

## Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

### Policy Information

Name of the policy	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Revised
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27 includes the following five objectives, all of which are linked to Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2024-27.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services</li> <li>2. We will contribute to growing the economy by supporting local businesses, job creation and pathways to employment</li> <li>3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by continuing to promote recycling and addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents</li> <li>4. We will reduce our contribution to climate change by cutting carbon emissions and improving the efficiency of our fleet and buildings</li> <li>5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme</li> </ol>
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.	<p>The performance improvement plan 2026-27 will deliver direct positive outcomes for citizens, local businesses, visitors and service users in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved opportunities to participate in physical and recreational activity at the Council's leisure centres and community trails</li> <li>• Improved access to economic development opportunities including pathways to employment, support for local businesses and more job creation</li> <li>• Living in a cleaner District, with the Council addressing the levels of recycling, littering, fly</li> </ul>

	<p>tipping and dog fouling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved opportunities to reduce our impacts in relation to climate change through the development and implementation of Council's numerous climate change related plans and strategies.</li> <li>Improvements to the Planning Service, particularly in relation to reduced processing times for planning applications and enforcement cases</li> </ul>
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Catherine Hughes, Acting Head of Performance and Improvement
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Gerard Byrne – Assistant Director: Finance and Performance Catherine Hughes – Acting Head of Performance and Improvement

### Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?	X	
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 Corporate Plan 2021-23, Council's Corporate Plan 2024-27, Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy, Dog Fouling Strategy, Enforcement Improvement Plan, Leisure Strategy, 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	<b>LGD</b>	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>Catholic</b>	<b>Protestant and other Christian</b>	<b>Other religions</b>	<b>None</b>
	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,903,178	869,753 (45.7%)	827,545 (43.5%)	28,514 (1.5%)	177,360 (9.3%)
	<b>Newry, Mourne &amp; Down</b>	182,074	131,300 (72.1%)	39,970 (22.0%)	1,327 (0.7%)	9,477 (5.2%)
	(Source: Census Data 2021).					
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			20 seats		
	SDLP			8 seats		
	Independents			3 seats		
	Democratic Unionist			5 seats		

	<p>Ulster Unionist Alliance</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 seats 4 seats</p> <p>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).</p>																																																												
Racial group	<p>According to the 2021 Census, 3.4% (65,604) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belongs to minority ethnic groups. This is almost double the proportion in 2011 (1.8%).</p> <p>The minority ethnic language profile within the area serves as a possible indicator of the BME community profile. The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2021) as follows:</p> <p><b>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1003 1377 1917"> <thead> <tr> <th>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>English</td><td>168,408</td><td>96.1</td></tr> <tr><td>Polish</td><td>2,143</td><td>1.22</td></tr> <tr><td>Lithuanian</td><td>1,149</td><td>0.66</td></tr> <tr><td>Irish</td><td>553</td><td>0.32</td></tr> <tr><td>Romanian</td><td>347</td><td>0.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Portuguese</td><td>119</td><td>0.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Arabic</td><td>170</td><td>0.09</td></tr> <tr><td>Bulgarian</td><td>677</td><td>0.39</td></tr> <tr><td>Chinese (not otherwise specified)</td><td>70</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr><td>Slovak</td><td>98</td><td>0.05</td></tr> <tr><td>Hungarian</td><td>106</td><td>0.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Spanish</td><td>77</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr><td>Latvian</td><td>279</td><td>0.15</td></tr> <tr><td>Russian</td><td>180</td><td>0.10</td></tr> <tr><td>Tetun</td><td>22</td><td>0.01</td></tr> <tr><td>Malayalam</td><td>51</td><td>0.03</td></tr> <tr><td>Tagalog/Filipino</td><td>44</td><td>0.03</td></tr> <tr><td>Cantonese</td><td>38</td><td>0.02</td></tr> <tr><td>Other languages</td><td>711</td><td>0.41</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD	Number	Percentage %	English	168,408	96.1	Polish	2,143	1.22	Lithuanian	1,149	0.66	Irish	553	0.32	Romanian	347	0.2	Portuguese	119	0.06	Arabic	170	0.09	Bulgarian	677	0.39	Chinese (not otherwise specified)	70	0.04	Slovak	98	0.05	Hungarian	106	0.06	Spanish	77	0.04	Latvian	279	0.15	Russian	180	0.10	Tetun	22	0.01	Malayalam	51	0.03	Tagalog/Filipino	44	0.03	Cantonese	38	0.02	Other languages	711	0.41
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Age	<p>According to the 2021 Census, the age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:</p>																																																												

	Age Profile	NI	Newry, Mourne & Down
	0-4	113,825	11,722
	5-7	73,456	7,693
	8-9	51,020	5,259
	10-14	126,919	13,151
	15	23,220	2,254
	16-17	46,641	4,923
	18-19	43,343	4,024
	20-24	111,383	10,022
	25-29	116,407	10,354
	30-44	375,518	34,970
	45-59	381,910	36,612
	60-64	113,043	10,755
	65-74	176,934	16,922
	75-84	110,149	9,872
	85-89	25,877	2,344
	90+	13,517	1,191
Marital status	The table below provides an overview of the marital status profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down area:		
	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Newry, Mourne and Down LGD</b>	<b>NI</b>
	All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	141,996	1,514,743
	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) Aged 16+ years	52,128 (36.7%)	576,708 (38.1%)
	Married: Aged 16+ years	68,076 (47.9%)	690,509 (45.6%)
	In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	201 (0.14%)	2,742 (0.19%)
	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	4,975 (3.5%)	57,272 (3.8%)
	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	7,704 (5.4%)	91,128 (6.0%)
	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-	8,912 (6.3%)	96,384 (6.4%)

	sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years Census 2021																	
Sexual orientation	<p>Analysis of the Census 2021 indicates that between 2% and 10% of the population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual.</p> <p>There are no official statistics in relation to the number of gay, lesbian or bisexual people in Northern Ireland. However, research conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5% - 7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgendered and transvestite) (LGBT). This is a sizeable proportion of the population here in Northern Ireland.</p>																	
Men and women generally	<p>The gender profile for the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>936,132</td> <td>967,043</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down LGD</td> <td>90,063</td> <td>92,011</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Census 2021</p>			LGD	Male	Female	Northern Ireland	936,132	967,043	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	90,063	92,011						
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Disability	<p>According to the 2021 Census 22.88% of people in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>All usual residents</th> <th>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot</th> <th>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little</th> <th>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>1,903,179</td> <td>217,964 (11.45%)</td> <td>245,057 (12.88%)</td> <td>1,440,158 (75.67%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down</td> <td>182,074</td> <td>19,789 (10.87%)</td> <td>21,868 (12.01%)</td> <td>140,417 (77.13%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In Northern Ireland the profile of people with a disability is cited as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 1 in 7 people in Northern Ireland have some form of hearing loss</li> </ul>			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	1,903,179	217,964 (11.45%)	245,057 (12.88%)	1,440,158 (75.67%)	Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	19,789 (10.87%)	21,868 (12.01%)	140,417 (77.13%)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5,000 sign language users who use British Sign Language (BSL) and/or Irish Sign Language (ISL)</li> <li>• In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment</li> <li>• 52,000 people with learning disabilities</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Disability Action)</p>
Dependants	<p>Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and / or a dependent older person.</p> <p>According to the Census 2021, there are 68,396 households in Newry, Mourne and Down, 33.9% of which have dependent children. 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 33.9% in 2021.</p> <p>There are 5,639 lone parent households with dependent children in Newry, Mourne and Down which equates to just over 8% of number of total households in the District and is the fourth highest in Northern Ireland, after Belfast (17,292), Derry and Strabane (7,639) and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (6,556). 93% of the parents in lone parent households in the District are female compared to 11% who are male.</p> <p>In 2019-21, the teenage birth rate (under 20 years old) was 6.5 per 1,000 mothers, which is the fourth highest in Northern Ireland after Belfast (11.4); Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey (6.9) and Mid and East Antrim (6.8) but below the regional average of 6.8 per 1,000 births.</p>

### 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

<b>Section 75 Category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>
Religious belief	All actions in relation to the performance improvement plan 2026-27 should be underpinned by a corporate commitment to improve access to facilities, services and information, and encourage

	<p>openness, transparency, on-going dialogue, and access to decision-makers.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 carried out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2026-27, which targeted all sections of the local community, encouraging them to have their say.</p>
Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	<p>As above.</p> <p>The Council carried out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2026-27, which targeted all sections of the local community, including BME communities through the Ethnic Minority Support Centre, encouraging them to have their say.</p>
Age	<p>All actions in relation to the performance improvement plan 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.</p> <p>To ensure the performance improvement plan is 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.</p> <p>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-</p>

	<p>making, and reporting progress to consultees. The Council carried out a robust and inclusive consultation and engagement process on the performance improvement objectives 2026-27, which targeted all sections of the local community, including the Youth Council's and Age Friendly Alliance, and was promoted through Council's social media channels.</p>
Marital status	<p>All actions in relation to the performance improvement plan 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.</p> <p>To ensure the performance improvement plan is 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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?

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of policy impact</b>	<b>Level of impact? Major/minor/none</b>
Religious belief	<p>No adverse impact is currently anticipated.</p> <p>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, reducing our impact in relation to climate change and accessing a more access a more effective Planning Service.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Minor</p> <p>Minor</p>
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	<p>No adverse impact is currently anticipated.</p> <p>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, reducing their impact in relation to climate change and accessing a more access a more effective Planning Service.</p> <p>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.</p>	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?

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>If Yes,</b> provide details	<b>If No,</b> provide details
Religious belief	While no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of its functions relating	

	to the performance improvement plan, 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	<p>Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Racial group	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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	

	<p>delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p>	
Marital status	<p>Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p>	
Sexual orientation	<p>Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p>	
Men and women generally	<p>Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p>	
Disability	<p>Whilst no adverse impact is</p>	

	<p>currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Dependants	<p>While no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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.</p>	

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

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

	will adversely impact upon good relations.	
Racial group	There is nothing to suggest the performance improvement plan 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 <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide details
Religious belief	Whilst no adverse impact is currently anticipated, in the delivery of the performance improvement plan, 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 plan, 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 plan, 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 Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27, has 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 plan. The performance improvement plan is based upon an assessment of the baseline evidence and directly aligned to the Corporate Plan 2024-27, Residents Survey 2022, Consultation and Engagement on the Performance Improvement Objectives 2026-27 and other key plans and strategies including the Economic Development and Regeneration 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 was proposed and agreed that the Council implement a nine-week consultation process on the performance improvement objectives in order to ensure the deadline for publishing the Performance Improvement Plan 2026-27 by 30 June 2026 is met.

It should also be noted that the performance improvement plan 2026-27 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 plan includes 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 plan 2026-27.

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

<b>Screened by:</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	27 April 2026
Catherine Hughes	Acting Head of Performance and Improvement	27 April 2026
<b>Approved by:</b>		
Gerard Byrne	Assistant Director: Finance and Performance	April 2026

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.