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Rural Proofing Report

January 2017

The Community Plan contains the vision and aspirations for the Causeway Coast and Glens area for 2030

This document contains an assessment of the potential impact of 'A Better Future Together' for Causeway Coast and Glens rural stakeholders

Causeway Coast and Glens Draft Community Plan

Rural Proofing - Screening Report

This Rural Proofing screening report has been adapted by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Community Planning Manager from 'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'. This is the former Department of Agriculture and Rural Developments guidance document. While it is not a legal requirement that Local Government rural proofs its policies, it is good practice. The Community Plan is a shared document across local government, statutory partners and government departments.

RURAL PROOFING SCREENING REPORT

Legislative Requirement:

The Development, implementation and monitoring of the Community Plan is a legislative function prescribed in the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Determination

Upon consideration, it is concluded that an in depth rural proofing process is not required as any potential detrimental impact in rural areas is mitigated by the area based approach to design and delivery of local action plans. These action plans will support achievement of the outcomes in the community plan and will reflect local need.

The Community Plan is a high-level document that demonstrates no difference in its application between urban and rural dwellers. The impact of subsidiary action plans, strategies, policies and programmes will be considered separately at an appropriate level.

The Responsible Authority is Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Contact Officer: Elizabeth Beattie, Head of Policy and Community Planning

Signed:.....Date:

Background to rural proofing

Rural Proofing is a useful tool for making effective policies. It also demonstrates to rural dwellers you have considered the impact of policies and plan on them and their area. Rural proofing helps you consider the potential impact, both intended and unintended, on rural areas and rural dwellers of a proposed policy or plan.

Generally, people have their own idea of what rural means. You might think it means open countryside with scattered dwellings. Others may feel it is the small village with one pub, a church and a school. It is important that when undertaking a rural proofing exercise you have a clear definition of what rural is from the perspective of your policy or plan.

Ultimately rural areas will differ from urban areas due to their greater geographical isolation, population dispersal, and longer distances from key services like health, education or leisure facilities and limited local employment opportunities.

Rural proofing is part of the policy making process and rigorously scrutinises proposed policies or plans. It should ensure fair and equitable treatment of rural communities and that a policy does not indirectly have a detrimental impact on rural dwellers and rural communities. Rural proofing must consider policy implementation so that services will be delivered to rural areas in an equitable manner. The process should also involve monitoring the implementation of the policy to ensure that this is achieved.

“Equitable” means policies should treat rural areas in a fair or reasonable way. This does not mean that rural areas should have an equal level of resources as urban, but rather that policies demonstrate proportionality to rural areas, considering their unique characteristics. For example, if we were to provide a bus service in a rural area, equitable treatment would be a reasonable provision to meet needs, but an equal service would require the same frequency and number of buses to rural areas as urban areas - regardless of need.

The purpose of rural proofing is to ensure “equitable” treatment for rural areas through policy responses that are proportionate to the need.

Application of the screening criteria was applied by following “Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing’ written by the former Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland.

Table 1 Responsible Authority	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (as facilitator of the Community Plan)
Contact Address/ Person	Mrs Elizabeth Beattie Head of Policy and Community Planning Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council 7 Connell Street Limavady Co. Londonderry 028 7772 2226 Elizabeth.beattie@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk
Date of Screening	12 January 2017
Title of Plan	A Better Future Together for Causeway Coast and Glens
Purpose of Plan	The Community Plan will be a strategic long-term plan for the geographical area of Causeway Coast and Glens which will inform the design and delivery of public services. The Plan will provide the framework for collaboration among a number of Community Planning Partners.
What Prompted the Plan (i.e. legislation, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Council has a legislative duty, under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 to ‘initiate, maintain, facilitate, and participate in Community Planning’. The Community Planning (Partners) Act requires statutory partners to participate and assist the Council in the discharge of its duties in relation to Community Planning.
Subject	Community Planning
Period covered by the Plan	10-15 years with a review of performance against outcomes published every two years and a review of the plan every four years.

Area covered by the Plan	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area (map attached at appendix 1)
Summary of nature/ content of the Plan	<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>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a baseline of the existing conditions in the area; - An integrated view of the social, economic and environmental needs of the area in the context of regional, national and European policies and strategies and taking account of communities and issues that extend into neighbouring council areas and jurisdictions; - Long-term vision for the area; - Long-term outcomes against which progress can be monitored and evaluated via a set of indicators; - A focus on delivering in the short to medium term to achieve the long-term vision - Governance structure and delivery arrangements
Are there any proposed Plan objectives? a. Are these attached?	Our plan will have three population outcomes supported by eleven intermediate outcomes rather than objectives. The outcomes and intermediate outcomes are attached to the end of this document.

A Better Future Together for Causeway Coast and Glens

Rural Proofing Screening Report

The aim of this report is to determine if the Community Plan requires an in depth rural proofing exercise to be undertaken. The report considers:

- The design of the Community Plan and the extent to which there was engagement in rural areas
- The evidence base for development of the Community Plan
- The consultation and engagement process
- The monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the Plan.

Policy Stage	
Section 1: Design	<p>What are the policy objectives in terms of problem/outcome? The Community plan has the following vision</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Causeway Coast and Glens – ‘A Better Future Together’</p> <p>By producing an outcomes focused Community Plan, Causeway Coast and Glens will be a great place to live, work and visit. The Community Plan will work towards the achievement of three population outcomes, eleven high level outcomes and a range of intermediate outcomes over the period 2017 to 2030.¹</p> <p>All people of Causeway Coast and Glens:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live well together; 2. Will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable and accessible environment with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections; 3. Will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation and learning. <p>The outcomes based approach will help to support an increased focus on people’s personal wellbeing via the increased use of evidence based decision making.</p> <p>What are the rural specific impacts of the policy? Are there any potential indirect impacts?</p> <p>The Community Plan is intended to directly or indirectly benefit all residents of the Borough through needs based approaches to service delivery and co-design of actions.</p>

¹ Full list of population outcomes and intermediate outcomes are contained in Appendix 1.

As such the plan is expected to impact positively on all areas including residents of rural areas. That said, based on the issues identified in the baseline study, some issues, such as access to 6 affordable transport and social isolation are more prevalent in rural areas and will require a focused and appropriate approach to the development of relevant actions.

Are there any potential local impacts that will differ from the Borough wide impact?

Community Planning in Causeway Coast and Glens takes an evidence based approach reflecting the belief that issues affecting residents and communities are often localised and will need to be considered on an individual or localised basis. It is therefore anticipated that local impacts will vary and differ from impact found at a Borough wide level however this is a positive reflection of the evidence based approach.

Is there a need for pre-consultation with rural stakeholders to get better insight into potential rural impacts?

As part of its engagement process extensive monitoring was undertaken to ensure representation of opinion from across the Borough. Public meetings were convened in all seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) throughout the borough. In addition, twelve Thematic Working Group meetings were held at different locations within the borough thereby ensuring opportunity for wide-spread consultation and engagement. An online/offline questionnaire was made available on the Council website together with an opportunity to make written submissions. Further engagement meetings were held with a range of special interest groups throughout the borough. To date over 1,000 people have directly engaged in developing the Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan. This engagement process was useful in identifying the issues which are more pertinent or prevalent in rural areas for their inclusion in the Community Plan.

Is there a need for actions to mitigate against impacts in rural areas?

No – the impact in rural areas from the Community Plan should be positive rather than negative. The Community Plan aims to address a range of issues with a focus on areas where there is the greatest need, that being the case where an issue is more particular to or more pronounced in a rural area it will be prioritised.

If you screen out rural proofing, what is your reason?

The Engagement process prior to development of the Community Plan and the evidence based approach to the development of subsequent action plans is considered to mitigate the need for rural proofing. Done correctly and as planned, the Community Planning process will be equitable in approach and will positively impact on rural areas. *The Community Plan has therefore been screened **out** regarding Rural Proofing.*

<p>Section 2: Evidence</p>	<p>Are the predicted impacts supported by evidence? Baseline statistical information has been produced to identify key issues for consideration in the Community Plan. 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 contains an overarching ambition together with three population outcomes and supported by eleven intermediate outcomes. To date a number of indicators have been identified in order to achieve these outcomes. Full list of outcomes contained in Appendix 1.</p> <p>Please note that the indicators are currently at development stage.</p> <p>Data has been sourced Borough wide, and where available at DEA level to measure progress over the lifetime of the Community Plan. Progress against the outcomes in the Community Plan will be reported every <u>two years</u> and the plan will be reviewed every <u>four years</u>.</p> <p>What types of evidence have you considered in your policy development (statistics/research/stakeholder advice)? The Community Plan is based on a robust assessment of statistical evidence coupled with an extensive engagement process. The baseline statistical report has identified the main issues across the Borough and has recognised the need to interrogate this data further to identify where the priority need lies.</p> <p>Are there any areas of uncertainty, where further evidence would be useful? Whilst additional information at a more localised level (such as ward or SOA) for some figures will be useful going forward. The current report is sufficiently robust to direct the development of the three population outcomes and the eleven intermediate outcomes contained within the Community Plan and to inform the potential prioritisation of future actions.</p> <p>Have you already put in place any design features as a result of the evidence considered? The design process for action plans which will underpin the Community Plan will take account of the evidence in each DEA and where possible each SOA to enable actions and programmes to be directed to where they are most needed.</p>
<p>Section 3: Consulting</p>	<p>Has the consultation response identified any potential different impacts on terms of rural areas/communities? The engagement process undertaken prior to development of the Community Plan identified a range of issues affecting the residents of Causeway Coast and Glens. Some of these issues such as access to public/sustainable transport networks, social isolation, access to services and facilities are more pronounced in rural areas. This will inform the prioritisation of issues during the developed of more</p>

	<p>specific actions (Delivery Plan) which will be written following publication of the Community Plan.</p> <p>Can you demonstrate how you have targeted and fully engaged with rural stakeholders during consultation? Rural residents have been engaged through face to face meetings, community planning questionnaires, online/offline and written submissions. To increase people’s understanding of the Community Planning process an extensive range of public meetings were held throughout the borough covering both urban and rural locations.</p> <p>Can you identify rural responses by nature of their concerns and issues? Individuals who completed an online survey and postcards were asked to identify the location via their postcodes and as such an inference can be made as to whether they are rural or urban residents.</p>
<p>Section 4: Monitoring and Outcomes</p>	<p>Have you any rural specific indicators that have been set to monitor your policy implementation? The indicators which have been set for the Community Plan are, in general, at a whole population level. The development of indicators or performance measurement for actions may reflect the specific needs of rural areas.</p> <p>Will the outcomes of the policy meet your set objectives in rural areas? Given the evidence driven approach which Causeway Coast and Glens Community Planning Partnership is taking, there is no reason to believe that the outcomes will be met to any less a degree in rural areas than in other parts of the Borough.</p> <p>Describe your process for effective impact evaluation on rural issues. The process for monitoring of progress against indicators and outcomes is still in development as this will be informed by the next stage in the Community Planning process.</p>

Appendix 1 – List of Population Outcomes and Intermediate Outcomes

A HEALTHY SAFE COMMUNITY

Population Accountability Outcome Statement: All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect and supports everyone to live well together
Outcome 1: The Causeway Coast & Glens feels safe
Intermediate outcome 1.1: People in the Causeway Coast and Glens experience a reduction in levels of crime
Intermediate outcome 1.2: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from a reduction in fear of crime
Intermediate outcome 1.3: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will experience improved safety in the home and in the community
Outcome 2: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens area benefit from improved physical health and mental well-being
Intermediate outcome 2.1: The people of the Causeway will have increased opportunities to participate in sustained physical activity
Intermediate outcome 2.2: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will have increased opportunities to participate in social and creative activity
Intermediate outcome 2.3: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will experience a reduction in levels of social isolation and deprivation across the area
Intermediate outcome 2.4: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will experience a reduction in levels of health and social inequalities
Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently and access support services when they need them
Intermediate outcome 3.1: The people of Causeway Coast and Glens will be supported in making healthy lifestyle choices which protect and enhance their physical and mental health and wellbeing
Intermediate outcome 3.2: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will experience a reduction in barriers to independent living
Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships
Intermediate outcome 4.1: There will be increased collaborative working across the Causeway Coast and Glens area
Intermediate outcome 4.2: There will be increased promotion and sharing of community space across the Causeway Coast and Glens
Intermediate outcome 4.3: The people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will benefit from sustainable community and voluntary activities, leading to an increased sense of community belonging and resilience

A SUSTAINABLE ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT

<p>Population Accountability Outcome Statement: All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable and accessible environment with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose & that enables connections.</p>
<p>Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised & celebrated for its unique natural & built landscapes</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 5.1: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is the ‘go to’ destination of Northern Ireland</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 5.2: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is a welcoming environment for all</p>
<p>Outcome 6: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has an infrastructure that furthers growth, access and connections</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 6.1: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainable, accessible transport network for all</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 6.2: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has high quality telecommunications for all</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 6.3: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a high quality built environment and civic space</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 6.4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a fit for purpose, sustainable infrastructure that enables growth</p>
<p>Outcome 7: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is a sustainable environment</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 7.1: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has protected and enhanced landscapes for the benefit of natural and built heritage</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 7.2: The land and sea of the Causeway Coast & Glens is sustainably managed</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 7.3: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a clean, healthy, safe environment with improved air, land and water quality</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 7.4: We, in the Causeway Coast & Glens area, value, protect and appreciate our environment</p>

A THRIVING ECONOMY

<p>Population Accountability Outcome Statement: All people of Causeway Coast and Glens will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation and learning</p>
<p>Outcome 8: The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 8.1: People of the Causeway Coast & Glens area have equality of access to quality jobs and career prospects</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 8.2: The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts world class events for economic growth</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 8.3: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a culture of aspiration leading to increased opportunities for all</p>
<p>Outcome 9: The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 9.1: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a well-connected infrastructure, vibrant town centres and public realm</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 9.2: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is recognised as attractive, safe, welcoming and open to business</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 9.3: The Causeway Coast & Glens area embraces and proactively supports business investment</p>
<p>Outcome 10: The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 10.1: Causeway Coast & Glens has unique drivers that are catalysts for inward investment</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 10.2: Causeway Coast & Glens has indigenous businesses that are ambitious and growing</p>
<p>Outcome 11: All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will be knowledgeable and skilled</p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 11.1: People of the Causeway Coast & Glens area have accessible and appropriate education and skills opportunities which are <p style="text-align: center;">connected to the economic drivers in the area</p> </p>
<p>Intermediate outcome 11.2: All children of the Causeway Coast and Glens area leave school with relevant core skills and qualifications</p>