

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

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| Name of the policy | Establishment of a New Ireland Working Group |
| Is this an existing, revised or new policy? | New - decision |
| What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes) | <p>At the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 16 March 2022, approved at the Council meeting 4 April 2022, a Notice of Motion regarding an Irish Unity Working Group (SPR/039/2022) was tabled for consideration.</p> <p>It was agreed that this Council recognises that discussions about a constitutional change are now well underway and that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a duty to consult with its ratepayers on this important issue and the implications for the Council area and the wider border corridor. Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to establish a New Ireland Working Group and to begin a consultation with other Councils, ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change.</p> |
| Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how. | While it is intended that all section 75 categories will benefit from the establishment of a New Ireland Working Group, people of different political opinion (nationalist/republican), religious belief (Roman Catholic) and racial group (Irish national identity) might be expected to benefit from the proposal. |
| Who initiated or wrote the policy? | The decision emanates from a Notice of Motion |
| Who owns and who implements the policy? | Marie Ward, Chief Executive |

Implementation factors

| | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract 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: | Community in general | |

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| What are they? Who owns them? | NMDDC Equality Scheme The Belfast Agreement 1998 |
|----------------------------------|---|

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 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>All usual residents</th> <th>Catholic</th> <th>Protestant and other Christian</th> <th>Other religions</th> <th>None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>1,810,863</td> <td>817,385 (45.14%)</td> <td>875,717 (48.36%)</td> <td>16,592 (0.92%)</td> <td>101,169 (5.59%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne & Down</td> <td>169,211</td> <td>122,544 (72.42%)</td> <td>40,273 (23.8%)</td> <td>861 (0.5%)</td> <td>5533 (3.3%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Source: Census Data 2011 - Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI).</p> | | | | | | 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 (0.92%) | 101,169 (5.59%) | Newry, Mourne & Down | 169,211 | 122,544 (72.42%) | 40,273 (23.8%) | 861 (0.5%) | 5533 (3.3%) |
| 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 (0.92%) | 101,169 (5.59%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newry, Mourne & Down | 169,211 | 122,544 (72.42%) | 40,273 (23.8%) | 861 (0.5%) | 5533 (3.3%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Political opinion | <p>Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area.</p> <p>The party breakdown of the Council's elected members is as follows:</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| | <p>Sinn Féin 16 seats SDLP 11 seats Democratic Unionist 3 seats Independents 5 seats Ulster Unionist 3 seats Alliance 2 seats TUV 1 seat</p> <p>Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland after Brexit and under the Protocol (ARK, Research Update, Number 147, May 2022)</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement is seen as the best basis for governing NI, either as it stands or with revisions (65%), with only 6 per cent wanting to see it gone altogether. • 'Irish not British' is now the dominant identity (26%), compared to 21 per cent 'British not Irish'. • 'Neither unionist nor nationalist' remains the largest self-described political identity at 37% (42% in 2020). There has been a drop in the reporting of unionist identities (from 35% in 2020 to 32% in 2021), and an increase in nationalist identities (from 19% in 2020 to 26% in 2021). • There has been a strengthening of both nationalist and unionist identities: 69% of nationalists now identify as 'very' or 'fairly strongly' so, while the same is true of 63% of unionists. • Nearly one half of respondents (49%) believe that the long-term policy for Northern Ireland should be to remain part of the UK, although this has fallen since 2020. • One third (34%) state they would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow. • 63% of respondents believe that a united Ireland is more likely after Brexit. • 37% of respondents feel that Brexit has made them more in favour of a united Ireland. • Awareness of, and support for, the Protocol has increased markedly since 2020. 65% claim knowledge of it and the proportion who think that it is 'on balance a good thing' has more than doubled to 33%. 33% think it a 'mixed bag' while 21% think it 'on balance a bad thing'. • There are clear differences between unionists, nationalist and 'neithers' in their opinions on the Protocol. The plurality of unionists think it on balance bad for NI (44%) although 40 per cent think it 'a mixed bag'. The plurality of 'neithers' think the Protocol is 'a mixed bag' (41%). The clear majority of nationalists think that the Protocol is on balance good (69%). |
| Racial group | <p>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%).</p> <p>The minority ethnic language profile within the area serves as a possible indicator of the BME community profile.</p> <p>The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2011) as follows:</p> <p>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD</p> |

| | Area | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------|--------------|-------------|----|----------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|----|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-----|-------|-----|
| | Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD | Number | Percentage % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 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 | The age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD area at Census Day 2011 is as follows: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Profile</th> <th>NI</th> <th>Newry, Mourne & Down</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>124382</td> <td>12721</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-7</td> <td>67662</td> <td>6876</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8-9</td> <td>43625</td> <td>4595</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-14</td> <td>119034</td> <td>12287</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>24620</td> <td>2599</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-17</td> <td>51440</td> <td>5260</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-19</td> <td>50181</td> <td>4570</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24</td> <td>126013</td> <td>11570</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-29</td> <td>124099</td> <td>11805</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-34</td> <td>373947</td> <td>35122</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-59</td> <td>347850</td> <td>32556</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-64</td> <td>94290</td> <td>8624</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65-74</td> <td>145600</td> <td>12817</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75-84</td> <td>86724</td> <td>7453</td> </tr> <tr> <td>85-89</td> <td>21165</td> <td>1849</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90+</td> <td>10231</td> <td>829</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | 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 |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The total population is projected to increase to 191,282 in 2025 and to 205,000. ➤ The number of children (i.e. those aged under 16) is projected to increase from 39,740 in 2015 to 41,924 in 2025 and then to reduce slightly in 2037 to 40,811. ➤ The working age population is projected to increase from 109,777 in 2015 to 117,398 in 2025 and then to increase to 121,102 in 2037. ➤ The number of those aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 28,378 in 2015 to 32,511 in 2025 and to 42,358 in 2037. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Marital status | The table below illustrates the marital status profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down area: | | |
| | Marital Status | Newry, Mourne and Down LGD | NI |
| | All usual residents: Aged 16+ years | 132455 | 1431540 |
| | 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 legally dissolved | 6271 | 78074 (5.45%) |
| | Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ | 8408 | 97088 (6.78%) |

| | years | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|---|---------------------|---|--|---|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Sexual orientation | <p>Analysis of the Census 2011 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>887323</td> <td>923540</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down LGD</td> <td>83866</td> <td>85345</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | LGD | Male | Female | Northern Ireland | 887323 | 923540 | Newry, Mourne and Down LGD | 83866 | 85345 | | | | | | |
| LGD | Male | Female | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Ireland | 887323 | 923540 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newry, Mourne and Down LGD | 83866 | 85345 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disability | <p>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;</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>1810863</td> <td>215232 (11.89%)</td> <td>159414 (8.8%)</td> <td>1436217 (79.31%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down</td> <td>171533</td> <td>19579 (11.4%)</td> <td>14102 (8.22%)</td> <td>135530 (79.01%)</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"> • 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 Sign Language (ISL) • In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment • 52,000 people with learning disabilities <p>(Source: Disability Action)</p> | | | 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%) |
| 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%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dependants | <p>Persons with dependants may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and / or a</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>dependent older person.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
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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 | <p>In general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People from a Protestant community background, people who designate as Unionist, and people of British national identity predominantly support the status quo and maintenance of Northern Ireland's constitutional position within the United Kingdom. • People from a Roman Catholic community background, people who designate as Nationalist or Republican, and people of Irish national identity predominantly support Northern Ireland leaving the United Kingdom to join Ireland (Irish unity). <p>The Belfast Agreement 1998 sets out Constitutional Issues including to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1(i) recognise the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland with regard to its status, whether they prefer to continue to support the Union with Great Britain or a sovereign united Ireland." • 1(ii) recognise that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without |
| Political opinion | |
| Racial group | |
| Age | |
| Marital status | |
| Sexual orientation | |
| Men and women generally | |
| Disability | |
| Dependants | |

| | |
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| | <p>external impediment, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish, accepting that this right must be achieved and exercised with and subject to their agreement and consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1(iii) acknowledge that while a substantial section of the people in Northern Ireland share the legitimate wish of a majority of the people of the island of Ireland for a united Ireland, the present wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, freely exercised and legitimate, is to maintain the Union and, accordingly, that Northern Ireland's status as part of the United Kingdom reflects and relies upon that wish; and that it would be wrong to make any change in the status of Northern Ireland save with the consent of the majority of its people. <p>Schedule 1, Polls for the Purpose of Section 1, sets out that it is for the Secretary of State who may by order direct the holding of a poll. The Secretary of State shall exercise this power if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland.</p> <p>The ARK Research Update (May 2022) on <i>Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland after Brexit and under the Protocol</i> sets out the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement is seen as the best basis for governing NI, either as it stands or with revisions (65%), with only 6 per cent wanting to see it gone altogether. • 'Irish not British' is now the dominant identity (26%), compared to 21 per cent 'British not Irish'. • 'Neither unionist nor nationalist' remains the largest self-described political identity at 37% (42% in 2020). There has been a drop in the reporting of unionist identities (from 35% in 2020 to 32% in 2021), and an increase in nationalist identities (from 19% in 2020 to 26% in 2021). • There has been a strengthening of both nationalist and unionist identities: 69% of nationalists now identify as 'very' or 'fairly strongly' so, while the same is true of 63% of unionists. • Nearly one half of respondents (49%) believe that the long-term policy for Northern Ireland should be to remain part of the UK, although this has fallen since 2020. • One third (34%) state they would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow. • 63% of respondents believe that a united Ireland is more likely after Brexit. • 37% of respondents feel that Brexit has made them more in favour of a united Ireland. • Awareness of, and support for, the Protocol has increased markedly since 2020. 65% claim knowledge of it and the proportion who think that it is 'on balance a good thing' has more than doubled to 33%. 33% think it a 'mixed bag' while 21% think it 'on balance a bad thing'. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are clear differences between unionists, nationalist and 'neithers' in their opinions on the Protocol. The plurality of unionists think it on balance bad for NI (44%) although 40 per cent think it 'a mixed bag'. The plurality of 'neithers' think the Protocol is 'a mixed bag' (41%). The clear majority of nationalists think that the Protocol is on balance good (69%). <p>(Political Attitudes in Northern Ireland after Brexit and under the Protocol, ARK, Research Update Number 147, Hayward, Komarova and Rosher, May 2022)</p> |
|--|--|

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 | <p>The decision of Council is the establishment of a New Ireland Working Group and to begin a consultation with other Councils, ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change.</p> | Minor |
| Political opinion | | |
| Racial group | | |
| Age | | |
| Marital status | | |
| Sexual orientation | | |
| Men and women generally | | |
| Disability | | |
| Dependants | <p>The implementation will be underpinned by the Working Group's Terms of Reference, a draft of which has been prepared for consideration by Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p>The draft Terms of Reference states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the New Ireland Working Group will be to inform and oversee engagement and consultation to establish the views of ratepayers and community and business representatives, in the Council area, on issues related to constitutional change and the implications for the Council area. It should be noted the actions undertaken in relation to the Notice of Motion do not presuppose a corporate position, | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>support or endorse an outcome in relation to constitutional change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will play a role in supporting people of different constitutional backgrounds • Membership of the New Ireland Working Group is open to all Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. | |
|--|---|--|

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 | | <p>No.</p> <p>As noted, in terms of equality of opportunity to participate, Council has sought to mitigate potential adverse impact through committing to support people of different constitutional backgrounds and that membership of the New Ireland Working Group will be open to all Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.</p> |
| Political opinion | | |
| Racial group | | |
| Age | | |
| Marital status | | |
| Sexual orientation | | |
| Men and women generally | | |
| Disability | | |
| Dependants | | |

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 | <p>The decision of Council to establish a New Ireland Working Group and to begin a consultation with other Councils, ratepayers and community and business representatives to assess views on the issues related to constitutional change has potential to indirectly impact upon good relations.</p> <p>However, it should be noted the implementation will be underpinned by the Working Group's Terms of Reference, a draft of which has been prepared for consideration by Council's Strategy, Policy</p> | Minor |
| Political opinion | | |
| Racial group | | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>and Resources Committee.</p> <p>The draft Terms of Reference states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the New Ireland Working Group will be to inform and oversee engagement and consultation to establish the views of ratepayers and community and business representatives, in the Council area, on issues related to constitutional change and the implications for the Council area. • It should be noted the actions undertaken in relation to the Notice of Motion do not presuppose a corporate position, support or endorse an outcome in relation to constitutional change. • It will play a role in supporting people of different constitutional backgrounds • Membership of the New Ireland Working Group is open to all Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. | |
|--|---|--|

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 | | No. |
| Political opinion | | |
| Racial group | | It should be noted that the Working Group's draft Terms of Reference notes the actions undertaken in relation to the |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>Notice of Motion do not presuppose a corporate position, support or endorse an outcome in relation to constitutional change.</p> <p>In addition, in terms of regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations, Council has sought to mitigate potential adverse impact through committing to support people of different constitutional backgrounds and that membership of the New Ireland Working Group will be open to all Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.</p> |
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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).

N/A

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:

The outcome of the equality screening is that the establishment of a New Ireland Working Group not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).

This decision has been reached on the basis that, in terms of due regard to promoting equality of opportunity and regard towards the desirability of promoting

good relations, Council has sought to mitigate potential adverse impact through committing to support people of different constitutional backgrounds and that membership of the New Ireland Working Group will be open to all Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

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:

| |
|--|
| Council will monitor the implementation of the New Ireland Working Group |
|--|

Approval and Authorisation

| Screened by: | Position/Job Title | Date |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| Approved by: | | |
| Colin Moffett | Head of Corporate Policy | 18 July 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.