

# Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

## Policy Information

Name of the policy	Newry, Mourne and Down draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	New
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The draft Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) outlines a plan of action to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the District for both current and future generations;</li> <li>• Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District, and;</li> <li>• Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity.</li> </ul> <p>The project strives to ensure that the biodiversity of Newry, Mourne and Down is maintained and enhanced through the preparation and implementation of individual action plans, covering a range of habitats and species, which reflect European, national and local priorities. It is based largely on the targets set out in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, translating regional strategy into local action.</p>
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	No
If so, explain how.	
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Sheena McEldowney, Senior Environmental Health Officer Danielle Begley, Biodiversity Officer
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Active and Healthy Communities Directorate

## 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	<b>X</b>	
If yes, are they Legislative	<b>X</b>	
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:	The draft plan provides examples of how farmers and land owners, community groups, businesses and individuals can get involved and play a vital part in enhancing and maintaining the Council district's biodiversity.	

### Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011</li> </ul>
Who owns them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011</li> </ul> <p>This legislation is the primary tool for the conservation and protection of Northern Ireland's threatened or endangered wildlife. Whilst the Act has introduced new species to protected lists, tightened controls on invasive species and increased penalties for wildlife crime, a significant change for Council was the introduction of a new Biodiversity Duty for all public bodies.</p>

## 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" data-bbox="411 506 1391 779"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="411 506 587 600">LGD</th> <th data-bbox="592 506 751 600">All usual residents</th> <th data-bbox="756 506 916 600">Catholic</th> <th data-bbox="920 506 1096 600">Protestant and other Christian</th> <th data-bbox="1101 506 1260 600">Other religions</th> <th data-bbox="1265 506 1391 600">None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 607 587 674"><b>Northern Ireland</b></td> <td data-bbox="592 607 751 674">1,810,863</td> <td data-bbox="756 607 916 674">817,385 (45.14%)</td> <td data-bbox="920 607 1096 674">875,717 (48.36%)</td> <td data-bbox="1101 607 1260 674">16,592 (0.9%)</td> <td data-bbox="1265 607 1391 674">101,169 (5.59%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 680 587 775"><b>Newry, Mourne &amp; Down</b></td> <td data-bbox="592 680 751 775">171533</td> <td data-bbox="756 680 916 775">113200 (65.99%)</td> <td data-bbox="920 680 1096 775">34718 (20.34%)</td> <td data-bbox="1101 680 1260 775">752 (0.43%)</td> <td data-bbox="1265 680 1391 775">10229 (5.96%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="411 781 794 813">(Source: Census Data 2011).</p>						LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian	Other religions	None	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,810,863	817,385 (45.14%)	875,717 (48.36%)	16,592 (0.9%)	101,169 (5.59%)	<b>Newry, Mourne &amp; Down</b>	171533	113200 (65.99%)	34718 (20.34%)	752 (0.43%)	10229 (5.96%)			
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Political opinion	<p data-bbox="384 916 1399 983">Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area.</p> <p data-bbox="384 1016 1399 1048">The party breakdown of the Council's elected members is as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="384 1081 979 1285"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1081 858 1113">Sinn Féin</td> <td data-bbox="858 1081 979 1113">14 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1117 858 1149">SDLP</td> <td data-bbox="858 1117 979 1149">13 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1153 858 1184">Democratic Unionist</td> <td data-bbox="858 1153 979 1184">4 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1189 858 1220">Independents</td> <td data-bbox="858 1189 979 1220">5 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1225 858 1256">Ulster Unionist</td> <td data-bbox="858 1225 979 1256">3 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1261 858 1292">Alliance</td> <td data-bbox="858 1261 979 1292">2 seats</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Sinn Féin	14 seats	SDLP	13 seats	Democratic Unionist	4 seats	Independents	5 seats	Ulster Unionist	3 seats	Alliance	2 seats									
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Racial group	<p data-bbox="384 1323 1399 1422">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 data-bbox="384 1456 1399 1523">The minority ethnic language profile within the area serves as a possible indicator of the BME community profile.</p> <p data-bbox="384 1556 1399 1624">The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2011) as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="384 1657 1399 1720"><b>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="384 1724 1380 2031"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="384 1724 858 1823">Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th> <th data-bbox="858 1724 1086 1823">Number</th> <th data-bbox="1086 1724 1380 1823">Percentage %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1827 858 1859">English</td> <td data-bbox="858 1827 1086 1859">156794</td> <td data-bbox="1086 1827 1380 1859">97.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1863 858 1895">Polish</td> <td data-bbox="858 1863 1086 1895">2100</td> <td data-bbox="1086 1863 1380 1895">1.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1899 858 1930">Lithuanian</td> <td data-bbox="858 1899 1086 1930">836</td> <td data-bbox="1086 1899 1380 1930">0.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1935 858 1966">Irish</td> <td data-bbox="858 1935 1086 1966">367</td> <td data-bbox="1086 1935 1380 1966">0.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 1971 858 2002">Portuguese</td> <td data-bbox="858 1971 1086 2002">86</td> <td data-bbox="1086 1971 1380 2002">0.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="384 2007 858 2038">Slovak</td> <td data-bbox="858 2007 1086 2038">134</td> <td data-bbox="1086 2007 1380 2038">0.08</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						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
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	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:		
	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
Marital status	The table below illustrates 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	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	102	1243

	registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years		(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+ years	8408	97088 (6.78%)									
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
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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</p>											

	<p>limits their day-to-day activities;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 259 1398 667"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="395 259 596 495">LGD</th> <th data-bbox="596 259 798 495">All usual residents</th> <th data-bbox="798 259 999 495">Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot</th> <th data-bbox="999 259 1200 495">Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little</th> <th data-bbox="1200 259 1398 495">Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 495 596 562">Northern Ireland</td> <td data-bbox="596 495 798 562">1810863</td> <td data-bbox="798 495 999 562">215232 (11.89%)</td> <td data-bbox="999 495 1200 562">159414 (8.8%)</td> <td data-bbox="1200 495 1398 562">1436217 (79.31%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 562 596 667">Newry, Mourne and Down</td> <td data-bbox="596 562 798 667">171533</td> <td data-bbox="798 562 999 667">19579 (11.4%)</td> <td data-bbox="999 562 1200 667">14102 (8.22%)</td> <td data-bbox="1200 562 1398 667">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"> <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> <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>	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%)
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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>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>															

## 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	No specific needs, experiences and priorities have been identified in relation to the proposed policy and associated procedures.
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	
Disability	
Dependants	

## 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	It is not anticipated the policy will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity.	None
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

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		No opportunities have been identified that would better promote equality of opportunity.
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	It is not anticipated the policy will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity.	None
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		None have been identified
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:

As indicated above, the decision is that the policy not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).

Newry, Mourne and Down's draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan reflects the biodiversity duty and legislative requirements of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011 which is the primary tool for the



conservation and protection of Northern Ireland's threatened or endangered wildlife.

As stated previously, the draft Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) outlines a plan of action to:

- Conserve and enhance the rich biodiversity of the District for both current and future generations;
- Educate and raise awareness of the importance and variety of biodiversity found within the Newry, Mourne and Down District, and;
- Encourage local ownership of Newry, Mourne and Down District's biodiversity.

The project strives to ensure that the biodiversity of Newry, Mourne and Down is maintained and enhanced through the preparation and implementation of individual action plans, covering a range of habitats and species, which reflect European, national and local priorities. It is based largely on the targets set out in the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, translating regional strategy into local action, and within the context of Section 75, it is not anticipated that taking this approach will have an adverse impact upon promoting equality of opportunity or the desirability of promoting good relations.

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)
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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 Council will review the operation of this Policy every 4 years (as per the Council's Equality Scheme Commitment 4.31) or earlier as necessary, and may, subject to Council approval, amend as required for operational reasons or to take into account any legal developments that impact on the Policy.

## Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Danielle Begley	Biodiversity Officer	
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	10 July 2017
Approved by:		
Eoin Devlin	Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing	10 July 2017

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.