



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: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

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>
<p>Litter Bin Policy</p> <p>The aim of the litter bin policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the provision, replacement, relocation or removal of litter bins in the district.</p>	Internal	The policy and the associated procedures are to be applied across the Council area. The same procedures will be applied in both urban and rural areas.
<p>Planned Leave Policy</p> <p>The aim of the policy is to provide advice and guidance to line managers and employees on planned leave which comprises of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual Leave ➤ Flexi time 	Internal	This is an internal corporate document which provides information on planned leave for all employees of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regardless of where they live or are based within the district.

<p>➤ TOIL</p>		
<p><i>Leisure and Sports Services pricing schedule</i></p> <p>The aims of the pricing schedule are as follows:</p> <p>A) Ensure a consistent approach to pricing and charges across all leisure and sports facilities/services within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.</p> <p>B) Provide value for money fairly and equally to all and to assist with increasing public access to Council facilities.</p> <p>C) Increase the number of people utilising the leisure and other facilities and so contribute to the health and wellbeing of the population and quality of life.</p> <p>D) Ensure that prices are comparable with competitors in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area and on a regional basis.</p> <p>E) Demonstrate equality and transparency throughout the pricing schedule and the associated schedule of charges.</p> <p>The outcome is to provide value for money leisure and sport services to all its stakeholders including customers, citizens, visitors, clubs, organisations and businesses.</p>	<p>Leisure and Sport</p>	<p>The proposed pricing schedule relates to Council’s Leisure facilities. While some of the prices are site-specific in terms of the services that are available at different sites, it will be the same charge for service users regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas</p>
<p><i>Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan October 2020-March 2021</i></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan provides an overview of the key activities that will take place across the Directorate between October 2020 – March 2021. Adapting to the ‘new’ normal and reviewing how Council delivers services effectively is a key priority for both the Council and Directorate.</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>Council gave consideration to the following in the development of the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan for the period October 2020-March 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More residents of our district live in rural areas than urban areas; ➤ More young people (up to the age of 15) and older people (65+) live in areas designated as Rural;

- 10 of NMDDC's rural SOAs are within the top 25% of the NI most deprived with 2 being within the top 10% most deprived. The majority are located in the Slieve Gullion DEA;
- Geographic location and setting of hubs and services;
- Service requirements should also be taken into consideration such as access to broadband and public transport;
- Urban and rural differentials between business size bands, type and location of same;
- Lower income in rural areas;
- Location of current available housing stock and its implication for future planning applications;
- Profile of crime in rural areas differs from crime in urban areas; and
- At both local and regional level, rural dwellers experience better health outcomes in general with lower occurrences of health problems across rural dwellers compared to those in urban areas.

Data from Council's Residents' Survey conducted in 2018:

- Residents in urban areas compared with rural areas were more likely to say they follow or engage with the Council via social media platforms (54% vs. 42%);
- Residents living in rural areas were more likely to say they regularly take part in local groups or community activities compared to in urban areas (28% vs. 20%);

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only 23% of residents living in rural areas feel they can have a say on things happening or how services are run in their local area compared to 28% in urban areas; and ➤ 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents. <p>The Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan clearly set out the planned and proposed outputs/outcomes for the period October 2020-March 2021.</p> <p>One named outcome/output detailed in the Emergency Business Plan was the phased reopening of all Council’s household recycling centres, and it was acknowledged further Covid-19 restrictions would negatively impact the reopening of the facilities.</p> <p>Having witnessed a change in restriction levels since March 2020, Council continued to be mindful that any future restrictions put in place during the period October 2020 – March 2021 could have potential to adversely impact service delivery for residents whether they live in an urban or rural area.</p>
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<p><i>Policy for the payment of professional fees</i></p> <p>The policy sets out the arrangements for the payment of professional fees to employees.</p> <p>The reimbursement of professional fees is an illustration of the Council’s commitment to the continuous development of its employees and enables employees to develop their full potential in delivering professional advice, guidance and services to customers.</p> <p>The aim of this policy is to explain:</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>No rural needs were identified. This is an inward-facing policy for Council and Council employees which sets out the arrangements for the payment of professional fees to employees of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.</p> <p>The reimbursement of professional fees is an illustration of the Council’s commitment to the continuous development of its employees and enables employees to develop their full potential in delivering professional advice, guidance and services to customers.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ which roles in the Council are eligible for the payment of professional fees, ➤ how to claim for reimbursement of professional fees for qualifying roles. 		
<p><i>Policy on artworks and or sculptures on Council property</i></p> <p>The aim of this policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to consideration and decision-making in relation to requests received for the installation of new public artworks/sculptures on council property.</p>	Internal	<p>The aim of this policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to consideration and decision-making in relation to requests received for the installation of new public artworks/sculptures on council property.</p> <p>The corporate approach detailed in the policy will not have a greater impact on residents designated as living in rural areas. The process undertaken will place no restrictions on requests from individuals living in rural areas. The process is clearly defined in the policy, regardless of where the applicant lives in the district.</p>
<p><i>Policy on naming Council facilities</i></p> <p>The aim of this policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to decision-making in relation to requests received regarding naming and renaming of Council facilities.</p> <p>The scope of the policy also addresses requests regarding park benches and plaques on Council property.</p>	Internal	<p>The aim of this policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming of Council facilities and requests related to these. The scope of the policy also addresses requests regarding park benches and plaques on Council property.</p> <p>There is no restriction in making a request regardless as to whether people live in rural and urban areas within the district.</p>
<p><i>Policy on requests to plant a tree on Council property.</i></p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the public or organisations with a means to request a tree to be planted at a suitable council venue.</p> <p>The aim of the policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to decision-making in relation to requests received.</p>	Internal	<p>The corporate approach detailed in the policy will not have a greater impact on residents designated as living in rural areas.</p> <p>The process undertaken will place no restrictions on requests from individuals living in rural areas. The process is clearly defined in the policy, regardless of where the applicant lives in the district.</p>

<p>Promoting Safer Cycling August 2020</p> <p>The aim of the policy is to encourage more citizens to take up cycling and to promote cycling safety.</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>This document is for all citizens of the district and its aim is to encourage more citizens to take up cycling. It does not impact differently for those citizens living in rural areas.</p>
<p>Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2025</p> <p>The aim of the policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth ➤ Address economic inequalities ➤ Create more and better jobs ➤ Stimulate productivity through new technologies and innovation ➤ Develop the infrastructure and regeneration required to support economic growth ➤ Become more internationally competitive through export growth and developing a more outward-looking economy open for investment 	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>To develop this strategy Council undertook an economic profile of the District, looking at demographics across both urban and rural areas. This considered, population, multiple deprivation, employment, labour market, business births and growth, business base, connectivity and infrastructure, and an economic outlook. The strategic focus and objectives of the strategy are based on findings of need.</p> <p>The strategy will positively impact on SMEs across the District of Newry, Mourne and Down. Many of the larger businesses are located in our urban centres of Newry, Downpatrick, Newcastle, Kilkeel, and Warrenpoint with a significant proportion of our business base located in the rural towns and villages. The demographics of the rural business base is largely micro in scale; micro businesses will be key beneficiaries of the objectives outlined within this 5-year strategy.</p> <p>The support offered to rural based businesses is the same offering to urban based businesses; therefore, no differential impact is anticipated.</p>
<p>Reopening of indoor leisure facilities reintroduction of charging structures</p> <p>This related to the reopening of gym facilities at Newry Leisure Centre, Kilkeel Leisure Centre and Downpatrick Leisure Centre beginning on 20 July 2020.</p> <p>As part of the balanced approach to reopening of facilities, access to facilities from the 20 July 2020 was restricted to current members until</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>The restrictions in place for the phased reopening of the leisure facilities, limited services and charging structure impacted on all leisure users regardless of where they lived within the district.</p>

<p>the 7 August 2020, 50% discount on pay and play access to activities until a date for membership commencement is agreed in September 2020. New members could join on the 7 August 2020 on a pay and play basis.</p>		
<p>Safe Place Plan</p> <p>The purpose of the plan is to ensure anyone affected by domestic abuse is offered signposting to appropriate support services and information on a wide range of services, and that this is available within Council premises.</p> <p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support the Safe Place Campaign Pledge: never to commit, condone or stay silent about domestic violence or abuse. ➤ Acknowledge that domestic violence or abuse are problems that impact on all of us as a society and be prepared to play your part in supporting anyone affected. ➤ Provide a Safe Place for anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse to confidentially access information and make it clear that abuse of any kind will not be tolerated. 	<p>Internal</p>	<p>This plan does not distinguish between rural and urban areas. It is a council wide service that's purpose is to promote safe experiences and support for all within the district.</p> <p>All people in rural areas will be afforded the same opportunities to avail of Safe Place as those in urban areas</p>
<p>Sustainability Policy</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) is committed to integrating sustainability throughout our operations. NMDDC will commit to protecting the environment through demonstrable and continuous improvement of our environmental performance, and full compliance with all relevant legal and other requirements.</p> <p>NMDDC will promote good governance</p>	<p>Sustainability</p>	<p>The needs of all residents of the district has been considered in the development of the NMDDC Sustainability Policy.</p> <p>The Policy clearly states Sustainability is about creating opportunities for all residents in Newry, Mourne and Down to prosper without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</p> <p>The Sustainability Policy gives a commitment that the Council will embed sustainable development within all its activities and functions.</p>

<p>throughout the organisation and wider services, whilst actively encouraging and monitoring responsible environmental, social and economic performance by our staff, suppliers and contractors.</p> <p>NMDDC will focus on the activities over which we have greatest influence and are the most cost effective, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embedding sustainability; 2. Climate resilience; 3. Operations and estate efficiency; 4. Procurement 5. Air quality. 		
<p><i>Volunteer Policy</i></p> <p>The primary aim of the Volunteer Policy is to develop and promote best practice in the involvement and support of volunteers in the work of the Council.</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>The primary aim of the Volunteer Policy is to develop and promote best practice in the involvement and support of volunteers in the work of the Council, the policy and associated volunteer agreement / procedure also address specific policy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage development of volunteering in all appropriate areas of the Council. ➤ Recognise and promote the importance of volunteering to the Council. ➤ To provide clear guidance to individuals, groups and corporate organisations considering volunteering opportunities with Council. ➤ Identify standards to which Council staff and volunteers are expected to adhere. <p>The policy has no differential impact whether the volunteers live within an urban or rural area.</p>
<p><i>Active and Healthy Communities Emergency Business Plan October 2020- March 2021</i></p> <p>The Active and Healthy Communities (AHC) Emergency Business Plan provides an overview of the key activities that will take place across the Directorate between October 2020 – March 2021.</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>Council gave consideration to the following in the development of the AHC Emergency Business Plan for the period October 2020-March 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More residents of our district live in rural areas than urban areas;

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Data from Council's Residents' Survey conducted in 2018:

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- Residents living in rural areas were more likely to

		<p>say they regularly take part in local groups or community activities compared to in urban areas (28% vs. 20%);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only 23% of residents living in rural areas feel they can have a say on things happening or how services are run in their local area compared to 28% in urban areas; and ➤ 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents. <p>The Emergency Business Plan clearly set out the planned and proposed outputs/outcomes for the period October 2020-March 2021.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, having witnessed a change in restriction levels since March 2020, Council continued to be mindful that any future restrictions put in place during the period October 2020 – March 2021 could have potential to adversely impact service delivery for residents whether they live in an urban or rural area.</p>
<p><i>Bilingualism Policy</i></p> <p>The aim of this policy is to build on the Council’s commitment to celebrate diversity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The delivery of equality of opportunity for all who avail of and/or provide Council services using progressive realization. ii. To fulfil Council’s obligations as contained in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. 	Internal	<p>The Bilingualism policy sets out the Council’s commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English language in the Council area. Council approves this policy to ensure linguistic equality for all who avail of and/or provide Council services as far is reasonably possible.</p> <p>The Bilingualism Policy applies to all Council Departments with regard to the functions they deliver and applies to all communication and engagement between internal and external stakeholders.</p>
<p><i>Bus Shelter Policy</i></p>	Internal	<p>In terms of the policy, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will consider the erection of a bus shelter following local representations where there is shown to</p>

<p>This Policy applies to the erection or removal of bus shelters by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.</p> <p>The objective of this policy is to set out clearly the Council's role in providing bus shelters within its district and the standards it sets for the management of its bus shelters.</p>		<p>be a "need", providing the location does not present a safety or nuisance problem, has local community support and adequate funding is available.</p> <p>In terms of assessment and decision-making on the "need" for a bus shelter, "need" for people in rural areas will be defined as the usage being a minimum 10 passengers over the period of a day as opposed to 20 passengers over the period of a day in urban areas.</p> <p>This information must be confirmed by Translink or other recognised service provider such as the relevant Education Authority.</p>
<p>Chief Executive Department Emergency Business Plan October 2020- March 2021</p> <p>The Chief Executive (CE) Departmental Emergency Business Plan provides an overview of the key activities that will take place across the Directorate between October 2020 – March 2021.</p> <p>Adapting to the 'new' normal and reviewing how Council delivers services effectively is a key priority for both the organisation and Directorate.</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>Council gave consideration to the following in the development of the CE Departmental Emergency Business Plan for the period October 2020- March 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More residents of our district live in rural areas than urban areas; ➤ More young people (up to the age of 15) and older people (65+) live in areas designated as Rural; ➤ 10 of NMDDC's rural SOAs are within the top 25% of the NI most deprived with 2 being within the top 10% most deprived. The majority are located in the Slieve Gullion DEA; ➤ Geographic location and setting of hubs and services; ➤ Service requirements should also be taken into consideration such as access to broadband and public transport; ➤ Urban and rural differentials between business size bands, type and location of same; ➤ Lower income in rural areas;

- Location of current available housing stock and its implication for future planning applications;
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- Residents living in rural areas were more likely to say they regularly take part in local groups or community activities compared to in urban areas (28% vs. 20%);
- Only 23% of residents living in rural areas feel they can have a say on things happening or how services are run in their local area compared to 28% in urban areas; and
- 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents.

The Chief Executive Departmental Emergency Business Plan clearly set out the planned and proposed outputs/outcomes for the period October 2020-March 2021.

Notwithstanding this, having witnessed a change in restriction levels since March 2020, Council continued to

		be mindful that any future restrictions put in place during the period October 2020 – March 2021 could have potential to adversely impact service delivery for residents whether they live in an urban or rural area.
<p>Complaints, Comments and Compliments Policy</p> <p>The aim of this Policy is to ensure a consistent approach by all Council employees and those working on behalf of Council, to the receipt and management of a complaint, comment or compliment.</p> <p>Council is committed to putting our customers first by improving the quality of our services and our customers' experience of them.</p>	Internal	This is an internal document ensuring a consistent approach by all employees for all customers who avail of this council service. There is no differential impact upon whether the customer is from a rural or urban area.
<p>Corporate Plan 2021-2023</p> <p>The Mission Statement of Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2023 is, <i>"To support and advocate for a welcoming District which is progressive, healthy and sustainable, providing better economic, environmental and social outcomes for all"</i> and sets out eight Strategic Objectives.</p>	Cross cutting	<p>The Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2023 sets out eight overarching strategic objectives which will be delivered across the Council area to all residents in relation to specific key actions which have been subject to public consultation.</p> <p>As part of public engagement, specific key headline actions identified for people living within rural areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing priority projects identified within masterplans and village plans. • Continuing to develop the District's bid to achieve the UNESCO Global Geopark designation by summer 2021. • Implementing priority projects identified within AONB action plans and protecting our biodiversity.
<p>Corporate Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan - October 2020-March 2021</p> <p>The Corporate Services Directorate Emergency</p>	Cross Cutting	Council gave consideration to the following in the development of the Corporate Services Emergency Business Plan for the period October 2020- March 2021:

Business Plan provides an overview of the key activities that will take place across the Directorate between October 2020 – March 2021. Adapting to the 'new' normal and reviewing how Council delivers services effectively is a key priority for both the organisation and Directorate.

- More residents of our district live in rural areas than urban areas;
- More young people (up to the age of 15) and older people (65+) live in areas designated as Rural;
- 10 of NMDDC's rural SOAs are within the top 25% of the NI most deprived with 2 being within the top 10% most deprived. The majority are located in the Slieve Gullion DEA;
- Geographic location and setting of hubs and services;
- Service requirements should also be taken into consideration such as access to broadband and public transport;
- Urban and rural differentials between business size bands, type and location of same;
- Lower income in rural areas;
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- Profile of crime in rural areas differs from crime in urban areas; and
- At both local and regional level, rural dwellers experience better health outcomes in general with lower occurrences of health problems across rural dwellers compared to those in urban areas.

Data from Council's Residents' Survey conducted in 2018:

- Residents in urban areas compared with rural areas were more likely to say they follow or engage with the Council via social media

		<p>platforms (54% vs. 42%);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residents living in rural areas were more likely to say they regularly take part in local groups or community activities compared to in urban areas (28% vs. 20%); ➤ Only 23% of residents living in rural areas feel they can have a say on things happening or how services are run in their local area compared to 28% in urban areas; and ➤ 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents. <p>The Corporate Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan clearly set out the planned and proposed outputs/outcomes for the period October 2020-March 2021.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, having witnessed a change in restriction levels since March 2020, Council continued to be mindful that any future restrictions put in place during the period October 2020 – March 2021 could have potential to adversely impact service delivery for residents whether they live in an urban or rural area.</p>
<p>Corporate Social Media Policy</p> <p>The aim of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with all social media communications activity.</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>Whilst this is an internal corporate document, consideration has been given to the following data which was extracted from NMDDC residents survey conducted in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Residents in urban areas compared with rural areas were more likely to say they follow or engage with the Council via social media platforms (54% vs. 42%); ➤ Only 23% of residents living in rural areas feel they can have a say on things happening or how

		<p>services are run in their local area compared to 28% in urban areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents.
<p><i>Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy</i></p> <p>The aim of the policy is to make the workplace a safe and supportive environment for all employees, elected members, volunteers, agency workers, casual workers and volunteers of Council who are affected by or are at risk of domestic abuse and sexual violence.</p>	Internal	<p>This Policy does not distinguish between rural and urban areas. It is a Council wide practice and its purpose is to promote safe experiences and support for all within the workplace and district.</p> <p>All people in rural areas will be also afforded the same opportunities to avail of Safe Place as those in urban areas.</p>
<p><i>Down County Museum Forward Plan 2020-2023</i></p> <p>The key aims and objectives of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish a new signed one-way route and managed visit through the 12 galleries and spaces in the Museum, following social distancing rules and protocols as required by the Museum's current Covid-19 Risk Assessment ➤ Re-develop gaol cells interpretation including Alison Lowry glass sculpture, and the stories of the 1798 rebellion and Thomas Russell 	Internal	<p>In respect of how the Forward Plan for Down County Museum will impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, the plan includes provision for outreach to rural communities through its outreach activities and PEACE IV Projects. The Museum has a Community and Outreach Manager dedicated to reaching out to rural and coastal communities.</p>
<p><i>Draft Assessment Performance and Improvement Objectives 2021-22</i></p> <p>The Council has developed five performance improvement objectives which are directly aligned to the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and draft Programme for Government.</p> <p>The Council recognises 'improvement' to mean</p>	Cross cutting	<p>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 and corporate priorities also highlighted the following</p>

<p>activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life for local communities and has developed the objectives within the context of the seven strategic aspects of improvement, as outlined in the Act.</p>		<p>issues in relation to rural areas and rural communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More investment in coastal and rural areas ➤ More community clean ups in towns and villages to encourage civic pride <p>The Council has considered the issues raised and included ‘supporting actions’ around the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The creation of new jobs and businesses in coastal areas ➤ Support and assistance towards community clean ups across the District
<p><i>Draft Health and Safety Policy</i></p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council accepts its legal responsibilities to employees and other persons as set out in the Health & Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 and associated relevant statutory provisions.</p> <p>The Council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all its employees during the course of their working activities.</p> <p>The Council also accepts responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of all persons contracted to carry out work on the Council premises, authorised visitors and members of the public using our services who may be affected by the Council’s activities.</p>	<p>Internal</p>	<p>This is a corporate internal document. This policy applies to all employees of the Council, Elected Council Members, contractors, seconded staff, placements, agency staff & customers regardless of where they live or which council facility they are based in or attending.</p>
<p><i>ERT Emergency Business Plan October 2020-March 2021</i></p> <p>The Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism (ERT) Emergency Business Plan provides an overview of the key activities that will take place across the</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>Council gave consideration to the following in the development of the ERT Emergency Business Plan for October 2020- March 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ More residents of our district live in rural areas than urban areas;

Directorate between October 2020 – March 2021.

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<p><i>Geopark Development Plan</i></p> <p>The main elements of the Development Plan shall include (but not be limited to) the four pillars of Strategy, Marketing, Engagement and Operational in guiding the development of the Geopark.</p>	<p>Cross cutting</p>	<p>The Geopark Development Plan will focus activity in the Geopark area which is primarily the Rural area of NMDDC and includes the Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area which is in the top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Geopark Development Plan will seek to deliver key initiatives and programmes to assist in addressing rural deprivation. With projects such as encouraging sustainable tourism development, opportunities will exist for micro businesses such as local tour guides, self-catering operators, crafters, brewers etc.</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.