

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 of the Council's 2019/20 Improvement 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 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 checked="" 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.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Improvement Plan 2019/20

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

This plan aims to fulfil the Council's legislative obligation under the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 to publish Improvement Objectives for the 2019/20 year.

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 is aligned to the Community Plan for the district and the Council's Corporate Plan which recognise that the Fermanagh and Omagh District is the largest geographically of all 11 Council districts in Northern Ireland, covering 3,000km². It also has the smallest population (116,289 in 2017), with over 66% of the population living outside the two main population centres (Enniskillen and Omagh) and does not envisage any significant changes to this ratio in future years. In addition these strategies highlight that the district is intersected by Lough Erne leading to further issues in terms of travel times and distances across the district which is further compounded by a limited public transport network.

This plan is likely to impact upon people in rural areas in a positive manner by striving to ensure that the Council delivers improvements which benefit citizens across both urban and rural areas.

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.

This plan should not impact upon people in rural areas differently from people in rural areas as the main aim of the plan is to ensure that service improvements are provided across both urban and rural areas.

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

☒

Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input checked="" 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" value="Health Improvements"/>
<p>If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.</p> <p>2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.</p>	
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 is 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:

1. 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.

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

2. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Residents' Survey 2018

The Residents' Survey was conducted on a face-to-face basis, among a random but fully representative sample of residents. Residents were asked to self-report on their health and wellbeing, alongside awareness of Council services.

<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/article/residents-survey-2018-findings/>

3. HSCIMS Regional Inequalities 2018

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.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/health-inequalities-annual-report-2018>

4. Quality and Outcomes Framework 2017/18

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is a system designed to remunerate general practices for providing good quality care to their patients, and to help fund work to further improve the quality of health care delivered. It is a fundamental part of the General Medical Services (GMS) Contract, introduced in 2004. 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.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/qof-stats-ni-2017-18.pdf>

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

Fermanagh and Omagh is a predominantly rural district with the exception of the two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh. The Council area is home to around 116,000 people, with some 70% of the population living in rural areas outside the two main towns. Population is forecast to rise by 3% over the next decade, 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.

The social and economic needs of people in rural areas are 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 Owenkillew). 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). Broadband speeds in the district are by far the slowest in NI, and indeed the UK. Fermanagh and Omagh is 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

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 in 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 30% of working age population economically inactive as compared to the NI average of 26% (Labour Force Survey 2016)

Health

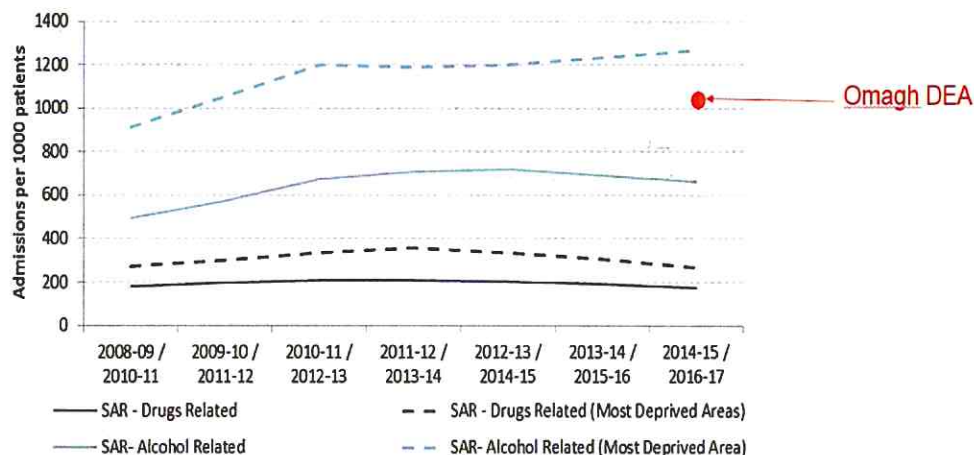
Health and Wellbeing

Fermanagh and Omagh
Community Planning Partnership



Standardised admission rates due to drugs and alcohol, 2008-17

Source: HCIMS Regional Inequalities



Gap in life expectancy:

2.7 years between most deprived areas and FO average

Standardised admission rates due to drugs and alcohol remains an issue for Fermanagh and Omagh and is much more prominent in deprived parts of the district, as the chart illustrates. At 143 and 124 incidences per 1,000 patients, respectively, hypertension and obesity are the most prevalent health issues in Fermanagh and Omagh.

The Fermanagh and Omagh Residents' Survey 2018 also highlighted the difference between urban and rural residents of the district in terms of their general health and satisfaction levels. Residents in urban areas (i.e. Omagh and Enniskillen) were generally healthier and more satisfied with their lives than those living in rural areas of the district. Residents living in urban areas scored higher on self-reported levels of physical health (8.6 vs 7.9) and also mental health (8.7 vs 8.1). Residents living in urban areas also reported higher levels of satisfaction with their life nowadays (8.7 vs 8.1) and higher levels of self-efficacy (22.4 vs 20.5)¹. The starkest statistic however remains that life expectancy is 2.7 years lower in the most than least deprived areas of the district.

¹ All findings statistically significant at the 1% level

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.

Drawing on the Community Plan for the district, the plan recognises that deprivation is an issue that cross-cuts health and wellbeing. 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.

In addition, some groups such as young people or people with disabilities may experience greater difficulties accessing transport services in rural areas than in an urban settings. Lower earnings and 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.

The Improvement Objectives identified aim to increase access to leisure and recreation opportunities for citizens across rural and urban areas recognising the access difficulties which many rural dwellers will experience if opportunities were focused solely on our key towns. There will be efforts to ensure that leisure activities are available across the district.

The district has high levels of entrepreneurship and business start-up, which is vital in an area with low levels of inward investment and where our local economy is driven by indigenous businesses. The plan aims to ensure that all citizens across the district have access to entrepreneurship and business start programmes and will also focus on supporting increased involvement of women and young people as well as supporting social entrepreneurship.

A further Improvement Objective focuses on environmental programmes and, specifically, improving recycling efforts. This will include ensuring that the food waste collection service is extended to approximately 2000 hard to reach properties across the district and in rural areas.

Access to services can also be an issue and the Council will work to increase its online channels of delivery, while also recognising that broadband connectivity can be an issue. It is anticipated that the rollout of the Department for the Economy's broadband improvement programme will improve connectivity for rural communities. The Council is working to improve its customer service resource which will also improve the availability of frontline staff to answer telephone calls alongside providing clearer information on how to access our services.

A further Improvement Objective focuses on car parking provision in the two main towns, i.e., Omagh and Enniskillen, recognising their status as economic and service hubs for the district.

As it continues its improvement efforts the Council will continue to bear the needs of both rural and urban dwellers in mind.

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 development of the Improvement Plan 2019/20 has been influenced by the needs of rural communities in that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has made a commitment to improve access to leisure and recreation opportunities and improve provision of information to support citizens in making healthier choices; to encourage a growth in entrepreneurship and new business starts including amongst under-represented groups; to invest in environmental programmes which will reduce waste going to landfill and improve recycling efforts including extending the service to hard to reach properties across the district; progressing initiatives to make it easier to communicate and do business with the Council.

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

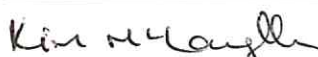

identified.

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:	Kim McLaughlin
Position:	Head of Community Planning and Performance
Department:	Community Planning and Performance
Signature:	
Date:	21 January 2019
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Brendan Hegarty
Position	Chief Executive
Department	Chief Executive's Directorate
Signature:	
Date:	29 January 2019

