



## 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) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service<sup>3</sup>.</i>
Developing the Active and Healthy Communities Business Plan 2023-2024	Cross cutting	The Active and Healthy Communities Business Plan details positive actions for all the community, however there are some specific actions identified which will directly positively impact on people living in the rural areas. An example is the continuation of the Home to Hospital volunteer driver scheme to help rural citizens in The Mournes and Slieve Gullion areas access health appointments.
Developing a Business Continuity Policy	Cross cutting	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Chief Executive's Department Business Plan 2023-2024	Cross cutting	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.

Revising the Community Plan	Cross cutting	While the aim of the document is to deliver positive change for the community, there are specific indicators included in the plan which are scored by measures which will have positive impacts for people living in rural areas. These measures have now been updated in 2023 with new data becoming available. Examples include broadband delivery and rural crime data.
Revising the Conflict of Interest Policy and associated Conflict of Interest Procedures	Cross cutting	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Corporate Services Business Plan 2023-2024	Cross cutting	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 will be delivered within rural areas. Responsibility of ensuring that Council meets their statutory duty in relation to The Rural Needs Act sits within the Corporate Services department.
Developing the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2022	Cross cutting	<p>The core nature of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor Partnership Strategy and Action Plan has not been influenced significantly by rural needs but consideration of the specific issues that may affect individuals and businesses in rural areas allow adjustments to be made to the modes of delivery to ensure equal access and participation.</p> <p>Issues considered in relation to the socio-economic needs of people in rural areas include promotion, access to support services/training etc., adjustments to delivery to facilitate attendance for young people, older people, women, etc. who may live in rural areas and experience travel challenges, and childcare challenges.</p>
Revising the Dealing with Changed Circumstances Policy	Rural Business	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing a public service tourism rebrand for Newry, Mourne and Down	Rural Tourism	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund	Agri-environment	Through the Rural Needs Impact Assessment it was identified that engagement will be localised across all Council areas to increase awareness and improve

		accessibility to the Fund in all communities and all parts of Northern Ireland. Funding Call workshops will be alternated between urban and rural areas for each call.
Revising the Down County Museum Collections Development Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Down County Museum Collections Care and Conservation Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Performance Improvement Objectives 2023-2024	Cross cutting	<p>Consultation and engagement on the performance improvement objectives and corporate priorities highlighted the following issues in relation to rural areas and rural communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More investment in coastal and rural areas,</li> <li>• As leisure facilities are only in the main towns community centres need to be improved to allow for the provision of such services in rural areas,</li> <li>• More community clean ups in towns and villages to encourage civic pride.</li> </ul> <p>‘Supporting actions’ that have been developed to address the needs and issues which have been identified to deliver positive outcomes for rural areas include Performance Improvement Objective 1: Number of capital leisure projects progressed, and Performance Improvement Objective 3: Support for community clean ups.</p>
Developing the Emergency Communications Plan	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Emergency Management Plan	Cross cutting	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate Business Plan 2023-2024	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. This includes promoting the revitalisation of rural areas, improvement in rural connectivity and continue to develop The Mourne Gateway Tourism project.
Designing Council’s implementation of Forest	Rural Tourism	Park charges were already in place in two of the

and County Parks car park charges		Council owned parks in the district. By introducing parking charges in all Council owned parks and also offering residents one pass per household for one public park of your choice, Council has now created a consistent approach where all residents benefit equally.
Revising the Newry, Mourne and Down Museum Collections Care and Conservation Policy Statement 2023-2026	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing a Forward Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down Museums 2023-2026	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising Newry, Mourne and Down Loans Policy and Procedures 2023-2026	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Newry, Mourne and Down Museums Documentation Policy 2023-2026	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Newry, Mourne and Down Sustainability Policy 2023-2026	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Newry, Mourne and Down Museums Volunteer Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revision of the Performance Improvement Policy	Cross cutting	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Implementing a Retention and Disposal Schedule	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Street Trading Designation Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Street Trading Enforcement Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Street Trading Mobile License Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.

Revising the Stall Design and Trading Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Street Trading Stationary License Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Revising the Street Trading Temporary License Policy	Internal	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2023-2024	Cross cutting	No social or economic needs specific to people in rural areas were identified by the Council in relation to the policy.
Developing the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2028	Rural Tourism	<p>When developing the strategy, action plan and undertaking the Rural Needs Impact Assessment, it was determined that the local rural communities must be invested in when developing and promoting the region as a tourist destination.</p> <p>Under Strategic Priority 5: Prioritise investment in tourism-related infrastructure the strategy states that it is important to note that investment in tourism-related infrastructure provides wide-ranging benefits that encompass improving the experience for visitors, maximising opportunities for Newry, Mourne and Down's tourism industry, and improving the quality of life (including the generation of social and economic benefits) for Newry, Mourne and Down's local community.</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.