



August 12th, 2015

Notice Of Meeting

You are invited to attend the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on **Thursday, 13th August 2015 at 3:00 pm** in **Downshire Civic Centre**.

The Members of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee are:-

Chair: Councillor R Burgess

Vice Chair: Councillor H Reilly

Members:	Councillor P Brown	Councillor S Burns
	Councillor M Carr	Councillor W Clarke
	Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
	Councillor G Donnelly	Councillor L Kimmins
	Councillor C McGrath	Councillor B O'Muirí
	Councillor B Quinn	Councillor M Ruane
	Councillor W Walker	

Agenda

- 1 **Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Action Sheet of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2015**

[SPR 11 June 2015 Action Sheet.pdf](#)

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Presentations

- 4 **Presentation re Newry to Carlingford Greenway**

Corporate Planning and Policy

- 5 **Consultation on proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) from 3 July – 8 October 2015.**

[Agenda Item SPRC Consultation on Proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation \(Age Goods, Facilities and Services\).pdf](#)

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[Ltr from MR Mc Naughton Head of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change - Appx to Consultation.pdf](#)

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- 6 **NICCY Participation Policy Statement of Intent (PPSI)**

[Agenda Item SPR Committee NICCY PPSI.pdf](#)

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[NICCY Appx.pdf](#)

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- 7 **Delivering Social Change - Stakeholder Update - July 2015**

[DSC Report SPR Committee August 2015.pdf](#)

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[DSC Stakeholder Update - July 2015.pdf](#)

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8 **ONUS Safe Place Award Ceremony**
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9 **Age Friendly Conference**
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Equality

10 **Report on Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group**
[Report on Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group for consideration at SP&R .pdf](#) Page 28

11 **Report on Section 75 Policy Screening Report - Quarterly Report April-June 2015**
[Report on Section 75 Policy Screening Report - Quarterly Report April - June 2015 for SP&R Committee meeting 13 August 2015.pdf](#) Page 31

12 **Report on Equality Screening of Elected Member Bilingualism Stationery Issues**
[Report on Equality Screening of Elected Member Bilingualism Stationery issues for SP&R Committee meeting 13 August 2015.pdf](#) Page 35

13 **Report on Equality Screening of Council decision to use .org website and email domains**
[Report on Equality Screening of Council decision to use .org website and email domains for SP&R Committee meeting 13 August .pdf](#) Page 51

14 **Report on General Correspondence received from McAtamney Solicitors Limited with regard to Raymond McCreesh Park**

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Community Planning

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28	Newry Mourne and Down District Council/Louth County Council - future proposals re secretariat	
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29 APSE Awards and Seminar - free delegate place - referred from Council Meeting - 3rd August 2015

[APSE.pdf](#)

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30 Progress Report on Down Leisure Centre - report to be circulated under separate cover

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

31 Progress Report on Newry Leisure Centre - report to be circulated under separate cover

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

[Newry DEA Briefing Mtg 2 July 2015 .pdf](#)

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[Newry DEA Briefing Mtg 2 Aug 2015.pdf](#)

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32 Purchase of St Mary's - report to be circulated under separate cover

This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

33 Ambulance Parking - Order of Malta

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Miscellaneous

34 Progress report re Southern Relief Road

Verbal Report

- 35 Off-Street Car Parking**
- This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.
- [Off-Street Parking.pdf](#)* Page 259
- 36 Report re Guidance from Local Government & Local Government Auditor**
- http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_funding/circulars_2003_-_present_day/2015-circulars-2.htm
- [Performance Improvement.pdf](#)* Page 263
- 37 Invitation to mark the United Nations 70th Anniversary Year**
- [UN Invitation.pdf](#)* Page 292
- 38 Shane O'Neills Football Club, Camlough - Release of Inhibition**
- "This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to which a claim for legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business."
- [Report Shane O'Neills.pdf](#)* Page 294
- [Shane O'Neills Appx 1.pdf](#)* Page 304
- 39 Cranfield Sea Defences**
- Verbal Update.
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- For Noting*
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- 40 Member Workshop - Powerpoint**
- [Member Workshop - 29 05 15.pdf](#)* Page 313
- 41 Donegal County Council**

Corporate Services - Human Resources

42 Chairperson Internships

[Chairperson Internships.pdf](#)

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43 Local Government Pension Scheme NMDDC Discretionary Policies for approval

[Diminution of Emoluments Consultation Cover Report.pdf](#)

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[Consultation Document-draft-local-government-reorganisation-compensation-for-diminution-of-emoluments-regulations-ni-2015.pdf](#)

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[NMDDC Consultation Response.pdf](#)

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44 Consultation Document DOE Draft Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Diminution of Emoluments) Regulations 2015

[Pension Discretions Cover Report.pdf](#)

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[Circular 01 2015.pdf](#)

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[Contribution banding v7.pdf](#)

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[SPRC NMDDC Pensions Discretions policy.pdf](#)

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[Terms for Flex Retirement \(and early payment of benefits\) May 2015.pdf](#)

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45 Elected Member Application for financial assistance to undertake course of study

"This item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any individual. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business."

[SPR -PC Report 130815.pdf](#)

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[Appendices 1-4.pdf](#)

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[Appendix 5.pdf](#)

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46 Voluntary Severance Scheme

This agenda item involves exempt information as defined in Section 51 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Schedule 6 Part 1, Para 1 - 4 and the Council

may, by resolution, exclude the public during discussion on this matter.

[SPR Report on second VR phase.pdf](#)

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[Vol Sev Table.pdf](#)

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Corporate Services - Finance

47 Appointment of an IT Partner

[Agenda Item SPR Committee - Appointment of an IT Partner.pdf](#)

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48 Report of Tenders Awarded to the 22 July 2015

Item 47 is deemed to be restricted by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial of business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public, may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

[Tender Report 22 July 2015.pdf](#)

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For Discussion

49 District Electoral Area Fora - DEA position paper

Please note - All Members are invited to attend for this item of business.

[District Electoral Area Fora Position Paper July 15.pdf](#)

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Invitees

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Mrs. Marie Ward	marie.ward@downdc.gov.uk
Cllr. Clarke William	william.clarke@downdc.gov.uk

ACTION SHEET- STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
SPR/57/2015	Operating Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee and Members' Briefing Panel	<p>It was agreed to accept the operating protocol with the following additions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning Committee Members to advise of all information and reports before the meeting took place. 2. Public should not be permitted to give information to Members during committee meetings. 3. Agree set cut off time in terms of receipt of items – with legal advice being sought if necessary. 4. Site visits should be agreed by Briefing Panel and not Planning Committee. <p>It was also agreed to include the amendment to paragraph 33 to read: "site visits may be arranged subject to agreement by the Planning Committee and/or Members' Briefing Panel" and to reflect this change also in the Protocol for the Briefing Panel.</p>	All matters incorporated into final version of Protocols which were presented at Council Meeting 6 July 2015 – (E McParland).
SPR/58/2015	Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group	The Terms of Reference were agreed for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group and it was agreed to establish a Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group and engage an external facilitator for the Group.	Councillors appointed to Reference Group at Council Meeting 6 July 2015 – (E McParland)
SPR/61/2015	Correspondence from Local Government Staff Commission for NI, dated 29 April 2015 re: Equality and Diversity in Local Councils	It was agreed to refer the matter of Diversity Champions nominations to the Group Leaders Meeting.	Councillors and C Moffett, Equality Officer appointed at Council Meeting 6 July 2015 – (E McParland).

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
SPR/62/2015	Letter from LGSC NI re: Invitation to Diversity Champions Support Programme Workshop 1 July 2015	It was agreed that Mr C Moffett attend the Diversity Champions Support Programme Workshop on 1 July 2015 on behalf of the Council in lieu of Members being nominated.	
SPR/65/2015	Staffing Arrangements to Support Development of District Electoral For a	It was agreed to approve the allocation of 7 DEA Coordinators.	JD drafted. Posts to be filled by September 2015.
SPR/66/2015	Consultation Response on Proposals for the Future of the Youth Council	It was agreed to accept the proposed response to the consultation on proposals for the future of the youth council.	Response Submitted
SPR/68/2015	APSE Membership	The membership of APSE for the 2015/2016 financial year at a cost of £3250 + £650VAT was agreed.	Being progressed through e-procurement.
SPR/69/2015	Outcomes from Members' Workshop	It was agreed that membership of the Member Working Group be agreed at the Party Representatives' Forum.	Councillors appointed to Working Group at Council Meeting 6 July 2015 (E McParland).
SPR/70/2015	Lodgement Indemnity Forms to be signed for Night Safes re: Danske Bank	It was agreed to accept the recommendation to complete Indemnity Forms to provide Night Safe facilities.	

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
SPR/71/2015	Legal Expenses Insurance Cover re: Complaints against Councillors – Code of Conduct	It was agreed to take out legal cover for Councillors.	
SPR/72/2015	Finance Department, Update on Progress of Merging Services of Legacy Councils	It was agreed to accept the recommendations as set out in the report and to agree to extend the additional IT staff members until 31 st March 2016.	
SPR/73/2015	Report on Request from Independent / Smaller Parties Grouping for 2 Members to make a change to appointments on the Louth, Newry, Mourne and Down Joint Committee and the Local Government Partnership on Travellers' Issues	It was agreed to approve request from the Independents/Smaller Parties Grouping for Councillor Kevin McAteer to replace Councillor Patrick Brown on the Local Government Partnership on Travellers' Issues and for Councillor Patrick Brown to replace Councillor Kevin McAteer on the Louth, Newry, Mourne and Down Joint Committee.	Council agreed at Meeting on 6 July 2015 to make requested changes. Both organisations have been advised (E McParland).
SPR/74/2015	Report on Appointment of Members to External Agencies	The report was noted and it was agreed that: 1. The following appointments be made at the Council Meeting on 6 July 2015: Sports Association for District – 7 Members (1 from each DEA) Ring of Gullion Management Group – SlieveGullion DEA Members NI Museums Council – 1 Member Rural Community Network – Council to decide on number – currently Councillor Hearty - Statutory Representative and Councillor D	Appointments made at Council Meeting on 6 July 2015 (E McParland).

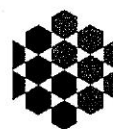
AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
		<p>McAteer - co-opted. Carlingford Lough Commissioners – 2 Members</p> <p>2. In each instance where the Council is leading a project or programme within a DEA, all Members of that DEA to be invited to attend the Task and Finish Working Group Meeting – these arrangements to be reviewed over the next 12 months.</p>	
SPR/75/2015	Report on Appointments to the Chief Executive's Appraisal Sub-Group	It was agreed the current membership continue for the current Council term, ending May 2019: Councillors Casey, Murnin, Craig, Taylor and Enright.	Completed (C Miskelly).
SPR/78/2015	Correspondence from McShanes re: South Down Rescue Group	It was agreed to accept the legal opinion not to grant a lease to South Down Rescue Group for use of Council land near Newry Canal.	
SPR/79/2015	Request to locate Small Building with Advertising Panels on the Albert Basin	It was agreed to allow a small building with advertising panels/temporary accommodation for fishing events to be located on the Albert Basin.	
SPR/81/2015	Approval of Leasing for 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield	It was agreed to approve the leasing of 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield, in line with the Valuation Report received from NI Property Group.	
SPR/82/2015	Lease of Unit – 1B, The Square, Warrenpoint	It was agreed to approve the request to change use of Unit 1B at Warrenpoint Square from beauty therapy to pet grooming at existing rental terms/conditions.	

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
SPR/83/2015	Report on Down Leisure Centre	Proposals were agreed to ensure the Down Leisure Centre project would commence in January 2016.	
SPR/84/2015	Report on Newry Leisure Centre	Proposals were agreed to ensure that Newry Leisure Centre (Phase 2) would commence in January 2016.	
SPR/85/2015	Report on Newry Civic Buildings	It was agreed to procure a suitably qualified consultancy to conduct an option appraisal on the location of the proposed Newry Civic Centre as detailed in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Strategic Plan.	
SPR/86/2015	Development of Swimming Baths	The contents of the report and recommendations were agreed.	
SPR/88/2015	Recommendation for Approval Under RPA Staff Severance Scheme for Local Government	The recommendations regarding a phased approach to consideration of applications for voluntary severance was agreed.	
SPR/89/2015	Nomination of Partnership Chairperson	It was agreed that the officer would investigate with the Policing Board whether the Parties could choose which year they wanted to take the Chair, rather than the prescriptive year as set out above. It was further agreed that the matter be brought back to the Party Representatives' Forum.	Completed and reported to Council Meeting 6 July 2015 (J Hillen).

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
SPR/91/2015	Asset Acquisition and Disposal Procedures	It was agreed to approve the procedures for Acquisition and Disposal of Land Assets.	
SPR/92/2015	Imperial Russian Council	Any Member wishing to attend the Imperial Ball in Dublin on 16 October 2015 should inform Mr Curtis as soon as possible.	

Agenda Item:	
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resource Committee
Subject:	Consultation on proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) from 3 July – 8 October 2015.
Date:	3 July 2015
Reporting Officer:	Regina Mackin Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
<u>Decisions Required</u>	
Members are asked to: Note the letter from Head of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change	
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	The letter announces the launch of a consultation on the Proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) which will run from 3 July 2015-8 October 2015. The consultation process will be supported by a series of regional events in Belfast and each county. Details are advertised on OFMDFM website and local papers.
2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	No resources involved in the consultation process
3.0	<u>Appendices</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letter from Margaret Rose Mc Naughton, Head of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change

Age GFS Consultation
Room E3.18
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SL
Telephone: 028 9052 3433
Email: age@ofmdfmni.gov.uk



Office of the
**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**
www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk

3 July 2015

Consultation on Proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) from 3 July 2015 – 8 October 2015.

A Consultation on Proposals to Extend Age Discrimination Legislation (Age Goods, Facilities and Services) has been launched today and this will run until 8 October 2015.

This consultation document sets out policy proposals to protect adults and young people aged 16 years and over from discrimination on the basis of age in relation to goods, facilities and services, charities, premises, education, public functions, and private clubs and associations. The scope of the proposals is therefore broader than goods, facilities and services alone.

While the proposals are intended to prohibit harmful age discrimination, we recognise that some forms of differential age treatment can be a good thing. It is important to ensure that any new legislation only prohibits harmful or unjustifiable treatment that results in genuinely unfair discrimination because of age. It should not outlaw the many instances where it is justifiable or beneficial to treat people differently.

The consultation document sets out those areas where it is felt that that different treatment of people of different ages is justified and where 'exceptions' to any future ban on age discrimination would be necessary to allow certain age-differentiated practices to continue.

The consultation will help us to establish a clear and robust policy position before legislation is brought forward in this area. It seeks views on the range of activities

that should be covered by any future legislation on age discrimination, and on any exceptions that should be provided to ensure that the protection is effective and properly targeted.

The Consultation process will be supported by a series of regional consultation events which will take place in Belfast and in each county. Details of the consultation events will be advertised on the OFMDFM website and in local papers.

The Consultation document and Summary are available on the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister website at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/age-discrimination-legislation. A questionnaire is available for completion at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AgeGFS_Consultation. A word version is also available on line at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/age-discrimination-legislation.

Hard copies of the Consultation Document, Executive Summary and the Questionnaire can be requested using the contact details below.

Age GFS Consultation
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Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SR

Email: age@ofmdfmi.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9052 3433

Textphone: 028 9052 2526

We look forward to hearing your views.

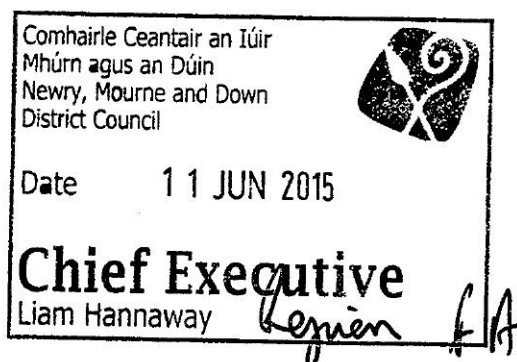


Margaret Rose McNaughton
Head of Equality, Human Rights and Social Change

A/13/24

11

Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Monaghan Row
Newry
BT35 8DJ



9 June 2015

Dear Mr Hannaway

A key part of my duties under the legislation that established the role of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) is to make sure children and young people have a say in decisions that affect their lives. I am therefore committed to promoting any positive and appropriate participation in decision-making, and work with and provide advice to those in government and at local level, to achieve this.

As you may be aware, to further support and work towards embedding participation practice within the public sector, NICCY has developed a 'Participation Policy Statement of Intent (PPSI)' (enclosed). The PPSI commitment has already been made by 11 Government Departments including the Department of Environment (DOE).

With the establishment of the new Council and as structures and processes for engagement are now being developed, I am asking all Councils to consider and endorse the principle and practice of participation with children and young people in your work. By signing the PPSI, the Council could in fact use it as a basis to develop a participation policy or strategy for your organisation. This could also serve as an aid in developing your area's Community Plan.

This document builds on the commitment made by Newry and Mourne District Council who endorsed the PPSI and I hope the same endorsement can be made by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

Minister, Mark H Durkan, in his response, to NICCY's analysis of his Department's Questionnaire Review (Aug 2013), highlighted the development, of a DOE Children's and Young People Working Group of policy officials, as a key step forward. He also has specifically referenced Community Planning as being a vehicle for further engagement with children and young people.

NICCY's recently published participation research report, 'Walking or Talking Participation?' looked at how government departments evidenced the impact of direct participation with children and young people, in the development of departmental

policies, strategies, legislation and services. As well as making important recommendations to ensure the meaningful participation of children and young people in the decision making process, the report highlights some good practice with respect to evaluating, recording and engaging with children and young people.

Also our recent Participation Awards programme has shown the benefits of inclusion of children and young people in the decision making process where Gold Awards were won by North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Antrim Policing & Community Safety Partnership. Officials in DOE have recently advised us that the Highly Commended Award for their project - involving children and young people in developing their Road Safety Calendar - has inspired and supported staff across the Department's other policy making areas. Information on all of the above can be found on my website www.niccy.org.

I am therefore asking you to endorse the enclosed Participation Policy Statement of Intent, with regard to the participation of children and young people.

As an organisation we look forward to working with all new Councils and would be happy to meet and discuss the development of engagement with children and young people, community planning and any other matters that NICCY could assist with.

If you have any queries, or would like to meet up to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact my Head of Communications and Participation, Marlene Kinghan (marlene@niccy.org) or my Participation Manager, Ken Smyth (ken@niccy.org) on 028 90311616.

Yours sincerely



Koulla Yiasouma
Commissioner

Enc

“Participation of children and young people is not a tick box objective; it is a process through which Newry, Mourne & Down District Council uses to achieve its objectives.”

What does this document do?

This document outlines our commitment to involve children and young people in the work that we do. It pays due regard to current local, national and international legislation / conventions and will provide the foundation for Newry, Mourne & Down District Council to be an example of good practice when involving children and young people in our decision making processes.

Context

Article 12 UNCRC states that:

“ States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child”.

The OFMDFM Ten year strategy for children and young people 2006-2016 ‘Our Children and Young People - Our Pledge’¹ has made a pledge in relation to the participation of children and young people

“In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Rights of the Child, we will be proactive in obtaining the views of children in matters of significance to them” (pg 20)

This places an emphasis on all Executive Ministers to ensure that their department is seeking and listening to the views and opinions of children and young people when developing policies and services.

¹ OFMDFM's 'Our Children and Young People - Our Pledge'. A ten year strategy for children and young people in Northern Ireland 2006-2016

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act places a statutory obligation on designated public authorities to have due regard to promote equality of opportunity and regard to good relations. Age is included as one of the nine specific categories. In accordance with its Equality Scheme, such designated public authorities should consult with relevant stakeholders including children and young people when, for example, developing policies or legislation on matters which may have an impact on their lives. Consultation can take place at any time but should take place with relevant stakeholders to inform the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) process.

Commitments

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council is committed, wherever possible in our work, to listen to the views, concerns and opinions of children and young people in an open and inclusive manner, enabling their voices to inform and be heard by engaging with them in meaningful and creative ways

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council is committed to develop existing policies and working practices to embed participation into our department/agency

Principles and Practice

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council creates a culture of participation through:

- Respect for children and young people;
- Listening to children and young people; and
- Working practices.

Actions:-

- Developing the capacity to offer opportunities for children and young people to be involved in our work;
- Giving appropriate weight to children and young people's judgement;
- Being aware that children and young people have more experience in some areas than adults;
- Asking children and young people their opinion when our work affects them; and
- Feeding back the result of children and young people's input to them.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council ensures that the Article 12 of UNCRC is one of the fundamental principles of our work.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council listens to children and young people by being alongside them, hearing their concerns and promoting their rights.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council is striving to be an example of best practice in implementing children's and young people's right to participation.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council will create an environment for children and young people to participate in policy and decision making and express their opinions freely.

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council will give appropriate weight to the opinions of children and young people.

Outcomes

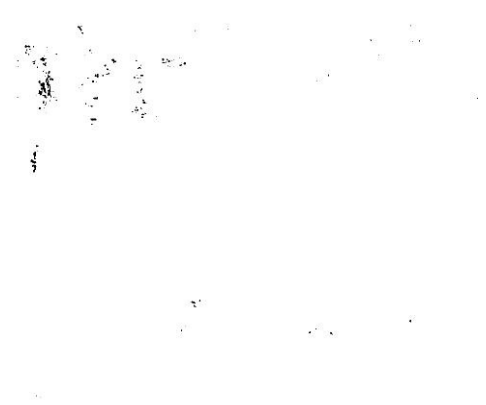
To make real this intent, our participation of children and young people will be supported by giving regard to existing publications that outline standards and guidance for participation such as:

- 'Let's Talk, Let's Listen – Guidance for public authorities on consulting and involving children and young people', ECNI (2008)
- Big Deal's Guidance for Effective Youth Councils (2009)
- 'ASK FIRST – Northern Ireland standards for children and young people's participation in public decision making', The Participation Network (2010)

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council will evidence our good practice, providing benchmarks against which to measure our levels of children and young people participation in the future.

This policy is a working document and will be periodically reviewed.

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Agenda Item:	
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subject:	Delivering Social Change - Stakeholder Update - July 2015
Date:	July 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mrs Regina Mackin Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy

<u>Decisions Required</u>	
Members are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update July 2015 Newsletter. 	
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	The newsletter provides information on:- the appointment of the new Victims and Survivors Commissioner, launch of consultation proposals to extend age discrimination legislation launch of Executives draft Childcare strategy summer camps programme 2015 and launch of Annual report for 2013-14 on the strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities 2012-2015
2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	There are none
3.0	<u>Appendices</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering Social Change Stakeholder Update July 2015 Newsletter. 	



JULY 2015

NEW VICTIMS COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Ministers have announced the appointment of **Judith Thompson** as the new **Commissioner for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland**.



Judith will take up post on 1 September 2015. Officials are working closely with the Commission for Victims and Survivors to ensure Judith is fully briefed on the key issues and work streams which are currently ongoing prior to her first day in office.

Originally from Stockport in England, Judith came to Northern Ireland in 1984 to work as a probation officer and has since fulfilled a variety of roles in criminal justice while raising a family here.

Since 2004 Judith has worked with the licensed sector skills council for victims, survivors and witnesses, Skills for Justice. Her current role is as business development manager for Northern Ireland and Scotland.

From 2000 to 2004 Judith was the NI Manager of the Community Justice National Training Organisation, leading skills and qualifications development for work with victims, survivors and witnesses as well as community safety and work with offenders. She worked with the Home Office on a new Probation Officer Qualification for England and Wales and with the Probation Inspectorate to monitor its delivery. She also led the development of a Government endorsed qualification framework for Community Safety in NI.

The principal aim of the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors is to promote the interests of victims and survivors. The Commissioner has six statutory duties:

- Promoting an awareness of matters relating to the interests of victims and survivors and the need to safeguard those interests;
- Keeping under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice affecting the interests of victims and survivors;
- Keeping under review the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided for victims and survivors by bodies or persons;
- Advising the Secretary of State, the Executive Committee of the Assembly and any body or any person providing services for victims and survivors on matters concerning the interests of victims and survivors;
- Taking reasonable steps to ensure that the views of victims and survivors are sought; and
- Making arrangements for a Forum for consultation and discussion with victims and survivors.

The Commissioner has a number of powers, including providing assistance for research or educational activities concerning the interests of victims and survivors, issuing guidance on best practice on issues concerning victims and survivors, compiling information and providing

advice concerning the interests of victims and survivors, publishing any matters of interests of victims and survivors and making any representations or recommendations to any body or any person concerning the interests of victims and survivors.

Further information about the Commission for Victims and Survivors is available at:

<http://www.cvsni.org/>

LAUNCH OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO EXTEND AGE DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

On 3 July 2015 Junior Ministers Jennifer McCann and Michelle McIlveen launched a **consultation on policy proposals to extend age discrimination legislation to the provision of goods, facilities and services.**

The proposals aim to provide protection for adults and young people aged 16 years and over from discrimination on the basis of age by those who supply goods, provide a service, or make facilities available to the public or a section of the public. The consultation document also sets out some circumstances where it may be appropriate to treat people differently because of their age and where exceptions to any future legislation may be required to allow certain age-based behaviour to continue.

The main areas covered by the consultation are general Goods, Facilities and Services, Health & Social Care, Financial Services, Public Functions, Private Clubs and Associations, Charities and Premises.

The consultation document, summary and on-line questionnaire are available on our website at: <http://ofmdfmni.gov.uk/age-discrimination-legislation>

A hard copy of the document can also be provided by contacting the Age GFS Team using any of the following:

Telephone: 028 9052 3433

Textphone: 028 9052 2526

Email: age@ofmdfmni.gov.uk

In writing: Age GFS Consultation Team, OFMDFM, Room E3.18, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SR

****The consultation period will run for 14 weeks and will close on Thursday 8 October 2015****

A number of public consultation events are being held during July and August 2015 to find out your views on the policy proposals. Please let us know if you wish to attend one of these events using the contact details above. These events have also been advertised in local press and on the OFMDFM website.

Date	Venue	Times
31 July	Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick	10.30am - 12.30pm
04 August	Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena	10.30am - 12.30pm
05 August	Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen	10.30am - 12.30pm
11 August	Armagh City Hotel, Armagh	10.30am - 12.30pm
13 August	Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown	10.30am - 12.30pm
18 August	Grosvenor Hall, Belfast	10.30am - 12.30pm
19 August	Magherabuoy House Hotel, Portrush	10.30am - 12.30pm

A consultation event also took place in the City Hotel in Derry/Londonderry on 28 July.

LAUNCH OF EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT CHILDCARE STRATEGY

On 28 July 2015, Junior Ministers Michelle McIlveen and Jennifer McCann launched the Executive's draft **Childcare Strategy** for public consultation.

An electronic version of the consultation document, with accompanying press release, Written Ministerial Statement and consultation questionnaire, is available at:

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/childcare>

The Executive's Childcare Strategy has two main aims:

- **Developmental:** to give all our children the best start in life, preparing them for lifelong wellbeing and achievement, thereby creating the basis for a better, more prosperous future; and

- **Employment:** to enable parents to join the workforce, thereby enhancing prosperity and to improve gender equality by enabling mothers to join the workforce, return to work and remain in work.

These aims are supported by seven key objectives: **availability, affordability, sustainability, diversity, quality, informed parental choice and an integrated approach.**

In order to deliver on these aims and objectives, the draft Childcare Strategy proposes 22 actions on which we would like your views. We are, for example, looking at the options for extending the support we currently provide to school age childcare to cover the full range of childcare services and childcare providers. We will consider how to make childcare services more responsive to the needs of all parents, regardless of where they live, including the need for more flexible care, available outside of conventional working hours. Ways of making the financial assistance available with the costs of childcare more widely known and used will also be examined.

We intend, through ten years of co-ordinated action, to develop and deliver childcare services, thereby ensuring that this Strategy achieves its aims - that children receive the best start in life, that parents are not prevented from joining the workforce, should they wish to, and that a fundamental and positive change in our society is achieved.

You can participate in the consultation process in the following ways:

- By completing the consultation questionnaire;
- By submitting your views on the draft Strategy in writing; or
- By participating in one of the consultation events.

****The consultation period will run for 16 weeks and will close on Friday 13 November 2015****

Details of the consultation events will be published on the OFMDFM website in due course <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/childcare>

We would encourage everyone who has an interest in this priority policy area to participate in this consultation process. All opinions received will be taken into account when finalising the Childcare Strategy for publication.

SUMMER CAMPS PILOT PROGRAMME 2015

One of the headline actions contained in **Together: Building a United Community** is to develop a **Summer Camps Pilot Programme consisting of 100 Summer Camps** starting from Summer 2015.

The Programme is about building positive relations among young people across all parts of our community. The Camps will operate on both a local and regional level and are open to young people aged 11 to 19 years.

Applications to deliver a Camp were invited from registered voluntary youth organisations and statutory youth organisations or bona fide voluntary and community organisations (this includes churches, sports groups, arts groups etc.) schools, regional organisations and Councils that have experience in working with young people. Individuals and groups that have been successful in the assessment process have now received Letters of Offer to deliver their Summer Camps. These have been issued by the Education Authority, which is working in partnership with OFMDFM to administer the Summer Camps Pilot Programme in 2015.

The Summer Camps represent an investment of £1million by the Executive and will provide a range of developmental opportunities during the summer months and beyond to bring young people together in a safe and inclusive environment. This will enable them to share experiences, skills and facilities on a collaborative cross-community basis.

More information about the pilot programme can be found on our website at:
<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/summer-camps-programme-2015-pilot>

Alternatively e-mail summercamps@ofmdfmi.gov.uk or phone 028 90523182 for further information.

A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2012-2015 - PUBLICATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013/14

24

The Executive's Disability Strategy acknowledges that people with disabilities deserve to be treated equally alongside those without disabilities. The purpose of the strategy is to:

- set out a high level policy framework to give coherence and guidance to Northern Ireland Departments' activities across general and disability specific areas of policy;
- drive improved performance of service delivery leading to improved outcomes for persons with a disability;
- increase the understanding of the needs of persons with a disability and ensure these needs are recognised when policy is developed or when implementing initiatives which impact on people with disabilities; and
- improve their opportunities.

On 11 May 2015, Junior Ministers Michelle McIlveen and Jennifer McCann announced that the Executive's Disability Strategy would be extended until March 2017 to allow additional time to ensure a continued focus remains and for priority areas in the strategy to be progressed.

The 2013/14 Annual Report on the implementation of the strategy has now been published and can be accessed at:

<http://www.ofmdfmni.gov.uk/disability-strategy-report-2013-2014.pdf>

If you would like to contact the Delivering Social Change Communications Team:-**Write to:**

Delivering Social Change Communications Team
Finance, Strategic Planning and Social Change Directorate
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister
Room E4.15, Block E
Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate
Belfast, BT4 3SR

@ Email: dsccomms@ofmdfmi.gov.uk



Telephone: 028 9052 2640

Agenda Item:	
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subject:	ONUS Safe Place Award Ceremony
Date:	4 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mrs Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy

<u>Decisions Required</u>	
Members are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant permission for the Council to host the annual ONUS Safe Place Award Ceremony in Newry on Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 6pm. 	
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have been requested to host the annual ONUS Safe Place Award Ceremony in Newry on 4 November 2015.</p> <p>ONUS stands for understanding domestic violence and ending abuse within the home and workplace with the onus being on all of us to support this.</p> <p>A number of different organisations from the area will be recipients of either Gold, Silver or Bronze Safe Place Award at the ceremony.</p> <p>Both legacy Councils hold the Bronze Award and the new Council aims to work towards achieving the Silver Award.</p> <p>Developed by social enterprise Onus, 'Safe Place' provides information on local support services and the 'Safe Employer' initiative assures any employee experiencing abuse in their home that their workplace will provide a Safe Place for them to access support. Training and resources are provided to employers supporting these initiatives.</p>
2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	There will be a cost for hire of facility and provision of refreshments. The approximate cost is £750.

Agenda Item:	
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subject:	Age Friendly Conference
Date:	4 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Mrs Regina Mackin, Assistant Director Corporate Planning and Policy

<u>Decisions Required</u>	
Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the date/location of the Newry, Mourne and Down Age Friendly Conference which takes place on Wednesday 11 November 2015 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. 	
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has agreed at its June Meeting to host an Age Friendly Conference in the Autumn. Its key aim is to promote the best possible health, wellbeing, safety and quality of life for older people in the district. The Conference will also celebrate the achievements of its first year Age Friendly strategy. The Conference entitled "Age Friendliness in Newry, Mourne and Down" takes place on Wednesday 11 November 2015.
2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	There will be financial resources involved in organising this event.

Agenda Item:	Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subject:	1. Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group.
Date:	13 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer
Contact Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to give consideration to agreement to the following:

1. To agree to the revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group. (Appendix 1)

1.0 **Purpose & Background**

1.1 **Revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group**

This item is for consideration and agreement to the revised terms of reference.

In relation to the role of Chairperson of the Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group, it is proposed the terms of reference be revised as follows:

*"Council Chairperson will chair meetings.
In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will chair the meeting. If both are not present, the meeting will select a Chair from those present."*

The proposed revision is procedural in nature and in line with established protocol.

For noting: The original wording of the terms of reference considered at the Strategic Planning and Resources Committee on 11 June 2015 stated, *"Council Chairperson will chair meetings. In their absence the meeting will select a Chair from those present."*

Recommendation: To agree to the revised Terms of Reference for Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group

2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	No resources implications are anticipated with regard to the items within this report.
3.0	<u>Appendix</u>
	1. Revised Terms of Reference for Equality and Good Relations Reference Group.

Appendix 1: Revised Terms of Reference for Equality and Good Relations Reference Group

COUNCILLORS' EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS REFERENCE GROUP

- TERMS OF REFERENCE -

Scope:

The Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group will primarily be a facilitated discussion space. It will serve as a 'barometer of opinion', playing a role in considering and discussing politically sensitive and contentious issues, including those relating to events, centenaries, policy and procedure, single issues requiring specific consideration for advice, and guidance on the establishment of wider good relations fora etc with a view of reaching a common understanding, agreement and actions which will enhance and promote equality of opportunity and good relations.

Membership:

- Council Chairperson
- Council Vice Chairperson
- One Councillor nominated from each of the following parties - Sinn Fein, SDLP, DUP, UUP, UKIP, Alliance and 1 Independent member.

Chairperson:

Council Chairperson will chair meetings.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will chair the meeting. If both are not present, the meeting will select a Chair from those present.

Meetings:

The Equality and Good Relations Reference Group does not have decision making powers, it makes recommendations only. Recommendations arising will be tabled at the Council's Strategic Planning and Resources Committee for consideration.

It does not operate to any quorum and meetings proceed regardless of numbers in attendance.

Meetings will be convened by the Chief Executive.

Officers:

Chief Executive, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance, Equality Officer.

Press:

Not open to the press.

Public:

Not open to the public.

Agenda Item:	Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subjects:	1. Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015.
Date:	13 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer
Contact Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer

Decisions Required	
Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to give consideration to agreement to the following:	
1. To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015. (Appendix 1)	
1.0	<u>Purpose & Background</u>
1.1	<p>Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015</p> <p>This item is for noting.</p> <p>In line with Council’s Section 75 statutory duties and commitments within our approved Equality Scheme, policy screening reports are published quarterly.</p> <p>The Quarterly Report for the period April – June 2015, including screening reports, is available on Council’s website www.newrymournedown.org. This information has also been forwarded to all equality consultees.</p> <p>Recommendation: To note the Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015</p>
2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	No resources implications are anticipated with regard to the items within this report.
3.0	<u>Appendix</u>
	Appendix 1: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015.

Appendix 1: Section 75 Policy Screening Report – Quarterly Report for period April – June 2015

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report Quarterly Report April to June 2015

Policy Number	Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
4	Bilingualism Policy	The policy sets out the Council's commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English language in the Council area.	No EQIA considered necessary
105	Student Training Placement Policy	The policy outlines a commitment to student training placement opportunities within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.	No EQIA considered necessary
109	Dangerous Building Policy	The policy aims to align the original policy operated by the predecessor Councils, by incorporating best practice to safeguard the public, assist building owners and to protect the Council against claims of negligence or maladministration.	No EQIA considered necessary
110	Naming, Postal numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures	The policy and associated procedures outline guidance on new development names, new names for existing roads and dual language street signage.	No EQIA considered necessary
111	Shared Parental Leave Policy	The Work and Families Act (NI) 2015 gives parents the right to take Shared Parental Leave and places a duty on employers to ensure that their employees are not penalised for using their entitlement or put under pressure to cancel or change a leave notification. This policy sets out Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's policy on Shared Parental Leave (SPL).	No EQIA considered necessary

114	Street Trading – Policy for Dealing with Changed Circumstances Affecting Licenced Street Trading	The purpose of this Policy is to outline the approach to be taken by the District Council where the following where the location of a street trading pitch on which a licence holder trades as a stationary trader has become unsuitable, or the space in the street has become inadequate to permit trading by a stationary trader without causing undue interference or inconvenience to persons or vehicles.	No EQIA considered necessary
115	Street Trading – Enforcement Policy	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to take enforcement action against a person of whom there is reasonable grounds to suspect commission of an offence under this Act while involved in Street Trading.	No EQIA considered necessary
116	Street Trading – Mobile Licence Policy	The purpose of this policy document is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant or refuse an application for a mobile street trading licence. Its aim is to provide, in so far as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.	No EQIA considered necessary
117	Street Trading – Stall Design and Trading Policy	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on the minimum standard of stall design, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant to a person a street trading licence. Its aim is to provide, insofar as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.	No EQIA considered necessary
118	Street Trading – Stationary Licence	The purpose of this policy document is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to	No EQIA considered

	Policy	grant or refuse an application for a Stationary Licence. Its aim is to provide, in so far as is possible, consistent decision making so as to develop and thereafter maintain public confidence in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's performance of its duties.	necessary
119	Street Trading Designation policy	The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to designate a street or part thereof for Street Trading.	No EQIA considered necessary
120	Street Trading – Temporary Licence Street Trading Policy	The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on matters, which should be considered when deciding whether to grant to a person a Temporary Licence.	No EQIA considered necessary
121	Celebratory Bonfires and Beacons Policy	The aim of this policy is to build on the Council's civic leadership role and give appropriate consideration and recognition to celebratory bonfires and beacons as an important aspect of community celebration and tradition within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.	No EQIA considered necessary
	Operational arrangements for private swimming lessons for all Leisure Facilities	The proposal outlines an approach to agreeing common procedures for leisure centre operations, in relation to group lessons and private 1-2-1 or 1-2-2 lessons swim programmes across the Council area.	No EQIA considered necessary

Agenda Item:	Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subjects:	1. Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery.
Date:	13 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer
Contact Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to give consideration to agreement to the following:

1. To note the Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery. (Appendix 1)

1.0 **Purpose & Background**

1.1 **Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery**

At the Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "*...that any Councillor can choose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation.*"

Further to this decision, at the Council's Monthly Meeting on 1 June 2015, it was agreed that the issue of bilingual stationery be equality proofed, and the full equality screening document is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.

Having undertaken an equality screening, in this instance it is recommended not to proceed with conducting an equality impact assessment in relation to the provision of Elected Member stationery.

This decision is based upon consideration of the intention of the Bilingualism Policy and Procedures. In this regard it must be taken into account that:

- The Bilingualism Policy and Procedures set out the Council's commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English language;
- It is to ensure linguistic equality for all who avail of and/or provide Council services as far is reasonably possible.

In addition, the scope of the key Council policy objectives include to:

- enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice.
- recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their needs better in their preferred language.

While it is acknowledged that those directly affected by the policy and procedures in relation to the provision of stationery are Elected Members who represent a range of political opinion, as stated previously, issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications are directly referenced within the policy and procedures.

The only area where choice is not offered relates to the corporate identity which is in bilingual format. Accordingly, Council could consider extending the issue of choice to the use of the Council's corporate identity. However, this would have an impact upon the intended outcome outlined within the Bilingualism Procedures which seeks to establish consistency in relation to the promotion and use of the corporate identity / logo.

In terms of the consideration of the provision of Elected Members' stationery within the context of the Council's Bilingualism Policy and Procedures, this is essentially a communications issue. The policy and procedures enable Elected Members to avail of stationery in a format of their choice; be it bilingual, English only or Irish only. However, to ensure consistency the use of the Council's corporate identity / logo must at all times adhere to the adopted Bilingualism Procedures. This reaffirms the decision taken at the Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015.

Recommendation: To note the Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery.

2.0 **Resource Implications**

2.1 No resources implications are anticipated with regard to the items within this report.

3.0 **Appendices**

1. Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery.

Appendix 1: Equality Screening Report on Elected Member bilingual stationery

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Consideration of Elected Member bilingual stationery issues.
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	<p>Consideration of the provision of Elected Member stationery within the context of the Council's Bilingualism Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>At a Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "...that any Councillor can chose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation."</p> <p>At the Council's Monthly Meeting on 1 June 2015 it was agreed that the issue of bilingual stationery be equality proofed.</p>
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Bilingualism Policy and Procedures outline the Council's commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area. The issue for consideration relates to the provision of stationery for use by Elected Members and is essentially a communications issue.
<p>Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?</p> <p>If so, explain how.</p>	<p>While language is not in itself a specific Section 75 equality category, those directly affected by the policy and procedures in relation to the provision of stationery are Elected Members who represent a range of political opinion. Central tenets underpinning the policy and procedures are issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications.</p> <p>The Bilingualism policy's objectives include being to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice. • recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their views and needs better in their preferred language.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Equality Officer

Who owns and who implements the policy?	Director of Strategic Planning and Resources
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Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?		✓
If yes, are they Financial		✓
If yes, are they Legislative		✓
If yes, and they are Other please specify:		

Main stakeholders affected

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

	Yes	No
Staff		
Service users		
Other public sector organisations		
Voluntary/community/trade unions		
Other, please specify:	Elected Members	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	Bilingualism Procedures
Who owns them	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Available evidence

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

Section 75 category	Details of evidence /information					
	LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian	Other religions	None
Religious belief	Northern Ireland	1,810,863	817,385 (45.14%)	875,717 (48.36%)	16,592 (0.9%)	101,169 (5.59%)
	Newry, Mourne & Down	171533	113200 (65.99%)	34718 (20.34%)	752 (0.43%)	10229 (5.96%)
Political opinion	The political opinion of the Council's elected members is as follows:					
	Sinn Féin			14 seats		
	SDLP			13 seats		
	Democratic Unionist			4 seats		
	Independents			5 seats		
	Ulster Unionist			3 seats		
	Alliance			1 seats		

	<p>UKIP 1 seat</p> <p>This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.</p>																																																			
Racial group	<p>According to the 2011 Census, 1.8% (32,400) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belongs to minority ethnic groups; this is more than double the proportion in 2001 (0.8%).</p> <p>The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2011) as follows:</p> <p>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>156794</td> <td>97.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polish</td> <td>2100</td> <td>1.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lithuanian</td> <td>836</td> <td>0.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irish</td> <td>367</td> <td>0.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portuguese</td> <td>86</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slovak</td> <td>134</td> <td>0.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>121</td> <td>0.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tagalog/Filipino</td> <td>55</td> <td>0.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latvian</td> <td>208</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Russian</td> <td>109</td> <td>0.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malayalam</td> <td>87</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hungarian</td> <td>74</td> <td>0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>755</td> <td>0.46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD	Number	Percentage %	English	156794	97.15	Polish	2100	1.18	Lithuanian	836	0.47	Irish	367	0.24	Portuguese	86	0.05	Slovak	134	0.08	Chinese	121	0.07	Tagalog/Filipino	55	0.03	Latvian	208	0.25	Russian	109	0.06	Malayalam	87	0.05	Hungarian	74	0.04	Other	755	0.46									
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<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Analysis of the Census 2011 indicates that between 2% and 10% of the population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual.</p> <p>There are no official statistics in relation to the number of gay, lesbian or bisexual people in Northern Ireland. However, research conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5% - 7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgendered and transvestites) (LGBT). This is a sizeable proportion of the population here in Northern Ireland.</p>																								
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	<p>In Northern Ireland the profile of people with a disability is cited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population in Northern Ireland has a disability The incidence of disability is higher in Northern Ireland than any other part of the UK • 1 in 7 people in Northern Ireland have some form of hearing loss • 5,000 sign language users who use British Sign Language (BSL) and/or Irish Sign Language (ISL) • In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment • 52,000 people with learning disabilities <p>(Source: Disability Action)</p>
<p>Dependants</p>	<p>Available evidence indicates that although Irish speakers are more likely to come from households without dependent children, no adverse impacts are anticipated for those households with dependent children.</p>

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 details for each of the Section 75 categories

<p>Section 75 Category</p>	<p>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</p>
<p>Religious belief</p>	<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Bilingualism Policy and Procedures outline the Council’s commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area.</p> <p>While it is acknowledged that greater numbers of Catholics than Protestants are fluent in the Irish language, the policy and procedures do not discriminate against, or have a detrimental impact upon, those with other religious beliefs, nor does it adversely affect the ability and/or opportunities for people from other religious backgrounds to use their preferred language.</p> <p>Council’s commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area does not automatically create an adverse negative impact on people with other religious beliefs.</p> <p>The Bilingualism policy’s objectives include being to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice. • recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their views and needs better in their preferred language.
<p>Political opinion</p>	<p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Bilingualism Policy and Procedures outline the Council’s commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the</p>

	<p>English Language in the Council area.</p> <p>While it is acknowledged that greater numbers of Nationalists than Unionists are fluent in the Irish language, the policy and procedures do not discriminate against, or have a detrimental impact upon, those with other political beliefs, nor does it adversely affect the ability and/or opportunities for people from other political opinions to use their preferred language.</p> <p>Council's commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area does not automatically create an adverse negative impact on people with other political opinion.</p> <p>The Bilingualism policy's objectives include being to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice. • recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their views and needs better in their preferred language. <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Bilingualism Policy and Procedures outline the Council's commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area rather than the promotion of any political perspective or opinion.</p>
<p>Racial group</p>	<p>97.15% of residents in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area have English as their main language.</p> <p>0.24% of residents within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area have indicated Irish as their main language.</p> <p>It is therefore anticipated the Council's commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area will have minimal adverse impact.</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>No adverse impacts anticipated.</p>
<p>Marital status</p>	<p>No adverse impacts anticipated.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>No adverse impacts anticipated.</p>
<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>No adverse impacts anticipated.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>No adverse impacts anticipated.</p>
<p>Dependants</p>	<p>No adverse impacts anticipated.</p>

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? minor/major/none

Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact Minor / major / none
Religious belief	<p>The Bilingualism Policy's objectives include being to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice. • Recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their views and needs better in their preferred language. <p>Central tenets underpinning the policy and procedures are issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications.</p>	Minor/positive
Political opinion	<p>Those directly affected by the policy and procedures in relation to the provision of stationery are Elected Members who represent a range of political opinion.</p> <p>However, issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications are explicitly referred to within the policy and procedures.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the only area where it may be considered not to offer choice relates to the corporate identity which is bilingual.</p> <p>The Council's adopted Bilingual Procedures state, "The corporate identity, Council image and reputation are all part of the Council's brand. The logo of the Council will be consistent and projected as the primary vehicle for customer contact on all printed material."</p> <p>In addition the procedures state, "The title of the Council reflects the Council's commitment to promoting the Irish language and should always be bilingual with the Irish language above the English and when side by side the Irish language should be to the left of the English."</p>	<p>Minor impact for people identifying as Nationalist.</p> <p>Minor impact for people identified as Unionist.</p>

	<p>Therefore the approach outlined within the Bilingualism Procedures is primarily an issue of consistency relating to the promotion and use of the corporate identity / logo.</p> <p>Furthermore, at a Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "...that any Councillor can chose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation."</p>	
Racial group	As 97.15% and 0.24% of residents in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area have English and Irish respectively as their main language, it is anticipated the Council's commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area will have minimal adverse impact.	None / Neutral
Age	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral
Marital status	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral
Sexual orientation	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral
Men and women generally	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral
Disability	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral
Dependants	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral

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 details
Religious belief		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Political opinion		It is acknowledged that those directly affected by the policy and procedures in relation to the provision of stationery are

		<p>Elected Members who represent a range of political opinion.</p> <p>As stated previously, issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications are explicitly referred to within the policy and procedures.</p> <p>However, the only area where it may be considered not to offer choice relates to the corporate identity which is in bilingual format. Accordingly, Council could consider extending the issue of choice to the use of the Council's corporate identity. This would however have an impact upon the intended approach outlined within the Bilingualism Procedures which seeks to establish consistency in relation to the promotion and use of the corporate identity / logo.</p> <p>Furthermore, at a Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "...that any Councillor can chose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation."</p>
Racial group		No – this S75 category is not directly impacted by this policy
Age		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Marital status		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Sexual orientation		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Men and women generally		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Disability		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Dependants		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category

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**

Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide details
Religious belief	<p>The Bilingualism policy's objectives include being to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice. Recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their views and needs better in their preferred language. <p>Central tenets underpinning the policy and procedures are issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that the Council's policy commitment should have an adverse negative impact upon people with different religious beliefs.</p>	Minor
Political opinion	<p>As 97.15% and 0.24% of residents in the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area have English and Irish respectively as their main language, it is anticipated the Council's commitment to facilitating and encouraging the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English Language in the Council area will have minimal adverse impact.</p> <p>It is not envisaged that the Council's policy commitment, should have an adverse negative impact upon people with different political opinion.</p> <p>Furthermore, at a Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "...that any Councillor can chose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation."</p>	Minor
Racial group	N/A	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide details

Religious belief		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category
Political opinion		<p>It is acknowledged that those directly affected by the policy and procedures in relation to the provision of stationery are Elected Members who represent a range of political opinion.</p> <p>As stated previously, issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications are explicitly referred to within the policy and procedures.</p> <p>However, the only area where it may be considered not to offer choice relates to the corporate identity which is in bilingual format. Accordingly, Council could consider extending the issue of choice to the use of the Council's corporate identity. This would however have an impact upon the intended approach outlined within the Bilingualism Procedures which seeks to establish consistency in relation to the promotion and use of the corporate identity / logo.</p> <p>Furthermore, at a Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "...that any Councillor can chose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation."</p>
Racial group		No – there are no adverse impacts for this S75 category

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? (For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

N/A

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

Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should (please underline one):

1. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)
3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time
4. Be subject to an EQIA

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

At the Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 it was agreed, "...that any Councillor can choose to have the language of their preference on personal affects supplied by the Council such as stationery; business cards; pens etc. It is stipulated that the Council logo and the wording Newry, Mourne and Down must be on all documentation."

In this instance it is recommended not to proceed with conducting an equality impact assessment in relation to the provision of Elected Member stationery.

This decision is based upon consideration of the intention of the Bilingualism Policy and Procedures. In this regard it must be taken into account that:

- The Bilingualism Policy and Procedures set out the Council's commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of both the Irish language and the English language;
- It is to ensure linguistic equality for all who avail of and/or provide Council services as far is reasonably possible.

In addition, the scope of the key Council policy objectives include to:

- enable everyone who receives or uses Council services, or contributes to the democratic process, to do so through the medium of Irish or English, according to personal choice.
- recognise that members of the public, Council members, management and employees can express their needs better in their preferred language.

While it is acknowledged that those directly affected by the policy and procedures in relation to the provision of stationery are Elected Members who represent a range of political opinion, as stated previously, issues of choice, civic leadership, and enabling effective and appropriate communications are directly referenced within the policy and procedures.

The only area where choice is not offered relates to the corporate identity which is in bilingual format. Accordingly, Council could consider extending the issue of choice to the use of the Council's corporate identity. However, this would have an impact upon the intended outcome outlined within the Bilingualism Procedures which seeks to establish consistency in relation to the promotion and use of the corporate identity / logo.

In terms of the consideration of the provision of Elected Members' stationery within the context of the Council's Bilingualism Policy and Procedures, this is essentially a communications issue. The policy and procedures enable Elected Members to avail of stationery in a format of their choice; be it bilingual, English only or Irish only. However, to ensure consistency the use of the Council's corporate identity / logo

must at all times adhere to the adopted Bilingualism Procedures. This reaffirms the decision taken at the Special (Shadow) Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

No mitigation measures are deemed necessary and no alternative policy is required. However, the policy will be reviewed on a four yearly basis, or sooner as necessary, to ensure that it remains up-to-date with legislative advancements etc.

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy? Yes / No. If No, please explain why

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4, is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO
 If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. 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 EQIA.

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 EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.
 Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The policy will be reviewed on a four yearly basis, or sooner as necessary, to ensure that it remains up-to-date with legislative advancements etc.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Colin Moffett	Equality Officer, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	29 July 2015
Approved by:		
Regina Mackin	Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy	5 August 2015

Agenda Item:	Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains
Report to:	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
Subjects:	1. Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains.
Date:	13 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer
Contact Officer:	Colin Moffett, Equality Officer

Decisions Required

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to give consideration to agreement to the following:

1. To note the Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains. (Appendix 1)

1.0 Purpose & Background

1.1 Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains

This relates to a decision taken at Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Governance Committee on 10 February 2015, subsequently ratified at the (Shadow) Council Meeting held on 3 March 2015, wherein the following was agreed:

- The registering / re-registering of the following website domains:
 - www.newrymournedown.gov.uk
 - www.newrymournedown.com
 - www.newrymournedown.org
 - www.newrymournedown.net
 - www.nmandd.net
 - www.nmandd.org
 - www.nmandd.com
- The hosting of the website domain www.newrymournedown.org as the primary URL website address;
- The use of @nmandd.org as the primary email domain; and
- The registering of nmdcouncil as the descriptor for social media channels.

Further to this decision, at the Council's Monthly Meeting on 1 June 2015, it was agreed that the Council decision to use .org domain name be equality proofed, and

	<p>the full equality screening document is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.</p> <p>Having undertaken an equality screening, it is recommended not to proceed with conducting an equality impact assessment in relation to the decision to use .org as Council’s primary website and email domains.</p> <p>The Council’s decision to use .org as Council’s primary website and email domains does not adversely impact upon the promotion of equality of opportunity, and / or the desirability of promoting good relations, with regard to accessing / utilising the Council’s website or email systems.</p> <p>In addition, it should be noted the options and recommendations presented for consideration by Council were consistent with the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015.</p> <p>Recommendation: To note the Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council’s primary website and email domains.</p>
2.0	<u>Resource Implications</u>
2.1	No resources implications are anticipated with regard to the items within this report.
3.0	<u>Appendix</u>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council’s primary website and email domains.

Appendix 1: Equality Screening Report on Council decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Equality screening of the decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org .
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	<p>This relates to a decision taken at Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Governance Committee on 10 February 2015, subsequently ratified at the (Shadow) Council Meeting held on 3 March 2015, wherein the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registering / re-registering of the following website domains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ www.newrymournedown.gov.uk ○ www.newrymournedown.com ○ www.newrymournedown.org ○ www.newrymournedown.net ○ www.nmandd.net ○ www.nmandd.org ○ www.nmandd.com • The hosting of the website domain www.newrymournedown.org as the primary URL website address; • The use of @nmandd.org as the primary email domain; and • The registering of nmdcouncil as the descriptor for social media channels. <p>At the Council's Monthly Meeting on 1 June 2015 it was agreed that the Council's decision to use the .org domain name be equality proofed.</p>
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>A report, dated 10 February 2015, in relation to Website, Email and Social Media Domains set out for Members' consideration recommendations to secure arrangements for the registration and hosting of new website, email and social media domains for the new Council.</p> <p>The recommendations presented for consideration by Council were consistent with the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015.</p> <p>In relation to the website domain, Council was offered a choice from one of the seven from the list above.</p> <p>With regard to the email domain Members were advised a decision was required to secure a single email domain to enable all existing users to be</p>

	migrated onto a single system after 1 April 2015. In addition, Members were advised it is possible to operate an email domain which is different from the website domain.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.	No – website and email domains would not be directly designated as one of the nine named Section 75 equality categories or be a specific equality characteristic. In addition, the term .org is one of the four primary domain sites local government may use. (page 16, Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015)
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Robert Dowey, Head of Finance Johnny McBride, Change Manager
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive

Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?		✓
If yes, are they Financial		✓
If yes, are they Legislative		✓
If yes, and they are Other please specify:		

Main stakeholders affected

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

	Yes	No
Staff	✓	
Service users	✓	
Other public sector organisations		
Voluntary/community/trade unions		
Other, please specify:	Elected Members	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	N/A
Who owns them	

Available evidence

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

Section 75 category	Details of evidence /information
---------------------	----------------------------------

Religious belief	LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian	Other religions	None																																										
	Northern Ireland	1,810,863	817,385 (45.14%)	875,717 (48.36%)	16,592 (0.9%)	101,169 (5.59%)																																										
	Newry, Mourne & Down	171533	113200 (65.99%)	34718 (20.34%)	752 (0.43%)	10229 (5.96%)																																										
Political opinion	<p>The political opinion of the Council's elected members is as follows:</p> <p>Sinn Féin 14 seats SDLP 13 seats Democratic Unionist 4 seats Independents 5 seats Ulster Unionist 3 seats Alliance 1 seats UKIP 1 seat</p> <p>This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.</p>																																															
Racial group	<p>According to the 2011 Census, 1.8% (32,400) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belongs to minority ethnic groups; this is more than double the proportion in 2001 (0.8%).</p> <p>The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2011) as follows:</p> <p>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>English</td> <td>156794</td> <td>97.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polish</td> <td>2100</td> <td>1.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lithuanian</td> <td>836</td> <td>0.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irish</td> <td>367</td> <td>0.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portuguese</td> <td>86</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slovak</td> <td>134</td> <td>0.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>121</td> <td>0.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tagalog/Filipino</td> <td>55</td> <td>0.03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latvian</td> <td>208</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Russian</td> <td>109</td> <td>0.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malayalam</td> <td>87</td> <td>0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hungarian</td> <td>74</td> <td>0.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>755</td> <td>0.46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD	Number	Percentage %	English	156794	97.15	Polish	2100	1.18	Lithuanian	836	0.47	Irish	367	0.24	Portuguese	86	0.05	Slovak	134	0.08	Chinese	121	0.07	Tagalog/Filipino	55	0.03	Latvian	208	0.25	Russian	109	0.06	Malayalam	87	0.05	Hungarian	74	0.04	Other	755	0.46
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Sexual orientation	<p>Analysis of the Census 2011 indicates that between 2% and 10% of the population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual.</p> <p>There are no official statistics in relation to the number of gay, lesbian or bisexual people in Northern Ireland. However, research conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5% - 7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgendered and transvestites) (LGBT). This is a sizeable proportion of the population here in Northern Ireland.</p>																										
Men and women generally	<p>The gender profile for the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>887323</td> <td>923540</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down LGD</td> <td>83866</td> <td>85345</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			LGD	Male	Female	Northern Ireland	887323	923540	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	83866	85345															
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Disability	<p>According to the 2011 Census 19.62% of people in the Newry, Mourne and</p>																										

	Down LGD have a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities.				
	LGD	All usual residents	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited
	Northern Ireland	1810863	215232 (11.89%)	159414 (8.8%)	1436217 (79.31%)
	Newry, Mourne and Down	171533	19579 (11.4%)	14102 (8.22%)	135530 (79.01%)
<p>In Northern Ireland the profile of people with a disability is cited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population in Northern Ireland has a disability The incidence of disability is higher in Northern Ireland than any other part of the UK • 1 in 7 people in Northern Ireland have some form of hearing loss • 5,000 sign language users who use British Sign Language (BSL) and/or Irish Sign Language (ISL) • In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment • 52,000 people with learning disabilities <p>(Source: Disability Action)</p>					
Dependants					

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 details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Political opinion	<p>It must be acknowledged there is a view that the decision to decide on one website and email domain has impacted upon the original individual choice based approach offered to Shadow Council Members to avail of .gov.uk or .org email accounts.</p> <p>However, Members were advised, “...these email accounts would only be a temporary arrangement until the Shadow Council can agree a new name, and subsequently register new email and website domains for the District.” (Section 3.5, Report to Statutory Transition Committee on Administrative & ICT Arrangements for the Shadow Council period (2014/15), 2 April 2014)</p>

	<p>Accordingly, a report, dated 10 February 2015, in relation to Website, Email and Social Media Domains set out for Members' consideration recommendations to secure arrangements for the registration and hosting of new website, email and social media domains for the new Council.</p> <p>The recommendations presented for consideration by Council were consistent with the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015.</p> <p>In relation to the website domain, Council was offered a choice from one of seven domains.</p> <p>With regard to the email domain, Members were advised a decision was required to secure a single email domain to enable all existing users to be migrated onto a single system after 1 April 2015. In addition, Members were advised it is possible to operate an email domain which is different from the website domain.</p> <p>The Council's decision was therefore taken after Councillors having been presented with specific information and options for consideration.</p> <p>Based upon the above, no adverse impacts are anticipated.</p>
Racial group	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Age	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Marital status	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Sexual orientation	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Men and women generally	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Disability	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Dependants	No adverse impacts anticipated.

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? minor/major/none

Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact Minor / major / none
Religious belief	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of	None

	opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	
Political opinion	<p>It must be acknowledged there is a view that the decision to decide on one website and email domain has impacted upon the original individual choice based approach offered to Shadow Council Members to avail of .gov.uk or .org email accounts.</p> <p>However, Members were advised, "...these email accounts would only be a temporary arrangement until the Shadow Council can agree a new name, and subsequently register new email and website domains for the District." (Section 3.5, Report to Statutory Transition Committee on Administrative & ICT Arrangements for the Shadow Council period (2014/15), 2 April 2014)</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the options and recommendations presented for consideration by Council were consistent with the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015.</p>	None
Racial group	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	None
Age	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	None
Marital status	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	None
Sexual orientation	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e.	None

	www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	
Men and women generally	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	None
Disability	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	None
Dependants	The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains i.e. www.newrymournedown.org and @nmandd.org does not adversely impact upon equality of opportunity to access / utilise the Council's website or email systems.	None

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 details
Religious belief		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Political opinion		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Racial group		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Age		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Marital status		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Sexual orientation		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Men and women generally		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Disability		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Dependants		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category

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**

Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide details
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		<p>It is not envisaged that the Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains will adversely impact upon the desirability of promoting good relations with regard to accessing / utilising the Council's website or email systems.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, it should be acknowledged there is a perceived view that the Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains, and not .gov.uk, is a decision which has potential to have an adverse impact upon the corporate brand of the Council and its position as a local government body based within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that the options and recommendations presented for consideration by Council were consistent with the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015.</p> <p>While the UK Cabinet Office Naming and Approvals Committee, which controls all domain names ending in .gov.uk, states that all public sector bodies should use the '.gov.uk' naming convention, this is not mandatory.</p> <p>In addition, the term .org was one of the four primary domain sites local government may use. (page 16, Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015)</p>
Racial group		None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide details
Religious belief		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Political opinion		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category
Racial group		No – there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this Section 75 category

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? (For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

N/A

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

Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should (please underline one):

1. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)
3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time
4. Be subject to an EQIA

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

In this instance, it is recommended not to proceed with conducting an equality impact assessment in relation to the decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains.

The Council's decision to use .org as Council's primary website and email domains does not adversely impact upon the promotion of equality of opportunity, and / or the desirability of promoting good relations, with regard to accessing / utilising the Council's website or email systems.

In addition, it should be noted the options and recommendations presented for consideration by Council were consistent with the Draft Local Government (Domain Names) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, Consultation Document, February 2015.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

No mitigation measures are deemed necessary and no alternative policy is required. However, the policy will be reviewed on a four yearly basis, or sooner as necessary, to ensure that it remains up-to-date with legislative advancements etc.

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy? Yes / No. If No, please explain why

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4, is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?
YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. 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 EQIA.

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 EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The policy will be reviewed on a four yearly basis, or sooner as necessary, to ensure that it remains up-to-date with legislative advancements etc.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Colin Moffett	Equality Officer, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	4 August 2015
Approved by:		
Regina Mackin	Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy	5 August 2015

Agenda Item:	
Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	<i>Review of HSC Commissioning Arrangements</i>
Date:	13 August 2015
Reporting Officer:	Eddy Curtis, Director of Strategy, Planning and Performance
Contact Officer:	Heather McKee, Community Planning Manager

Decisions Required

Approval of Response from Newry, Mourne, Down District Council for submission to Health, Social Services and Public Safety

1.0 **Purpose & Background**

1.1

The HSC are reviewing the process by which the health and care needs of the population are assessed and services are planned and purchased to meet these needs and improve health and wellbeing.

2.0 **Key Issues**

The proposed process of assessing health and social wellbeing need, strategic planning, engagement, evaluating impact etc are similar to the Community Planning process.

The response proposes that the HSC participate in the Community Planning process rather than taking forward a parallel process. The rationale for this is outlined in the response.

3.0 **Resource Implications**

None

4.0 **Appendices**

- **Response to Review of HSC Commissioning Arrangements from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**

Review of HSC Commissioning Arrangements

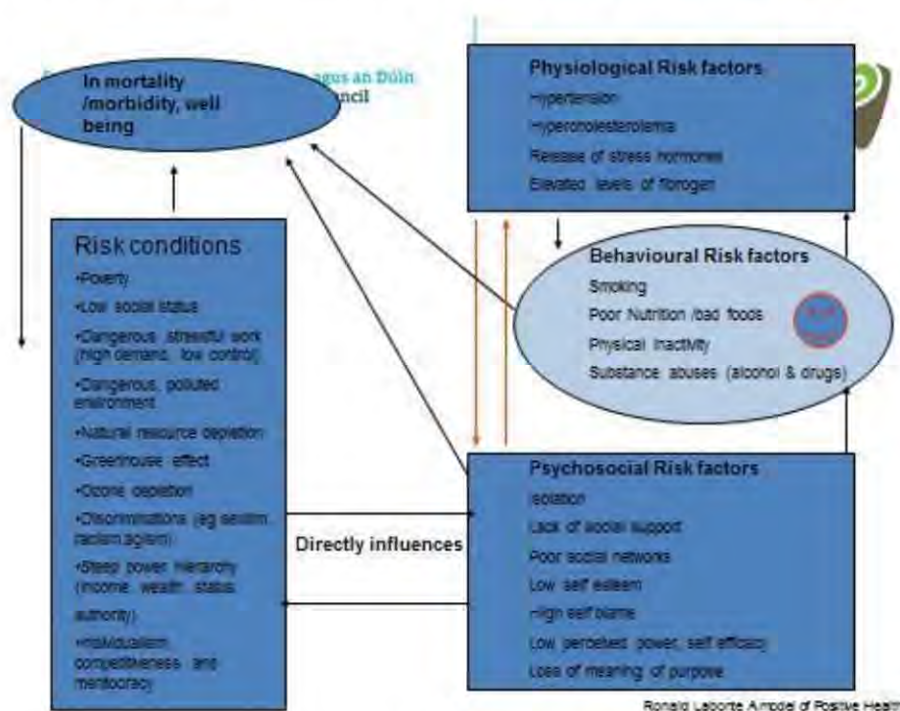
Response from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Compiled by Heather McKee, Community Planning Manager July 2015

The Terms of Reference for the commissioning process for health and social care services very much mirror the ethos of Community Planning and it should be within this context that Commissioning Arrangements are taken forward.

The Health sector cannot address the health and wellbeing issues of the population in isolation of the community its serves or the other Statutory sector service providers. The Partnership approach of Community Planning provides the opportunity for the Health family to examine a different approach. This will also means a change for local Councils from an Advocate role or adversarial role with HSC to a strategic planning partner role.

The Marmot Review, the Carmegie UK Trust Towards a Wellbeing Framework and Labonte's model all support 'a new narrative' to health and wellbeing.

Ronald Labonte's model of Positive Health demonstrates that the risk conditions that affect wellbeing such as poverty, low social status, dangerous, stressful work places, polluted environments etc are not addressed by the Health Sector but are in fact addressed by other Statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations.



Issues like poverty, low social status, living in a poor environment directly influence psychosocial risk factors like isolation, poor social networks, low self-esteem etc and can in themselves lead to poor health and mortality. They can produce stress, hypertension etc (physiological risk factors) and can lead to people smoking, not eating properly, being inactive

While the impact of 'Behavioural Risk Factors' (ie smoking, poor nutrition etc) are addressed largely by the 'Health Sector', the underlying risk conditions can be addressed by Councils and Partners, particularly through the Community Planning Process. By examining the robust evidence of draw on service reflected on the Datahub for our District we can assess need more accurately and strategically plan together how best to address that need.

With the responsibility of the Local Development Plan transferring to Council and sitting within the Community Planning team in Newry, Mourne and Down, this provides another opportunities for changing the long term impact on health and wellbeing. The link between spatial planning and health and wellbeing has been highlighted by the World Health Organisation for the last decade. Advisors to the World Health Organisation, Professor Hugh Barton and Professor Marcus Grant outlined how"We have been literally building unhealthy conditions into our local human habitat. Recent concerns about levels of physical activity, obesity, asthma and increasing environmental inequality have put planning back on the health agenda." Barton and Grant 2010

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This model by Barton and Grant (2010) provides a representation of all the determinants of Health and Wellbeing. In essence these are all the factors that are important in Community planning.

Local Government has a direct influence on many of these already whether through enforcement of Environmental issues, Housing, Health and Safety and food legislation, provision of open space and leisure facilities, local economic development and community engagement. We also promote healthy choices with regard to nutrition and physical activity.

We now need to bring all the relevant partners together to maximise the benefits and to let the communities recognize that they can help shape their own outcomes.

This may mean, planning differently, working differently, thinking differently, being willing to collaborate and being willing to truly evaluate the impact of our actions. It also means that an environment needs to be created to promote innovation and creativity to try a different approach.

The Council, while leading on the Community Planning process, wants to take a facilitation role, creating the environment for new ways of working and supporting collaborative decisions about service delivery. The outcomes in the Community Plan should therefore be agreed through meaningful engagement with the community and Partners agreeing actions to address these outcomes and in the case of HSC the services they will commission. This should not be done in isolation of the Community Planning process.

Through a meaningful Community Planning process, better social, economic and environmental outcomes can be achieved.

Evidence and Engagement

As a foundation for the Community Planning process, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has compiled a robust baseline evidence document. The report covers social, economic and environmental information and examines trends in population, comparing for example employment and pension recipient numbers. It looks at employment across different sectors making comparisons to educational attainment and training courses offered.

It explores household size and changing trends and the potential future impact on housing demand. Information on health inequalities, levels of cancer across our electoral wards, crime levels, domestic violence and many more issues are examined.

This evidence base, along with the information from the Datahub will form a robust basis for the next phase of the engagement process and identification of priorities for the Community Plan. The Datahub will also assist with measurement of impact. HSC should participate in this process rather than undertake a parallel process. The full report is available to download from the Community Planning Section of the Council website – www.newrymournedown.org but a synopsis of the health and wellbeing evidence is included below.

A synopsis of the Health and Wellbeing Evidence

The Health Inequalities - NI Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System – Sub-regional 2015 Report, showed that health outcomes were worse in the most deprived areas in NM&D LGD as a whole across all 26 indicators.

The largest inequality gaps between N, M&D's most deprived areas and the overall N, M&D Local Government District itself were

- Standardised Admission Rate: Drugs (75%)
- Standardised Admission Rate: Alcohol (71%)
- Teenage Birth Rate (67%)
- Standardised Admission Rate: Self- Harm (67%)
- Crude Suicide Rate (52%)

In Newry, Mourne and Down in 2014 there was 19,450 people claiming Disability Living Allowance, ranking it the fourth highest across the 11 super council areas. There was 310 people (aged 16-64) claiming incapacity benefit. This figure ranks it 4th out of the 11 council areas.

13,220 people aged 16+ were claiming housing benefit in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2014, this figure ranks N, M&D 4th out of the 11 councils and 1,577 less than the NI average.

In Newry, Mourne and Down there were 4,850 recipients of the attendance allowance in 2014. This figure was 345 less than the NI average of 5,811 and ranked NM&D 4th across all 11 council areas.

Newry, Mourne and Down had 4,530 income support claimants in 2014, the third highest figure behind Belfast and Derry & Strabane. This figure is 239 greater than the NI average of 4,291.

NMDDC has two cancer types with significantly higher incidence rates than the NI average and these include colorectal cancer and NMSC. It is 10.2% higher than the NI average for colorectal cancer, the highest among all 11 Local Government Districts (LGD).

In contrast however it did have significantly lower than average incidence rate of kidney and pancreatic cancer between 2008 and 2012. It was 16.2% lower than the NI average for kidney cancer which was the best across all districts.

NMDDC was 12.5% lower than the NI average for incidents of lung cancer per year between 2008-2012. However the incident rate of female lung cancer was much higher than males within NMDDC.

From Census 2011 data we know that 11,154 people from the Newry, Mourne and Down Council area provided unpaid care of between 1-19 hours a week. A further 3,486 persons provided between 20 and 49 hours of unpaid care a week. 5,576 persons provided unpaid care of 50+ hours a week ranking N, M&D 3rd across all 11 councils for this level of unpaid care.

In 2014 there were 6,850 claimants of carers allowance, the 4th highest behind Belfast; Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Derry and Strabane.

In 2013 there were 5,075 primary students entitled to free school meals in Newry, Mourne and Down. This was above the NI average of 4,584 and ranked 4th highest across the 11 district council areas.

Also in 2013 there were a further 2,900 post primary school students entitled to free school meals in Newry, Mourne and Down, ranking it 3rd in this category.

Looking at ward level for 2014/15 within Newry, Mourne and Down primary school free meal entitlements have increased by over 100% in all wards across NMDDC since 2001. At post primary level an increase has also occurred by as much as 96%.

Coming from the Community Planning Engagement Process that took place in February and March we know that Health & Wellbeing is a very important and emotive issue for the whole district. Mental Health in particular came up frequently throughout the process and is an issue that needs to be addressed under the Community Plan.