

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	NMDDC Financial Regulations
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	New policy
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The Financial Regulations must comply with the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. They set out the overarching financial responsibilities of the Council and its staff and provide the framework within which the Council's financial affairs are to be managed. The Financial Regulations reflect best practice and provide a practical source of advice to assist all Officers in the discharge of their duties.</p> <p>Directorates within the Council should link the Financial Regulations with other internal regulatory frameworks which form part of the Council's Constitution. The Financial Regulations are supplemented by more detailed financial procedures included within the Standing Orders.</p> <p>The Financial Regulations provide clarity about the accountability of key individuals and groups including the Chief Executive, Directors and Committees.</p>
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	None directly anticipated
If so, explain how.	n/a
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Gerard Byrne, Audit Service Manager
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services

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:		

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	All financial policies
Who owns them	Dorinnia Carville, Director of Corporate Services

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 needs/experiences/priorities																							
Religious belief	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>All usual residents</th> <th>Catholic</th> <th>Protestant and other Christian</th> <th>Other religions</th> <th>None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>1,810,863</td> <td>817,385 (45.14%)</td> <td>875,717 (48.36%)</td> <td>16,592 (0.9%)</td> <td>101,169 (5.59%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne & Down</td> <td>171533</td> <td>113200 (65.99%)</td> <td>34718 (20.34%)</td> <td>752 (0.43%)</td> <td>10229 (5.96%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Source: Census Data 2011).</p>						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%)
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Political opinion	<p>Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area.</p> <p>The party breakdown of the Council's elected members is as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Sinn Féin</td> <td>14 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDLP</td> <td>13 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democratic Unionist</td> <td>4 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independents</td> <td>5 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Unionist</td> <td>3 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alliance</td> <td>1 seat</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TUV</td> <td>1 seat</td> </tr> </table>						Sinn Féin	14 seats	SDLP	13 seats	Democratic Unionist	4 seats	Independents	5 seats	Ulster Unionist	3 seats	Alliance	1 seat	TUV	1 seat				
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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>																							

The minority ethnic language profile within the area serves as a possible indicator of the BME community profile.

The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2011) as follows:

Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area

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

Age

The age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD area at Census Day 2011 is as follows:

Age Profile	NI	Newry, Mourne & Down
0-4	124382	12721
5-7	67662	6876
8-9	43625	4595
10-14	119034	12287
15	24620	2599
16-17	51440	5260
18-19	50181	4570
20-24	126013	11570
25-29	124099	11805
30-34	373947	35122
45-59	347850	32556
60-64	94290	8624
65-74	145600	12817
75-84	86724	7453
85-89	21165	1849
90+	10231	829

Marital status

The table below illustrates the marital status profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down area:

Marital Status	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	NI
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	All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	132455	1431540
	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) Aged 16+ years	47722	517393 (35.14%)
	Married: Aged 16+ years	65255	680831 (47.56%)
	In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	102	1243 (0.09%)
	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	4697	56911 (3.98%)
	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	6271	78074 (5.45%)
	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	8408	97088 (6.78%)
Sexual orientation	Analysis of the Census 2011 indicates that between 2% and 10% of the population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual.		

	<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 transvestite) (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 Down District Council area have a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities;</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>All usual residents</th> <th>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot</th> <th>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little</th> <th>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>1810863</td> <td>215232 (11.89%)</td> <td>159414 (8.8%)</td> <td>1436217 (79.31%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down</td> <td>171533</td> <td>19579 (11.4%)</td> <td>14102 (8.22%)</td> <td>135530 (79.01%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <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>	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%)
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Dependants	<p>Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and / or a dependent older person.</p> <p>There are 61,998 households in Newry, Mourne and Down, 37.5% of which have dependents. With regard to these figures, dependents are defined as those aged 0-15 years or those aged 16-18 years who are in full-time</p>															

	<p>education and living with their parents or grandparents. Similar to the regional trend, the proportion of households with dependents in the District has declined from 50% in 1981 to 37.5% in 2011.</p> <p>There are 5,466 lone parent households with dependent children in Newry, Mourne and Down which equates to almost 9% of number of total households in the District and is the fourth highest in Northern Ireland, after Belfast (17,036), Derry and Strabane (6,337) and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (6,337). Half of the parents in lone parent household in Newry, Mourne and Down are unemployed, almost a quarter are in full time employment and over a quarter are in part time employment. 89% of the parents in lone parent households are female compared to 11% who are male.</p> <p>In 2012, the teenage conception rate was 1.02 per 1,000 mothers, which is the third lowest in N.Ireland before Lisburn and Castlereagh and Fermanagh and Omagh.</p>
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Needs, experiences and priorities

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

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	It is not envisaged that people of different religious beliefs will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Political opinion	It is not envisaged that people of different political opinion will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Racial group	It is not envisaged that people of different races will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Age	It is not envisaged that people of different ages will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Marital status	It is not envisaged that people of different marital status will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Sexual orientation	It is not envisaged that people of different sexual orientation will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Men and women generally	It is not envisaged that people of different gender will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Disability	It is not envisaged that people that may or may not have a disability will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Dependants	It is not envisaged that people with or without dependants will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.

Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds?

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Major/minor/none
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None
Age		None
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		None
Men and women generally		None
Disability		None
Dependants		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 S75 category.
Political opinion		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Racial group		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Age		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Marital status		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Sexual orientation		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Men and women generally		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Disability		No, there are no anticipated adverse impacts for this S75 category.
Dependants		No, there are no anticipated 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?

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Major/minor/none
Religious belief	There is nothing to suggest that the policy and associated implementation procedure will adversely impact upon good relations.	None
Political opinion	There is nothing to suggest that the policy and associated implementation procedure will adversely impact upon good relations.	None
Racial group	There is nothing to suggest that the policy and associated implementation procedure will adversely impact upon good relations.	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		There is nothing to suggest that the policy and associated implementation procedure will promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
Political opinion		There is nothing to suggest that the policy and associated implementation procedure will promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
Racial group		There is nothing to suggest that the policy and associated implementation procedure will promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

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).

None

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:

Having screened the financial regulations the decision is that it should not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required).

The Financial Regulations must comply with the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. They set out the overarching financial responsibilities of the Council and its staff and provide the framework within which the Council's financial affairs are to be managed. The Financial Regulations reflect best practice and provide a practical source of advice to assist all Officers in the discharge of their duties.

The policy has no impact on Section 75 categories

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?

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4, is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? N/A

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:

In addition to outlining proposed monitoring arrangements on how the impact of the policy's implementation will be assessed, the following comment should be included:

"The policy will be reviewed in line with the Council's agreed policy review cycle i.e. every four years (as per Council's Equality Scheme commitment 4.31), or sooner as necessary, to ensure that it remains up-to-date with legislative advancements etc."

We will review the Financial regulations annually to ensure there are no legislative changes.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Gerard Byrne	Audit Services Manager	29/8/17
Approved by:		
Dorinnia Carville	Director of Corporate Services	29/8/17

Note: The completed policy screening template, signed off by the appropriate policy lead within the Council, and approved by the senior manager responsible for the policy, should be forwarded to the Equality Officer who will arrange for it to be included in the Council's Quarterly Report on Screening and made available on the Council's website.