

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template**

**SECTION 1 – DEFINING THE ACTIVITY SUBJECT TO SECTION 1 (1) OF THE RURAL NEEDS ACT (NI) 2016**

1.	Reference (Equality use only)	R 172
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2.	Description of the activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1 (1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.	
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The Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper (POP) is written to identify key issues specific to Ards and North Down Borough primarily in relation to growth within the Borough boundary.

The POP is the first public consultation document to be issued through the Local Development Plan. It identifies a range of strategic planning issues in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area. Generally, these issues have either emerged from the baseline position papers or from prior informal consultation with a range of statutory consultees, council officials and Elected Members. In some instances, strategic issues have been identified through planning casework in dealing with planning applications. The aspirations/outcomes identified in the Corporate and Community Plans have also helped to define some of these issues.

3.	Please Indicate which category the activity specified in Section relates to	
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(1c)				
Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Service <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Service <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Service <input type="checkbox"/>

4.	Official Title	Ards and Down Borough Council Local Development Plan 2030– Preferred Options Paper
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(1d)	Policy / Strategy / Plan	
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5.	Aims and/ or objectives	The aim of the POP is to provide the basis of positive consultation with a broad representation of the population of the Ards and North Down Borough Council area and all other interested individuals and parties. This will be on matters that may have a direct impact or effect on the Plan area. The Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper will also ensure there is meaningful engagement at an early opportunity. Whilst the focus is on strategic planning matters which apply across the Borough, there will be opportunity at a
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		later stage in the Plan process to engage on matters of a more specific nature.
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6. (1f)	What definition of 'Rural' is appropriate in respect of the Policy/ Strategy/ Plan	Population of Less than 5,000	X
		Other Definition (Provide details Below)	
		A definition of 'Rural' is not applicable	
Details of alternative definition of rural used			
N/A			
Rationale for using alternative definition of 'Rural'			
N/A			
Reasons why a definition of 'Rural' is not applicable.			
N/A			

**SECTION 2 - UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF THE POLICY, STRATEGY OR PLAN**

7. (2a)	Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan likely to impact on people in Rural Area?	Yes (Please go to Section 8a)	X	No (Please go to 8d)	
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8a (2b)	Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan is likely to impact on people in Rural Areas.				
The LDP POP is a consultation document and relates to the entire Borough therefore will include matters relevant to all rural areas in the Borough and the needs of both their current and potential populations – both within small villages/small settlements and the countryside.					

8b (2c)	If the Policy, Strategy, Plan is likely to impact on people in rural areas <b>differently</b> from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.				
The needs of the rural population will include all aspects of the POP key issues but focus specifically on those who live and/or work in these areas. Eg topics on rural housing/rural economy.					

8c (2d)	Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan is likely to primarily impact on in the Rural Area.				
Rural Business	X	Rural Tourism	X		
Rural Housing	X	Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	X		
Education or Training	X	Broadband or Mobile Communications	X		
Transport Services or Infrastructure	X	Health or Social Care Services	X		
Poverty	X	Deprivation	X		
Rural Crime or Community Safety		Rural Development	X		
Agri-environment	X				
Other (please state below)					

<b>If the response to 8 was NO please answer below.</b>					
8d (2e)	Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan is NOT likely to impact on people in Rural Areas				
N/A					

### SECTION 3 - IDENTIFYING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF PERSONS IN RURAL AREAS

9. <b>(3a)</b>	Has there been steps taken to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural Areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy?	Yes (Please go to Section 9a)	X	No (Please go to Section 9d)
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9a <b>(3b)</b>	Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.			
	Consultation with Rural Stakeholders		Published Statistics	X
	Consultation with Other Organisations	X	Research Papers	X
	Surveys or Questionnaires		Other Publications	
	Other Method or Information Sources (Include details in Section 9b below)			X

9b <b>(3c)</b>	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 or organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.			
<p>The POP has been informed by the Community Plan and related baseline information. The POP is also accompanied by baseline position papers and a Sustainability Appraisal scoping report. These reflect relevant baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in the Borough and how these may change in the future.</p>				

9c <b>(3d)</b>	Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified.			
<p>The POP provides the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options for dealing with key issues in the Plan area. It aims to stimulate public comment and help interested parties to become involved in a more meaningful way at this earliest stage of plan preparation. Options set out the approach that could be taken on a range of issues such as urban and rural housing, industry and business, retailing and related activities, health, education and community facilities, public utilities, transportation, recreation leisure and tourism, conservation, minerals and the countryside</p> <p>The responses to the POP will be analysed and published in report format before the Plan Strategy is produced (as the first formal document of the Plan).</p>				

**If the response to 9 was NO please answer below.**

9d <b>(3e)</b>	Please explain why no steps were taken to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.			
N/A				

### SECTION 4 - CONSIDERING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF PERSONS IN RURAL AREAS

10. <b>(4a)</b>	Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.			
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Overall the POP examines a range of themes and issues have been identified for the entire Borough across a range of issues such as urban and rural housing, industry and business, retailing and related activities, health, education and community facilities, public utilities, transportation, recreation leisure and tourism, conservation, minerals and the countryside.

Through the consultation process for the POP and responses received will provide for opportunity for further details to be identified as an integral part of the consultation process. To date baseline information has been taken from a range of sources for the LDP and accompanying Sustainability appraisal scoping including that of the Community Plan and includes digital accessibility, transport, deprivation and population distribution.

## SECTION 5 - INFLUENCING THE POLICY, STRATEGY OR PLAN

11. (5a)	Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or plan, or the design or delivery been influenced by the rural needs identified?	Yes (Please go to Section 11a)	X	No (Please go to Section 11b)	
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11a. (5b)	Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery been influenced by the rural needs identified.				
<p>Rural proofing and consideration of rural needs shall be an ongoing component of the Ards and Down Local Development Plan.</p> <p>During Stage 1 (Evidence Base) of the LDP preparation process, a series of workshops took place with elected members. At these, many aspects of rural planning policy were discussed, especially to get the views of the elected Members. The need for vibrant rural communities, for a healthy living countryside as well as strong rural settlements. They gave numerous examples of de-population, aging population profile, lack of young people, falling school rolls/ threats of closures, and pressure on other community infrastructure.</p> <p>They are considered in the options presented in the POP and include rural housing, and economic development among others.</p> <p>In preparing the POP, the Council has also undertook the relevant stages of Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment). The SA is an iterative process that runs parallel with the preparation of the POP and Local Development Plan (LDP); it has formally assessed the Preferred Options against 14 SA objectives and this has included a consideration of any differential impacts on rural areas. An SA Interim Report (consisting of SA Scoping Report and assessment of alternatives) shall be published with the POP.</p> <p>This is an ongoing process of LDP production.</p> <p>Further detail shall emerge at Plan Strategy Stage. This publication shall mark end is stage one of a process and will be rescreened following the consultation and progression to Plan Strategy stage.</p> <p>The Preferred Option Paper indicates the Council's preferred options for growth and development in the area and will be the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders. At this stage in the process, the public and stakeholders will have an opportunity to formally put forward views and influence the Local Development Plan when the POP is published. Along with the evidence base that has been identified which informs the LDP of the current situation in rural areas, any further rural issues raised will form part of the Plan Strategy Stage of the LDP when it comes to developing and appraising for the Plan Strategy.</p>					

11b. (5c)	Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.
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N/A

## SECTION 6 - DOCUMENTING AND RECORDING

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information complied

Rural Needs impact assessment template completed by:-

Name: Leona Maginn

Title: Principal Planning and Technical Officer

Date: 22 February 2019

Signature:

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: Ann McCullough

Title: Head of Planning

Date: 22 February 2019

Signature: