



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.

| <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> |
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| <p>Developing Council's Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-24</p> | <p>Cross cutting</p> | <p>The data collation process revealed that the majority of the population of our 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>Previous consultation and engagement processes on the performance improvement objectives and corporate priorities also highlighted the following 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 |

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| | | <p>to encourage civic pride</p> <p>The Council has considered the issues raised and included 'supporting actions' around the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and assistance towards community clean ups across the District <p>Progress in delivering the performance improvement objectives 2022-23 has informed the 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' which underpin a number of the 2023-24 objectives, and seek to have a positive impact across all areas of the District. 'Supporting actions' have been developed to address the needs and issues which have been identified, in order to deliver positive outcomes for rural areas:</p> <p>Performance Improvement Objectives3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for community clean ups <p>Some objectives are underpinned by 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' which will have an indirect positive outcomes for rural areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has community trails in rural areas • Economic development programmes can be accessed by businesses and individuals in rural areas • Community clean ups are supported across the District, in urban and rural areas • The trees the Council plants on its estate will be within rural areas. • The younger, less polluting cars and cars with alternative fuel sources that the Council orders for use within its fleet will be used to carry out services all across the District including rural areas. • The Planning Service is open to all stakeholders and customers across both urban and rural areas |
| Developing an agile working policy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the |

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| | | policy. |
| Developing the Active and Healthy Communities Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023 | Cross cutting | <p>When developing the Active and Healthy (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.</p> <p>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. An example of this is the Home to Hospital volunteer driver schemes in the Slieve Gullion and The Mourne DEA.</p> |
| Developing a bulky collection service | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing the Chief Executive Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023 | Cross cutting | The actions/objectives detailed with the Chief Executive's Business Plan are corporate objectives which will benefit all residents of the district regardless of where they live in the district. |
| Revising the policy on complaints, comment and compliment | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising and reviewing the conflict of interest policy and associated conflict of interest procedures | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing the Corporate Services Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023 | Cross cutting | The Corporate Services Business Plan 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 |

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| | | will be delivered within rural areas. |
| Revising and reviewing the Council's Disability Action Plan 2023-2027 | Cross cutting | <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 wellbeing.</p> <p>Having considered this information, there is nothing to suggest that the implementation of the Disability Action Plan will have adverse impact upon people in rural needs differently from people in urban areas. The actions detailed within the Council's Disability Action Plan 2023-2027 will have a positive impact of all residents of the district, regardless of where they live.</p> |
| Revising and reviewing the Council's Equality Action Plan 2023-2027 | Cross cutting | <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 2023-2027 will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> |
| Developing the Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027 | Cross cutting | <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</p> |

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| | | urban areas. |
| Developing the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTTF) | Cross cutting | <p>The DTFF aims to address the financial barrier that small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform by establishing a capital grant fund that will support investment in the types of capital equipment considered critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions (e.g., hardware, software, bespoke system development).</p> <p>Successful applicants to the fund are likely to be advantaged by it but it is an open and competitive process to which rural businesses are equally eligible to apply provided they meet other criteria.</p> |
| Developing the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023 | Cross cutting | The Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan details positive actions for all the community However there are some specific actions which will directly positively impact on people living in the rural areas such as the delivery of the Rural Development Programme. |
| Developing the fleet renewal policy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing the fleet telemetry system policy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising Guidelines and associated procedure in relation to the offer and acceptance of gifts to Council | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing an ill health retirement policy | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Developing an interim policy on the issue/collection of wheeled bins | Cross cutting | This policy sets out Council's refuse collection services in relation to the following: |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of wheeled bins • Replacement of wheeled bins • Number of bins per household • Provision of assisted collections • Return for bins not collected • Collection Time • Missed Collection • Access to bin blocked • Lost/Stolen bins <p>It is not anticipated the policy will impact on people in rural areas differently than people from urban areas.</p> |
| Developing the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan 2022-2023 | Cross cutting | The Neighbourhood Services Directorate Business Plan details positive actions for all the community of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area regardless of where they live within the district. |
| Reviewing the regeneration of Newry City through investment in a theatre/conference facility | Cross cutting | The 2021 OBC Public Consultation Survey for the Newry City Centre Regeneration programme included an opportunity to respond on rural needs. These responses related to access to parking and rural to city accessibility (access to services and transport), and also balance between rural and city investment (economy). |
| Developing nonstandard pay provision for staff | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising and updating Council's Performance Improvement Plan 2022-2023 | Cross cutting | <p>Progress in delivering the Performance Improvement Plan 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.</p> <p>'Supporting actions' have been developed to address the needs and issues which have been identified, in order to deliver positive outcomes for rural areas:</p> <p>Performance Improvement Objectives 1 and 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for community clean ups |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slieve Gullion Forest Park to renew 'Green Flag' status <p>Some objectives are underpinned by 'supporting actions' and 'measures of success' which will have indirect positive outcomes for rural areas. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. |
| <p>Revising and reviewing Council's performance improvement policy</p> | <p>Cross cutting</p> | <p>Effectively mainstreaming the Performance Improvement Policy will support the implementation of key plans and strategies across the organisation, including the Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and Directorate Business Plans.</p> <p>These plans are the front facing documents of the organisation and have been developed using a robust and reliable evidence base which will have considered the social and economic needs of local communities across the district, including rural areas. The Performance Improvement Policy should therefore be regarded as an enabler to support the delivery of key plans and strategies and deliver services which improve the quality of life for all residents in urban and rural areas across the district.</p> |
| <p>Revising policy and associated procedure in relation to the erection of commercial/advertising signage on council</p> | <p>Internal</p> | <p>No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.</p> |

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| land and property by third parties | | |
| Developing and managing car parks | Cross cutting | <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 proposal to increase the number of car parks at which there is a parking tariff and / or a time restriction will have an adverse impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.</p> |
| Revising and reviewing the collections development policy 2022-2025 | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising and reviewing Council's museum loans policy and procedures | Internal | No social and economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy. |
| Revising the smoke free 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 special leave 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.