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 2022-23
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 2022-23 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	Dorinnia Carville – Director: Corporate Services
implements the policy?	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	Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area. The party breakdown of the Council's elected members is as follows:							
	Sinn Féin 16 seats SDLP 11 seats Independents 5 seats Democratic Unionist 3 seats Ulster Unionist 3 seats Alliance 2 seats TUV 1 seat							
	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	population of Northern	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%)								
	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 co									
		groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by								
	NISRA (2011) as follow	NS:								
	Minority Ethnic Lan	ausas Dra	ofile of	the Ne	wry Mourne and					
	Down LGD Area	guage Fit	Jille Oi	the Ne	wry, Mourne and					
	Main language of resi	idents in	Nur	nber	Percentage %					
	Newry, Mourne and D	Down			_					
	District LGD									
	English			794	97.15					
	Polish			.00	1.18					
	Lithuanian			36	0.47					
	Irish			67	0.24					
	Portuguese	86			0.05					
	Slovak			34	0.08					
	Chinese		121 55 208 109		0.07					
	Tagalog/Filipino				0.03					
	Latvian				0.25					
	Russian				0.06					
	Malayalam		87 74		0.05 0.04					
	Hungarian Other									
	Other		755		0.46					
Age	According to the 2011	Census, th	ne age n	rofile of	the Newry. Mourne	and				
7.50	Down LGD is as follow		. с с. д с р		,,,					
	Age Profile	N:	Newry, Mourne		ry, Mourne & Down					
	0-4	1243	382		12721					
	5-7	676			6876					
	8-9	436	25		4595					
	10-14	1190			12287					
	15		24620		2599					
	16-17	514			5260					
	18-19	501			4570					
	20-24	1260			11570					
	25-29	1240			11805					
	30-34	3739			35122					
	45-59	3478			32556					
1	60-64		94290 8624 45600 13817		8624					

65-74

7	75-84	86724	7453
8	35-89	21165	1849
	90+	10231	829

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	6271	78074 (5.45%)

	1-1								
	which is now 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						n 2% a	and 10	0% of the
	There are no official statistics in relation to the number of gay, lesbit or bisexual people in Northern Ireland. However, research conducted the HM Treasury shows that between 5% - 7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual transgendered and transvestite) (LGBT). This is a sizeable proportion the population here in Northern Ireland.						nducted by ulation sexual,		
Men and women generally	The gender p	orofile f	or the N	Newry, N	4ourne	e and Do	own LG	D is a	IS
gonorum,	LGD	Male			Female				
	Northern Ire	Northern Ireland 887323		92	3540				
	Newry, Mou and Down L					85345			
				10.65	0, 6				
Disability	According to the 2011 Census 19.62% of people in the Newry, Mo and Down District Council area has a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities.								
	LGD	All us reside	ents	Long-t health proble disabil Day-to activiti limited	m or ity: o-day es I a lot	Long-to- health probled disabiled Day-to- activited limited little	em or lity: o-day ies d a	heal prob disa Day activ not	olem or bility: -to-day vities limited
	Northern	18108	363	21523		15941			5217
	Ireland Newry,	17153	33	19579		(8.8%	,	135!	31%) 530
	11011111	1,10	, ,	100/0		1102		100	

Mourne and	(11.4%)	(8.22%)	(79.01%)	
Down				

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 2022-23 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 2022-23, 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 2022-23, 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 decisionmaking, and reporting progress to consultees. The Council is carrying out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2022-23, which will target all sections of the local community, including the Youth Council's and Older Persons ForumS, and will also be promoted through Speak NMD. 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 As above. orientation Men and As above. women generally

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. 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	Minor
	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	Minor - positive

	anticipated.	
Age	No adverse impact is currently anticipated.	Major - positive
Marital status	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
Sexual orientation	As above.	Minor
Men and women generally	As above.	Minor
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?

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 performance improvement objectives will adversely impact upon good relations.	None
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 2022-23, 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 2021-22 and other key plans and strategies including the Economic Development and Regeneration 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 2022-23 by 30 June 2022 is met.

It should also be noted that the performance improvement objectives 2022-23 are directly aligned to 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 2022-23.

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 polities / No. If No, please explain why	icy?
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 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 Perform	mance Improvemer	nt Plan, and	associated	performance	improvement
objectives,	will be reviewed a	innually.			

Approval and Authorisation

2022
2022
2022
2022

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.