



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.

<p><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></p>	<p><i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i></p>	<p><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></p>
<p>Disability Action Plan 2020-2023</p> <p><i>The Disability Action Plan details the actions to be undertaken by Council across the district in the 2020-2023 period under the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and Understanding • Engagement • Promotion • Access • Workforce. <p><i>The Disability Discrimination Act places duties on public authorities, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to:</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The actions detailed in the Council's Disability Action Plan will have positive impacts for all people of the district regardless of urban or rural areas.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Disability Action Plan will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>The actions identified within the plan will be implemented across the district regardless of whether residents are based in rural or urban settlements.</p> <p>The Disability Action Plan will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; • Encourage participation by disabled people in public life. <p>The plan sets out how Council intends to improve the quality of life for all people with disabilities who live in, work or visit the district.</p>		
<p>Christmas Illuminations Policy 2019-2020</p> <p>The Council consulted with rural community organisations to evaluate the impact of a Christmas illuminations support package pilot available to community organisations for Christmas 2018.</p> <p>The consultation was held in February 2019.</p> <p>Following on from the pilot and the consultation, the Council received requests from a number of rural areas to be part of the programme in 2019 and a Christmas illuminations policy was introduced for 2019.</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The Council has identified a need to support community capacity building.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District has a significant rural population. The Council has identified rural isolation as a major issue to be addressed for this element of our population. Following requests from areas to be part of the Christmas Illuminations programme, a policy was developed which outlined the approach undertaken.</p> <p>In its Community Plan the Council has committed to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective community engagement in the planning and delivery of local services • Utilise the strengths and resilience within communities • Promote equality and tackle inequality. <p>This policy meets the objectives detailed in the Council's Community Plan. The criteria of the policy does not relate solely to rural areas but details the support provided in the package and how it is distributed to all groups availing of the Christmas illumination scheme.</p>
<p>Asbestos Management Policy</p> <p>This policy applies to all Council owned and leased premises constructed prior to 2000, to any extent, under the Council's control. The Policy and associated AMP sets out the framework by which the Council, all employees, contractors and visitors will be expected to meet their legal duties.</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to</p>

		<p>suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p>
<p>Performance Improvement Plan 2019-2020</p> <p><i>Performance Improvement Plan 2019-20 - Part 12 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement for local government, whereby all District Councils must put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.</i></p> <p><i>The Council is required to set annual improvement objectives and to have in place arrangements to achieve these objectives.</i></p> <p><i>The Council has developed five performance improvement objectives which are directly aligned to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Outcomes Delivery Plan.</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>When developing the Performance Improvement Plan, the data collation process revealed that the majority of the population of the District live in rural areas and may therefore experience levels of deprivation, particularly in terms of the Access to Services domain, transport connections and digital connectivity.</p> <p>The 2018-19 and 2019-20 consultation and engagement processes on the performance improvement objectives also highlighted the following issues in relation to rural areas and rural communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to Council facilities and urban areas from rural areas • The need to include the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty • Digital connectivity on rural areas • Proposals to invest in coastal areas and fishing villages <p>The Council has considered the issues raised and included ‘supporting actions’ around the rural economy, rural broadband and investing in rural areas.</p> <p>The objectives of the Performance Improvement Plan seek to make a positive impact across all areas of the district.</p>
<p>Draft conditions of hire for use of council facilities</p> <p><i>The draft Conditions of Hire for Use of Council Facilities sets out booking conditions for anyone seeking to hire Council facilities. This will apply to both groups and individuals.</i></p>	<p>Community engagement</p>	<p>The Council’s Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Conditions of Hire for Use of Council Facilities will</p>

		<p>have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>The criteria and principles of this document will apply to all facilities regardless of where they are located in the district.</p>
<p>Draft Equality Action Plan 2020-2023</p> <p><i>The draft Equality Action Plan 2020–2023 builds upon Council’s action plan for the period 2018-2020. It recommends key areas of activity and details positive actions relevant to Council functions. The positive action measures have been set out under the five principles of the Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 1: <i>Ensuring we work in a non-discriminatory environment, promote equality, and model best practice in equality and good relations</i> • Principle 2: <i>Ensuring all our decisions are based on evidence to assess the likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations</i> • Principle 3: <i>Providing access to services, facilities and information</i> • Principle 4: <i>Recruiting and employing people fairly</i> • Principle 5: <i>Responding to and learning from complaints and incidents in a positive and pro-active way</i> 	<p>Community engagement</p>	<p>The Council’s Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Action Plan recommends key areas of activity and details positive actions positive action measures have been set out under the five principles of the Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Equality Action Plan will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. The specific actions detailed within the plan will be implemented across the district.</p> <p>The draft Equality Action Plan will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation.</p>
<p>Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023</p> <p><i>The Strategy sets out a twofold mission as follows:</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The Council’s Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community.</i> • <i>To embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.</i> 		<p>services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out how Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the use of Irish language within its functions; • facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and • promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area. <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Irish Language Strategy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. The specific actions detailed within the plan will be implemented across the district.</p> <p>The draft Irish Language Strategy will be subject to a twelve-week public consultation.</p>
<p>Financial Assistance Policy</p> <p><i>overall aim of financial assistance is to enable Council to maximise the impact of its work across the Council area for the benefit of local residents.</i></p> <p><i>The objectives of the policy are to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maximise the impact of, and outcomes from, all Council funding.</i> • <i>Seek to address needs which are clearly demonstrated and fall within, or are compatible with, Council priorities.</i> • <i>Increase community engagement and voluntary participation in addressing areas of common concern.</i> • <i>Enhance the sustainability of community-based activities and provision.</i> • <i>Support community-based work which addresses the needs of those who are most deprived.</i> 	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>This policy relates to open calls for funding and sets the basis for providing financial assistance to external organisations within the Council area. It sets out the rationale for such funding and the basis on which it should be provided, monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>The financial assistance programme is available to all groups within the Council area. The Programmes Unit monitor applications and provide a breakdown of all funding allocated across the Council’s seven District Electoral Areas.</p> <p>Acknowledging the geographical spread of the district and its urban and rural nature, to further improve engagement and access to information on the scheme, financial assistance workshops were held in across the district.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support the development of mutual respect, understanding and appreciation of diversity and shared cultural experiences.</i> • <i>Ensure fairness, transparency and value for money in all Council's Financial Assistance Practice.</i> 		
<p>ERDF Business Support Programme 2019</p> <p><i>The Strategy is developed around 5 themes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Economic Development</i> • <i>Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events</i> • <i>Urban Development and Regeneration</i> • <i>Rural Development and Regeneration</i> • <i>Arts, Culture and Heritage</i> 	Cross cutting	<p>Within the Council area, more residents of the district live in rural areas than urban areas. In particular, more young people (up to the age 15) and older people (65+) live in areas designated as rural.</p> <p>While the objectives in the programme are for all business activity across the district, it is recognised that rural accessibility to workshops and networking opportunities is important. In planning programmes consideration will be given to ensuring travel to events is minimised and that public transport links are optimised.</p>
<p>Non-Current Asset Policy and Procedures</p> <p><i>The aim of the Non-Current Asset Policy and Procedures is to clearly set out the Council's policy and procedures in relation to the appropriate management, recording and monitoring and accounting of Non-Current Assets and to ensure that all members and officers are aware of their roles and responsibilities.</i></p>	Internal	<p>In terms of social and economic needs, Council's Evidence and Research Section has prepared information related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services (broadband provision and transport), economy, income and employment, housing, crime and health and wellbeing which can be taken into consideration.</p> <p>However, having given due regard to rural needs Council has not identified specific social and economic needs directly related to this policy and procedures.</p> <p>The policy and procedures set out inward-facing internal requirements and no specific direct or indirect impact upon people living in rural or urban areas has been identified or established.</p>
<p>Legionella Management Policy</p> <p><i>The policy and procedure sets out how Council will prevent, so as far as is reasonably</i></p>	Internal	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to</p>

<p><i>practicable, the occurrence of legionella bacteria in breathable form that can be inhaled by employees and others who may be present in the workplace.</i></p>		<p>services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>The policy and procedures set out inward-facing internal requirements and no specific direct or indirect impact upon people living in rural or urban areas has been identified or established.</p>
<p>Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2020-2021</p> <p><i>The purpose of the Bursary Scheme is to assist individuals to improve Irish Language skills through providing scholarships or bursaries for Irish Language courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and third level courses taking place within the Council's financial year (1 April – 31 March).</i></p>	<p>Education and training in rural areas</p>	<p>As noted, the Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The bursary scheme is delivered by way of an open call for applications through Council's social media, website and an advert in local media, and there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Irish Language Bursary Scheme will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>Applicants may submit their application by post, hand-delivery or email. Acknowledging that access to Broadband may be limited in some rural areas within the district, the application form is available for collection from council offices or by contacting the Council's Irish Language Unit.</p>
<p>Review of Development naming, Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy</p> <p><i>The policy provides a consistent approach to the naming/re-naming of streets and dual language</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>While this is a policy for all areas of the district, issues of cultural identity have also been considered in the development of the policy in relation to the erection of dual language nameplates.</p> <p>Rural communities have an identity with 'place' and the locality or townland within which they live. The council</p>

<p><i>street nameplates across the whole District Council area.</i></p>		<p>have recognised this and sought to promote this identity through the use of the townlands in their road naming and postal numbering administration. This is reflected in the current policy.</p>
<p>International Relations Strategy</p> <p><i>The strategy sets out Council’s approach to developing international relations in terms of our role, and the context of strengthening relationships, demonstrating civic leadership, maximising business and cultural opportunities associated with our diaspora, and identifying new market opportunities, promote trade and investment, and attract visitors and tourism.</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The development and implementation of the Council’s International Relations Strategy Council takes account of, and acknowledges urban and rural differentials between business bands, type and location. Consideration will be given to this when addressing the objectives and related actions in the strategy.</p> <p>In addition, the strategy sets out an assessment framework that will evaluate existing and proposed new international relations partnerships / activities and makes a commitment to measuring and reporting outcomes.</p>
<p>Portable Safety Appliance Policy</p> <p><i>The objectives of this policy and associated Management Plan are to A) Ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, that portable electrical appliances used within the Council estate do not present a risk to the health, safety and welfare of staff, contractors, clients and visitors to the Council estate. B) Provide and maintain safe systems of work for the use of portable electrical appliances, that are safe and without risk to health. C) Provide such information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure employees carry out their jobs safely.</i></p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>The Council’s Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p>
<p>Public Toilet Strategy</p> <p><i>The strategy has been developed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council providing guidance on a way forward for provision, control and management of its Public Toilet facilities within the district. The strategy provides recommendations and proposals on how the</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The Council’s Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p>

<p><i>Council should provide a Public Convenience service which meets the needs for the future.</i></p>		<p>Council's Estates Department has also completed a structural survey of all thirty-one facilities and the integrity of all the structures (measured from (A) excellent to (D) needs immediate repair and or replacement) appears to show that the majority of units are rated A or B.</p> <p>While this is a strategy for the entire district and as noted within 2B, people living in specific rural areas which may be positively impacted by improvement works recommendations include those living within the areas of Spelga, Cranfield and Dundrum (Murlough).</p>
<p>Sports Facility Strategy</p> <p><i>The Strategy aim is to develop a strategic framework for the future provision of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This identifies the need for provision and the priorities for investment into sports facilities, informed by evidence of need, consultation with key stakeholders and a supply and demand analysis.</i></p>	<p>Community engagement</p>	<p>Consideration was given to rural needs for people living in rural areas, with specific reference to 20-minute and 15- minute drive times for residents. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in relation to sports hall provision, page 9 of the report identified the district has three or four court sports hall provision within a 20-minute drive time of its residents. • Map 3.2 (page 46), Map (4.3) and Section 4.34 (page 62) illustrates the locations of existing swimming pools and shows where the gaps are in provision for residents within a 20-minute drive time catchment area of a community accessible swimming pool. • Map 4.7 (page 80) illustrates existing Artificial Grass Pitches in the Council area with a 20-minute drive time catchment area. • Map 4.5 (page 69) illustrates existing fitness suites in the Council area with a 15-minute drive time catchment area. <p>The strategy, priorities and recommendations detailed within the Strategy have been developed through an evidence-based approach, including community consultation.</p> <p>The assessment and analysis undertaken to develop the Sports Facility Strategy has identified a need for some additional provision, across a range of facility types, as well as more generic needs in terms of improvement to</p>

		the quality of existing facilities and the accessibility of provision. All new and improved facility provision should be fully inclusive to optimise participation opportunities across communities, including people living in rural areas.
<p>Records Management Policy and Procedures</p> <p><i>The aim of the Records Management Policy and Procedure is to ensure NMDDC's compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements affecting the use and retention of records in accordance with The Public Records Act (NI) 1923, The Disposal of Documents Order (No. 167) 1925, The Data Protection Act 2018, The General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i></p>	Internal	<p>The social and economic needs of people in rural areas are not an underpinning factor in the implementation of the Records Management Policy and Procedure.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the policy is likely to impact people in rural areas.</p>
<p>Review of Operations at Household Recycling Centres</p> <p><i>The aim and objective is to establish guiding principles in relation to Council's Household Recycling Centres. The primary rationale is to secure standardisation across all HRCs, as well as to reduce the amount of (non-recyclable) residual waste currently being receipted and processed through these facilities. The principles address the following: General access & usage; Construction / DIY materials; Commercial waste; and Re-Use.</i></p>	Cross cutting	<p>In terms of social and economic needs Council has given consideration to information related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services (broadband provision and transport), economy, income and employment, housing, crime and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having given due regard to rural needs Council has not identified specific social and economic needs directly related to this review of operations of our household recycling centres.</p> <p>This is an operational policy and the issues raised will be implemented in all household Recycling Centres across the district regardless of their location.</p>
<p>Rules and Regulations re Council Owned Cemeteries</p> <p><i>The aim of the document is to provide residents and non-residents of the district with guidance on</i></p>	Cross cutting	<p>Social and economic needs of people in the rural areas includes access, and distance, to the council owned cemeteries and associated costs.</p> <p>In terms of people living in rural areas, it is acknowledged that within the Slieve Gullion District</p>

<p><i>arranging a burial within Council cemeteries. The objective is of the rules and regulations document is to ensure that Council undertakes its legal obligations and ensures that a consistent high level of service is provided.</i></p>		<p>Electoral Area, people living west of Newtownhamilton and Silverbridge may be outside the 30-minute drive time of a Council owned cemetery (Monkshill Cemetery, Newry).</p> <p>However, there is nothing to suggest that the rules and regulations for the control of public cemeteries within the district will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas. This is an operational policy which details how burials are arranged in council owned cemeteries.</p>
<p>Single Use Plastics Policy</p> <p><i>The Policy aims to phase out all use of single use plastics (plastic cutlery, cups, plates, bottles, packaging, etc.) across the council. It also aims to influence other stakeholders including businesses, schools, statutory bodies and members of the public to move away from using single use plastics. This will reduce our impacts on the environment in particular with respect to waste and litter.</i></p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The actions detailed in the Council’s Single Use Plastics Policy and Strategy will have positive impacts on all people of the district regardless of urban or rural areas.</p> <p>There is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Council’s Single Use Plastics Policy and Strategy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p>
<p>Policy and Procedure for the Personal Safety of Employees Exposed to Workplace Violence</p> <p><i>The policy and procedure sets out how Council will deal with the act or threat of physical violence or verbal abuse from a member, or members, of the public to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council employees.</i></p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>The Council’s Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The policy and procedure will be applied irrespective of the rural or urban background of the person or persons undertaking acts or threats of physical violence or verbal abuse to a Council employee or employees.</p>

<p>Fire Safety Management Policy</p> <p><i>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of their employees and others who may be affected by activities on its premises. The policy statement and associated Fire Safety Management Plan (Management Plan) has been developed to ensure that fire safety systems and procedures are in place to manage the risk associated with fire and to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidance.</i></p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>The Council's Evidence and Research Team have provided information in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down district. This sets out information including that related to population, multiple deprivation, access to services, economy, income and transport, housing, crime, and health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the policy will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> <p>This is an internal policy and its procedures will be implemented across all Council facilities in the district.</p>
---	-----------------	---

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.