



Title of Report:	Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 – Annual Monitoring Report on Rural Needs Assessments
Committee	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 June 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them
Lead Officer	Head of Policy and Community Planning

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 3(1) of the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 includes a requirement that the Council provide an annual monitoring report to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Needs (DAERA) on progress in meeting our obligations under the Rural Needs Act.
- 1.2 The information included in this monitoring report demonstrates how the Council has exercised the due regard duty under Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act 2016.

2.0 Annual Monitoring Report 2022/23

- 2.1 A copy of the Annual Monitoring Report by Council for 2022/23 is attached for your information.
- 2.2 The format of the report is based on a template provided by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the report always covers the previous financial year. The period of time this report deals with therefore is from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority:

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Reporting Period:

April 20 to March 20

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
Design of a Stained Glass Window to commemorate NI 100.	Use of Council Buildings and access to services therein	No rural needs have been identified.

<p>The development and introduction of a Council-wide Fleet Safety Policy.</p>	<p>Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Safe provision of services in rural areas</p>	<p>At policy design stage the following factors were taken into account:</p> <p>Bringing services to rural communities Geographical dispersion Fleet failures impact: service provision, service quality, greater economic cost for service users to avail of a comparable service. Impacts on small businesses who rely on doorstep Refuse Collection.</p> <p>Social interaction through the provision of services may reduce isolation determined via the Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>In rural areas reductions in harmful emissions will also have a positive impact on rural communities which often rely on farming for their livelihood. As a result, operational routes are periodically reviewed to ensure optimum utilization.</p>
<p>Implementation of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP)</p>	<p>Business, Tourism, Jobs or Employment, poverty and deprivation in Rural Areas</p>	<p>Extensive consultation has been undertaken in the Settlements through the Rural Development Village Renewal Programme 2014-2020 which highlighted the lack of public transport, lack of activity programmes for young people and the elderly populations. Other issues such as lack of recreation facilities, walking paths, outdoor games and play areas particularly relating to children with disabilities were highlighted along with a sense of dereliction of street furniture and outdoor spaces.</p>

		<p>The needs of rural dwellers has informed the direction of resources towards rural areas with regards to regeneration.</p>
<p>A Better Future Together for Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan and Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>The Community Plan will set out the long-term vision, desired outcomes and indicators for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.</p>	<p>Development of a baseline of the existing conditions and key issues in the area. Based on this statistical evidence and information gathered following a range of Thematic Working Group meetings, Public meetings and other engagement processes, the Community Plan contained three population outcomes, supported by twelve intermediate outcomes. Information was identified and collated on the social, economic, and environmental needs of the area in the context of regional, national and European policies and strategies, taking account of communities and issues that extend into neighbouring council areas and jurisdictions.</p> <p>Issues such as access to public/sustainable transport networks, social isolation, access to services and facilities are more pronounced in rural areas. This informed the prioritisation of issues during the development of more specific strategic actions (Delivery Plan). Examples of which include but are limited to: Local Housing Need, Local Transport, Age Friendly Strategy, Loneliness Network, Anti-Poverty, collaborative working for Children and Young People and protection of natural heritage, led by DAERA.</p>

		<p>Specific issues rural citizens experience including:</p> <p>Rural workers (91%) are also much more likely to use private transport to commute. Broadband speed and availability, though improving, is still much lower in rural areas. Access to public transport in rural areas is much lower than that in towns and cities - journey times to key services by car are on average twice as long for rural dwellers. Rural pensioners are nearly twice as likely to experience relative or absolute poverty than their urban counterparts (Key Rural Issues 2020, DAERA)</p> <p>Data was sourced Borough wide, and where available at DEA level to measure progress over the lifetime of the Community Plan. Rural residents have been engaged through face-to-face meetings via our libraries, consultation drop-in sessions in rural and urban settings and public/ elected members questionnaire.</p> <p>Individuals attending our libraries consultation drop-in sessions continue to highlight issues such as access to public/sustainable transport networks, social isolation, access to services and facilities and more so currently due to the current cost of living crisis.</p>
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Citizens' Newsletter Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Communication Plan	Distribution and online publication of the Citizens' Newsletter directly to all households across the borough.
Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Asset Policy	Internal Policy	No rural needs have been identified.

NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.