

# A CITY IMAGiNING

**Belfast**

**Cultural Strategy for  
Belfast 2020 - 2030**

**Rural Needs Impact  
Assessment Template  
(RNIA)**

August 2019

# Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template (RNIA)

## Section 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

### 1A. Name of Public Authority

Belfast City Council

### 1B. Please provide a short title, which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to the Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Development of a 10 year Cultural Strategy for Belfast

### 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
Designing 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 for Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Cultural Strategy 2020-2030: A City Imagining

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

The purpose of the cultural strategy is to present a series of priorities to contribute significantly to the Belfast Agenda and the vision to be a culturally vibrant city. The cultural strategy presents a 10 year cultural statement for Belfast and sets out 4 strategic themes and 16 priorities to guide future creative and cultural capacity and place-making in the city. This will provide the framework to develop a new 'fit for purpose' investment model and implementation plans. The implementation of the strategy aims to ensure a more inclusive approach to cultural engagement, programming and investment.

The strategy, *A City Imagining*, opens with a cultural statement for the city shaped by a public engagement programme that commenced in 2017. This is taken forward through four strategic themes with each theme having a particular area of focus as follows:

Theme 1: *A City Belonging* – focuses on supporting active citizenship and participation in cultural life.

Theme 2: *A City Challenging* – focuses on diversity through use of public and cultural spaces.

Theme 3: *A City Creating* – focuses on supporting innovation and creativity across the cultural sectors.

Theme 4: *A City Exploring* – focuses on Belfast's relationship to the rest of the world including support for cultural tourism

## 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.**

**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.**

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input 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"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The strategy is an overarching strategy, setting out how we will deliver on the Belfast Agenda's vision for Belfast to be a culturally vibrant city. As a high-level, city-wide strategy it sets out the broad direction and strategic priorities that will shape the development of more detailed implementation plans and investment programmes. It recognises the importance of cultural diversity and inclusion as core elements and therefore, does not differentiate impacts on any specific community. It is therefore considered that the strategy will not have any major impact on communities directly. The detailed implementation plans and investment programmes that will be developed to deliver on the strategy will specifically address the need for targeted initiatives and will be screened for Equality and Good Relations and Rural Needs and this process would be more likely to identify any particular impact on people in rural areas.

### **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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.**

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

**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?**

A public consultation was carried out on the draft city-wide strategy. Public Consultation workshops and events took place in various locations across the city with over 80 event taking place in total, in order to enable people in rural areas participate in the consultation. This allowed any issues that are relevant to people in rural areas to be identified and informed the development of implementation plans and investment programmes that will deliver on the strategy.

The research carried out by Thrive (2018) in the development of the draft cultural strategy did not identify any specific issues for people in rural areas in terms of accessing or participating in cultural activities. The development of detailed implementation plans and investment programmes to deliver on the cultural strategy will be subject to equality and rural needs assessment to ensure that relevant issues are considered.

## 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.**

The draft strategy was subject to a 12 week public consultation period consultation. As part of the public consultation, events took place in various locations across the city as well as an on-line survey, enabling people in rural areas to participate in the consultation. Just over one third of the 95 people responding to the on-line Citizenspace survey answered the specific rural needs assessment question (31 responses). While the majority of these responses (70%) stated that they had no further comments or issues. The comments that were made included the importance of equality of access and equality of opportunity and the need to consider accessibility issues when planning and delivering cultural events/activities, including the cost/pricing and infrastructure issues such as use of IT, transport and parking. These comments have also been factored in to the equality assessment. This will inform the development of implementation plans and investment programmes that will deliver on the strategy.

## 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?**

**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.**

The strategy is a high level, city-wide strategy, which has been developed with an overall city-wide focus and recognises the diversity and inclusion of all communities. The draft strategy was subject to a 12 week consultation period which included, a number of events in various locations across the city and an on-line survey in order to enable people in rural areas participate in the consultation. A report on the consultation is available at ([www.belfastcity.gov.uk/culturalstrategy](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/culturalstrategy)). The majority of respondents raised no specific needs; however comments to ensure access to events/activities is communicated and available to people who live in rural areas will be factored in to the development of the resultant implementation plans and investment programmes that will deliver on the strategy.