

## Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template – Preliminary

### SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

#### 1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

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#### 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

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#### 1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

On 1 October 2024, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) made legislation which enables a council to publish a Validation Checklist, the Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024. The purpose of a Validation Checklist is to extend the minimum level of information for a planning application to be legally valid to improve the quality of planning applications on submission.

The aim of the Validation Checklist is to address 'poor quality' or 'incomplete' applications entering the planning system. The requirements should be proportionate to the nature and scale of the development proposal. It is envisaged that the Validation Checklist process will:

- address delays in the processing of applications for planning permission, by front-loading applications with all the evidence and information deemed necessary to determine the applications;
- lead to improved statutory consultee response times;
- reduce the need to re-consult statutory consultees;
- improve the time taken to reach decisions; and
- result in better quality decisions and outcomes.

**1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

## SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

**2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

**2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The Planning Application Validation Checklist applies to all areas of the urban and rural equally. It does not differentiate between any specific community whether urban or rural. As the process is aimed at improving the quality of planning applications on submission, to enable a more efficient and effective planning decision making process, it is likely that the Planning Application Validation Checklist will have an overall positive impact on communities in rural areas.

The proposed Planning Application Validation Checklist, the draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment and the draft Equality Screening Assessment for the Planning Application Validation Checklist will all be presented together during the public consultation for consideration and comment.

**2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.**

Not applicable as the Planning Application Validation Checklist applies to all areas of the urban and rural areas equally.

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Rural Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

**If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.**

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

Not applicable.

### SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

**3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

**3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

**3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.**

**3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?**

**If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.**

**3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

The proposed Planning Application Validation Checklist applies to all areas of the urban and rural areas equally. It does not differentiate between any specific community whether urban or rural.

The draft Planning Application Validation Checklist has considered the impacts on a range of existing and potential stakeholders. As part of the consultation and engagement approach for this process, stakeholders representing key sectors and bodies will be consulted with during the public consultation period. This process will allow council to identify any social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

The council will use the consultation period to identify specific issues, to review and update the draft Planning Application Validation Checklist and any improvements that will enhance the Council's planning processes.

## **SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

### **4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

As part of the public consultation, a number of engagement events are planned to take place with key stakeholders and on our online engagement platform, which will enable maximum reach and participation. It will provide both rural and urban dwellers the opportunity to participate in the consultation.

We welcome comments during this consultation from rural dwellers. Comments during this consultation will help inform the development of the draft Planning Application Validation Checklist and its integration into the planning processes.

## SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

The Planning Application Validation Checklist applies to all areas of the urban and rural equally. As part of the public consultation and engagement period, there is an online survey, to enable people in rural and urban areas to participate and all feedback will be monitored to check if there are any specific rural issues arising.