



## 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) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</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 service<sup>3</sup>.</i>
Acquisition and Disposal Policy for Land and Property	Internal Policy for disposing of and acquiring land and property	No rural needs were identified
<a href="#">Agriculture Strategy</a>	Cross Cutting-Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Education or Training in Rural Areas, Rural Development, Agri-Environment	There are nine recommendations in the strategy which have been developed to address challenges, opportunities and needs for the industry in our borough. 1. Expand and evolve Food Heartland 2. Develop a method of communicating regularly and clearly with every Agriculture and Agri Food business in the Borough 3. Develop a plan to facilitate skills development in the Agriculture and Agri business

4. Appoint Agriculture Champions for the Borough
5. Develop an Agriculture Centre for advice, training, demonstration and research.
6. Facilitate structural upgrading
7. ABC Rural Strategy
8. Further studies in agriculture sectors
9. Agri Food development

An additional Recommendation 10 Promote the health and wellbeing of farmers and rural dwellers, was introduced following feedback from the public consultation.

Recommendations have been incorporated into the strategy to address feedback from stakeholders and the survey results. The recommendations will be council led, and will be delivered on a collaborative basis with stakeholders, therefore the relationship with stakeholders is important. It was identified that the communication between Council, farmers and agribusinesses should be improved and a communications plan put in place in order to engage effectively and make a difference to the rural businesses. Council in the past has had limited engagement with the farming community and the wider agriculture industry. This strategy will have a positive impact on all groups going forward as Council instil greater collaboration with agriculture stakeholders, representatives and as a result from the communication plan.

The Farmers Survey in particular identifies a need to support the various age of farmers and gender inequality, general comments leaned towards the misrepresentation of women in the agriculture industry. In both surveys the farmers and agri businesses identified a need for business skills and learning for this industry. These skills will be addressed under recommendation 1 and 3.

Two recommendations in the strategy will support these

two groups. This Recommendation 2 (focusing on communication with the industry) Recommendation 4 (appointment of agriculture champions, including the consideration of a ‘panel of women farmers’) other recommendations which focus on skills training, learning and development will provide support.

In the delivery phase of the strategy there will be a focus on improved signposting of current service providers and support such as mental health and well being, and health & safety, and raising awareness of support facilities available in our borough.

The evolution of Food Heartland (recommendation 1) will have a positive impact on the agriculture industry and the broad range of activities/programmes and support Food Heartland will be able to deliver under its new roles and responsibilities.

Details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas include:

- Skills and business training availability and provision for the farmers and agri businesses.
- Labour shortages and automation for the industry
- Working long hours
- New technology and data analyzing training and support
- Health and wellbeing of farmers, farming families and people working in the wider agriculture industry
- Farm Business ID not being recognized as a business and not accessible to general business support
- Infrastructure in the rural areas, eg lack of broadband restricts business growth.
- Improving business productivity
- Effective communication required between council and farmers and agri businesses.

Rural Businesses,  
Rural Tourism,  
Transport Services  
or Infrastructure in  
Rural Areas, Agri-  
Environment

vital for preserving biodiversity, improving health, ensuring food security, maintaining rural (and urban) livelihoods and protecting the environment. The Armagh Place Plan advocates a sustainable urban development approach that seeks to protect the rural landscape allowing the continuation of vital services and activities that need to take place there.

The Armagh Place Plan offers many actions for an enhanced and improved city that caters for rural dwellers that use the city regularly to gain access to services.

The Place Plan will reinforce and enhance rural and urban connections by:

- Giving more opportunities for rural businesses to showcase themselves in the city.
- Develop a better and more integrated transport system in and out of the city.
- Design green and blue infrastructure that connects the wider rural areas into the city

The following issues were considered in relation to the needs of people in rural areas:

- Social isolation and the need for more integrated public transport provision.
- Access to services in the city and not competing with rural settlements providing essential more regular services than in Armagh City

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment and access to jobs and opportunities in the city.</li> </ul> <p>Transport through the rural areas of Armagh has been addressed by proposals being developed that will reduce congestion and improve the road infrastructure surrounding the city.</p> <p>More and better alternative transport options for getting into and out of the city have been incorporated into the plan to include exploring the feasibility of reopening the railway station in Armagh, implementing more greenways to connect cyclists into and out of the city and new roads to alleviate congestion on some smaller rural routes into the city.</p>
<a href="#">Banbridge Painting Scheme</a>	Urban based grant scheme which aims to encourage owners and tenants to invest in their buildings.	This scheme is an innovative grant scheme which aims to encourage owners and tenants to invest in their buildings, even though it is urban based it will have a positive effect on the surrounding rural hinterland.
<a href="#">Banbridge Public Realm Scheme</a>	Cross Cutting – Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas, Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	Access to and within Banbridge town centre is central to those from the rural hinterland who use the town on a regular basis. The improvements will make the town more ‘user friendly’ for those travelling from rural areas who wish to avail of services and shopping and as a result will enhance the social and economic wellbeing of those in rural areas.
<a href="#">Empty to Occupied Programme</a>	The Scheme is a grant scheme which aims to encourage	This scheme is an innovative grant scheme which aims to encourage vacant commercial property owners within settlement boundaries to invest in their buildings, attract

	vacant commercial property owners to invest in their buildings, attract tenants and reduce long term vacancy.	tenants and reduce long term vacancy, but it has positive effects on the surrounding rural hinterland.
<a href="#">Menopause Policy</a>	Internal Policy	No rural issues were identified
<a href="#">Millennium Way Off Street Carparking</a>	This is a request to utilise the Council-owned Off- Street Car Park at Millennium Way	No rural issues were identified
<a href="#">Naming Navan Coffee Shop</a>	Internal Policy	No rural issues were identified
<a href="#">Northern Ireland Centenary Programme</a>	Programme of Events	The Northern Ireland Centenary Programme was a Programme of Events to commemorate Northern Ireland's 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Many of these events were virtual and others were located across the Borough so all residents could access them. No rural issues were identified.
<a href="#">Performance Improvement Plan 2021-2022 and 2022-2023</a>	Internal Policy	The Performance Improvement Plan has been developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services across the Borough
<a href="#">Play Strategy 2018-2026 – Play Park Closures</a>	Cross Cutting – Rural Tourism, Deprivation in Rural Areas, Rural Development	There are 20 Play Parks both rural and urban identified through the play strategy for possible closure.  In the case of a potential removal of a play area,

		<p>Council will engage with local communities (some will be in rural areas) in order to determine the true level of demand for fixed play within the area (through for example door to door survey). This helps to update the available demographic data which has been used in the strategy and will ensure an accurate reflection of local need.</p> <p>Should it be determined that there is no longer a need for a play area within a specific location Council will initiate a consultation process aimed at ensuring that communities have a say in the transformation of the site to maintain value for the community.</p>
<a href="#">Public Consultation Policy</a>	Internal Policy	No rural issues were identified
<a href="#">Queens Platinum Jubilee Programme</a>	Programme of Events	<p>The Queens Platinum Jubilee Programme is a Programme of Events to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Events are located across the Borough so all residents can access them.</p> <p>Whilst the programme includes events in rural parts of the Borough, no rural issues were identified.</p>
<a href="#">Raising Concerns Policy</a>	Internal Policy	No rural issues were identified
<a href="#">Recovery and Growth Framework</a>	Cross-cutting – Rural Businesses, Rural Tourism, Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas, Broadband or Mobile	<p>The plan has been influenced by research and stakeholder engagement and as 49% of the borough's population live in rural areas, rural needs have helped influence the short, medium and long term actions identified in the framework to aid COVID-19 recovery. One of the short term actions is to identify challenges faced by rural businesses and opportunities for rural development and support programmes.</p>

	Communications in Rural Areas, Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas, Rural Development, Agri-Environment	One of the long term actions outlined in the framework is to support rural development and the framework suggests that rural development should be focused on reducing broadband deprivation, improving road infrastructure and boosting investment and innovation in existing sectors. This will have a positive impact on all residents in the Borough but will particularly impact on those living in rural areas.
<a href="#">Tree Planting –Royal British Legion</a> – Proposal to plant 3 trees with plaques within the grounds of the Palace Demesne, Armagh, Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre and the civic building, Banbridge to make the 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal British Legion.	Internal Policy	No rural issues were identified
<a href="#">Tree Planting – Royal British Legion</a> – Application from 5 branches of the Royal British Legion to plant a commemorative tree on Council land to mark the 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal British Legion	Internal Policy	No rural issues were identified

Link to Council Policies

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/council/policies/>

## 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.