

# Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

## Policy Information

Name of the policy	Newry City Centre Regeneration Project
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Existing
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	Regeneration of Newry city core to increase vibrancy and footfall, place-make, widen cultural offer, improve service delivery, attract visitors and further private sector investment.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	Yes. The programme of works will create new urban environments and leisure facilities that will be designed to meet the access needs of people within the section 75 categories.
If so, explain how.	Improved accessibility to places, council services, arts, cultural and leisure facilities and future job opportunities.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Council
Who owns and who implements the policy?	

## Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?	X	
If yes, are they Financial	X	
If yes, are they Legislative	X	
If yes, and they are Other please specify:	Stakeholder & technical.	

## 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:		

## Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	
Who owns them	

## Available evidence

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned Otium Leisure Consultancy to consult with people in the district about the Council's proposals for the regeneration of Newry city centre. The task was to deliver an extensive district wide public consultation process to gather feedback on all aspects of the Newry City Centre Regeneration project.

The terms of reference states:-

*'The council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019 sets out as one of its key actions the delivery of a new Civic Centre. The project has since evolved into a programme of regeneration works, investing directly within the historic core of Newry, to increase vibrancy, footfall and stimulate further investment; the programme includes a Civic Centre and Regional Hub, a Theatre/ Conference facility incorporating a digital innovation hub, public realm, and Grade A office accommodation. Spin off projects in partnership with the Department for Communities and the Department for Infrastructure include the development of a Traffic, Transportation and Car Parking strategy and the Newry Enabling plan.'*

An earlier Outline Business Case, which identified a preferred option to support the capital funding commitment by the council, along with the funding request from Belfast Region City Deal, were approved by the council in November 2020; they form the basis for the consultation process undertaken between January and August 2021.

The consultation exercise, delivered between January and August 2021, comprised the following elements:-

- Two stakeholder engagement workshops were held on 26 January.
- An online survey was available for a 12 week period from 8 March to 31 May.
- 5 online public workshops.
- 5 online targeted workshops were arranged to engage specifically with the following:-
  - City centre businesses (BID members)
  - Newry Cathedral (Committee representatives)
  - Young People (School Councillors)
  - District wide business interests
  - Section 75 groups
- Written submissions were invited.
- A series of key stakeholder organisation telephone interviews.

The proposed regeneration of Newry city centre is an emotive topic and one which engendered wide participation in the consultation exercise as detailed below:

- Stakeholder workshops 14 attendees from 11 organisations
- Online Survey 1,585 responses
- Public Workshops 55 Attendees
- Targeted workshops 39 attendees
- Other Submissions 2 written submissions
- Stakeholder interviews 6 national organisations

Survey respondents were asked; ‘If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.’

A workshop specifically targeting representative regional groups for each of the Section 75 categories listed above was organised as part of the consultation process, however, those organisations which wished to comment chose to respond to the online survey in lieu of attending the workshop.

A total of 262 respondents addressed this question, of which 39 responded no, none or not applicable. The majority of comments were general in nature and did not relate to specific Section 75 categories or to the implications of these proposals for rural residents. Worthy of note however is the fact that among these more general comments there is a call for better engagement to reinvigorate relationships between stakeholders such as local businesses and the council, and the fact that almost 10% of respondents (24) felt the proposals would lead to an increase in cross border travel and trade.

A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to **age**. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.

A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people’s ability to worship.

One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.

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																							
Religious belief	<table border="1" data-bbox="411 1464 1394 1738"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="411 1464 587 1565">LGD</th> <th data-bbox="592 1464 751 1565">All usual residents</th> <th data-bbox="756 1464 916 1565">Catholic</th> <th data-bbox="920 1464 1096 1565">Protestant and other Christian</th> <th data-bbox="1101 1464 1260 1565">Other religions</th> <th data-bbox="1265 1464 1394 1565">None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1565 587 1637">Northern Ireland</td> <td data-bbox="592 1565 751 1637">1,810,863</td> <td data-bbox="756 1565 916 1637">817,385 (45.14%)</td> <td data-bbox="920 1565 1096 1637">875,717 (48.36%)</td> <td data-bbox="1101 1565 1260 1637">16,592 (0.92%)</td> <td data-bbox="1265 1565 1394 1637">101,169 (5.59%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1637 587 1738">Newry, Mourne &amp; Down</td> <td data-bbox="592 1637 751 1738">169,211</td> <td data-bbox="756 1637 916 1738">122,544 (72.42%)</td> <td data-bbox="920 1637 1096 1738">40,273 (23.8%)</td> <td data-bbox="1101 1637 1260 1738">861 (0.5%)</td> <td data-bbox="1265 1637 1394 1738">5533 (3.3%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="411 1738 1257 1805">(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%)
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Political opinion	<p data-bbox="384 1879 1414 1946">Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area.</p> <p data-bbox="384 1980 1414 2047">The party breakdown of the Council’s elected members is as follows:</p>																							

	<p>Sinn Féin 16 seats  SDLP 11 seats  Independents 5 seats  Ulster Unionist 3 seats  Democratic Unionist 3 seats  Alliance 2 seats  TUV 1 seat</p>																																										
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><b>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>English</td><td>156794</td><td>97.15</td></tr> <tr><td>Polish</td><td>2100</td><td>1.18</td></tr> <tr><td>Lithuanian</td><td>836</td><td>0.47</td></tr> <tr><td>Irish</td><td>367</td><td>0.24</td></tr> <tr><td>Portuguese</td><td>86</td><td>0.05</td></tr> <tr><td>Slovak</td><td>134</td><td>0.08</td></tr> <tr><td>Chinese</td><td>121</td><td>0.07</td></tr> <tr><td>Tagalog/Filipino</td><td>55</td><td>0.03</td></tr> <tr><td>Latvian</td><td>208</td><td>0.25</td></tr> <tr><td>Russian</td><td>109</td><td>0.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Malayalam</td><td>87</td><td>0.05</td></tr> <tr><td>Hungarian</td><td>74</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>755</td><td>0.46</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	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
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	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 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	8408	97088

	surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years		(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 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"> <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> </ul>			LGD	All usual residents	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited	Northern Ireland	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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52,000 people with learning disabilities</li> </ul> <p>(Source: Disability Action)</p>
Dependants	<p>Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and / or a dependent older person.</p> <p>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	<p>Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to</p>

	<p>worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p><b>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Maintaining car parking / accessibility to places of worship within the immediate area.</b></p>
Political opinion	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Racial group	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Age	<p>Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p><b>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Creating age friendly environments / facilities.</b></p>
Marital status	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Sexual orientation	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Men and women generally	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Disability	<p>Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and</p>



	<p>young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p><b>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Maintaining access to services and create environments / facilities capable of being accessed and enjoyed by people with disabilities.</b></p>
Dependants	<p>Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p><b>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Maintaining car parking / accessibility to car parking for people with dependants.</b></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	Perceived impact if there is a reduction of car parking availability near to places of worship.	Minor
Political opinion	No adverse impact.	
Racial group	No adverse impact.	

Age	Perceived impact if there is a reduction of car parking availability near to places of worship.	Minor
Marital status	No adverse impact.	
Sexual orientation	No adverse impact.	
Men and women generally	No adverse impact.	
Disability	Perceived impact if there is a reduction of car parking availability.	
Dependants	Perceived impact if there is a reduction of car parking availability.	

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide details</b>
Religious belief	Address adverse impact and demonstrate no loss of parking near to places of worship.	
Political opinion		No effect on political opinion.
Racial group		No effect on racial group.
Age	Yes due to improved accessibility to places, council services, arts, leisure and cultural facilities.	
Marital status		No effect on marital status type.
Sexual orientation		No effect on sexual orientation.
Men and women generally		No particular effect on men and women generally.
Disability	Yes due to improved accessibility to places, council services, arts, leisure and cultural facilities.	
Dependants		No effect on 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?

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>Details of policy impact</b>	<b>Level of impact? Major/minor/none</b>
Religious belief	No effect.	None
Political opinion	No effect.	None
Racial group	No effect.	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide details</b>
Religious belief		No, it is a capital delivery scheme.

Political opinion		No, it is a capital delivery scheme.
Racial group		No, it is a capital delivery scheme.

## 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:

The decision of the screening is that the Newry City Centre Regeneration Scheme not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).

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.

<b>Priority criterion</b>	<b>Rating (1-3)</b>
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.

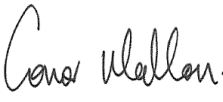
Proposed date for commencing EQIA: \_\_\_\_\_

### **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:

## Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Adrian Grimshaw	Project Director Newry City Centre Regeneration	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Approved by:		
<b>Conor Mallon</b>	Director Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism	11 <sup>th</sup> April 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.