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

**Policy Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of the policy | Forest Parks Car Park Charges |
| Is this an existing, revised or new policy? | New practice |
| What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes) | This relates to the preferred option for the introduction of charging in forest parks |
| Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? | No |
| If so, explain how.  | In February 2023 Elected Members approved the Council rate which included the generation of additional income from the collection of car parking charges at all of the Council’s Forest and Country parks. This was agreed based on the following preferred option:* “Free entry into one park for carparking for residents of NMDDC only, with full rate season passes/drive-up tariffs available to out-of-district visitors. Option for Residents of NMDDC to upgrade to full season pass for all NMDDC Parks.”
 |
| Who initiated or wrote the policy?  | Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism |
| Who owns and who implements the policy? | Assistant Director, Economy, Growth and Tourism |

**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 | **🗸** |  |
| If yes, are they Legislative |  |  |
| 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 | **🗸** |  |
| Service users |  |  |
| Other public sector organisations |  |  |
| Voluntary/community/trade unions |  |  |
| Other, please specify: | General public using Council’s Forest and Country parks. |  |

[**Other policies with a bearing on this policy**](#Onefour)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What are they |  |
| Who owns them |  |

**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 evidence /information** |
| In February 2023 members approved the Council rate which included the generation of additional income from the collection of car parking charges at all of the Council’s Forest and Country parks. This was agreed based on the following preferred option:* “Free entry into one park for carparking for residents of NMDDC only, with full rate season passes/drive-up tariffs available to out-of-district visitors. Option for Residents of NMDDC to upgrade to full season pass for all NMDDC Parks.”

Since February officers have been working to assess the processes and resources required for implementing this provision. Several workshops have been held with members in April, September, and October to provide updates prior to seeking committee and Council approval. The 2 options discussed at recent workshop with members: 1. 1 free car pass per household within the District for a Park of their choice
2. A free car pass to all residents within the District for a park of their choice.

Due to the high proportion of local users, the provision of a free pass to all residents (as opposed to one per household) will reduce projected income levels and impact on the projections for income both this year and future years.The collection of charges at both Kilbroney and Slieve Gullion will require the provision of temporary facilities to accommodate staff with services to facilitate the collection of charges (i.e. wifi, power, card readers, tills, etc). Officers are currently progressing with these arrangements. It is proposed that an online system of dealing with permits will be procured and in place eventually. However in order to deal with permits in the meantime it is proposed that local residents of NMD can gain free access to a park of their choice through their existing permits or by showing their driving licence and or another form of photo ID – they will then be given a coloured disc to permit free entry to the park of their choice – this will cover the time period of December 2023 up to April 2025.  It is anticipated that the car park charging proposals if approved will be implemented in December 2023. Council will issue press releases, social media updates and information on Council’s websites from early November to help to inform residents and visitors of these changes. **For noting:** At the Council’s Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 12 October 2023 it was agreed to approve: * 1 free carpark pass per household within the District for 1 park of their choice;
* To proceed with the collection of drive-up charges and the issuing of resident carpark passes as detailed in the officer’s report at the charging rates set out in the report.

It was also agreed to undertake a 6 month review on the operation of the scheme. |

**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 evidence /information** |
| No specific needs, experiences or priorities have been identified in relation to the proposed scheme. |

**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? **Minor/Major/None**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category** | If **Yes,** provide details | If **No**, provide details |
| Religious belief |  |  |
| Political opinion |  |  |
| Racial group |  |  |
| Age |  |  |
| Marital status |  |  |
| Sexual orientation |  |  |
| Men and women generally |  |  |
| Disability |  |  |
| Dependants |  |  |

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 |  |  |
| 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? **Minor/Major/None**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Good relations category | If **Yes,** provide details | If **No,** provide details |
| Religious belief |  |  |
| Political opinion |  |  |
| Racial group |  |  |

**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 |  |  |
| Political opinion |  |  |
| Racial group |  |  |

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?  (For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

None

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

**Screening Decision**

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should (please underline one):

1. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**

2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)

3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time

4. Be subject to an EQIA

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

|  |
| --- |
| No specific needs, experiences or priorities have been identified in relation to the proposed scheme.At the Council’s Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 12 October 2023 it was agreed to approve: * 1 free carpark pass per household within the District for 1 park of their choice;
* To proceed with the collection of drive-up charges and the issuing of resident carpark passes as detailed in the officer’s report at the charging rates set out in the report.

It was also agreed to undertake a 6 month review on the operation of the scheme. |

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? YES / 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:

|  |
| --- |
| It has been agreed that there will be a six month review of the operation of the agreed scheme. |

**Approval and Authorisation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Screened by:**  | **Position/Job Title**  | **Date** |
| Colin Moffett | Assistant Director Corporate Planning & Policy (Acting) | 12/10/2023 |
| **Approved by:** |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.