A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

 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** | 21 | **to** | **March** | **20** | 22 |

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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 20161.* | *The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to2.* | *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.* |
| Developing a plan – Performance Improvement Objectives 2022-23. | Cross cutting | Progress in delivering the performance improvement objectives 2021-22 has informed the ‘supporting actions’ and ‘measures of success’ which underpin the 2022-23 objectives, and seek to have a positive impact across all areas of the District. Some objectives are underpinned by ‘supporting actions’ and ‘measures of success’ which will have an indirect positive outcomes for rural areas. For example:* The Council has parks, open spaces and community trails in rural areas
* Economic development programmes can be accessed by businesses and individuals in rural areas
* The creation of new jobs and businesses in coastal areas
* Community clean ups are supported across the District, in urban and rural areas
* The Financial Assistance Scheme can be accessed by all communities, including those from rural areas
* The Planning Service is open to all stakeholders and customers across both urban and rural areas
* Slieve Gullion Forest Park to renew ‘Green Flag’ status
 |
| Developing Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 | Cross cutting | The Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 is focused on recovery and identifying opportunities for recovery and transformation in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Plan sets out a number of key delivery actions which will positively impact upon people living in rural areas such as the delivery of the rural development programme, implementation of village plans, Castlewellan Park redevelopment and the Mournes Gateway project. These initiatives will include funding allocated specifically to rural areas programmes. |
| Developing Chief Executive Department Business Plan 2021-2022 | Cross cutting | The actions/objectives detailed with the Chief Executives Business Plan are corporate objectives which will benefit all residents of the district. |
| Developing a plan – Pioneering the potential of Community Wealth Building in Newry, Mourne and Down | Cross cutting | This is an initial stage which will undertake a diagnostic process whereby Newry, Mourne and Down District Council assesses its activities and begins exploring the issue of social value by applying the principles of Community Wealth Building (CWB), leading to the development of a Community Wealth Building Action Plan. |
| Developing Council’s new Arts, Cultural and Heritage Strategy 2022-2027 | Rural Tourism | The key themes of the strategy are the foundations upon which subsequent delivery plans, programmes, initiatives and grant schemes will be created and delivered over the next five years. These include:* Establishing a new arts, culture & heritage forum that represents key stakeholders in order to improve collaboration and co-ordination of the sector development across the District.
* Creating networking opportunities between local culture, arts and heritage providers with health and education representatives to enhance opportunities for greater collaboration.
* Developing an outreach programme to provide arts, culture and heritage activities to local communities throughout the district.
* Growth of audiences and the participation of our citizens in arts, culture and heritage programmes and activities.
 |
| Developing the Active and Healthy Communities (AHC) Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 | Cross cutting | When developing the AHC Business Plan consideration has been given to information provided by the Council’s Evidence and Research Team in relation to the social and economic needs of people within the 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.   While the AHC Business Plan details positive actions for all the community, there are some specific actions which will directly positively impact on people living in the rural areas. |
| Developing an Active Travel Masterplan for the Newry, Mourne and Down district. | Cross cutting | Social and economic needs identified included promoting transport which balances the needs of our environment, society and economy; that needs of the pedestrian should be foremost considerations in how places are planned and designed, the quality of the infrastructure contributing greatly to these ends; the need to support those in Newry, Mourne and Down who live in the least walkable and least cycleable parts of the district to become active and travel sustainably, spatial planning needs to deliver more people-oriented environments – higher density, mixed land-use, low-car developments with permeable street networks; and considering access needs for those with protected characteristics, particularly those using non-standard and larger cycles, and those in wheelchairs.The Active Travel Masterplan:* details recommendations for Newry City, the towns of Warrenpoint, Ballynahinch, Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton and smaller settlements across the district. The implementation of the recommendations are positive active travel changes for residents of the district regardless of where they are located.
* recognizes that the majority of the district is designated as rural and highlighted the difficulties with rural infrastructure.

Examples of some of the recommendations to take place in the rural areas include narrowing radial roads, widening footways on through roads as traditionally these type of roads are wide and providing controlled crossings and dropped kerbs for pedestrians. By doing so helps concerns regarding road safety.The masterplan also acknowledges that there is traditionally a higher speed by vehicles in rural areas and smaller settlements rarely feature controlled pedestrian crossings. The masterplan recommends that these should be implemented in key destinations in rural areas. |
| Developing a Plan related to a Notice of Motion - Contactless Payment Solutions to tackle Homelessness | Cross cutting | For this proposal, consideration has been given to Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements which are as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Settlement Hierarchy** | **Newry, Mourne & Down Settlement Populations** |
| Tier 1 City & Main Town | Newry (26,893) Downpatrick (10,874)  |
| Tier 2 Local & Small Towns | Newcastle (7,743) Ballynahinch (5,715) Warrenpoint/Burren (8,721) Crossmaglen (1,608) Kilkeel (6,521) Newtownhamilton (800) |

 Should Council be minded to establish contactless payment points consideration must be given to the geographic locations of these to enable access for both rural and urban dwellers. Taking into account both Tier 1 and Tier 2 settlements Council must give consideration to initially locating paypoints within a minimum of two settlements up to a maximum of 8 settlements. Decisions on the geographic location, and the number of paypoints within each settlement, should be underpinned by a projected cost / benefit analysis to implement and maintain.  |
| Developing the Mournes Gateway Project Strategy | Rural Tourism | The project proposal is for the establishment of the Thomas Quarry Visitor Centre in the Mournes, with a Gondola/cable car uplift that will commence in Donard Park. Key issues considered included accessibility, transport provision and jobs and employment opportunities.The project will deliver: 1. Increased access to the Mournes by all abilities & age groups
2. The project will contribute to the Belfast Region City Deal’s ambition to deliver a step change in the region’s economic prosperity, help achieve a 15-year programme of inclusive growth, an increase of £470m Gross Value Added and create up to 20,000 new and better jobs, accessible to people from all communities.
3. The estimated economic benefits of the project include:
	1. 226 direct, indirect and induced jobs
	2. 251 construction jobs
	3. £5.1m annual GVA by 2032, £74.6m GVA over 30 years
 |
| Developing Corporate Communications Strategy 2022-2024 | Internal | No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy. |
| Developing Corporate Digital Communications Strategy 2022-2024 | Cross cutting | The following data was extracted from NMDDC 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%);
* 73% of rural residents support more services being available online compared to 54% of urban residents

Appendices I and II within pages 17 -34 of the Corporate Digital Communications Strategy 2021-2023 set out action plans, associated areas of work, activities and actions related to implementing the Social Media Short Term Strategy and the Development of the new Corporate Website respectively. |
| Developing Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 | Cross cutting | The Corporate Services Business Plan 2021-2022 is focused on recovery and identifying opportunities for recovery and transformation in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. It details positive actions for all the community through the delivery of internal structures. However, there are some specific actions which will directly positively impact on people living in the rural areas. Capital project delivery is an objective with the Corporate Services directorate and some of the proposed projects identified as needed will be delivered within rural areas. |
| Revising Dealing with Changed Circumstances Policy  | Internal | No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy. |
| RevisingMedia Policy  | Internal | No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy. |
| Developing Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 | Cross cutting | The Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan 2021-2022 is focused on recovery and identifying opportunities for recovery and transformation in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The delivery actions detailed in the business plan will impact all citizens of the district, regardless of where they live. |
| Developing Non-Current Asset Procedures Policy | Internal | The procedures set out inward-facing internal requirements. No direct or indirect impact upon people living in rural or urban areas has been identified.  |
| Reviewing Pavement Cafes Designation Policy | Internal | No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy. |
| Reviewing Pavement Cafes Enforcement Policy | Internal | No specific social and economic needs of people in rural areas were identified in relation to this policy. |
| Developing a policy on Management of Bonfires on Council Land  | Cross cutting | Council’s policy has been informed by the process to develop a Bonfire Management Framework which was part of a process led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, supported by Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP (Policing & Community Safety Partnership) and other public agencies, to provide a local, bespoke framework for the management of bonfires in the District.No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Designing a service in relation to a proposed Children Memorial Gardens Landscape Scheme | Cross cutting | The proposal is to establish two memory gardens, one within each health trust area, at Ross Monument, Rostrevor and The Quoil, Downpatrick. While the actual provision is not likely to impact people in rural areas differently than people in urban areas, it is acknowledged that all people will require access to a mode of transport to visit the memory gardens and will experience varying travel times. |
| Revising a policy - Council’s Protocol for hearing of statutory referrals to committee | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Risk Management Policy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing a Risk Management Strategy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the strategy. |
| Revising Street Trading Designation Policy  | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Street Trading Enforcement Policy  | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Street Trading Mobile Licence Policy  | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Stall Design and Trading Policy  | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Street Trading Stationary Licence Policy  | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Street Trading Temporary Licence Policy  | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Temporary Road Closures on a Public Road for the Purpose of Holding a Special Event Policy | Rural Tourism | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing a Vehicle Fuel Management Policy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |

**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.