

## Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Plan

### 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.

**Upon consideration of all of the above factors, 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.**

Policy Stage	
<b>Section 1: Design</b>	<p><b>What are the policy objectives in terms of problem / outcome?</b></p> <p>The Community Plan has the following Mission Statement/Statement of Purpose:  <i>We will all work together to become a resilient and socially responsible community where citizens experience a high quality of life.</i></p> <p>This is supported by 4 outcomes which the plan will seek to achieve over the period 2017 to 2030</p> <p>Outcome statement 1: Our residents enjoy good health and wellbeing                      Outcome Statement 2: Our residents live in connected and vibrant places                      Outcome Statement 3: Our residents benefit from economic prosperity                      Outcome Statement 4: Our residents achieve their full potential</p> <p><b>What are the rural specific impacts of the policy? Are there any potential indirect impacts?</b></p> <p>The Community Plan is intended to directly or indirectly <b>positively</b> benefit all residents of the Borough through needs based approaches to service delivery and co-design of actions.</p> <p>As such the policy is expected to impact positively on all areas including residents of rural areas. That said, on the basis of the issues identified in the baseline study, it is clear that some issues, such as</p>

	<p>access to 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.</p> <p><b>Are there any potential local impacts that will differ from the Borough wide impact?</b></p> <p>Community Planning in Antrim and Newtownabbey takes an area based approach which reflects the awareness on the part of all of the Partners involved that the issues affecting residents and communities are often localised and have a number of locally based contributory factors. It is therefore anticipated that local impacts will vary and differ from impact found at a Borough wide level however this is considered to be a positive reflection of the area and needs based approach.</p> <p><b>Is there a need for pre-consultation with rural stakeholders to get better insight into potential rural impacts?</b></p> <p>As part of its engagement process the Council held 7 public workshops (one in each DEA including the 3 DEAs which could be considered to be more rural), 3 stakeholder workshops and 2 strategic workshops which included representation from rural and environmental. In addition, Council officers attended community festivals in a number of villages and towns in rural areas and the Antrim Show. 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.</p> <p><b>Is there a need for actions to mitigate against impacts in rural areas?</b></p> <p>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 particular 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.</p> <p><b>If you screen out rural proofing, what is your reason?</b></p> <p>The Engagement process prior to development of the Community Plan and the DEA based approach to the development of local 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.</p> <p><i>The Community Plan has therefore been screened <b>out</b> in regard to Rural Proofing.</i></p>
<b>Section 2: Evidence</b>	<b>Are the predicted impacts supported by evidence?</b>

A comprehensive baseline statistical analysis has been produced to identify key issues for consideration in the Community Plan. A profile of each DEA has also been produced identifying the main relevant statistics in each of the 7 areas. Based on this statistical evidence and the engagement process, the Community Planning Partnership developed the 4 outcomes referenced in section 1.

The Community Plan has identified 12 evidence based indicators for the 4 outcomes:

- % residents over 75 living in their own home
- % school leavers progressing to further / higher education, training, employment or voluntary activity
- Access to sustainable and affordable transport including walking and cycling routes, public transport services
- % of vacant non-residential units; town/village centre footfall
- % people who volunteer;
- % people who are members of a group/sports club
- % working age population who are employed/self employed
- % people who are engaged in learning
- % school leavers with 5 or more GCSEs including English and Maths
- % of people with a mood/anxiety disorder
- % people registered as obese or suffering from hypertension or
- % people who consider themselves to be in good or very good health

Data has been sourced at a Borough wide, and where available a DEA, level in regard to these indicators in order to measure progress over the lifetime of the Community Plan. Progress against the outcomes in the Community Plan will be reported every 2 years and the plan will be reviewed every 4 years.

**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 at both a Borough wide and a District Electoral Area (DEA) level.

**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 four outcomes in the Community Plan and to inform the potential prioritisation of issues and approaches in DEAs.

	<p><b>Have you already put in place any design features as a result of the evidence considered?</b></p> <p>The design process for local, area based action plans which will underpin the Community Plan will take account of the evidence in each DEA and develop initiatives accordingly</p>
<p><b>Section 3: Consulting</b></p>	<p><b>Have the consultation response identified any potential different impacts on terms of rural areas/communities?</b></p> <p>The engagement process undertaken prior to development of the Community Plan identified a range of issues affecting the residents of Antrim and Newtownabbey. 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 has informed the prioritisation of issues for inclusion in the community plan.</p> <p><b>Can you demonstrate how you have targeted and fully engaged with rural stakeholders during consultation?</b></p> <p>Rural residents have been engaged with through face to face consultation in Ballynure, Ballyrobert, Randalstown, Ballyclare May Fair and the Antrim Show. The Council also held public events in Ballyclare and Randalstown and a range of other stakeholder events attended by rural groups and groups with rural interests.</p> <p><b>Can you identify rural responses by nature of their concerns and issues?</b></p> <p>Individuals who completed assets questionnaires were asked to identify the DEA they lived in and as such an inference can be made as to whether they are rural or urban residents.</p>
<p><b>Section 4: Monitoring and outcomes</b></p>	<p><b>Have you any rural specific indicators that have been set to monitor your policy implementation?</b></p> <p>The indicators which have been set for the Community Plan are, in general, at a whole population (with the exception of those over 75 and between 16 and 19 in regards to the Wildly Important Goal/Breakthrough Achievement of Our Vulnerable People).</p> <p>The development of indicators for actions however will reflect the areas in which they are to be delivered and as such are likely to have rural dimension in some cases.</p> <p><b>Will the outcomes of the policy meet your set objectives in rural areas?</b></p> <p>Given the needs based and locally driven approach which Antrim and Newtownabbey 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><b>Describe your process for effective impact evaluation on rural issues.</b></p>
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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.