

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Local Economic Partnership
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	New Policy
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The LEP is focused on delivery against DfE Sub-regional Economic Plan priority areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased productivity • good jobs, • Achieving regional balance • Decarbonisation <p>This Plan will: Empower the LEP to identify actions to drive sustained economic development.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of the district.</p>
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	All Section 75 categories would be expected to benefit.
If so, explain how.	The LEP is new approach to local economic growth.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	<p>The Minister for Department of the Economy (DfE) Economic Vision set out four key objectives, one of which is Regional Balance.</p> <p>NMDDC established a LEP in January 2025, the Partnership codesigned an action plan for implementation.</p>
Who owns and who implements the policy?	NMDDC

Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?	Yes	
If yes, are they Financial – DfE is funding the LEP at	Yes	

100%. Match funding is required by private sector for the Commercial capital grant, Revive and Reimagine Grant and Productivity Grant		
If yes, are they Legislative		No
If yes, and they are Other please specify:	Staff Resources/Skillset	

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

	Yes	No
Staff	ERT, Community Planning, Corporate Services	
Service users		
Other public sector organisations	DfE, DfI, DfC, SERC, SRC, UUEPC & Tourism NI	
Voluntary/community/trade unions	Third Sector Social Enterprises	
Other, please specify:	Business representative groups, local enterprise agencies, businesses and social enterprises.	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	Programme for Government & Sub Regional Economic Plan
Who owns them	NI Executive and DfE

Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
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75 Category						
Religious belief	LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian	Other religions	None
	Northern Ireland	1,903,178	869,753 (45.7%)	827,545 (43.5%)	28,514 (1.5%)	177,360 (9.3%)
	Newry, Mourne & Down	182,074	131,300 (72.1%)	39,970 (22.0%)	1,327 (0.7%)	9,477 (5.2%)
	(Source: Census Data 2021).					
Political opinion	As reported by DfE evidence from official government sources has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. There is a need for targeted policy interventions to address disparities and ‘one size fits’ all no longer works. Regional balance will include elements that benefit all areas and create opportunities. Regional balance recognises that regions have different strengths and need and need tailored solutions to reduce economic disparities across the North.					
	A Call for Evidence took place in 2023, this was then followed by extensive stakeholder engagements and participation in the Invest NI task force. Data which was provided by Councils and other departments was also analysed.					
	This policy will provide opportunity for all.					
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	This policy will provide opportunity for all.					
	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:					
Political opinion	Sinn Féin		20 seats			
	SDLP		8 seats			

	<div><div>Independents2 seats</div><div>Democratic Unionist5 seats</div><div>Ulster Unionist1 seats</div><div>Alliance5 seats</div></div> <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>As reported by DfE evidence from official government sources has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. There is a need for targeted policy interventions to address disparities and ‘one size fits’ all no longer works. Regional balance will include elements that benefit all areas and create opportunities. Regional balance recognises that regions have different strengths and need and need tailored solutions to reduce economic disparities across the North. A Call for Evidence took place in 2023, this was then followed by extensive stakeholder engagements and participation in the Invest NI task force. Data which was provided by Councils and other departments was also analysed.</p> <p>This policy will provide opportunity for all.</p> <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>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</p> <table><tr><th>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage %</th></tr><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</td><td>70</td><td>0.04</td></tr></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	70	0.04
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	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																																																			
Age	Age evidence / information: As reported by DfE evidence from official government sources has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. There is a need for targeted policy interventions to address disparities and ‘one size fits’ all no longer works. Regional balance will include elements that benefit all areas and create opportunities. Regional balance recognises that regions have different strengths and need and need tailored solutions to reduce economic disparities across the North. A Call for Evidence took place in 2023, this was then followed by extensive stakeholder engagements and participation in the Invest NI task force. Data which was provided by Councils and other departments was also analysed. This policy will provide opportunity for all. According to the 2021 Census, the age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows: <table><tr><th>Age Profile</th><th>NI</th><th>Newry, Mourne & Down</th></tr><tr><td>0-4</td><td>113,825</td><td>11,722</td></tr><tr><td>5-7</td><td>73,456</td><td>7,693</td></tr><tr><td>8-9</td><td>51,020</td><td>5,259</td></tr><tr><td>10-14</td><td>126,919</td><td>13,151</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>23,220</td><td>2,254</td></tr><tr><td>16-17</td><td>46,641</td><td>4,923</td></tr><tr><td>18-19</td><td>43,343</td><td>4,024</td></tr><tr><td>20-24</td><td>111,383</td><td>10,022</td></tr><tr><td>25-29</td><td>116,407</td><td>10,354</td></tr><tr><td>30-44</td><td>375.518</td><td>34,970</td></tr><tr><td>45-59</td><td>381,910</td><td>36,612</td></tr><tr><td>60-64</td><td>113,043</td><td>10,755</td></tr><tr><td>65-74</td><td>176,934</td><td>16,922</td></tr><tr><td>75-84</td><td>110,149</td><td>9,872</td></tr><tr><td>85-89</td><td>25,877</td><td>2.344</td></tr><tr><td>90+</td><td>13,517</td><td>1,191</td></tr></table>			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
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Sexual orientation	As reported by DfE evidence from official government sources has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland.																								

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Men and women generally	<p>As reported by DfE evidence from official government sources has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. There is a need for targeted policy interventions to address disparities and ‘one size fits’ all no longer works. Regional balance will include elements that benefit all areas and create opportunities. Regional balance recognises that regions have different strengths and need and need tailored solutions to reduce economic disparities across the North.</p> <p>A Call for Evidence took place in 2023, this was then followed by extensive stakeholder engagements and participation in the Invest NI task force. Data which was provided by Councils and other departments was also analysed.</p> <p>This policy will provide opportunity for all.</p> <p>The gender profile for the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>LGD</td><td>Male</td><td>Female</td></tr><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></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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Northern Ireland	936,132	967,043								
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	<p>extensive stakeholder engagements and participation in the Invest NI task force. Data which was provided by Councils and other departments was also analysed.</p> <p>This policy will provide opportunity for all.</p> <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><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><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></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	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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Dependants	<p>As reported by DfE evidence from official government sources has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. There is a need for targeted policy interventions to address disparities and ‘one size fits’ all no longer works. Regional balance will include elements that benefit all areas and create opportunities. Regional balance recognises that regions have different strengths and need and need tailored solutions to reduce economic disparities across the North. A Call for Evidence took place in 2023, this was then followed by extensive stakeholder engagements and participation in the Invest NI task force. Data which was provided by Councils and other departments was also analysed.</p>															

	<p>This policy will provide opportunity for all.</p> <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). Half of the parents in lone parent households in Newry, Mourne and Down are unemployed, almost a quarter are in full time employment and over a quarter are in part time employment. 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 & Newtownabbey (6.9) and Mid and East Antrim (6.8) but below the regional average of 6.8 per 1,000 births.</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>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Political opinion	Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained

	<p>economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Racial group	<p>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Age	<p>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Marital status	<p>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Men and women generally	<p>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p> <p>Provide resources to support these structures</p>
Disability	<p>Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas.</p> <p>Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas.</p>

	Provide resources to support these structures
Dependants	Empower local stakeholders to identify actions to drive sustained economic development in their areas. Create the necessary structures to support delivery of tailored actions representative of the economic interests of those areas. Provide resources to support these structures

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?

All Section 75 categories would be expected to benefit.

The Sub Regional Economic Plan and NMDDC's LEP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Major/minor/none
Religious belief	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Political opinion	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Racial group	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Age	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Marital status	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Sexual orientation	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Men and women generally	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth	Minor positive

	building on existing structures.	
Disability	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive
Dependants	The SREAP will include a new approach to local economic growth building on existing structures.	Minor positive

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	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Political opinion	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Racial group	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Age	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	

Marital status	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Sexual orientation	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Men and women generally	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Disability	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	
Dependants	Evidence has shown there are ongoing economic disparities across Northern Ireland. The Sub-Regional Economic Plan (SREP) and LEP Action Plan will be implemented with targeted interventions to reduce economic disparities across the North.	

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		None
Political opinion		None

Racial group		None
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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, the actions focus on economic balance
Political opinion		No, the actions focus on economic balance
Racial group		No, the actions focus on economic balance

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. 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 responses do not meet the threshold to be equality screened.

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. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. 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: _____

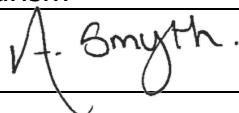
Monitoring

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:

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Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
	Aveen McVeigh, Head of Regeneration and Business Development	7/11/25
Approved by:		
	Amanda Smyth Assistant Director Economic Growth and Tourism	10/11/2025
		

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.