# Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

**Policy Information** 

Name of the policy	Draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023
Is this an existing, revised	Revised and new
or new policy?	10 m
What is it trying to achieve	The Strategy builds upon our Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019,
(aims/outcomes)	and sets out how the Council will continue to:
	increase the use of Irish language within its functions;
	facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and
	<ul> <li>promote and encourage the development of the Irish language</li> </ul>
	across the Council area.
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	With regards to the Irish Language Strategy the draft strategy sets out a twofold mission and vision as follows:
	Mission:
	To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community.
	To embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language
	communities within the District.
200	Vision:
	To establish a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life.
	The two strategic objectives within the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 are as follows:
	Strategic Objective 1: To facilitate, enable and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the District.
	Strategic Objective 2: To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-
	operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be	It must be acknowledged that Language is not a specific Section 75 equality category.
expected to benefit from	However, using proxy indicators people who might be expected to
the intended policy?	Thowever, using proxy indicators people with inight be expected to

Who owns and who implements the policy?	Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Policy
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Irish Language Unit     Head of Corporate Policy
If so, explain how.	benefit from the intended policy are predominantly people of different religious belief (from a Catholic community background) and people of different political opinion (from a nationalist background).  As stated, the Strategy is seeking to embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.  Based on the available data, the strategy may have a positive impact for younger people and on people from a Catholic background due to the fact that people aged 12-15 are most likely to be fluent speakers of Irish.

Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from	Χ	
the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?		
If yes, are they Financial	Χ	
If yes, are they Legislative	Х	
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?

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

# Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them	N,MDDC Bilingualism Policy

#### 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 ne	eds/experie	nces/priorit	ies		
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%)
	Charter for R Council's Irisl of special me promoting eq the population users of more	ee of Experts egional or Mi n language si asures in fav uality between is not to be widely used Committee o	which moning the monity Language of the users considered languages' of Experts or	tors the applications to the application who designed to the application of these languan act of discretions (Source: Courn the Charter (I	nich aspects asises that ' languages a ages and th imination ag ncil of Europ	s of the adoption aimed at se rest of gainst the se (2010) –
Political opinion	Elected political opinion of peo	ple within the	Council are	ea.		
	Sinn Féin SDLP Democratic Ur Independents Ulster Unionis Alliance		11 3 5 9 4 9	seats seats seats seats seats seat		
	The Council is service users in any adverse in i.e. providing a impact upon the preferred langenot constitute. Advisory Community (Third Opinion)	t is not anticinpact on peo access to serme rights of of uage(s) and discrimination mittee on the	pated that the ple from Univices and interestoraction action against other process.	ne Irish Langua ionist or other   formation in Irisess services ar ons to promote ners. (Source: Convention fo	age Strategy political pers sh does not nd informatio the Irish lan Council of E or National N	will have spectives adversely on in their nguage do furope,
Racial group	According to to population of I	ne 2011 Cen Northern Irela	sus, 1.8% (3 and belongs	32,400) of the เ to minority eth	usually resid nic groups;	lent this is more

than double the proportion in 2001 (0.8%).

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

MICU		
Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD	Number	Percentage %
	450704	
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

This Irish Language Strategy will not impact adversely on people from different racial backgrounds or people with different language requirements: positive action for one language does not constitute discrimination against another language or language user. It may in fact contribute positively to a greater understanding of the linguistic diversity which exists within the Council area.

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

				10
·	85-89	21165	184	
	90+	10231	82	9
	In terms of fluency in Irish area, most fluent speaker Accordingly, the Irish Lan people within this categorage profile categories.	s of the Irish languag guage Strategy has រ	ge are in the 12 potential to pos	-15 age range. itively impact on
Marital status	The table below illustrate and Down area:	es the marital status	profile of the N	Newry, Mourne
	Marital S	Status	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	NI
	All usual residents: Aged	16+ vears	132455	1431540
	Single (never married or		47722	517393
	same-sex civil partnersh			(35.14%)
	Married: Aged 16+ years		65255	680831 (47.56%)
	In a registered same-sex	ccivil partnership:	102	1243
	Aged 16+ years	CHARLES		(0.09%)
	Separated (but still legal legally in a same-sex civ		4697	56911 (3.98%)
	Divorced or formerly in a partnership which is now		6271	78074 (5.45%)
	Widowed or surviving pa sex civil partnership: Ago		8408	97088 (6.78%)
	Census data indicates frish speakers are single by married people. This therefore, have a position single and married people adversely affect any other grouping.	e, followed closely s strategy may, ve impact on both ple, but will not ner marital status	200	400/ - (4)
Sexual orientation	Analysis of the Census 20 population may be lesbian		ween 2% and	10% of the
	There are no official statis bisexual people in Northe HM Treasury shows that themselves as gay, lesbia and transvestite) (LGBT). in Northern Ireland.	rn Ireland. However, between 5% - 7% of an, bisexual or ′trans	research cond the UK populat ′ (transsexual, t	ucted by the ion identify transgendered
Men and women	The gender profile for th			as follows:
generally	LGD N	1ale ,	Female	

Northern Ireland	887323	923540
Newry, Mourne	83866	85345
and Down LGD		

Census data indicates slightly higher fluency rates in Irish among males, but this differential is not significant enough to result in any adverse impact for females.

#### Disability

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;

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%)

In Northern Ireland the profile of people with a disability is cited as follows:

- 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 Sigh Language (ISL)
- In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment
- 52,000 people with learning disabilities

(Source: Disability Action)

In respect of Irish, a smaller percentage of people who have a limiting longstanding illness are less likely to have knowledge of Irish than those who have no limiting longstanding illness (10% and 14% respectively). (Source: Knowledge and Use of Irish in Northern Ireland, Continuous Household Survey 2011/12).

It is not anticipated that this strategy will have any adverse impact on people with a disability. In respect of Irish, a smaller percentage of people who have a limiting longstanding illness are less likely to have knowledge of Irish than those who have no limiting longstanding illness (10% and 14% respectively). (Source: Knowledge and Use of Irish in Northern Ireland, Continuous Household Survey 2011/12).

It is not anticipated that this policy will have any adverse impact on people with a disability.

#### Dependants

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Available census information in terms of knowledge of Irish in houses with and without dependents 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.

### 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	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Category Religious belief	The Strategy builds upon Council's Bilingualism Policy and our Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019, and sets out how the Council will continue to:  • increase the use of Irish language within its functions;  • facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and  • promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area.  The Irish Language Strategy reflects the commitments within the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages which is founded on the concept of non-discrimination i.e. the majority language user group is not discriminated against by the implementation of actions designed to promote and protect the minority language i.e. the Irish language.  Although it is assumed that the Strategy may positively impact upon
	people identifying as Catholic, as greater numbers of Catholics are fluent in the Irish language, the Strategy does 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 to access Council services and information.  Therefore, the potential positive impact of this Strategy on Catholics does not automatically create an adverse negative impact on people with other religious beliefs.
Political opinion	Whilst it could be assumed that this Strategy may positively impact upon people from the Nationalist and/or Republican political perspective, it cannot be assumed to adversely impact people with any other political opinion as the approach is centred upon Council's Bilingualism Policy which sets out a commitment to facilitate and encourage the promotion and use of both the Irish and English language in the Council area rather than the promotion of any political perspective or opinion.
Racial group	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Age	The Strategy has the potential to impact positively upon young people, as most fluent speakers of Irish are in the 12-15 age range but does not discriminate on the basis of age or, indeed on the basis of any other S75 grouping. The policy will not impact adversely on those in other age categories. Fore example, positive actions such as those related to the implementation of the Irish Language Bursary Scheme are open to access by people of all ages.

Marital status	The Strategy has the potential to impact positively upon single people, and to a lesser extent on married people, but will not adversely impact upon those from other marital status categories.
Sexual orientation	No adverse impacts anticipated.
Men and women generally	Small potential for positive impact on males. No adverse impacts on females.
Disability	No adverse impacts.
Dependants	The Strategy has the potential to impact positively upon people without dependents but no adverse impacts are anticipated for people with dependents.

## **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	Potential for positive impacts on people identifying as Catholic, but no adverse impacts anticipated for people with differing religious beliefs.	Minor/positive for people identifying as Catholic.
		Neutral impact for all other religious beliefs
Political opinion	The Strategy may be perceived to positively impact upon people from the Nationalist and/or Republican political perspective but it cannot be assumed to adversely impact people with any other political opinion as the policy focus is linguistic and cultural and designed to be explicitly non-discriminatory.	Minor/positive for people identifying as Nationalist. Neutral impact for all other political opinions.
Racial group	No adverse impacts anticipated.	None / Neutral
Age	Potential for positive impacts on 12-15 age category	Positive impact on younger people.
		Neutral impact on older people
Marital status	Potential for positive impacts on single people but no adverse impacts for other	Minor /Positive impact on single and married

	marital status categories anticipated.	people.  Minor/Neutral for all other marital statuses.
Sexual orientation	No adverse impacts.	None / Neutral
Men and women generally	No significant differential impact but small potential for positive impact on males.	Positive impact on males.
Disability	No adverse impacts	None / Neutral
Dependants	Potential for minor positive impact on households without dependents.	Minor/Positive impact on households without dependents.  None/neutral for households with dependents.

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

Section 75	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide details
category	ii 100, provide details	in 140, provide details
Religious belief		As previously noted, the Strategy builds
Political opinion		upon Council's Bilingualism Policy and
Racial group		previous Irish Language Strategy 2017-
Age		2019.
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		Council believes that the positive actions
Men and women		set out will help increase the use of Irish
generally		language within our functions, facilitate
Disability		the use of the Irish language when
Dependants		communicating with the public and
		relevant stakeholders, and promote and
		encourage the development of the Irish
	·	language across the Council area.
		Opportunities to better promote equality of
	·	opportunity have potential to be identified
		through the ongoing monitoring and
		review wherein six-monthly reports on
		progress will be considered by the
		Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross
		Party Working Group, and an annual
		review of the Irish Language Strategy will
		ensure actions and the associated budget
		remain relevant and appropriate.
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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	Details of policy impact	Level of impact?
category		Major/minor/none
Religious belief	As noted within the comment related to equality of opportunity there is potential for positive impacts on people identifying as Catholic, but no adverse impacts anticipated for people with differing religious beliefs.	Minor/positive for people identifying as Catholic.  Neutral impact for all other religious beliefs
	Establishing a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life would be designated as a positive action measure.	
	It is not envisaged that this should have an adverse negative impact upon people with different religious beliefs.	
Delitical antician	As a start within the common tradeted to	Minar/papitive for people
Political opinion	As noted within the comment related to equality of opportunity, the Strategy may be perceived to positively impact upon people from the Nationalist and/or	Minor/positive for people identifying as Nationalist.
	Republican political perspective. However, it cannot be assumed to	Neutral impact for all other political opinions.
	adversely impact people with any other political opinion as the policy focus is linguistic and cultural and designed to be explicitly non-discriminatory.	
	Establishing a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life would be designated as a positive action measure.	
	It is not envisaged that this should have an adverse negative impact upon people with different political opinion.	
Racial group	No adverse impacts identified.	None / Neutral

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

Good relations category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide details
Religious belief Political opinion Racial group		As previously noted, the Strategy builds upon Council's Bilingualism Policy and previous Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019.
		Council believes that the positive actions set out will help increase the use of Irish language within our functions, facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders, and promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area.
		Opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity have potential to be identified through the ongoing monitoring and review wherein sixmonthly reports on progress will be considered by the Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group, and an annual review of the Irish Language Strategy will ensure actions and the associated budget remain relevant and appropriate.

#### 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:

It is recommended the draft Irish Language Strategy 2020-2023 not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required) for the following reasons:

- the Strategy builds upon Council's Bilingualism Policy and Irish Language Strategy 2017-2019, and sets out how the Council will continue to; increase the use of Irish language within its functions; facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area.
- Council's vision is to establish a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life.
- our mission is to mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community; and to embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District.

If 2. (i.e. not be attaching to th	e subjec e policy	t to an E0 be mitiga	QIA), in ted or	what wa an alterna	ys ca ative	n ident policy k	ified adverse be introduced	impacts d?
In light of thes	e revisio	ns, is the	re a ne	eed to re-	scree	en the re	evised/alterr	native policy?
Yes / No. If No.	o, please	explain	why			nd (Many Salanya da Manadada a ma Sala)		
						and the second s		!

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? 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	Mario.
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	A A A A A A

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 fo	r commencing	EQIA:			
1			CSC 17 1.			

### 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 terms of monitoring and review six monthly reports on progress will be prepared for consideration by the Council's Irish Language Strategy Cross Party Working Group

In addition, the Irish Language Strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure actions and the associated budget remain relevant and appropriate.

### **Approval and Authorisation**

Position/Job Title	Date
Head of Corporate Policy	31 October
	2019
. Assistant Devostor Congreto Planing	27 November 219
	Head of Corporate Policy  Assistant Director Congress Planning

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.