

Plean Forbartha Áitiúla 2035 **Dréacht-Straitéis an Phlean** **Local Development Plan 2035** **draft Plan Strategy**

Measúnacht Tionchair Comhionannais
Draft Equality Impact Screening Report
June 2025



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council

Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down and South Armagh

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How to Respond

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is consulting on the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan, draft Plan Strategy 2035. The consultation period will be carried out over a twelve-week period, commencing on Friday 27 June 2025 and closing at 5pm on Monday 22 September 2025. Please note that representations received after the closing date will not be considered.

The draft Plan Strategy is published alongside a range of assessments which are also available for public consultation and comment over this period. These include:

- Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment)
- Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Draft Equality (Section 75) Screening Report
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

We welcome comments on this **draft Equality Impact Screening Report** from everyone with an interest in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

During the consultation period, the LDP team will hold a series of drop-in sessions/exhibitions across the Council's seven DEAs. Details of these are published on the Council's website and in local newspapers from week commencing 30 June 2025.

You can respond:

Online

Use our online response form at Local Development Plan
www.newrymournedown.org/local-development-plan

Email

Email us or download the above response form at Local Development Plan (www.newrymournedown.org) and email it to us at ldp@nmandd.org

Post

Write to us or send in a response form available at Local Development Plan (www.newrymournedown.org) and post it to the following address:

Local Development Plan Team
Planning Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Availability of the Draft Equality Impact Screening Report

A copy of this document and the draft Plan Strategy are available on the Newry and Mourne District Council website at www.newrymournedown.org/local-development-plan.

This report can also be made available for viewing in the Council Planning Offices, at the addresses below, for those who do not have access online.

Should you request a copy of this document in an alternative format it can be made available, on request in large print, audio format or Braille. It may also be made available in other languages to meet the needs of those for who English is not their first language.

How will the Council deal with your comments?

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will use this information to fulfil our policy development and statutory obligations. We will keep your information secure, accurate and for no longer than is necessary in accordance with data protection laws. If you wish to find out more about how we control and process your personal data please see the **Local Development Plan Privacy Notice**.

Introduction

This draft Equality Impact Screening Report has been prepared alongside the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2035, draft Plan Strategy.

The Council has a Statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependents and persons without.

In addition to this, public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.

The Council also has a duty under the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 to have due regard of the need to promote positive attitudes toward disabled people and encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

In bringing forward the Local Development Plan (LDP), the Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of Section 75 groups are considered. The likely impacts on equality related issues have been assessed and consulted on at each stage of the preparation of the Plan Strategy.

The draft Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents, which together will comprise the Local Development Plan (LDP). This report should be read in conjunction with the draft Plan Strategy document along with all other accompanying reports and with our evidence base (see associated Technical Supplements, Assessments and Supplementary Planning Guidance). Both the draft Equality Screening Impact Report and the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to a 12-week period of formal public consultation.

The Council has a statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions, relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependents and persons without.

Without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of difference religious belief, political opinion or race.

The Council also has a duty under the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 to have due regard of the need to promote positive attitudes toward disabled people and encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

Background

The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) transferred the responsibility for the preparation of Local Development Plans from the Department of the environment (DoE) (now the Department for Infrastructure DfI)) to Councils and established a plan-led system which gives primacy to the LDP in the determination of planning applications.

The main purpose of the LDP is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, service providers, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the RDS and the LDP objectives and guide decisions on planning applications for development in Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

Equality Screening

Equality Screening of Preferred Options Paper

In bringing forward the LDP, the Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of Section 75 groups are considered. Therefore, we will carry out an Equality Screening Assessment at each stage of the three main stages in the process to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required.

The publication of our Preferred Options Paper (POP) in May 2018 was the first stage in the process and that document was accompanied by an Equality Impact Assessment Progress Report. The Council undertook consultation with over 570 individuals, groups and organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups. The issues identified in this screening provided a guide for subsequent assessment, report and consultations.

The screening exercise highlighted that there is no evidence that the preferred options concerning the suggested policy approaches would cause a differential adverse impact within, or between, the Section 75 groups. The report also notes that the POP sets out policy approaches rather than defining policies at this stage in the LDP process. It sought the public's response on the Council's preferred options for each identified key issue during the defined period of public consultation.

Equality Screening of the draft Plan Strategy

The LDP is currently at draft Plan Strategy stage. In line with the Council's statutory obligations in relation to Section 75 groups and disabled people, this document presents the Equality Screening for the draft Plan Strategy and its associated strategic policies and proposals. The screening has been carried out using the Section 75 screening template and has taken account of the guidance published by the Equality Commission Northern Ireland. The purpose of the screening is to identify if any of the policies are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and to ensure that this is taken into account in the policy making process.

In this report an assessment has been made of the likely impact of the proposed strategic policies and proposals on the equality of opportunity of each of the Section 75 groups.

The Council will continue to screen our policies and proposals and carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment, if required, at Local Policies Plan Stage to ensure the impact on Section 75 groups is continually assessed.

Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1 – Policy Scoping

Asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

Part 2 – Screening questions

Asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on the grounds of people within each of the Section 75 categories.

Part 3 – Screening decision

Guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Part 4 – Monitoring

Provides guidance as to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Part 5- Approval and authorisation

Verifies the public authority's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Policy Equality Screening Form

Part 1 – Policy Scoping

Policy Information

<i>Name of the policy</i>	Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2035: Draft Plan Strategy
<i>Is this an existing, revised or new policy?</i>	<p>New policy.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents, which together will comprise the LDP.</p> <p>It is prepared taking into account regional policy and guidance. The policy context is informed by the Council's extant Development Plans (Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (BNMAP) adopted October 2013 and Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP) adopted March 2009) with an existing suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) that apply across the region (some of which are superseded by the SPPS, which remains a material planning consideration) along with some residual policy provisions contained within 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' (PSRNI). The strategic and operational policies will replace existing PPS and PSRNI policies when adopted.</p>
<i>What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)</i>	<p>The draft Plan Strategy is the spatial embodiment of the Council's Community Plan.</p> <p>The main aim of the draft Plan Strategy is to meet the development needs of Newry, Mourne and Down over the Plan period in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>The LDP Vision is: "Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe, and vibrant communities, where people enjoy a good quality of life, and equality of opportunity for all. A sustainable, well connected and high-quality place where our environment and cultural heritage are valued and protected to make the district an attractive place to live, work, invest and visit". The LDP will seek to deliver the vision through a range of objectives (social, economic and environmental).</p> <p>The LDP takes account of regional policy and guidance, as set out in the RDS 2035 and SPPS. Other policy and guidance is also considered.</p>
<i>Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?</i>	The vision of the LDP is a spatial reflection of the Community Plan Vision to create a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities, where people enjoy a good quality of life and equality of opportunity for all.

<i>If so, explain how.</i>	It is anticipated that a number of the policies and proposals will be of benefit to particular Section 75 groups (as noted throughout this document).
<i>Who initiated or wrote the policy?</i>	The Local Development Plan (LDP) is being prepared by the Development Plan Team, Planning Department, Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate, Newry Mourne and Down District Council.
<i>Who owns and who implements the policy?</i>	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council owns the policy and it will be implemented by the Economic, Regeneration and Tourism Directorate, Planning Unit in adopting a plan-led approach to decision making.

Implementation factors

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?</i>	✓	
<i>If yes, are they financial?</i>	Budgetary constraints?	
<i>If yes, are they legislative?</i>	The draft Plan Strategy has been prepared under the provisions of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015. Any future changes to planning legislation or the legislation controlling the activities of service providers may have a bearing on the LDP and the intended aim/outcome of the policies contained within the draft Plan Strategy.	
<i>If yes, are there other? Please specify:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee • Planning Appeals • Commission decisions • Departmental Planning decisions • Judicial Reviews • Review of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) • Statutory consultees • Developers • Objectors • Government Departments • Unauthorised development • Political instability 	

Main stakeholders affected

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

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Staff</i>	✓	
<i>Service users</i>	✓	
<i>Other public sector organisations</i>	✓ (see also 'Other' below)	
<i>Voluntary/community/trade unions</i>	✓	
<i>Other, please specify:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public living, working in, or visiting the district • Elected Members (MPs and MLAs) • Neighbouring Councils/Planning Authorities with common boundaries • Northern Ireland Government Departments and Agencies • Developers • Business and Economic Development Enterprises/Sectors • Water and Sewerage undertakers (e.g. NI Water) • Northern Ireland Housing Executive • Registered Housing Associations • Translink • Civil Aviation Authority • System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) • Telecommunication Suppliers (any person to whom the Electronic communication code applies by virtue of a direction under section 106(3) of the Communication Act 2003)) • Electricity Suppliers (any person to whom a license has been granted under Article 10(1) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 • Gas Suppliers (any person to whom a license has been granted under Article 8 of the 	

	Gas (Northern Ireland Order 1992)	
	N.B. This list should not considered to be exhaustive.	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

The draft Plan Strategy has taken account of a wide-ranging list of policies and guidance issued by DfI and other government departments.

Regard has also been had to various Council plans and strategies operating at the local level. A list of these documents is provided below; however, it should be noted that this list is not exhaustive. Where relevant, additional regional or local policies and/or guidance, are referred to within the draft Plan Strategy and its associated Technical Supplements.

What are they

- Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' (Northern Ireland Executive [NIE])
- Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2035; (Department for Infrastructure [DfI])
- The Sustainable Development Strategy (NIE)
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future- A New Approach to Regional Transportation 2011(DfI)
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015 (DfI)
- Planning Policy Statements (DfI)
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (DfI)
- Suite of existing Supplementary Planning Guidance, Design Guides and Development Control Advice Notes (DfI)
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018 (Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs [DAERA])
- Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015(DfI)
- Ards and Down Area Plan 2015(DfI)
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council: Corporate Plan 2024-2027 (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council [NMDDC])
- Newry, Mourne and Down Community Plan: Living Well Together 2030 (NMDDC)
- Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy (NMDDC)
- Newry, Mourne and Down Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025 (NMDDC)
- Other Council strategy documents i.e. Play Strategy Review 2024-2029, Sports Facility Strategy – Multi Sports Hub Review Strategic Recommendations June 2022, and Masterplans for Newry City Centre, Downpatrick Town Centre, Ballynahinch Town Centre and the South East Coast (NMDCC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework 2018 (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Republic of Ireland) • Relevant strategy documents of neighbouring local authorities (relevant Council) <p>N.B. This list should not considered to be exhaustive.</p>
<i>Who owns them?</i>	As referenced in brackets above

Available evidence

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

As noted above, the draft Plan Strategy has been prepared with regards to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015. The strategic priorities of our Community Plan have also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy. As work on the Plan progresses, we will seek to deliver on any community planning outcomes where there is an identified spatial land use or local planning policy solution.

The preparation of the draft Plan Strategy has been informed by a robust evidence base which has involved detailed engagement with statutory consultees and including neighbouring Councils. This evidence base is set out in the accompanying suite of Position Papers and Technical Supplements, which can be accessed on the Council's website.

The draft Plan Strategy has been informed by representations received in response to the consultation on our Preferred Options Paper (POP).

General profile of the Borough

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is located in the southeast of Northern Ireland and covers parts of County Down and County Armagh. The north of the district borders with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. The south and west of the district borders Louth and Monaghan County Council areas in the Republic of Ireland.

The district covers an area of approximately 1,700 km², with approximately 160km of coastline taking in stretches of Strangford Lough, the Irish Sea, and Carlingford Lough. There are 3 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which cover 55.7% of the district.

The 2021 Census states the total population of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council increased by 6.1% from 171,533 to 182,074 between 2011 and 2021¹. The total population has further increased and is estimated to be 189,000 in mid-2028. This trend is expected to continue through the plan period with a projected increase to 193,746 by 2035. This represents a 6.6% increase within the plan period.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
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¹ NISRA, Census 2021

<u>Religious belief</u>	<p>In 2021², the population within Newry, Mourne and Down were predominantly from a Catholic background (68%). This is above the Northern Ireland average of 42%. 19% of the district’s population were from a Protestant or other Christian background. This is below the NI average of 37%.</p> <p>At the time the census was undertaken, the proportion of people with other religions within the district was 11%. This was below the NI average of 17%.</p> <table><tr><th>Settlement³</th><th>All usual residents</th><th>Catholic %</th><th>Presbyterian Church in Ireland %</th><th>Church of Ireland %</th><th>Methodist %</th><th>Other Christian (including Christian related) %</th><th>Other religions %</th><th>No religion %</th><th>Religion not stated %</th></tr><tr><td>Newry</td><td>28,530</td><td>81.50%</td><td>2.18%</td><td>1.74%</td><td>0.40%</td><td>2.55%</td><td>1.13%</td><td>9.04%</td><td>1.47%</td></tr><tr><td>Downpatrick</td><td>11,545</td><td>79.39%</td><td>2.36%</td><td>3.30%</td><td>0.14%</td><td>2.45%</td><td>0.95%</td><td>9.85%</td><td>1.55%</td></tr><tr><td>Newcastle</td><td>8,298</td><td>63.47%</td><td>7.65%</td><td>5.74%</td><td>0.78%</td><td>2.89%</td><td>0.80%</td><td>17.28%</td><td>1.39%</td></tr><tr><td>Warrenpoint/ Burren</td><td>9,091</td><td>80.41%</td><td>1.45%</td><td>1.85%</td><td>0.15%</td><td>3.09%</td><td>0.99%</td><td>10.68%</td><td>1.37%</td></tr><tr><td>Kilkeel</td><td>6,633</td><td>37.90%</td><td>29.26%</td><td>10.85%</td><td>0.17%</td><td>7.00%</td><td>1.09%</td><td>12.18%</td><td>1.55%</td></tr><tr><td>Ballynahinch</td><td>6,165</td><td>31.24%</td><td>19.66%</td><td>13.32%</td><td>2.64%</td><td>10.66%</td><td>1.02%</td><td>20.13%</td><td>1.33%</td></tr><tr><td>Saintfield</td><td>3,588</td><td>25.50%</td><td>25.70%</td><td>13.15%</td><td>1.81%</td><td>8.86%</td><td>0.36%</td><td>23.52%</td><td>1.09%</td></tr><tr><td>Killyleagh</td><td>2,788</td><td>32.68%</td><td>22.13%</td><td>16.61%</td><td>0.82%</td><td>3.37%</td><td>0.32%</td><td>23.03%</td><td>1.04%</td></tr><tr><td>Castlewelling</td><td>2,834</td><td>85.60%</td><td>1.13%</td><td>1.80%</td><td>0.04%</td><td>0.92%</td><td>0.60%</td><td>8.33%</td><td>1.59%</td></tr><tr><td>Crossmaglen</td><td>1,687</td><td>89.39%</td><td>0.89%</td><td>1.54%</td><td>0.06%</td><td>1.48%</td><td>0.41%</td><td>4.33%</td><td>1.90%</td></tr></table>	Settlement ³	All usual residents	Catholic %	Presbyterian Church in Ireland %	Church of Ireland %	Methodist %	Other Christian (including Christian related) %	Other religions %	No religion %	Religion not stated %	Newry	28,530	81.50%	2.18%	1.74%	0.40%	2.55%	1.13%	9.04%	1.47%	Downpatrick	11,545	79.39%	2.36%	3.30%	0.14%	2.45%	0.95%	9.85%	1.55%	Newcastle	8,298	63.47%	7.65%	5.74%	0.78%	2.89%	0.80%	17.28%	1.39%	Warrenpoint/ Burren	9,091	80.41%	1.45%	1.85%	0.15%	3.09%	0.99%	10.68%	1.37%	Kilkeel	6,633	37.90%	29.26%	10.85%	0.17%	7.00%	1.09%	12.18%	1.55%	Ballynahinch	6,165	31.24%	19.66%	13.32%	2.64%	10.66%	1.02%	20.13%	1.33%	Saintfield	3,588	25.50%	25.70%	13.15%	1.81%	8.86%	0.36%	23.52%	1.09%	Killyleagh	2,788	32.68%	22.13%	16.61%	0.82%	3.37%	0.32%	23.03%	1.04%	Castlewelling	2,834	85.60%	1.13%	1.80%	0.04%	0.92%	0.60%	8.33%	1.59%	Crossmaglen	1,687	89.39%	0.89%	1.54%	0.06%	1.48%	0.41%	4.33%	1.90%
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<u>Political opinion</u>	<p>Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people in the Council area.</p> <p>There are 41 elected members in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The breakdown by political party is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sinn Fein – 20 seats• SDLP – 8 seats• Democratic Unionist – 5 seats• Alliance – 5 seats• Independents – 2 seats• Ulster Unionist – 1 seat <p>In the 2021 Census⁴, 17% of the usual resident population indicated that they had a British only identity; 47% of the usual resident population indicated that they had an Irish only identity and 21% indicated that they had a Northern Irish identity.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. The overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to this category as a whole.</p>																																																																																																														
<u>Racial group</u>	<p>The 2021 Census figures indicate that 98% of the usual resident population in Newry, Mourne and Down are white, 0.19% are Irish Traveller, 0.19% are Chinese, 0.16% are Indian and 0.11% are Black African.</p>																																																																																																														

² NISRA, Census 2021 Table MS-B19: Religion

³ Data from NISRA, Census 2021 Table MS-B19: Religion

⁴ NISRA, Census 2021 Table MS-B15: National Identity

	<p>The main language for all usual residents aged 3 and over in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2021) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 96.1% • Polish 1.2% • Lithuanian 0.66% • Irish 0.32% • Romanian 0.2% • Portuguese 0.07% • Arabic 0.1% • Bulgarian 0.39%
<u>Age</u>	<p>The 2021 Census recorded that of the population of Newry, Mourne and Down, 62.57% were aged between 15-64, 16.66% were aged 65+ and 20.77% of the population were 0-14 years.</p> <p>The number of residents aged 65+ is expected to increase from 29,124 in 2020 to 42,988 in 2035 (an increase of approximately 47.6%). This proportion of our population is therefore expected to increase from 16.03% in 2020 to 22.2% in 2035. In addition, the number of residents aged 0-15 is expected to decrease during the plan period with this portion of our population expected to decrease from 22.55% in 2020⁵ to 19.3% in 2035⁶.</p>
<u>Marital status</u>	<p>The 2021 Census showed that 47.94% of the district's population is married; 36.71% is single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership); 5.43% is divorced; 6.28% are widowed and 0.14% are in a civil partnership.</p>
<u>Sexual orientation</u>	<p>There is limited information available for this category.</p> <p>The Continuous Household Survey undertaken in 2022-23 by NISRA estimated that 97.5% of all Northern Ireland adult respondents (persons aged 16 and over) identified themselves as heterosexual/straight, with the remaining adults identifying as either gay/lesbian or bisexual⁷.</p>
<u>Men and women generally</u>	<p>The 2021 Census indicated that there are 92,000 females and 90,100 males within Newry, Mourne and Down – this is equivalent to 97.9 males to every 100 females.</p>
<u>Disability</u>	<p>In 2021⁸, 23% of the district's population reported having a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities. Additionally, 13% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others. With an ageing population the</p>

⁵ NISRA Population Projections 2020-based

⁶ NISRA Population Projections 2018-based

⁷ NISRA MS-B19

⁸ NI Census 2021

	<p>number of people living with long-term health problems and the level of care necessary is set to continue to rise over the plan period.</p> <p>41,700 (22.9%) of the population were living with a long-term health condition or disability. The most prevalent health issues were mobility problems, deafness, or long-term pain or discomfort.</p>
<u>Dependants</u>	<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 dependant older person.</p> <p>Carer's Allowance is a benefit for people who care for someone with a severe disability. Census 2021⁹ results highlight that 12.6% of the district's population aged 5 and over provide unpaid care to others.</p>

⁹ NI Census 2021 MS-D17

Part 2 – Screening questions

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 main potential for differential impact on equality of opportunity for this category is most likely to arise from the spatial implications of the Spatial Growth Strategy and associated strategic policies.</p> <p>The Spatial Growth Strategy directs most growth to the larger settlements. Newry is designated as a city within the proposed settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>Population of city and towns¹⁰: Newry 28,530 Downpatrick 11,545 Newcastle 8,298 Warrenpoint/Burren 9,091 Kilkeel 6,633 Ballynahinch 6,164 Saintfield 3,588 Killyleagh 2,787 Castlewellan 2,834 Crossmaglen 1,688</p> <p>The impact here is considered to be 'minor', as the proposed Spatial Growth Strategy is not unlawfully discriminating. On a wider scale, the Spatial Growth Strategy reflects the district on a whole – 68% of the district's population came from a Catholic background (2021 Census¹¹). This is above the Northern Ireland average of 42%.</p> <p>When considering the Council's rural population, comprising comprising of 35.17% of total population¹², villages and small settlements have an importance role to play in sustaining a sense of place, providing education and local services.</p> <p>The focus within the draft Plan Strategy aligns with the regional direction of the RDS and is considered to benefit the district as a whole as it aims to consolidate housing provision, economic development and services available.</p>	Minor positive

¹⁰ NISRA, Census 2021 Table MS-A01

¹¹ NISRA, Census 2021 Table MS-B19: Religion

¹² NISA, Census 2021 Table CT00046

	<p>Strategic and Operational Policy in the draft Plan Strategy will help to deliver equality of opportunity in housing, education, health, community facilities, employment, retailing, tourism, open space and enjoyment of the historic and natural heritage for all citizens in the Council Area.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. The overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to this category as a whole.</p>	
Political opinion	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to this category as a whole, as the Plan aims to enhance shared space and quality places.</p>	Minor positive
Racial group	<p>No adverse impacts on equality have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to this category as a whole.</p> <p>Policies in relation to housing and economic development will provide new opportunities for all groups. Mixed tenure housing developments (including affordable housing Policy HOU5 and COU3) will also benefit this Section 75 group. Policy HOU9 supports and facilitates the provision of suitable accommodation for members of the Travelling Community.</p>	Minor positive
Age	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to all age groups.</p> <p>Policy HOU7 Adaptable and Accessible Homes aims to increase the adaptability and accessibility of new housing stock across all tenures throughout the district. The design should be suitable for older people.</p> <p>It is anticipated that people of working age will benefit from the approach of the draft Plan Strategy, particularly due to the approaches of the Economic Development Strategy and Retail Strategy.</p> <p>It is anticipated that people of all ages will also benefit from the approach of the draft Plan Strategy through the Open Space Strategy and associated policies OS1-OS10.</p>	Minor positive
Marital status	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the overall aim of the draft Plan Strategy and strategic approach will be of benefit to people of different marital status.</p>	Minor positive

	Policies contained within Housing in Settlements (HOU1-HOU9) seek to provide a range of tenures, house types and sizes, which will help to address the housing needs of those of different marital status.	
Sexual orientation	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to those within this category, regardless of sexual orientation.</p> <p>As outlined in Appendix A, the draft Plan Strategy has the potential to have positive impacts for members of the LGBT community.</p>	Minor positive
Men and women generally	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage.</p> <p>It is the aim of the Plan to benefit both men and women generally.</p> <p>The General Policy GP1 introduces measures to deter crime and promote personal safety.</p>	Minor positive
Disability	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will generally benefit those living with and without disability.</p> <p>Policy HOU7 Adaptable and Accessible Homes aims to increase the adaptability and accessibility of new housing stock across all tenures throughout the district. The design should be suitable for older people.</p>	Minor positive
Dependents	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will generally benefit both those with and without dependents.</p> <p>Our overarching Strategic Policies, including our Telecommunication and other Utilities Strategy aims to improve connectivity for all members of our district.</p>	Minor positive

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

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	<p>The district has a predominantly Catholic population, well above the Northern Ireland average.</p> <p>It is recognised that the needs and priorities indicated above are relevant irrespective of religious belief. Good quality safe places to live along with access to shared and safe environment including community facilities are identified for those of different religious belief.</p>

Political opinion	<p>The district has a predominantly Nationalist population.</p> <p>It is recognised that the needs and priorities indicated above are relevant irrespective of political opinion. Good quality safe places to live along with access to shared and safe environments including community facilities are identified as key priorities for those of different political opinion.</p>
Racial group	<p>People within different racial groups may experience difficulty accessing and understanding information. In particular, this may apply to visitors from ethnic minority groups, whose first language is not English.</p> <p>As outlined in the Council's Equality Action Plan 2023-2027¹³, a key objective of the Council is to ensure "information on council services is accessible to all parts of the community".</p> <p>Proposed Policy HOU 9 – Accommodation for the Travelling Community – notes that the travelling community has unique accommodation needs that may not be met through conventional residential schemes.</p>
Age	<p>The NIHE's Older People's Housing Strategy 2021/22-2026/27¹⁴ notes that Northern Ireland's older population (65 years or older) is projected to surpass the number of younger people in Northern Ireland for the first time by 2028 (page 10). By 2030, it is projected that there will be 38,495 persons aged 65 and over, and by 2043, this number is projected to rise to 47,086. There is increasing demand to meet the requirements for a greater proportion of older people.</p> <p>Proposed Policy HOU 8 introduces policy provision for Specialist Residential Accommodation, including sheltered accommodation, residential or nursing care accommodation, retirement villages and other care-related facilities.</p>
Marital status	<p>Just under half of the district's resident population is married or in a civil partnership, with the remainder either single, divorced or widowed.</p> <p>No specific priorities of one group over another is identified, however, it is recognised that those of</p>

¹³ https://www.newrymournedown.org//media/uploads/nmddc_equality_action_plan_2023-2027.pdf

¹⁴ [Older People's Housing Strategy \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/older-people-housing-strategy)

	different marital status have different needs in terms of housing.
Sexual orientation	<p>There is limited information available with regards the sexual orientation of residents within our district, but figures indicate that the majority of the population are straight/heterosexual.</p> <p>It is recognised that this data is limited and that there is likely a greater diversity within the district.</p>
Men and women generally	The district has nearly a 50/50 split in terms of gender. Access to employment, education and training facilities are identified as key priorities for men and women generally, but perhaps more so women who are under-represented in the labour market or for those returning to work.
Disability	<p>The 2021 census indicates that 24.5% of people within the district are living with a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities. 7.5% of people within the district have bad or very bad health. Of the 182,075 usual residents in the district, 2,561 of these residents has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair. 1,519 of these residents are aged 65+ years old.</p> <p>Key priorities for those living with disabilities therefore are identified as good quality safe places to live, appropriate housing, access to healthcare, improved health and wellbeing, shared and safe environments and access to community facilities. For those with mobility issues, in particular, access to public transport and an active travel network are identified as key needs. Those living with disabilities tend to be underrepresented in the labour market – therefore, access to education, training and employment is also important.</p>
Dependents	Good quality safe places to live along with access to shared and safe environments including community facilities are identified as key priorities for all members of the public, irrespective if they have dependents or not.

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	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	The draft Plan Strategy is likely to positively impact upon good relations between people of different religious belief. No needs, experiences or priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.	Minor positive at this stage of the LDP process. Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage.
Political opinion	The draft Plan Strategy is likely to positively impact upon good relations between people of different political opinion. No needs, experiences or priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.	Minor positive at this stage of the LDP process. Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage.
Racial group	The draft Plan Strategy is likely to positively impact upon good relations between people of different racial groups. No needs, experiences or priorities have been identified or are anticipated at this stage.	Minor positive at this stage of the LDP process. Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage.

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		<p>It is the aim of the draft Plan Strategy to improve the quality of life for all and therefore offer potential to promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.</p> <p>The proposals and policies of the draft Plan Strategy – enhancing place shaping, increasing the level of and improving the quality of open space, providing good quality housing and economic development opportunities - assist in enhancing prospects for promoting good relations between people of different</p>
Political opinion		
Racial group		

		<p>religious belief, political opinion and racial group.</p> <p>Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation or further down the line will be considered in a proportionate way.</p>
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Additional considerations

Multiple Identities

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there are 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).

The vision of the LDP is that Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high-quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs. The outworking of the Plan is likely to promote equality of opportunity for all, including people with multiple identities.

No differential impacts have been identified at this stage. However, as the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to a consultation process, any issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups will be taken into account moving through the process to the stage of adoption.

Disability

The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- **Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and**
- **Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.**

Does the policy promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage participation of disabled people in public life?

The draft Plan Strategy seeks to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage participation of disabled people in public life. There are a number of policies which seek to improve accessibility including Strategic Policy 02 Enhancing Design and Place Shaping supports development proposals that contribute positively to the provision of quality open space, quality design and enhance permeability; and Policy HOU7 Adaptable and Accessible Homes which recognises that good quality

housing supports more balanced communities where a variety of house types, sizes and tenures to meet different needs is provided.

By focusing housing, economic, retail and leisure growth in areas where there is the greatest access to services and facilities as well as better public transport links it is considered that this will encourage and help facilitate participation of disabled people in public life.

Policy TRA1 (Creating an Accessible Environment) aims to integrate accessibility into the design of a development proposal which will benefit all of society whilst Policy OS1 (Protection of Open Space) recognises the contribution of open space to health and wellbeing.

It is anticipated that the draft Plan Strategy will promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as account is taken of the needs of people with disabilities encouraging their participation in public life through provision of accessible environments. None are identified. However, as the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to a public consultation process any specific issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups during the consultation process will be taken into account.

Part 3 - 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 this stage, no significant adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified on Section 75 groups. It is anticipated that the Draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to our residents, including Section 75 groups as it seeks to improve the quality of life for all, as set out in the LDP vision. At this stage, it is noted that a number of the policies within the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to a number of the Section 75 groups.

This is a draft Screening report, and the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to public consultation. Any issues raised through this process will be considered prior to the publication of the final Plan Strategy.

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 is considered necessary at this stage. Any issues raised during the consultation process will be considered prior to the publication of the final Plan Strategy.

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?

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: _____

Part 4 - 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 draft Plan Strategy establishes the strategic direction of the LDP for the future development of the district. It includes a range of strategic policies to facilitate and manage development together with a spatial strategy.

The draft Plan Strategy will be subject to consultation with the public and will include specific consultation with a variety of Section 75 groups. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered prior to finalising the Plan Strategy. The LDP will also be subject to further equality screening at Local Policies Plan stage.

Monitoring and review of the LDP is an integral part of the plan making process. The draft Plan Strategy includes a Monitoring and Review Framework in Section 7 of Part 1 which highlights that a five-year review of the LDP will be carried out subsequent to adoption to ensure that the policies and proposals are achieving their objectives. There will be further scope for any impacts on Section 75 groups to be considered through this review.

Part 5 - Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Lois Jackson	Development Plan Manager	June 2025
Approved by:		
Jonathan McGilly	Assistant Director Economy, Regeneration and Tourism	June 2025

Appendix A

Table 1 –Strategic Policies: Assessment of Impact on Equality of Opportunity of Section 75 Groups

Strategic Policy	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments – nature of strategic policy and likely impact on the S-75 Groups
SP1 Sustainable Development and Climate Change	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community by meeting current needs, whilst also ensuring the needs of the district in the future are not compromised. No adverse impacts on any Section 75 Group.
SP2 Enhancing Design and Place Shaping	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Policy promotes good design and place shaping, for the benefit of all in the district. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
SP3 Developer Contributions and Planning Agreements	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Policy provides the vehicle for Planning Agreements – developers will be expected to mitigate any negative consequences of development. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
SGS1 Spatial Growth Strategy	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Policy designates broad locations where growth should be directed (housing, employment and commercial development) in the district and may have a minor impact on groups of religious belief/ political opinion due to the spatial distribution of such groups. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
SETT1 Settlement Hierarchy	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This policy may have a minor impact on groups of religious belief/political opinion due to the spatial distribution of such groups within the district.

										No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
SETT2 Settlement Development Limits	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The policy outlines the requirements for development proposals within designated settlement development limits.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
HS1 Housing Land Allocation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Policy aligns with the Spatial Growth Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the broad location of housing land will cater for all Section 75 groups. Housing will be allocated across the settlement tiers and countryside in broad alignment with the Spatial Growth Strategy.</p> <p>It is considered that the Housing Strategy is likely to have a positive effect generally as it seeks to provide housing to meet the needs of all in the most accessible locations and where the majority of our population are located. This will be of particular benefit to different age and racial groups and those living with disabilities and dependents.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
HS2 Protection of Zoned Land for Housing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Policy outlines circumstances whereby development of non-residential uses on land zoned for housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forms part of a housing development and is ancillary and integral to it - Provides community facilities, such as health, education or cultural use, neighbourhood shop or recreational use. <p>Policy ensures development will benefit all sections of the community.</p>

										No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
HS3 Management of Housing Supply	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Policy seeks to manage the supply of housing over the Plan period. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
CS1 Development in the Countryside	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Policy seeks to facilitate sustainable development in the countryside whilst balancing this against the need to protect and conserve the countryside, recognising it as a unique and valuable resource. The Council is a predominantly rural area, being home to some 35% of the district's population. Additionally, it is recognised as an important economic resource, with agriculture being the largest single employer in the district. There is also a significant level of tourism accommodation and facilities present. It is anticipated that the Countryside Strategy overall will benefit the district as a whole, in that it seeks to conserve it. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
OSS1 Open Space	Y	Y	X	Y	X	X	X	Y	Y	The Open Space Strategy seeks the protection of existing open space, and provision of new, quality open space within or close to settlements, to play a vital role in promoting healthy living and tackling inequality. In addition, the need for adequate private, semi-private and public amenity space is a prime consideration in all residential development and contributes to mental and physical well-being. It aims to give effect to objectives set out in several Council Plans and Strategies. Quantum and distribution of open space and recreation facilities has the potential to result in differing levels of access for identified

										groups i.e. religious belief, political opinion, age, disability and dependency. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
EDS1 Employment Land Allocation	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X	Y	Y	The policy allocates an appropriate amount of land to meet economic development needs within the district. Allocation of employment land will be focused on those areas that are well located in terms of connectivity and distribution networks. This policy has the potential to benefit all members of the community but may improve accessibility for members of Section 75 groups - racial group, age, disability, dependency. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
EDS2 Protection of Economic Development Land	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X	Y	Y	This policy ensures protection of economic development land. This policy has the potential to benefit all members of the community but may improve accessibility for members of Section 75 groups - racial group, age, disability, dependency. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
RS1 Retail Hierarchy	X	X	X	Y	X	X	X	Y	X	The policy brings forward a hierarchy of centres which provides a framework to allow a sequential test to be applied to planning applications relating to main town centre uses, ensuring that they are directed to the most appropriate locations. It is anticipated that by protecting and sustaining the vitality and viability of our town centres that there will be benefits for the community as a whole. A well-functioning town centre can increase opportunities for social interaction. The approach of the Retail Strategy ensures that retail and other town

										centre uses will be more accessible for everyone, including the elderly and people living with a disability. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
TS1 Sustainable Tourism	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The policy seeks to manage the provision of sustainable tourism in appropriate locations whilst taking account of the historic and natural environment. The approach to tourism development will have positive impacts generally. Tourism assets and facilities are often safe and shared social meeting spaces. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
MS1 Mineral Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The policy promotes the sustainable development of mineral resources. The sustainable exploitation of mineral resources has the potential to benefit all sections of the community due to the important role it plays within the economy, through maintaining a diverse range of jobs, supply of construction materials and meeting a resource need. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
TRS1 Sustainable Transport	X	X	X	+	X	X	X	+	+	The policy promotes sustainable transport and landuse which supports a modal shift away from the private car (walking, cycling, public transport). This approach will benefit all members of the community, and may be of particular benefit to the elderly, disabled persons and those with dependents. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.

TUS1 Telecommunications and Other Utilities	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	+	+	<p>The policy seeks to facilitate the development of telecommunications and other utilities in a manner that balances the need for the facility against the objective of conserving the environment and protecting amenity.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this policy will benefit residents across the district as it will facilitate suitable telecommunications development, which in turn improves digital connectivity. Improving digital connectivity may have particular benefits in terms of reducing isolation for some Section 75 groups – ethnic minorities, older members of the district, disabled persons or those with dependents.</p> <p>The strategy outlines that new generation or distribution infrastructure must be carefully planned and assessed to avoid adverse environmental effects, particularly on or near protected sites.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
WMS1 Waste Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The LDP Waste Management Strategy will support the development of sustainable waste management, recycling and disposal facilities in appropriate locations as part of the wider Council Strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle the district's waste.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
RES1 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technology	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Policy seeks to encourage greater use of renewable energy technologies to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, bring diversity and security of supply to energy infrastructure and assist in achieving targets on decarbonisation and net zero.</p> <p>This strategic policy will have a positive impact on all members of the community.</p>

										No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
FRDS 1 Flood Risk and Drainage	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The Flood Risk Strategy will have a benefit on all sections of the community and the district as a whole, as it aims to reduce flood risk. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
ENVS1 Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The Historic Environment Strategy recognises that the Historic Environment represents an invaluable resource which allows us to understand the past and provides the context of the present. Any designation or policy that seeks to protect built heritage and archaeological heritage assets are intended to provide benefits for all sections of society, irrespective of Section 75 group identity. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
ENSV2 Protecting, Conserving, Enhancing and Restoring Natural Heritage and our Valued Landscapes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The Natural Heritage Strategy recognises the important contribution that the district's rich and diverse natural environment brings to people across the district. Many nature conservation sites within our district have been designated sites of international, national and local importance to protect their significant and endangered habitats, species and biodiversity. The protection of natural heritage assets has positive impacts that will benefit all as it will contribute to meeting needs for open space and recreation. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
CDS1 Coastal Development Strategy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The Coastal Development Strategy will have a benefit on all sections of the community and the district as a whole, as it aims to protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate

										development and support the sensitive enhancement and regeneration of the developed coast. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
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Note: All policies affect everyone in the community in some way. Potential impacts have been identified where they are particularly pertinent to the special needs of a particular group.

Table 2 – Operational policies: Assessment of Impact on Equality of Opportunity of Section 75 Groups

Operational Policy	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments – nature of policies and likely impact on the S-75 Groups
General Policy GP1										
Housing in Settlements HOU1-HOU9	x	x	+	+	+	x	x	+	+	<p>Housing in Settlements policies provide opportunities to improve existing house stock (HOU3), change use to residential (HOU4) and develop new housing stock which cater to a wide range of the community (HOU5-HOU9). All residential development must comply with HOU 1 – to create quality residential development.</p> <p>These policies therefore have the potential to benefit all sections of the community, but certain Section 75 groups may experience particular benefits – racial group, age, marital status, disability, dependency.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Housing in the Countryside COU1-COU8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	<p>Provision is made for dwellings on farms or for non-agricultural business enterprises. There are also specific policies in relation to replacement and conversion of buildings. Infilling in the countryside also has a specific policy. These policies apply equally across the Council therefore no individual groupings are disadvantaged.</p> <p>Affordable housing provision is permitted in the countryside and where a need is identified this may be facilitated. The policy around residential caravans and mobile houses allows</p>

										flexibility in the system to meet a specific short-term need. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
All Development in the Countryside COU9-COU11	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	COU9-COU11 relate to Design and Integration of Buildings in the Countryside, Rural Character and the Setting of Settlements. By protecting the countryside
Health, Education and Community Facilities CF1	x	x	+	+	x	+	x	+	+	Health, Education and Community Facilities have the potential to reduce social, educational and health inequalities. This policy therefore has the potential to benefit all sections of the community, but certain Section 75 groups may experience particular benefits – racial group, age, sexual orientation, disability, dependency. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation OS1-OS10	x	x	+	+	x	x	+	+	+	The policies contained within Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation have the potential to offer benefits to both rural and urban environments within the district. Shared open spaces encourage use at various times of the day and can improve safety in the public area. This can bring benefits for Section 75 groups – ethnic minorities, the young/elderly, women, persons with disabilities and those with dependents. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Economic Development in Settlements ED1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The policies that facilitate economic development proposals that are likely to benefit the rural economy and support rural communities, whilst protecting or enhancing rural character and the environment. These policies apply equally across the Council

										therefore no individual groupings are disadvantaged. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Economic Development in the Countryside ED2-ED7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The policies that facilitate economic development proposals that are likely to benefit the rural economy and support rural communities, whilst protecting or enhancing rural character and the environment. These policies apply equally across the Council therefore no individual groupings are disadvantaged. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
All Economic Development ED8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The aim of this policy grouping is to ensure adequate provision of land appropriate for employment uses in areas that are well located in terms of connectivity and distribution networks. These policies have the potential to benefit all sections of the community. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Town Centres and Retailing RET1-RET7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The aim of this policy grouping is to provide a hierarchy of development that supports the growth of the city and town centres. There is a town centre first approach. Such areas are readily accessible to all, including those who are dependents on public transport. This approach is considered as beneficial to the wider population, both urban and rural dwellers.
Advertisements AD1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	The aim of this policy is to support proposals for advertisements whilst ensuring they respect the local amenity and do not prejudice public safety. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.

Tourism Development in Settlements TOU1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Tourism policies aim to support tourism, leisure and cultural development in both our settlements and rural areas. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Tourism Development in the Countryside TOU2-TOU7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Tourism policies aim to support tourism, leisure and cultural development in both our settlements and rural areas. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
All Tourism Development TOU8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	TOU 8 is the general criteria for all tourism development proposals. This overall approach to tourism development will have positive impacts generally. Tourism development is viewed as safe and shared spaces open to all sections of the community therefore supporting tourism will positively benefit to all groupings. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Minerals Development MIN1-MIN7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The aim of these policies is to secure a balanced and sustainable approach, that takes account of the need for minerals to support development and the need to protect the environment. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular group. No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.
Transportation TRA1-TRA11	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The aim of these policies is to ensure the access to, and the safety of the road network is not compromised. Through improved accessibility, connectivity and road safety, the policies will benefit all sections of the community.

										<p>The focus on a more sustainable transport network will have a positive benefit for persons reliant on public transport across the council area. The policies ensure safety and accessibility to the network and its associated infrastructure.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Telecommunications and Other Utilities TCU 1-3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The aim of these policies is to facilitate appropriate telecommunication and other utility development.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Waste WM1-5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The aim of these policies ensures the sustainable management of waste. This can reduce adverse impacts on the environment and protect the health of all in society.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Renewable Energy RE1-2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The aim of these policies is to facilitate appropriate renewable energy proposals.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Water and Wastewater Infrastructure WW1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The aim of this policy is to ensure development relying on non-mans sewerage will not create or add to a pollution problem. This can reduce adverse impacts on the environment and protect the health of all in society.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Flood Risk and Drainage FRD1-FRD6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The aim of these policies is to reduce flood risk associated with development proposals.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Historic Environment HE1-HE15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The historic environment policies aim to protect and conserve our historic environment</p>

										<p>– both historic monuments and historic buildings.</p> <p>Given the location of designated sites, such as Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character, Listed Buildings, Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest, the associated policies will be relevant to certain geographic areas. The protection of all of the district's Historic Environment will benefit everyone in the district.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Natural Heritage NH1-NH7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The natural environment policies bring about health and wellbeing benefits for everyone in our district.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Landscape Policies LA1-LA4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>Given the location of designated sites – Special Countryside Areas, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) and Areas of High Scenic Value, the associated policies will be relevant to certain geographic areas. The protection afforded by the landscape policies will benefit everyone in the district.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>
Coastal Policies CO1-CO2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>The aim of these policies is to ensure the district's coastline is protected from unsuitable development. The protection afforded by the coastal policies will benefit everyone in the district.</p> <p>Given the location of coastal areas within the district, the coastal policies will be relevant to certain geographic areas.</p> <p>No adverse impact on any Section 75 Group.</p>

Land Instability DAR1										The aim of this policy is to apply a precautionary approach to development in locations which may be susceptible to land instability and/or coastal erosion. The protection afford by the land instability policy will benefit everyone in the district.
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Note: All policies affect everyone in the community in some way. Potential impacts have been identified where they are particularly pertinent to the special needs of a particular group.

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