

Cultural Heritage Service in Co. Armagh

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Libraries NI delivers its Cultural Heritage Service in Co. Armagh by means of small heritage collections and access to freely available online resources in the nine branch libraries in Co. Armagh and a standalone heritage service on Abbey Street, Armagh, generally known as Irish and Local Studies (ILS).
- 1.2 Libraries NI is consulting on a proposal to relocate the services provided at ILS and to offer a blended approach as outlined below with the aim of providing a service which is more accessible, attracts greater use and is sustainable:
 - offering access to specific cultural heritage reference materials including maps, newspapers and microfilm by appointment at the Armagh Regional Administration Centre, Markethill Road, Armagh
 - supplementing the heritage lending stock in the Armagh City Library, Market Street, Armagh, with additional material
 - relocating the remainder of the Armagh heritage lending stock to the refurbished Lurgan Library, Carnegie Street, Lurgan
 - continuing to respond to remote enquiries (i.e. letter, e-mail, telephone).
- 1.3 The background to this proposal is set out below.

2. Libraries NI's Approach to Cultural Heritage

- 2.1 All public libraries operated by Libraries NI provide a cultural heritage service with even the smallest libraries holding stock relating to the history of their local area and providing access to online material and to the wider resources held by Libraries NI, as well as hosting events and exhibitions where space allows. Nine libraries hold Libraries NI's main heritage collections.
- 2.2 The service operates in line with Libraries NI's Heritage Policy which states:
Libraries NI will:
 - *ensure the continued collection, preservation and exploitation of heritage materials relevant to and reflective of the diverse range of communities in Northern Ireland*
 - *provide access to the heritage resources in all libraries, to the widest possible audiences and facilitate increased participation in the heritage services through community engagement*
 - *collaborate with and/or work in partnership with other organisations and agencies in the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to ensure the acquisition, preservation, exploitation and accessibility of heritage resources reflecting the existing and new communities and cultures of Northern Ireland.*
- 2.3 In the majority of cases e.g. Ballymena, Derry Central, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Newry City and Omagh libraries the heritage collections are housed in large branch libraries and the service is delivered by heritage staff supported by branch staff as required. Belfast Central Library also involves co-location but is on a much larger scale. Co-location with a branch has a number of advantages in terms of:

- maximising access to the heritage collections and services (most collections are housed in libraries that are open for a minimum of 45 hours, six days per week, including evenings and Saturdays. Co-location means that heritage can readily be a part of class visits and other branch activities, all library users can readily access heritage services rather than this being perceived as solely accessible to the local or family history researcher making a dedicated visit)
- cost-effectiveness (co-location enables more efficient use of staff and premises)
- service continuity and resilience (branch staff can provide heritage services when the dedicated heritage staff are unavailable). Ad hoc closures are rare in large branch libraries, normally only occurring in the case of an extended power cut or similar.

2.4 The one general heritage resource which is situated in a standalone library is the service generally referred to as 'Irish and Local Studies', located on Abbey Street, Armagh.

3. The Irish and Local Studies Library

3.1 ILS is sited in the former hospital building at 39c Abbey Street, Armagh, at the top of a steep hill, located just outside of the centre of the city. The building is owned by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

3.2 The ILS library service is located on the first floor of the building; visitors are required to ring a bell on the ground floor to obtain access. The nature and layout of the building is such that two staff are required to be on duty throughout library opening hours.

3.3 The internal layout is not well suited to the provision of accessible and efficient services.

3.4 ILS is open for 33 hours per week Monday to Friday and with one late night opening. On average there were eight visits to ILS daily in 2019 and the service deals with up to 3,000 enquiries annually including remotely by letter, email and telephone.

3.5 The stock that is currently located in ILS reflects the City and County of Armagh along with supporting titles. It includes lending and reference book stock and resources in other formats including maps, newspapers and microfilm. Continuous editing and new additions to the stock ensure relevance and interest.

4. Proposed Way Forward

4.1 Taking account of the information set out above and the need to ensure a sustainable affordable service which is accessible and attracts high levels of use, the Board of Libraries NI has determined that an alternative approach should be developed in Co. Armagh, maximising use of Libraries NI owned premises.

- 4.2 The approach that has been developed following a review of library premises in Co. Armagh is a blended approach comprising:
- offering access to specific cultural heritage reference materials including maps, newspapers and microfilm by appointment at the Armagh Regional Administration Centre, Markethill Road, Armagh (office hours)
 - supplementing the heritage lending stock in the Armagh City Library, Market Street, Armagh, with additional material (open 45 hours including Saturdays and a late night)
 - relocating the remainder of the Armagh heritage lending stock to the refurbished Lurgan Library, Carnegie Street, Lurgan (open 50 hours including Saturdays and a late night)
 - continuing to respond to remote enquiries (i.e. letter, e-mail, telephone).
- 4.3 The service would continue to be supported by staff with in-depth heritage knowledge and expertise.

5. Equality Considerations

- 5.1 Libraries NI has equality screened this proposal and found no evidence to suggest that people with different religious beliefs, political beliefs, marital status, racial groups, sexual orientation or gender would be differentially affected by the proposals.
- 5.2 The screening showed that there is potential for minor impacts for people in a number of Section 75 groups by the proposed changes to the location of these collections. The groups identified include:
- children and young people (positively impacted)
 - people with disabilities (positively impacted)
 - people with dependants (positively impacted).
- 5.3 The screening document appears at Appendix One.

6. Rural Needs Impact

- 6.1 Libraries NI carried out a rural needs impact assessment which showed that there is no differential impact on rural and urban citizens.
- 6.2 The document appears at Appendix Two.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 You are asked to please take the time to read these documents and complete the attached questionnaire. Your contribution is important and will be given full consideration. Thank you.

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 Libraries NI will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. The closing date for responses to this consultation will be midnight on Friday, 8 January 2021. Unless individual respondents specifically indicate that they wish their response to be treated in confidence, the nature of their response may be included in any published summary of responses.
- 8.2 Respondents should also be aware that Libraries NI's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act may require that any responses not subject to specific exemptions under the Act, be disclosed to other parties on request.

LNI Policy Screening Template

Part 1. Policy Scoping

Information about the policy

<p>Name of the policy</p> <p>Cultural Heritage provision in Co. Armagh i.e. the application of the Libraries NI Heritage Policy in Co. Armagh.</p>
<p>Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?</p> <p>This is a revision of the application of an existing policy (Heritage Policy).</p>
<p>What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)</p> <p>Libraries NI provides access to heritage resources in all libraries. The Heritage Policy states that the aim is to reach the widest possible audiences and to facilitate increased participation in the heritage services through community engagement.</p> <p>Since its inception Libraries NI has provided a cultural heritage service in Co. Armagh primarily through a standalone heritage library in the city of Armagh 'Irish and Local Studies' (ILS) located at 39c Abbey Street, Armagh, supported by additional heritage stock stored in Armagh Regional Admin Centre which can be viewed in ILS given adequate notice and small heritage collections in each branch library. This legacy approach differs from the normal Libraries NI approach to cultural heritage which involves the heritage service being located in a branch library in order to maximise access, service continuity and cost effectiveness.</p> <p>ILS is located at the top of a steep hill, some distance from the city centre and bus station, with dedicated parking. The library is on the first floor of the building which is occupied by a range of public and private sector organisations, with lift access. In normal times it is open for 33 hours per week Monday to Friday including one evening until 8:00pm. On average there were eight visits each day in 2019 and the service deals with up to 3,000 enquiries annually including remotely by letter, email and telephone.</p> <p>The Board of Libraries NI has taken the decision to consult on a proposal to provide a service which is more accessible, attracts greater use and is sustainable by offering a blended approach with the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • offering access to specific cultural heritage reference materials including maps, newspapers and microfilm by appointment at the Armagh Regional Administration Centre, Markethill Road, Armagh

- supplementing the heritage lending stock in the Armagh City Library, Market Street, Armagh with additional material
- relocating the remainder of the Armagh heritage lending stock to the refurbished Lurgan Library, Carnegie Street, Lurgan
- continuing to respond to remote enquiries (i.e. letter, e-mail, telephone).

The proposal may impact three staff. The collection will continue to be managed and developed by dedicated staff with appropriate knowledge and skills. Other staff in locations where the collections are held will have additional training to ensure they can support access to the resources.

The collection will have wider availability given the greater opening hours of Lurgan Library (50 hours/week) and Armagh City Library (45 hours per week). The service in Armagh Regional Administration Centre will be by appointment during office hours.

Lurgan Library, has easily accessible free car parking and Lurgan has good rail and bus links as well as being close to the M1. Armagh City Library is close to the city centre. Armagh Regional Administration Centre is some distance from the city centre. It is on a bus route and has ample free car parking.

All of the locations have disability access into and within the locations and car parking for people with disabilities.

Lurgan Library is undergoing refurbishment which provides an opportunity to reorganise spaces within the library as well as to upgrade the facilities within the building and to enhance the customer experience. Prior to refurbishment there was a large study facility and IT space on the first floor of the library. Part of this space will be used to house the heritage collection. However, there is no evidence that this will negatively impact on students as there will still be adequate study space in the redesigned area.

The Lurgan Library meeting room will provide accommodation for groups who might previously have met on the first floor of Lurgan Library or potentially in ILS.

There is limited space for meetings in Armagh City Library however there are a range of other community facilities in Armagh.

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?
If so, explain how.**

The policy offers benefits to all persons, including the Section 75 categories. Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.

The additional opening hours (17 in Lurgan Library and 12 in Armagh City Library) and greater range of hours (includes Saturdays) offered by a service co-located with a branch library will be potentially advantageous to a range of

service users including people with dependents, and younger and working age people.

The improved public transport links associated with the two branch based collections and a location which does not have a steep climb will potentially positively impact on people with disabilities and older people.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Head of Service with responsibility for Collections and the Director of Library Services have jointly written the paper proposing this approach with the aim of providing a service which is more accessible, attracts greater use and is sustainable.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Deputy Head of Service with responsibility for Collections is the policy sponsor. The Deputy Head of Service and the Service Development Manager for Collections are responsible for its implementation.

Implementation Factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they

financial

legislative

other, please specify

Customer engagement

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff –three members of staff may be impacted.

Service users

Other public sector organisations

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council (landlord and provider of other community facilities)

Voluntary/community/trade unions

Specifically, local history groups in the Co. Armagh area;
Community groups such as U3A;
Trade Unions in respect of any members of staff

Other, please specify

Service delivery partners e.g. providers of programmes
The City Chapter (Libraries NI, Robinson Library and Cardinal O’Fiaich Library)

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they/Who owns them?

- Children and Young People’s Services Policy (Service Development Manager)
- Customer Feedback Policy (Service Development Manager)
- Heritage Policy (Service Development Manager)
- Opening Hours Policy (Director of Library Services)
- Partnership Policy (Director of Library Services)
- Policy for the Loan and Use of Heritage and Other Assets (Service Development Manager)
- Reading and Reader Development Policy (Service Development Manager)
- Stock Policy (Service Development Manager)

Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	<p>Continuous Household Survey (CHS) 2018/19 – indicates recent use of public libraries by religious belief.</p> <p>Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) 2019/20 indicates use of public libraries by religious background.</p> <p>Monitoring information on staff by community background.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Political opinion	<p>Libraries NI does not collect data for this category.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Racial group	<p>Library Management System (LMS) data in relation to a range of measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of public access terminals and Wi-Fi • use of eBooks <p>CHS 2018/19 relates to language.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Age	<p>CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by age (over 16 years)</p> <p>YPBAS 2019 – indicates use of public libraries by young people 11-16 years.</p> <p>Library Management System data about use in Lurgan and Armagh libraries.</p> <p>Mid-year population estimates from 2018.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Marital status	<p>CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by marital status.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>Libraries NI does not collect data for this category.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Men women generally	<p>Mid-year population estimate 2018.</p> <p>CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by gender (male/female).</p> <p>Monitoring information on staff by gender.</p> <p>LMS data.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Disability	<p>CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by people with and without disabilities.</p> <p>YPBAS 2019/20 indicates use by children with disabilities.</p> <p>LMS data about use in Lurgan and Armagh libraries.</p> <p>No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.</p>
Dependants	<p>CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by adults with and without dependents.</p>

	Information is not held relating to staff with dependants, however this is explored on an ongoing basis with staff and trade unions through consultation. No data from service delivery partners or suppliers.
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify for each of the section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	No evidence from CHS 2018/19 of any significant disparity in use of libraries (% of Catholics and Protestants who visited a library at least once a year: 25% and 24% respectively). No evidence of different needs/experiences or priorities. No evidence of any potential adverse impact from proposed strategy.
Political opinion	Responses to consultation on planned changes to Opening Hours 2016 included responses from political representatives. This indicated general opposition to reduction in opening hours rather than specific evidence or information on impact by political opinion. No evidence of different needs/experiences or priorities. No evidence of any potential adverse impact from proposed strategy.
Racial group	LMS data would indicate there is a slightly higher % of BME users in libraries generally than in the population. No evidence of any potential adverse impact from proposed strategy.
Age	There is anecdotal evidence that young people do not regularly access the collection in ILS although they would be users of heritage collections in other libraries. The majority of users are older adults, mostly from Co. Armagh. Young people make up over 20% of the population of Armagh (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) based on 2011 Census). They make up 38% of users of Armagh City Library and 42% of the users of Lurgan Library. They generally make up almost 40% of active members of libraries.
Marital status	CHS 2018/19 indicates no significant difference between % of users who are married and those who are single or separated/divorced. Lowest % is those widowed which might align with age. No evidence of different needs/experiences or priorities. No evidence of any potential adverse impact.

Sexual orientation	Libraries NI does not collect data on this group. No evidence of different needs/experiences or priorities. No evidence of any potential adverse impact.
Men women generally	CHS 2018/19 suggests that women (30%) more likely to use libraries than men (20%) No evidence of different needs/experiences or priorities. No evidence of any potential adverse impact. No evidence from Human Resources of any adverse impact.
Disability	CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by people with disabilities (22%) and without disabilities (26%). Given the location of ILS, there might be different experiences of current users who have disabilities because of its location despite the access within the building. The other locations have appropriate access for people with mobility issues.
Dependants	CHS 2018/19 indicates recent use by adults with dependents (31%) and without dependents (21%). Carnegie UK Trust – Shining a Light (2016) report identified use is higher by households with children (59%) rather than without children (34%) and a decline in frequency of use by households without children (from 54% in 2011 to 38% in 2016). Some evidence from the Equality Impact Assessment 2015 on Opening Hours that people with caring responsibilities may be impacted by any changes to opening hours and specifically adults with young children may be affected by changes to opening hours in the morning. Opening hours in Armagh City and Lurgan libraries will include a mix of morning, afternoon and evening which will provide a better experience for people with dependents.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Minor/major/none
Religious belief	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	Minor
Age	Positive impact from providing access in a different location with greater range of age groups as active users.	Minor
Marital status	None	None
Sexual orientation	None	None
Men women generally	None	None
Disability	Positive impact from providing access in a different location with parking, and/or better public transport infrastructure.	Minor
Dependants	Positive impact from providing access in a different location with increased opening hours.	Minor

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.
Political opinion		Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.
Racial group		Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.
Age	This approach will provide opportunities to promote increased access to the collection to a wider range of users.	
Marital status		Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.
Sexual orientation		Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.
Men women generally		Libraries NI is committed to an inclusive approach to service planning and delivery.
Disability	This approach will provide opportunities to promote increased access to the collection to a wider range of users.	
Dependants	This approach will provide opportunities to promote increased access to the collection to a wider range of users.	

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Minor/major/none

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/major/none
Religious belief	The purpose of this strategy is to provide better access to these collections. Whilst it will have no direct impact on good relations, there are opportunities from access to material about different religious beliefs to positively impact on good relations.	Minor
Political opinion	The purpose of this strategy is to provide better access to these collections. Whilst it will have no direct impact on good relations, there are opportunities from access to material about different political opinions to positively impact on good relations.	Minor
Racial group	This strategy is unlikely to have any impact on good relations between people from different racial groups.	None

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Section 75 category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	The purpose of this strategy is to provide better access to these collections. Whilst it will have no direct impact on good relations, there are opportunities from access to material about different religious beliefs to positively impact on good relations. These opportunities might take the form of displays and events in Armagh City and Lurgan libraries.	
Political opinion	The purpose of this strategy is to provide better access to these collections. Whilst it will have no direct impact on good relations, there are opportunities from access to material about different political opinions to positively impact on good relations. These opportunities might take the form of displays and events in Armagh City and Lurgan libraries.	
Racial group		No. Access to the Collections or any associated events would have no bearing on good relations between people from different racial groups.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant section 75 categories concerned.

There is no evidence of additional impact on people with multiple identities. Mitigations in place, for example for people who are older/younger and have disabilities, will ensure they are impacted positively.

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reason.

This screening assessment takes account of data from a range of sources including the Library Management System in terms of registered borrowers, the general public (from the Continuous Household Survey, Young Persons Behaviour and Attitude Survey and Carnegie UK Trust).

Libraries NI found no evidence to suggest that people with different religious beliefs, political beliefs, marital status, racial groups, sexual orientation or gender will be differentially affected by the proposals.

The screening showed that there is potential for minor impacts for people in a number of Section 75 groups by the proposed changes to the location of these collections. The groups identified include:

- children and young people (positively impacted)
- people with disabilities (positively impacted)
- people with dependants. (positively impacted).

In order to address any adverse impact from the changes, Libraries NI will ensure good communication of any changes to allow library users to plan how they access services. Libraries NI uses a range of resources both in the library building (through staff interaction with customers) and through the website and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus) to alert customers to new services and the range of opening hours.

Libraries NI will engage with staff on an individual basis and through Unions.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

Mitigations as identified above will address any potential adverse impacts.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reason.

N/A

Mitigation

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

No.

Timetabling and prioritising

If the policy has be '**screened in**' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1 - 3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist in timetabling. Details of the Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

The policy is NOT affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities.


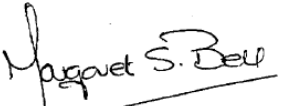
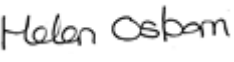
Part 4. Monitoring

Libraries NI collates data on participation by age and gender which informs monitoring. However, library users are not always reflected as part of our customer base as they are not always active members.

Information is available through the annual Continuous Household Survey and the triennial Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey. In some cases, respondents are asked about the impact of opening hours and online services on their use of the service.

Libraries NI monitors customer feedback and uses this information to inform policy development and revision.

Part 5. Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title:	Date:
 Trisha Ward  Margaret Bell	Head of Service Deputy Head of Service	15 October 2020
Approved by:		
 Helen Osborn	Director of Library Services	26 October 2020

Note: A copy of the Screening template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

(Extract from Libraries NI 2019 Audit of Inequalities)

Religious Belief

Libraries NI does not collect data for this category. However, the 2018/19 Continuous Household Survey indicates no significant disparity in the percentage of Catholics and Protestants who visited a library at least once a year: 25% and 24% respectively.

Political Opinion

Libraries NI does not collect data for this category.

Race

Libraries NI provides the option for members on joining to indicate “to which ethnic group do they belong?”. Groups listed are in line with those used in the Northern Ireland Census. In relation to ethnicity these show that the percentage of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) active members in 2017/18 is higher than in the 2011 Census (3.93% BME active members compared to 1.79% in Census). White members (96.07%) was less than the Census percentage (98.21%). The use of Public Access Terminals (PATs) and Wi-Fi also demonstrated that BME users was higher (5.87% and 6.73% respectively) than the Census percentage (1.79%). Similarly, use of eBooks shows a higher percentage of users from the BME community (2.03%) than is represented in the Census (1.79%).

With regards to language, the 2017/18 figures show that 2.16% of active members have indicated a first language that is not English. This compares to 3.70% of active members in 2011/12 and to 3.1% of Northern Ireland residents aged 3 or over who indicated a first language that is not English. Libraries NI's 2017/18 figures show that 1.21% of Stock held is in a language that is not English.

Age

The age profile of active members remains in line with that reported in 2012/13. 2017/18 active membership shows a small increase in the percentage of children (0 – 11 years), from 30.41% to 32.53%, the percentage of teenagers (12 – 17 years) remaining the same at 8.74%, but the percentage of adults (18 – 59 years) falling from 46.33% to 44.97% and senior citizens falling from 14.53% to 13.76%.

Active membership compared to the 2018 mid-year Northern Ireland population estimate shows that whilst children (aged 0-16 years) represented 20.9%% of the population, active membership stood at 32.53%. However, in contrast, whilst the adult population estimate stood at 62.7%, active membership in this group was 44.97% and whilst the senior citizen (over 65 years) estimate was 16.4% active membership represented 13.76%.

However, it is also worth noting, by age profile, the percentage of book loans compared to active membership and the 2018 mid-year Northern Ireland population estimate: children (42.06% [percentage of total book loans] – 32.53 [active membership] – 16% [population estimate]); teenagers (4.07% - 8.74% - 7%); adults (25.42% - 44.97% - 55%) and; senior citizens (26.93% – 13.76% - 22%).

The Continuous Household Survey 2018/19 data indicates that over 50% of children have used a public library in the past 12 months, whilst the figure is lower for adults ranging from 34% of 35 – 44 year olds to 19% of 55 – 64 year olds.

Marital Status

Libraries NI does not collect data for this category. However, the 2018/19 Continuous Household Survey indicates that 25% of married people, 25% of single people, 20% of widowed people and 24% of separated or divorced people said they had used a library in the previous year.

Sexual Orientation

Libraries NI does not collect data for this category.

Gender

The 2017/18 gender profile of active members remains largely unchanged since 2011/12: 40.38% male and 59.62% female in 2017/18 compared to 40.34% and 59.66% respectively in 2011/12. However, the significant contrast to the 2018 mid-year Northern Ireland population estimate remains: 49% male and 51% female, highlighting again an under-representation of males in the active membership. The CHS data also indicates a differential (i.e. 20% males and 30% females).

When the gender profile is examined in more detail by age group it highlights that whilst for children, teenagers and senior citizens who are active members there is no significant difference in the percentage membership, the percentage of adults by gender who are active members is 15.69 for males and 28.30 for females. This confirms again that the group most under-represented amongst active members is adult males.

Disability

Libraries NI offers the opportunity for members on joining to indicate whether they have a disability under the following categories: hearing; sight; mobility; or other.

In 2017/18 3.15% of active members indicated that they considered themselves to have a disability. This represents a significant increase from users indicating a disability in 2011/12 (0.50%). However, loans by disabled users fell from 0.89% in 2011/12 to 0.83% in 2017/18 but PAT users increased from 0.40% in 2011/12 to 0.63% in 2017/18.

The 2011 Census indicates that 20.6 of the population consider themselves to have day-to-day activities limited by long-standing health problems and/or disabilities.

Dependants

Libraries NI does not collect data for this category. However, the 2018/19 Continuous Household Survey indicates that adults with dependents (31%) were more likely to have used the library in the past year than those who have no dependents (21%).

Rural Needs Impact Assessment

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

1A. Name of Public Authority

Libraries NI

1B. Short title of the activity being undertaken by Libraries NI that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Cultural Heritage Provision in Co. Armagh.

1C. Which category does the activity specified above relate to

Developing a	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Delivering a Public Service		<input type="checkbox"/>				

1D. Official title of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative

Libraries NI Heritage Policy is the overall policy. Cultural Heritage Provision in Co. Armagh is the implementation of that policy in Co. Armagh.

1E. The aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

The purpose of the Heritage Policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the provision of Cultural Heritage in Libraries NI, including providing access to heritage resources to the widest possible audiences and facilitating participation in heritage services through community engagement.

The implementation of this policy in Co. Armagh seeks to provide a service which is more accessible, attracts greater use and is sustainable.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (default definition)

Other Definition (provide details and the rationale below)

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable

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

The implementation of the policy in Co. Armagh will affect people in rural areas who avail of heritage services through the relocation of those services in order to provide a service which is more accessible, attracts greater use and is sustainable.

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

N/A

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Rural Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education or Training in Rural Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health or Social Care Services 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): Libraries | <input checked="" 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

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

3B. 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).

3C. 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.

N/A

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

N/A

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?

There is no differential impact on rural and urban citizens.

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

N/A

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

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

N/A

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

There is no differential impact on rural and urban citizens.

Section 6 – Documenting and Recording


6A. Tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Name:	Margaret Bell
Signature:	
Date:	12 October 2020

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Director:	Helen Osborn
Signature:	
Date:	26 October 2020