Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021-22
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Revised
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	 The following five performance improvement objectives have been developed, all of which are clearly linked to the Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2021-23. We will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents We will build the capacity of local communities through the Financial Assistance Scheme We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	All categories are expected to benefit from the intended policy approach.
If so, explain how.	 The performance improvement objectives 2021-22 will deliver direct positive outcomes for citizens, local businesses, visitors and service users in relation to: Improved opportunities to participate in physical and recreational activity at the Council's parks and open spaces Improved access to economic development opportunities, support for local businesses and more job creation Living in a cleaner District, with the Council addressing the levels of littering, fly tipping and dog fouling Improved opportunities to engage with the Council

	 and support the local area through the Financial Assistance Scheme Improvements to the Planning Service, particularly in relation to reduced processing times for planning applications and enforcement cases
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Kate Bingham, Head of Performance and Improvement
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Dorinnia Carville – Director: Corporate Services Kate Bingham - Head of Performance and Improvement

Implementation factors

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

Main stakeholders affected

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

	Yes	No
Staff	X	
Service users	X	
Other public sector organisations	X	
Voluntary/community/trade unions	X	
Other, please specify:	Members of the community in general	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	Examples include the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Council's	
what are they	,	
	Corporate Plan 2021-23, Play Strategy, Economic Regeneration and	
	Investment Strategy, Dog Fouling Strategy, Enforcement	
	Improvement Plan, Financial Assistance Policy, as well as the	
	statutory duties in relation to a General Duty of Improvement,	
	Community Planning and Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 (as per	

	commitments and obligations outlined within Council's approved Equality Scheme).
Who owns them	All policies and strategies fall under the corporate responsibilities of the Council, as well as the Community Planning Partnership.

Available evidence

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

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities					
Religious						
belief	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 (20.24%)	752 (0.43%)	10229 (5.96%)
	(Source: Ce	ensus Data 2	011).			
Political opinion	political opin	ion of people	e within the	is an approxir Council area. s elected mem		
	Sinn Féin SDLP 11 seats Independents Democratic Unionist Ulster Unionist Alliance Councillors are elected within seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) across the Council area. With respect to party political representation, democratic deficits exist within particular DEAs i.e three DEAs have no PUL Councillor representation (Newry, Crotlieve and Downpatrick), two DEAs have one PUL (Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion) Councillor and, one DEA has one CNR (Rowallane).					

Racial group

According to the 2011 Census, 1.8% (32,400) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belongs to minority ethnic groups. This is more than double the proportion in 2001 (0.8%).

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

DOWII LGD AI Ca		
Main language of residents in	Number	Percentage %
Newry, Mourne and Down		
District LGD		
English	156794	97.15
Polish	2100	1.18
Lithuanian	836	0.47
Irish	367	0.24
Portuguese	86	0.05
Slovak	134	0.08
Chinese	121	0.07
Tagalog/Filipino	55	0.03
Latvian	208	0.25
Russian	109	0.06
Malayalam	87	0.05
Hungarian	74	0.04
Other	755	0.46

Age

According to the 2011 Census, the age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:

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

	85-89	21165	1849	
	90+	10231	829	İ
Marital	The table below	provides an everyious of	f the marital status profile of the	$\overline{}$

Marital status

The table below provides an overview of the marital status profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down area:

Marital Status	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	NI
All usual residents: Aged 16+	132455	1431540
years Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) Aged 16+ years	47722	517393 (35.14%)
Married: Aged 16+ years	65255	680831 (47.56%)
In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	102	1243 (0.09%)
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	4697	56911 (3.98%)
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now	6271	78074 (5.45%)

	legally dissolved							
	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years		8408			97088 (6.78%		
Sexual orientation	Analysis of the population ma						and 10% of the	
	the HM Treasuidentify thems	ople in Iry sho elves a I and tr	Northe ws that s gay, I ansvest	rn Ireland. between esbian, bis tite) (LGB1	. Ho 5% - sexua (). Tl	wever, researd - 7% of the Uk al or ´trans´ (t	ch conducted by copulation	
Men and women generally	The gender p follows:	rofile f	or the N	Newry, Mo	urne	and Down LG	D is as	
generally	LGD		Male		F	- emale		
	Northern Ire			87323		923540		
	Newry, Mou			83866		85345		
Disability	According to the and Down Dist				•	•	• •	
	disability that				_	•		
	LGD	All us reside		Long-tern health problem disability Day-to-d activities limited a	or : ay	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	18108	363	215232 (11.89%)	159414 (8.8%)	1436217 (79.31%)	
	Newry, Mourne and	17153	33	19579 (11.4%)	-	14102 (8.22%)	135530 (79.01%)	

Down				
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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)

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.

According to the Census 2011, 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 2015-17, the teenage conception rate (under 17 years old) was 0.73 per 1,000 mothers, which is the third lowest in Northern Ireland after Fermanagh and Omagh (0.56) and Mid Ulster (0.0).

Needs, experiences and priorities

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

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	All actions in relation to the performance improvement objectives 2021-22 should be underpinned by a corporate commitment to improve access to facilities, services and information, and encourage openness, transparency, on-going dialogue, and access to decision-makers.
	To ensure the performance improvement objectives are targeted and meaningful for the community as a whole, rather than being those of particular organisations or interest group, they have been subjected to effective challenge and scrutiny mechanisms which build in foresight and forward planning to ensure the Council continues to meet clearly identified needs and effectively manage community expectations.
	Community confidence will be generated, and the reputation of the Council will be enhanced through meaningful consultation, encouraging stakeholder participation, listening to, respecting and valuing minority voices, demonstrating evidence based decision-making, and reporting progress to consultees. The Council is carrying out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2021-22, which will target all sections of the local community, encouraging them to have their say.
Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	As above. The Council is carrying out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2021-22, which will target all sections of the local community, including BME communities through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre, encouraging them to have their say.
Age	All actions in relation to the performance improvement objectives should be underpinned by a corporate commitment to improve access to facilities, services and information, and encourage openness, transparency, on-going dialogue, and access to

	decision-makers.
	To ensure the performance improvement objectives are targeted and meaningful for the community as a whole, rather than being those of particular organisations or interest group, they have been subjected to effective challenge and scrutiny mechanisms which build in foresight and forward planning to ensure the Council continues to meet clearly identified needs and effectively manage community expectations.
	Community confidence will be generated, and the reputation of the Council will be enhanced through meaningful consultation, encouraging stakeholder participation, listening to, respecting and valuing minority voices, demonstrating evidence based decision-making, and reporting progress to consultees. The Council is carrying out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2021-22, which will target all sections of the local community, including the Youth Council's and Older Persons Forum.
Marital status	All actions in relation to the performance improvement objectives should be underpinned by a corporate commitment to improve access to facilities, services and information, and encourage openness, transparency, on-going dialogue, and access to decision-makers.
	To ensure performance improvement objectives are targeted and meaningful for the community as a whole, rather than being those of particular organisations or interest groups, they must have effective challenge and scrutiny mechanisms which build in foresight and forward planning to ensure Council continues to meet clearly identified needs, and effectively manages community expectations.
	Community confidence will be generated, and Council reputation enhanced through meaningful consultation, encouraging stakeholder participation, listening to, respecting and valuing minority voices, demonstrating evidence based decision-making, and reporting progress to consultees.
Sexual orientation	As above.
Men and women generally	As above.

Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

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	No adverse impact is currently anticipated.	
	Direct positive outcomes for service users in relation to improved opportunities to participate in physical and recreational activity, access economic development support, living in a cleaner District, building their capacity and accessing a more access a more effective Planning Service.	Minor
	riaming service.	Minor
	With respect to local engagement structures in support of the implementation of the Community Plan, the establishment and operation of key forums such as the District Electoral Area structures on which individuals nominated and representing networks participate with Councillors, the Community Planning Partnership and Thematic Working Groups provides direct community engagement opportunities with the decision-making structures of the Council.	
Political opinion	As above.	Minor
Racial group	No adverse impact is currently anticipated.	Minor - positive

Age	No adverse impact is currently anticipated.	Major - positive
Marital status Sexual orientation	No adverse impact is currently anticipated. Direct positive outcomes for service users in relation to improved opportunities to participate in physical and recreational activity, access economic development support, living in a cleaner District, building their capacity and accessing a more access a more effective Planning Service. With respect to local structures in support of the development of the Community Plan, the establishment and operation of key forums such as the District Electoral Area structures on which individuals nominated and representing networks participate with Councillors, the Community Planning Partnership and Thematic Working Groups provides direct community engagement opportunities.	Minor
Men and women	As above.	Minor
generally Disability	As above.	Minor
Dependants	As above.	Minor

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

Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide details
Religious belief	While no adverse impact is	

	currently anticipated, in the delivery of its functions relating to the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	
Political opinion	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes. This is of particular relevance due to the party political representation and democratic deficits which exist within particular DEAs i.e three DEAs have no PUL Councillor representation (Newry, Crotlieve and Downpatrick), and three	
	DEAs have either one CNR (Rowallane) or PUL (Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion) Councillor.	
Racial group	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	

Age	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	
Marital status	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	
Sexual orientation	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	
Men and women generally	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	

Disability	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes. In addition, the Council should also be mindful of its statutory duty under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the) Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 which requires the Council, in carrying out its functions, to have due regard to the need to encourage participation by disabled people in public life.	
Dependants	While no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	

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

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Major/minor/none
Religious belief	There is nothing to suggest the performance improvement objectives will adversely impact upon good relations.	None
Political opinion	There is nothing to suggest the	None

	performance improvement objectives will adversely impact upon good relations.	
Racial group	There is nothing to suggest the performance improvement objectives will adversely impact upon good relations.	None

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

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No , provide details
Religious belief	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to have regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations, and to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	
Political opinion	While no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to have regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations, and to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes. This is of particular relevance	

	due to the party political representation and democratic deficits which exist within particular DEAs i.e three DEAs have no PUL Councillor representation (Newry, Crotlieve and Downpatrick), and three DEAs have either one CNR (Rowallane) or PUL (Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion) Councillor.	
Racial group	While no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to have regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations, and to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.	

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

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:

The draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021-22, have been equality screened and it is recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).

The Council has demonstrated strong civic leadership as a public authority in terms of decision-making and developing the performance improvement objectives. The performance improvement objectives are based upon an assessment of the baseline evidence and directly aligned to the Corporate Plan 2021-23, Residents Survey 2018, Consultation and Engagement on the Performance Improvement Objectives 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 and other key plans and strategies including the Tourism Strategy and Play Strategy.

Meaningful consultation has improved evidence based decision-making. Recording and retaining evidence of consultations and reporting progress are key aspects which underpin the Council's organisational learning and development as a public authority, thereby enhancing both the reputation and community confidence in the Council, as a civic leader.

This has already been exhibited through the Council's commitment to inter and intra collaborative working in aligning consultation with established or planned community engagement approaches, a corporate commitment to improving access to facilities, services and information, and encouraging openness, transparency and on-going dialogue to set and agree its performance improvement objectives.

Whilst the Council's Equality Scheme commits to holding consultation exercises relevant to the statutory duties for a minimum of twelve weeks, it also sets out exceptional circumstances where the twelve weeks may not apply. In this instance, it is proposed that the Council implements an eightweek consultation process on the performance improvement objectives in order to ensure the deadline for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 by 30 June 2021 is met.

It should also be noted that the performance improvement objectives 2021-22 have been developed based the content of existing strategies, including the Community Plan and Corporate Plan, which have been informed by a robust and reliable quantitative and qualitative evidence base.

The performance improvement objectives include effective challenge and scrutiny mechanisms which build in foresight and forward planning to ensure the Council:

- Continues to meet clearly identified needs
- Effectively manages community expectations
- Enables all communities benefit from the performance improvement objectives, rather than particular organisations or interest groups solely being targeted
- Conducts Mid year and Annual progress reports progress in delivering the performance improvement objectives 2021-22.

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

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	d date for	commencing EQIA:	
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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 Performance Improvement Plan, and associated performance improvement objectives, will be reviewed annually.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	2 March 2021
Kate Bingham	Head of Performance and Improvement	2 March 2021
Approved by:		
Dorinnia Carville	Director: Corporate Services	

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 Head of Corporate Policy who will arrange for it to be included in the Council's Quarterly Report on Screening and made available on the Council's website.