

EAST BANK DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Rural Needs Impact Assessment



Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

Name of Organisation:

Belfast City Council

Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

East Bank Development Strategy

Step 1: Define the Issue

Key questions to consider:

• ***What are the objectives of the strategy, policy plan or service?***

The overarching aim of the strategy is to maximise the potential of development sites across the area and thereby, by 2030, to fully integrate the East Bank into the fabric of the city centre by developing a space that is lively, diverse, accessible and well connected to the city centre, the River Lagan and surrounding communities. The spatial framework of the strategy is based on four mutually supporting themes:

- Maximising the potential of development sites across the area
- Energising the Lagan corridor
- Developing a connected and legible East Bank
- Making streets and spaces for people

• ***What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?***

The strategy involves the development of an inner city area and will have no direct impact in rural areas. By improving transport links to the city centre there will be indirect benefits for those from rural communities.

• ***How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this strategy?***

According to the default definition of "rural" used in Northern Ireland as developed by the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group. This definition classifies those settlements with fewer than 5,000 residents together with the open countryside as rural. Settlements have been classified into a number of bands (see Appendix 1), with bands A-E classified as urban and bands F-H classified as rural.

• ***What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?***

No adverse impact on any members of rural communities.

Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider:

- ***What is the current situation in rural areas?***

This strategy does not immediately impact on any rural areas as it adjoins Belfast City Centre and forms an integral part of the city.

- ***What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?***

Population: The population of the Belfast City Council area predominantly reside within the main urban settlement development limit. According to the 2011 Census 331,532 residents (140,659 households) are in the urban area, while only 1,699 (703 households) are rural. This is equivalent to 0.5% of the city's population (Census 2011: Urban/Rural population LGD 2014). There are three rural settlements within the city limits (see below) but none within close proximity to East Bank.

Rural Settlements

Hannahstown: Hannahstown is located in the Belfast Hills within the Belfast Basalt Escarpment Area of High Scenic Value. The settlement is sited on the steeply rising Hannahstown Hill Road and the elevated Upper Springfield Road, 4km west of Belfast City Centre, adjacent to the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area. Hannahstown comprises of 3 nodes and is of a linear form.

Loughview: Loughview is a small settlement located 6.5km south east of Belfast City Centre. The settlement developed along the Church Road and was further encouraged by the opening of Loughview Integrated Primary and Nursery School in 1993.

Edenderry: Edenderry is a small settlement located approximately 8km south of Belfast City Centre and 8km North East of Lisburn City Centre. The settlement is within the Lagan Valley Regional Park and lies North East of the River Lagan. The mill industries on the River Lagan led to the development of the settlement and it is now a mix of traditional terraced redbrick and newer semi-detached suburban dwellings.

- ***If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?***

No further data required at this time.

- ***Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?***

As part of the development of the masterplan an extensive consultation was carried out across Northern Ireland and all stakeholders were consulted, including those representing the rural community (see Section 75 screening).

The Belfast Conversation (2015) was an extensive city wide programme of engagement which included public workshops, stakeholder meetings, social media feedback and an online questionnaire. Over 600 people participated in this engagement, generating nearly 7000 comments and suggestions. As part of this engagement programme, engagement meetings were held with Rural stakeholders in the Edenderry Village (Edenderry Residents' Association) and Hannahstown (Hannahstown Community Association) areas.

- ***Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of rural needs?***

At this time no mitigations have been identified, other than improving transport links to and from the area and the city generally for those visiting from rural communities.

Step 3: Develop and appraise options

Key questions to consider:

- ***Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?***

No barriers have been identified at this time

- ***If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?***

N/A

- ***Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?***

N/A

Step 4: Prepare for Delivery

Key questions to consider:

- ***Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?***

There are no opportunities to deliver in rural areas.

- ***Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?***

No, not necessary at this time.

- ***What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?***

Proposals for improvement of access to and within the area will facilitate visiting by those from rural areas.

- ***Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?***

Extensive consultation with key stakeholders including delivery agents, residents, service providers and visitors will ensure that local solutions are sought wherever possible.

- ***Are different solutions required in different areas?***

The strategy has already included a range of options for different parts of the area in order to best meet the needs of all existing and potential stakeholders including delivery agents, residents, service providers and visitors.

Step 5: Implementation & Monitoring

Key questions to consider:

- ***Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?***

No, these are not seen as necessary at this time but may be considered in future should the needs arise.

- ***How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?***

Monitoring of future use of the area will take into account postcode in order to identify trends over time. Complaints also reference postcode.

- ***Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?***

See above.

Step 6: Evaluation & Review

Key questions to consider:

- ***What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy, strategy, plan or service?***

At this stage of the project monitoring arrangements for the East Bank Development Strategy have yet to be fully determined but will include consideration of issues relating to rural needs, the promotion of equality of opportunity, good relations and duties to disabled people. Use of emerging spaces and facilities will be kept under constant review to ensure that there is no adverse impact.

- ***Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?***

Yes, see above.

- ***How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?***

The establishment of the City Design Review Panel to offer advice on building quality will provide an opportunity for issues relating to rural needs to be kept under consideration on a regular, ongoing basis.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date completed:	

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date completed:	

Appendix 1: Settlement Development Limit Classification

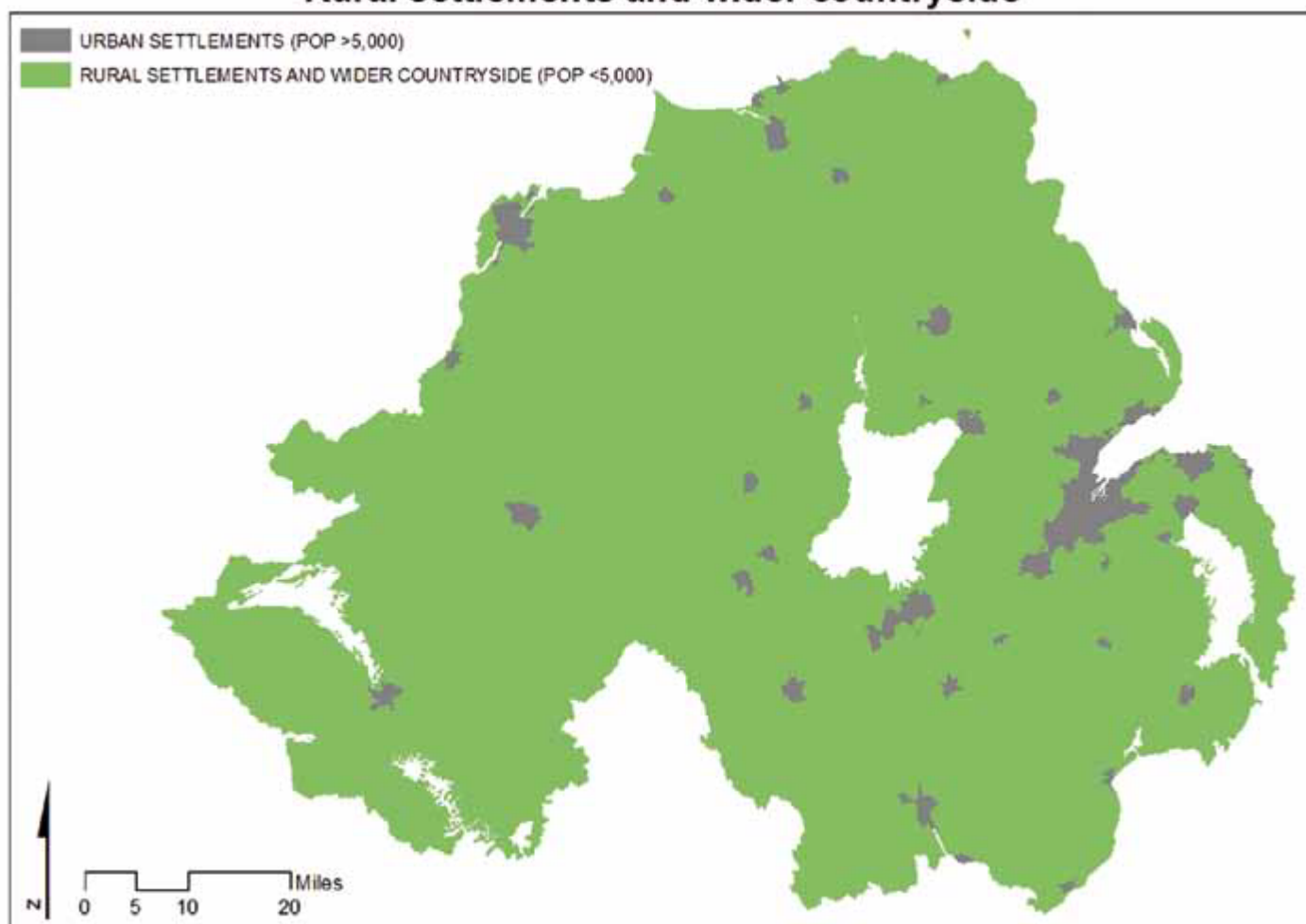
Classification	Population
Band A - Belfast	280,211 (2011 census)
Band B - Derry City	83,125 (2011 census)
Band C - Large Town	>18,000
Band D - Medium Town	10,000 - 17,999
Band E - Small Town	5,000 - 9,999

DEFAULT URBAN-RURAL SPLIT

Band F - Intermediate Settlements	2,500 - 4,999
Band G - Village	1,000 - 2,499
Band H - Open Countryside	<1,000 and open countryside

Source: Adapted from Table 2 of the Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements.

Rural settlements and wider countryside



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