Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Performance Improvement Policy
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Reviewed / revised
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	 Ensure that the Council discharges its performance improvement duties under Part 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014. Mainstream the Council's Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which drives and provides assurance that corporate priorities and performance improvement objectives are being delivered. Ensure that Elected Members and officers have due regard for performance improvement in carrying out their duties.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	All categories are expected to benefit from the intended policy approach.
If so, explain how.	The adoption of this policy will have a positive impact on employees, the organisational culture and the subsequent delivery of services to all residents across the District.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Kate Bingham, Head of Performance and Improvement
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Liam Hannaway- Chief Executive Johnny McBride - Assistant Director: Community Planning and Performance Kate Bingham - Head of Performance and Improvement

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 you and they are Other places execitive	
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:	Members of the community in general	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	 Parts 11 and 12 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, in relation to a General Duty of Improvement and Community Planning Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-19 Performance Improvement Plan 2017-18 and 2018-19 (includes the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework) Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 (as per commitments and obligations outlined within Council's approved Equality Scheme) Other key plans and strategies
Who owns them	These are corporate responsibilities of the Council, as well as the Community Planning Partnership.

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	1,810,863	817,385 (45.14%)	875,717 (48.36%)	16,592 (0.9%)	101,169 (5.59%)
	Newry, Mourne & Down	171533	113200 (65.99%)	34718 (20.24%)	752 (0.43%)	10229 (5.96%)
	(Source: Ce	ensus Data 2	011).			
Political opinion		. , ,		is an approxi Council area.		eter of
	The party br	eakdown of	the Council	's elected mer	nbers is as f	ollows:
	Sinn Féin 14 seats SDLP 14 seats Democratic Unionist 4 seats Independents 4 seats					
	Ulster Union Alliance	ist		3 seats 2 seats		
	across the C democratic of PUL Councill	ouncil area. leficits exist or represent nave one CN	With respe within parti ation (Newr	District Elector ct to party po cular DEAs i.e ry, Crotlieve and ne) or PUL (Sli	litical represe three DEAs nd Downpatr	entation, have no rick), and
Racial group	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%).					
	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 (2011) as follows:					
	Minority Et Down LGD		age Profil	e of the New	ry, Mourne	e and
	11	age of reside urne and Dov)		Number	Percentag	e %

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 Acco

According to the 2011 Census, the age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD 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 provides an overview of 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	47722	517393

	(never married or		(35.14%)
	never registered a same-sex		
	civil partnership) Aged 16+		
	years		
	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+ years	8408	97088 (6.78%)
Coveral	Applysis of the	Conque 2011 indicat	on that between 20/ and 100/ after
Sexual	Analysis of the	CELIENZ TOTT IUNICAL	es that between 2% and 10% of the

orientation population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual. 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. Men and The gender profile for the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as women follows: generally Female **LGD** Male Northern Ireland 887323 923540 Newry, Mourne 83866 85345 and Down LGD Disability According to the 2011 Census 19.62% 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. LGD All usual Long-term Long-term Long-term residents health health health problem or problem or problem or disability: disability: disability: Day-to-day Day-to-day Day-to-day activities activities activities limited a lot limited a not limited little 1810863 215232 1436217 Northern 159414 Ireland (11.89%)(8.8%)(79.31%) Newry, 171533 19579 14102 135530 Mourne and (11.4%)(8.22%)(79.01%) Down In Northern Ireland the profile of people with a disability is cited as follows: 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 Sigh Language (ISL) In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment 52,000 people with learning disabilities

	(Source: Disability Action)
Dependants	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.
	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.
	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.
	In 2012, the teenage conception rate was 1.02 per 1,000 mothers, which is the third lowest in Northern Ireland before Lisburn and Castlereagh and Fermanagh and Omagh.

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	The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 sets out a General Duty of Improvement, whereby all District Councils are required to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions and to set performance improvement objectives for each financial year.
	'Improvement' within the context of the Act means more than just

	quantifiable gains in service output or efficiency, or in the internal effectiveness of an organisation. Improvement means activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for all.
	It is therefore expected the adoption of this policy will have a positive impact for employees, the organisational culture and subsequently the delivery of services to all residents across the District. the Performance Improvement Objectives outline the supporting action
	No specific needs, experiences and priorities have been identified at this stage of development.
Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	As above.
Age	As above
Marital status	As above
Sexual orientation	As above.
Men and women generally	As above.
Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

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	There is nothing to suggest the	None
Political opinion	Performance Improvement Policy	
Racial group	will adversely impact upon equality	
Age	of opportunity.	

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 Political opinion Racial group Age Marital status Sexual orientation Men and women generally Disability Dependants	details	No. While no adverse impact is currently anticipated with regard to the Performance Improvement Policy, in the delivery of its services and functions relating to the Council's Performance Improvement Objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.

2. 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 Political opinion Racial group	There is nothing to suggest the Performance Improvement Policy will adversely impact upon good relations.	None

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	If No, provide details
	details	
Religious belief		No.
Political opinion		
Racial group		Whilst no adverse impact is currently
		anticipated with regard to the

Performance Improvement Policy, in the delivery of its functions relating to the Performance Improvement Objectives, the Council must be mindful at all times of its statutory duties under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to have regard towards the desirability of promoting good relations, and to ensure equality of opportunity to access, participate and contribute are key components which underpin any processes.

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. 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 Performance Improvement Policy has been equality screened and it is recommended it not be subject to an equality impact assessment (with no mitigating measures required).

The policy acknowledges that reviewing performance and reporting progress facilitates transparency, accountability and improvement. The Council has put in place governance arrangements to support the development, implementation, review and reporting of the Community Plan, Corporate

Plan, Performance Improvement Plan, as well as other key plans and strategies.

Implementing the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework will support the Council in mainstreaming the Performance Improvement Policy and embedding a culture of performance improvement across the organisation, thereby complying with the General Duty of Improvement.

The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework puts in place arrangements to ensure that:

- Elected Members and Officers share a common vision, recognising how their work contributes to the achievement of community planning outcomes, corporate priorities and performance improvement objectives.
- Performance is monitored, analysed, reviewed and reported on a regular basis
- Good performance is recognised and poor performance is addressed.
- Robust and reliable evidence is used to inform the provision of services and strengthen the decision-making process.

With overall responsibility for performance management, the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee will monitor the implementation of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework and Performance Improvement Policy. The Audit Committee will provide assurance that the Council's performance management arrangements are robust and effective.

Through the annual Improvement Audit and Assessment, the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) will determine whether the Council has discharged its performance improvement and reporting duties, and complied with the Guidance issued by the Department for Communities (DfC).

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?	S
In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative pol Yes / No. If No, please explain why	licy?
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:	
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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 policy will be reviewed in line with the Council's agreed policy review cycle i.e. every 4 years (as per Council's Equality Scheme commitment 4.31), or sooner to ensure it remains reflective of legislative developments.

As noted, The policy acknowledges that reviewing performance and reporting progress facilitates transparency, accountability and improvement. The Council has put in place governance arrangements to support the development, implementation,

review and reporting of the Community Plan, Corporate Plan, Performance Improvement Plan, as well as other key plans and strategies.

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Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Catherine Hughes	Acting Head of Performance and	25 October 2022
	Improvement	
Approved by:		
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	25 October 2022