

Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Fermanagh and Omagh District 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.

Development & subsequent implementation of Omagh Place Shaping Plan

1C. Please indicate (with an 'X') which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Design 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.

Omagh Place Shaping Plan 2035

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

Place Shaping looks at how we can make our communities stronger and more resilient in the future through understanding what we have in terms of assets; ie our buildings, our green spaces our skills and knowledge our communities and our public services.

This Plan is about shaping a better Omagh, positioning the town to be more attractive, vibrant and inspirational. It will increase the resilience of the local community, economy and provide enhanced accessible, inclusive child friendly healthy urban environment.

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.

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, 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 Plan will impact positively on people in rural areas who visit, shop, work in Omagh town. Regeneration and revitalisation of Omagh, in tandem with improvement to transport links will help to sustain surrounding rural communities.

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.

The Plan will not impact differently upon people in rural areas compared to people in urban areas. A reimagined and animated green heart, enhanced by progressive regeneration and revitalisation in tandem with improved connectivity will impact and inspire all people, communities and visitors to Omagh.

2D. Please indicate (with an 'X') 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety

Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

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.

n/a

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

Published Statistics

Consultation with Other Organisations

Research Papers

Surveys or Questionnaires

Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below)

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.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council are an evidence-led organisation. As such, we are constantly sourcing and analysing the most current data relevant to the subject area. In identifying information sources for the social and economic needs of people in rural areas we have focused on the following:

NI Index of Multiple Deprivation 2017

The measures, known as NIMDM 2017, were informed through public consultation and Steering Group agreement, and provide a mechanism for ranking the 890 Super Output areas (SOAs) in Northern Ireland from the most deprived (rank 1) to the least deprived (rank 890). They include ranks of the areas for each of 7 distinct types (or domains) of deprivation, which have been combined to produce an overall multiple deprivation measure (MDM) rank of the areas. The 7 domains include income, employment, health, education, access to services, living environment and crime.

Link: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Residents' Survey 2021

The Residents' Survey was conducted on a telephone basis, among a representative sample of residents. Residents were asked to self-report on their health and wellbeing, community / voluntary activity, perception of the local area and opinions on the Council's performance across a range of measures.

Link: <https://fodc.sharepoint.com/sites/Intranet/SitePages/Residents-Survey.aspx>

HSCIMS Regional Inequalities 2022

This biennial publication is produced as part of the NI Health & Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System (HSCIMS) and presents a comprehensive analysis of health inequality gaps between the most and least deprived areas, across a range of health indicators.

Link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2021>

Quality and Outcomes Framework 2022

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is a system designed to remunerate general practices for providing good quality care to patients, and to help fund work

to further improve the quality of health care delivered. The Department of Health decides on measures, called indicators, every year, and gives GP practices points based on how they are doing against these measures. This data are published for the purposes of providing an indication of disease prevalence.

Link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/qof-stats-ni-2020-21.pdf>

DAERA Key Rural Issues Northern Ireland 2021

This publication presents relevant, publicly available data from a unique urban/rural perspective, in order to highlight key urban/rural differences and disparities across a range of domains. It should be noted that this data relate to 'urban NI / rural NI' and thus are not specific to the Fermanagh and Omagh District. However, as 70% of residents in Fermanagh and Omagh live in rural parts of the district, it is fair to assume that any issues identified in this report would be applicable to Fermanagh and Omagh.

Link: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/key-rural-issues>

Northern Ireland Census 2021

The Northern Ireland Census 2021 was undertaken on 21st March 2021. This decennial publication provides robust statistics on a range of topics. Including demography, labour market and health.

The first results at Local Government District level were published on 22nd September 2022; this included population, age, gender, households, ethnicity, country of birth, language and religion. Further publications are scheduled, the full suite of results due by Summer 2023.

The analysis within this RNIA are taken from the initial publication and will be updated as and when the next rounds of results are published.

Link: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2021-census>

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

Urban / Rural Issues

The DAERA Key Rural Issues publication provides a good overview of the differences – positive and negative – between rural and urban issues at the Northern Ireland level. Perhaps the most interesting issue identified in the report is the difference in rural areas that are less the 60 minutes from Belfast and those

rural areas that are more than a 60-minute drive from Belfast. Fermanagh and Omagh would fall into the latter.

Rural areas more than 60 minutes from Belfast tend to have lower skill levels, face significantly longer commutes and travel significantly more miles per annum than their urban counterparts. They also have less access to public transport and poorer broadband.

The economy in rural areas is also highly populated with small businesses, with limited technical/professional/IT jobs and lower income levels. The average wage of those who work in Fermanagh and Omagh is typically 12-15% lower than the NI average.

The Fermanagh and Omagh District

Fermanagh and Omagh is a predominantly rural district; only the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh are considered 'urban' using the established >5,000 population threshold.

The Council area is home to 116,812 people, with 70% of the population living in rural areas outside the two main towns.

The Census 2021 statistics show that 31% of households are single-person households, the largest household size category. Over half of households comprise of fewer than two people. This issue is not unique to Fermanagh and Omagh, but the potential for a lot of single-person households – many of which are likely to be older people – spread throughout rural areas provides a challenge. Issues relating to social isolation are likely to exist.

The Census 2021 stats show that the Fermanagh and Omagh District has grown by 3.2% over the decade since 2011. The NI average was 5.1%, driven largely by urban areas surrounding Belfast (Lisburn and Castlereagh and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon). Only the Mid and East Antrim area (2.7%), Derry City and Strabane (2.1%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (0.6%) grew by proportionately less than FODC.

The population of Fermanagh and Omagh is forecast to rise by 2.6% by 2030, with stark increases in the number of older people. Current forecasts suggest that the number of residents over the age of 65 will rise from 2011 levels of less than 15% to over 20% by 2030 and even further thereafter. As a result, a period of de-population is projected after 2030. This is a significant issue for the district, as it will lead to a lack of vitality. (Source: SNPP 2018)

The social and economic needs of people in rural areas can be summarised as follows:

Access to Services

5 of the 10 most deprived SOA's in the Access to Services domain are in Fermanagh and Omagh (Belcoo and Garrison, Rosslea, Trillick, Sixmilecross and Owenkillev). The four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport are in Fermanagh and Omagh (namely Belcoo and Garrison, Rosslea, Belleek and Boa and Owenkillev). Broadband speeds in the district are by far the slowest in NI, and indeed the UK. Fermanagh and Omagh are the highest in terms of premises unable to receive 2Mbps and 5Mbps in the UK, 3rd in 10Mbps and 2nd in 30 Mbps (Ofcom, October 2018).

Income

21% of people who live in Fermanagh and Omagh live in relative poverty (living in households where the equivalised household income is less than 60% of the UK Median); the NI comparator is 17%. This is the latest data (2017/18 – 2019/20) and are the official definition of 'poverty', but are only available at the LGD level.

The NI Multiple Deprivation Measure provides a more detailed breakdown, albeit using a slightly different definition and relating only to the 2017 year: 15% of the population are living in households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median (NI Average – 13.1%), with our children and older people suffering income poverty most. 20.3% of children under the age of 15 in the district are living households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. The equivalent figure for those aged 65 and over is 8.4%, the worst rate of older people's income poverty across Northern Ireland. FODC has the highest proportion of domestic dwellings that are unfit, in a state of disrepair, or are without a modern boiler or loft insulation and double glazing.

Employment

In addition, 21.2% of our working age population are employment deprived with both wage levels and gross household disposable income well below the NI average. Fermanagh and Omagh has an estimated 25.1% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 27%. However, this comes at a time when the economy is facing full employment. Economic inactivity in Fermanagh and Omagh increases to 39.6% when considering all people aged 16 years and above (40.3% at the NI level). (Labour Force Survey 2021). It should be noted that this is based on 2021 data, which is a reverse of a long term trend that typically sees a higher economic inactivity rate in Fermanagh and Omagh.

Health

Standardised admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for Fermanagh and Omagh, with the issue much more prevalent in the most deprived part of the district. The data suggest that alcohol related admissions to hospital are 488 admissions per 100,000 people (all Fermanagh and Omagh) and 717 in the

most deprived areas. This makes alcohol related admissions 47% more prevalent in the most deprived areas.

The comparable figures for drug related admissions are: 141 admissions per 100,000 people (all district), 252 admissions per 100,000 people (most deprived), making drug related admissions 79% more prevalent in the most deprived areas. It should be noted that whilst both alcohol and drug admissions are higher in urban areas, there are issues in rural DEAs – Erne East (drugs) and West Tyrone (alcohol) as examples.

Mental health is also an issue, with the standard prescription rate for mood and anxiety disorders remaining consistent over time, with 195 persons prescribed per 1,000 population in the district, rising to 236 in the most deprived part of the district (21% higher).

Beyond alcohol and drug admissions, hypertension is the most common health ailment in the district, affecting almost 20,000 people, with a prevalence of 155 per 1,000 patients.

The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2021 also highlighted the difference between urban and rural residents of the district in terms of their general health and satisfaction levels. Residents in Omagh were found to be less healthy and less happy than other more rural areas of the district.

The starkest statistic however remains that life expectancy is lower for those who live in the most deprived areas of the district – currently 1.1 years for males and 2.5 years for females.

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?

n/a

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.

Living in a rural area can exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation for certain groups. Additional costs of living in a rural area such as higher fuel or transport costs can have a greater impact on people on low incomes. The average wage of someone working in Fermanagh and Omagh is typically between 12-15% lower than the NI average, with household income levels also below the NI average; 21% of the population are living in relative poverty. households where the equivalised income is less than 60% of the NI Median

Despite these income limitations, 88% of households in Fermanagh and Omagh have access to one or more cars, as compared to the NI average of 80%. Alongside this, the four most deprived areas in NI in terms of fastest travel time by private transport, are in Fermanagh and Omagh (namely Belcoo and Garrison, Rosslea, Belleek and Boa and Owenkillew). There is no train service in the area and while a bus service does exist, it is limited. In addition, some groups such as young people or people with disabilities may experience greater difficulties accessing transport services in rural areas than in urban settings.

Lower earnings and lower household incomes are commonly found in the rural west where the population is consequently at highest risk of poverty. There are also links between poor transport services and social isolation. Some rural households have no access to a car while in others private transport may be used by others for travelling to work leaving other household members dependent on alternative means of travel. Limited availability of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face-to-face contact. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health and to depression.

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.

The actions identified in the plan have been informed by through research and extensive engagement with key stakeholders (including DEARA) with the goal of bringing tangible and effective change to Omagh. This will positively support growth and change throughout the District, providing more opportunity for economic growth, access to skilled workforce, improved digital infrastructure and other services.

The Plan will have a positive impact for surrounding rural communities, thereby helping to sustain these areas. The Plan strongly advocates for the completion of the A5 Western Transport Corridor, which would also positively benefit surrounding rural communities by improving their connectivity and accessibility.

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.

n/a

Section 6-Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

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

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Siobhán Fearon
Position:	Head Of Service
Department:	Place Shaping & Regeneration
Signature:	
Date:	08/08/2022
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	
Position/Grade:	

Division/Branch:	
Signature:	
Date:	