Summaries Report

Public Authority:	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council		
Submission Year:	2025-2026 Submission		
Report Generated:	25 September 2026 12:32	**Selected Summaries:**	30

002 - Dementia Safeguarding Scheme

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Dementia Safeguarding Scheme allocated wearable passive devices with Near Field Communication technology to people living with dementia.

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

Population settlements of less than 5,000

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

1. Dementia in older and vulnerable adults 2. Support for family members and carers 3. Reducing the risk of those living with dementia when out and about.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The scheme is available to everyone and information on the scheme will be available through newspapers and social media channels.

003 - International Men's Day Event

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Celebrating International Men's Day 2025

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

International Men's Day event was open to everyone and is available to watch online.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

The event was filmed so that it could be accessed by those unable to attend.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The International Men's Day Event was available to everyone and information will be available through newspapers, social media channels with the event filmed and posted on the website.

004 - Winter Woollies update

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Winter Woollies scheme encourages members of the public to come together to knit/crochet warm clothes to give to those who struggle to stay warm in the winter months.

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

Available to everyone regardless of location

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

1. Number of individuals struggling to stay warm during the winter months 2. Number of groups supporting those who are vulnerable during winter months 3. Tackling loneliness by encouraging members to come together to knit/crochet items

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-Winter Woollies is available to everyone and information on the scheme will be available through newspapers and social media channels.

005 - Internal Audit Strategy 2026-2030

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Development of a new Internal Audit Strategy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Developing a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The Strategy has no impact on people in rural areas

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

None

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-There is no impact on rural needs

006 - Entertainment Licensing Policy review

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Review and implementation of the Entertainments Licensing Policy for Indoor and Outdoor Events within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

Rural communities need greater access to entertainment and cultural activities, which support social interaction and community cohesion. Local businesses and tourism rely on small-scale events for income and jobs. Travel and transport limitations mean accessibility and inclusivity are important, especially for older adults and people with disabilities. Policies should balance safety and environmental concerns without creating unncessary barriers for rural events.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

1)Access to entertainment- rural communities have fewer venues and events compared with urban areas,

which can limit social interaction and cultural participation. 2)Economic impact - small-scale events support local businesses, venues and tourism, contributing to the rural economy and jobs. 3)Community Cohesion - Entertainment events help bring people together, reducing social isolation and strengthening local identify. 4)Accessibility and Inclusivity - Travel distances and limited transport can restrict participation, particularly for older adults and people with disabilities. 5)Policy flexibility - the need to balance safety, noise, and enviromnental concerns without creating barriers for small, community-led events.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes

-The development and implementation of the policy have been influenced by the rural needs identified by ensuring flexbility and support for small-scale, community-led events. Recognising that rural areas have fewer venues and face accessibility challenges. We aim to balance safety, noise and environmental concerns while allowing rural communities to maintain cultural and social activities that support community cohesion and local economic opportunities.

007 - Rural Investment and Growth Fund

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Rural Investment and Growth Fund

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Designing a public service

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

See below

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

There are no issues to consider which are specific in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes

-The end of EU LEADER funding and the absence of a comparable Northern Ireland Rural Development Fund has created a sharp drop-off in capital and grant support for rural business development. This has left a significant investment vacuum for small rural firms, social enterprises and community-based economic projects. DAERA Rural Development Programme overview: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/rural-development-programme-2014-2020 To address this gap in support for local businesses it is proposed to develop a pilot Rural Investment and Growth Fund locally. Should a fund similar to that proposed be instigated by Central Government during this pilot period, officers will adapt as required.

008 - Risk Management Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

This policy sets out the main principles of risk management and sets out the Council's approach to the management of risk.

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan

-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The policy has no impact on people in rural areas

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

None

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-There is no impact on rural needs

009 - Positive Ageing Month

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Positive Ageing Month runs throughout October to promote groups and organisations in the Borough. The month gives an opportunity to encourage residents to try something new. It also brings them together for social activities they can enjoy together.

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Developing a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

See below

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

1. Loneliness and Social isolation among rural communities. 2. Poor mental health due to disconnected communities. 3. Poor infrastructure increasing difficulty when trying to access public spaces and buildings.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes
-Positive Ageing Month encourages connection among communities including rural communities. The roadshow brings people together to meet others from all backgrounds, encouraging connection and opportunity to have a discussion about their community and how it is to age there.

010 - Silver Summer Scheme Programme

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Silver Summer Scheme programme to combat loneliness and enhance social inclusion throughout the Borough.

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

An activity was planned in each DEA across the Borough providing opportunity to attend.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

1. Loneliness and social isolation among rural communities 2. Poor mental health due to disconnected communities 3. Poor infrastructure increasing difficulty when trying to access public spaces and buildings.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes
-Silver Summer Scheme gives the opportunity to meet new people across the Borough. Those in rural areas may be more isolated therefore the scheme gives them the opportunity to participate in community life with others at the same life stage.

011 - Grant Funding Policy Review

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the

Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Grant Funding Policy - Review. Purpose of the Grant Funding Policy is to set out the principles, criteria and governance procedures for the funding of external bodies, to support the delivery of the Council's strategic aims and objectives.

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

N/A

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

N/a

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The Grant Funding policy will be inclusive to all organisations within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough equally regardless of whether they are located in an urban or rural area.

012 - Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2026-2031

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Good Relations Audit and Strategy 2026-2031

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Adopting a policy, strategy or plan
-Strategy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

Transport and accessibility barriers Limited facilities and youth provision Isolation and lack of shared spaces Misinformation and lower engagement levels

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Ensuring geographic spread of programmes Targeting underserved rural DEAs Supporting community safety in isolated areas Improving communication beyond digital channels

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes
-Borough-wide delivery model Targeted engagement in rural DEAs Multi-agency approach to safety and inclusion Commitment to improved visibility and outreach

013 - School Uniform Reuse Scheme 2024

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

School Uniform Reuse Scheme 2024

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

-Need for Local Distribution Points: Rural residents expressed a desire for collection hubs within or near their village to avoid costly travel to town centres. - Discreet Access Mechanisms: Families wanted ways to access the scheme without public collection queues or online sign-ups that could expose their need. • Broader Promotion Methods: Many rural families do not use social media or Council websites regularly, meaning offline awareness materials are needed. - Support for Large Families: Rural families often have more children per household, increasing the cumulative cost of uniforms and making support essential. - Cooperation with Schools and Churches: Rural residents trust local schools and churches—these

organisations are often best placed to manage or signpost uniform support. -Flexible Sizing and Stock Variety: Given lower footfall in rural areas, families requested that rural hubs carry a full range of sizes and school-specific items to avoid being turned away.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

-Accessibility and Location of Hubs: The Council worked with schools, community halls, and churches in rural areas to host pop-up or permanent collection points, minimising travel burdens. -Discreet Referral Routes: The programme included referral mechanisms through schools, clergy, and family support workers to allow rural parents to access uniforms without stigma. -Non-Digital Access: Paper-based request forms and telephone enquiries were enabled to accommodate families without reliable broadband or digital confidence. -Local Stock Management: Partnerships with rural schools allowed uniforms to be sorted and stored locally, reducing reliance on centralised sorting depots. -Promotion via Physical Channels: Flyers, posters, and word-of-mouth promotion through schools, GPs, and local shops were used to reach rural families less likely to engage digitally. -Inclusion of Rural Feedback: Insights from rural parents, school principals, and elected members informed where resources and support were allocated.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes

--Hub Expansion into Rural Villages: Based on rural demand, the scheme expanded its delivery points into settlements such as Doagh, Templepatrick, Ballynure, and Crumlin. -Training and Support for Rural Volunteers: Local volunteers received guidance on managing uniform sorting and distribution sensitively and confidentially. -Flexible Delivery Formats: Where attendance at a hub was not possible, discreet collection by a school representative or delivery via community centre staff was arranged. -Policy Adjustments to Reduce Barriers: Rural residents were not required to prove financial hardship formally to access uniforms—acknowledging the sensitivity of small-community environments. -Tracking of Rural Uptake: Postcode data was collected to ensure that families from rural areas were engaging with the scheme. Where uptake was low, follow-up promotion and support were initiated. -Continued Evaluation with Rural Partners: Rural schools and churches were invited to feed into post-programme reviews to ensure continuous improvement and that rural barriers were being addressed

014 - Social Supermarket and Family Support Programe

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Social Supermarket and Family Support Programme

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan

-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

• Limited Food Support Infrastructure: Many rural areas have no permanent foodbank or supermarket-style provision, meaning residents must travel to urban centres or go without. • Stigma in Small Communities: In close-knit rural villages, individuals may avoid seeking support for fear of being seen or judged. Discreet, locally accessible, and trusted pathways are needed. • Fuel Poverty and Energy Debt: Rural households frequently report challenges in affording oil, coal, and electricity—compounded by poor insulation and lack of energy advice access. • Childcare and Transport Gaps: Parents in rural areas face particular hardship when they cannot access centralised advice sessions due to childcare costs or lack of transport. • Low Referral Rates: Support organisations noted rural residents are underrepresented in formal referral systems—partly due to lack of digital access, awareness, or trust. • Volunteer and Delivery Fatigue: Rural communities often rely on a few individuals or groups to deliver all support services, risking burnout and service collapse without external support or funding.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

• Decentralised Access Models: The programme explored the use of rural collection points (e.g. churches, GAA halls, schools) to ensure access without long travel. • Confidentiality and Dignity: Rural residents' need for privacy was recognised. Systems were designed to allow discreet referrals via trusted community figures. • Flexible Eligibility and Referral Options: Recognising that rural residents may not present in formal settings, the programme allows for referrals through local organisations, family hubs, or GP practices. • Partnership with Rural Organisations: The Council engaged rural-based networks and community groups to co-deliver or signpost services, especially where statutory access is limited. • Monitoring of Rural Uptake:

Uptake will be tracked by postcode and settlement type to ensure equitable delivery across the Borough, including smaller rural settlements. • Outreach Communications: Rural-focused communications and printed materials were created for community centres, schools, and post offices to raise awareness beyond digital-only campaigns.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes

-• Rural Distribution Hubs Added: To address travel barriers, additional rural sites were identified for food parcel collection or mobile supermarket delivery—including Crumlin, Templepatrick, and rural Glengormley wards. • Outreach and Transport Support: Partnerships were formed with rural schools, youth clubs, and clergy to offer localised access and, where needed, signposting to transport help or doorstep drop-off. • Training and Resources Provided to Rural Volunteers: Local rural champions were trained to provide signposting to advice services, reducing dependence on centralised referral models. • Eligibility Criteria Adjusted: Income thresholds and proof-of-need criteria were made flexible to accommodate rural residents with low visible income but high household costs (e.g. those paying in bulk for oil or solid fuels). • Programme Co-Design with Rural Representatives: The model was shaped through early consultation with rural community reps to ensure cultural fit and local relevance. • Digital Alternatives Offered: Recognising digital limitations, telephone-based registration and printed referral forms were made available for groups supporting offline users.

015 - Draft "Love Living Here" Delivery Plan 2030

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Draft "Love Living Here" Delivery Plan 2030

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Adopting a policy, strategy or plan

-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

• Access to Basic Services: Rural communities continue to face challenges accessing GP services, public transport, local leisure provision, and job centres. • Digital Connectivity: A significant digital divide persists in parts of the Borough, creating educational, financial, and health disadvantages. • Affordable Housing: Rural settlements face issues with availability and affordability of housing for younger families and older residents wishing to downsize. • Transport and Mobility: Inconsistent public transport affects everything from youth engagement to employment opportunities and access to care. • Rural Youth Disengagement: Limited local training and employment pathways contribute to rural young people feeling disconnected or forced to leave their communities. • Volunteer Fatigue and Lack of Support Infrastructure: Community services in rural areas often rely on a few unpaid individuals; there's a need for investment in group development, sustainability, and leadership succession planning.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

• Inclusive Strategy Design: The Delivery Plan’s key priorities were reviewed to ensure rural issues were represented across all thematic areas (e.g. health, economy, environment, community). • Place-Based Actions: The plan includes locality-specific targets, allowing for differentiated delivery models that suit rural and urban contexts alike. • Partner Buy-In to Rural Goals: Community Planning partners were encouraged to align their rural-facing services with the delivery plan, including health trusts, education providers, and NIHE. • Monitoring Frameworks with Rural Indicators: Outcome monitoring will include rural-sensitive measures, such as tracking access to local services, broadband speed, rural poverty, and geographic spread of engagement. • Flexible Delivery Approaches: Commitment was made to support services being delivered in mobile, virtual, and community-led formats where fixed premises or resources are unavailable in rural areas.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes

-• Targeted Rural Engagement in Strategy Development: Specific focus groups and Area Working Groups were convened in rural locations to shape the delivery priorities and ensure rural voices were heard from the outset. • Themes Adjusted to Include Rural Barriers: Several of the Plan’s priorities—including “Connected and Inclusive Communities” and “A Healthy Borough”—explicitly reference rural transport, access, and isolation. • Delivery Actions Decentralised Where Possible: Council and partners committed to ensuring that

delivery will take place across both urban and rural locations, rather than being concentrated in town centres. • Investment in Rural Capacity-Building: The Plan includes actions to support the sustainability of rural voluntary groups through funding, training, and officer support. • Inclusive Communications Strategy: Communications around the Delivery Plan were adapted to include rural dissemination routes, such as local newsletters, schools, churches, and in-person community meetings—not just digital platforms. • Postcode and Settlement Type Monitoring: Outcomes will be tracked by settlement type to ensure rural areas receive a fair share of support, investment, and programme benefits.

016 - Christmas Toy Reuse Scheme

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Christmas Toy Reuse Scheme

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

To reduce waste and support families experiencing financial hardship by collecting and redistributing pre-loved toys during the Christmas period. The initiative promotes environmental sustainability, financial relief, and social inclusion, particularly among families who may struggle with the costs of Christmas gifting.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

- Use of rural community hubs, schools and churches for discreet distribution -Ensuring application or referral processes are accessible offline -Inclusion of rural-specific promotion (eg post, local reps) -Support for rural volunteers and partners to coordinate collections

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes
-• Distribution locations selected to include rural villages and settlements • Scheme delivered in partnership with organisations already embedded in rural communities • Referral process designed to allow trusted rural intermediaries (teachers, GPs, community reps) to discreetly nominate families • Promotional materials circulated offline to ensure wide rural reach

017 - Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Plan

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

This Plan does not distinguish between rural and urban areas

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

This plan does not distinguish between rural and urban areas

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The Plan does not distinguish between rural and urban areas

018 - Surveillance Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Surveillance Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

This policy applies equally to urban and rural areas.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

This policy applies equally to urban and rural areas.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-It wasn't influenced by rural needs as it applies to rural and urban areas equally.

019 - Updated Cemetaries Rules and Regulations

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Updated Cemetaries Rules and Regulations

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Delivering a public service

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The Rules and regulations were not influenced by rural needs

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

The Rules and regulations were not influenced by rural needs.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-Not influenced by rural needs - equally applicable to both rural and urban areas

020 - Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Minimum Revenue Provision Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The policy details the approach taken by Council to ensure the management of the Minimum Revenue Provision irrespective of whether they are in rural or urban areas.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

See below

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The policy does not distinguish between rural or urban areas.

021 - Council Reserves Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Council Reserves Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The policy details the approach taken by the council to ensure the management of Council Reserves irrespective of whether they are in rural or urban areas.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

n/a

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-This policy applies irrespective of whether it concerns urban or rural areas.

022 - Temporary Festive Recycling Centre Arrangements

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Temporary Festive Recyling Centre Arrangements

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Strategy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

N/A the service will still be provided in rural areas.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Waste disposal will be provided for all residents within rural areas with the same quantities and types of waste excepted within those sites located in rural areas.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-Waste disposal will be provided for all residents within rural areas with the same quantities and types of waste accepted within those sites located in a rural area. This plan is developed to avoid traffic congestion at O'Neil Road HRC

023 - Glengormley Public Realm Scheme

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Glengormley Public Realm Scheme

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Delivering a public service

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

This programme was not in a rural area so there was no impact on the needs of people in rural areas.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

This programme was not in a rural area so there was no impact on the needs of people in rural areas.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-This programme was not in a rural area so there was no impact on the needs of people in rural areas.

024 - Social Media for Employees Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Social Media for Employees Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Developing a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

This is an organisational policy for staff so rural needs have not been impacted.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

This is an organisational policy for staff so rural needs have not been impacted.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-This is an organisational policy for staff so rural needs have not been impacted.

026 - Review and alignment of legacy Dog Control Orders

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Review and alignment of legacy Dog Control Orders

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Strategy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

- Access to safe, well-maintained outdoor areas for recreation and exercise -Consistent enforcement and communication to avoid confusion between legacy council areas - Clear recognition of exemptions for assistance dogs to maintain accessibility

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

- The need for equitable access to outdoor spaces across both urban and rural parts of the Borough -Rural communities' reliance on open spaces for dog walking and recreation -Ensuring signage and communication are accessible and consistent in rural settings eg. QR Codes, online mapping, press materials - Balancing enforcement with education to maintain community trust and understanding

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes
-- Inclusion of all Council-managed lands, including those in rural settlements. -Consideration of feedback from rural residents during public consultatoin. -Emphasis on accessibility and awareness measures (online map, signage, social media) to ensure rural residents can easily identify designated areas. -Retention of off-lead spaces in larger rural parks and open countryside to accmmodate rural dog owners.

027 - Review of Road Closure Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Review of Road Closure Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The Council recognises that rural residents require uninterrupted access to services, reliable routes for economic activity, mobility options, and clear communication. The policy seeks to minimise disruption, provide alternative routes, and maintain essential services, reflecting these identified social and economic needs.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

The issues considered are primarily about ensuring access, protecting economic activity, maintaining mobility, supporting social participation, and communicating effectively with rural communities. By addressing these issues, the policy aims to balance safety, operational needs, and minimal disruption for rural residents.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The implementation of the road closure policy may not be influenced by rural needs as most applications are urban-focused, standardised (recurring applications), low-impact on rural roads. In most cases, rural areas are largely peripheral to the policy's core objectives.

028 - Voluntary Severance and Redundancy Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Voluntary Severance and Redundancy Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

Staff from urban and rural areas do not receive differential treatment under the policy. Any impact on community will be considered on an individual basis.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Staff from urban and rural areas do not receive differential treatment under the policy. Any impact on community will be considered on an individual basis.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-Staff from urban and rural areas do not receive differential treatment under the policy. Any impact on community will be considered on an individual basis.

029 - Health and Safety Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Health and Safety Policy

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Revising a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

This is an internal document and staff from urban or rural areas do not receive differential treatment.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

This is an internal document and staff from urban or rural areas do not receive differential treatment.

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-This is an internal document and staff from urban or rural areas do not receive differential treatment.

030 - Leisure Pricing Policy

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Affiliated Sports Clubs Booking Procedure

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Implementing a policy, strategy or plan
-Policy

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

The Leisure Pricing Policy and Affiliated Sports Clubs Booking Procedure is inclusive to all organisations within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough equally, regardless of whether they are located in an urban or rural area.

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

n/a

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-The Leisure Pricing Policy and Affiliated Sports Clubs Booking Procedure in inclusive to all organisations within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough equally, regardless of whether they are located in an urban or rural area.

031 - Summer Scheme 2026

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Summer Scheme 2026

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Delivering a public service

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

N/A

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Concession pricing is offered to those families who can provide a benefits award letter (e.g., Universal Credit, Income Support, etc).

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

Yes
-The Summer Scheme covers off demand for schemes in rural areas- with schemes offered across the Borough in rural community settings

032 - Ballyclare Rugby Football Club Cloughan Project

1. Reporting Period

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

2. Name of public authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

3. Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Ballyclare Rugby Football Club Cloughan Project

4. Please indicate which category the activity relates to

Delivering a public service

5. Detail the economic and social needs of people in rural areas which have been identified

None identified

6. Detail the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

None identified

7. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been influenced by rural needs?

The policy/strategy/plan/public service was not influenced by rural needs
-No rural detriment was identified as it involved improvement works to an existing facility