.
- The Council aims, subject to resources, to provide a responsive service to deal with problems or queries that arise and to carry out discretionary maintenance on asserted routes.
- The Council supports and promotes responsible access to the countryside through its social media messaging and by supporting campaigns such as the 'Rightside of Outside' by Outmore NI & (Outdoor Recreation NI) which promotes responsible behaviours whilst enjoying the outdoors and raises awareness of

		the impacts of possible unintentional harm through, for example, lack of dog control and impact of this on stock.
Revision of the Safeguarding Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs were identified
Solitude Park – Request from Bells Amusements to provide a fun fair attraction at Solitude park for a two-week period in June 2023	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Sports Grant Aid Scheme	Other	No rural needs were identified
Revision of Test Purchasing	Other	No rural needs were identified

[Equality - Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council \(armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk\)](http://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.