

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Planning Enforcement Strategy April 2026
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Revised
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The Strategy aims to resolve enforcement issues informally where possible, control unauthorised development, remedy its impacts, take legal action when necessary, and act consistently and proportionately to maintain the integrity of the planning system.</p> <p>Revisions include the removal of anonymous complaints (unless they fall into Priority 1 category). Revised performance targets and changing the Priority Categories from 3 to 4.</p>
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	The Strategy will be implemented equally to all sections of the community.
If so, explain how.	N/A
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Original Enforcement Strategy produced by former Planning Manager (November 2019). Revision overseen by Development Plan and Enforcement Manager.
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Implementation factors

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

Main stakeholders affected

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

	Yes	No
Staff	✓	
Service users		✓
Other public sector organisations		✓
Voluntary/community/trade unions		✓
Other, please specify:	General public	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
Who owns them	Department for Infrastructure

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	N/A
Political opinion	N/A
Racial group	N/A
Age	N/A
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	N/A
Dependants	N/A

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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	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of religious belief.
Political opinion	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of political opinion.
Racial group	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of racial group
Age	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of age.
Marital status	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of marital status.
Sexual orientation	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of sexual orientation.
Men and women generally	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of gender.
Disability	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of disability.
Dependants	The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be implemented regardless of 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	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy applies equally to all individuals regardless of religious belief	none
Political opinion	No differential impact anticipated. Enforcement is based on planning legislation and evidence, not political affiliation.	None
Racial group	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy is applied consistently and does not target or disadvantage any racial group.	none
Age	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy does not differentiate by age and applies equally to all parties involved in planning matters.	none
Marital status	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy has no bearing on an individual's marital status	none
Sexual orientation	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy is applied uniformly irrespective of sexual orientation.	none
Men and women generally	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy is gender neutral and applied consistently	none
Disability	While the Strategy is applied consistently, some individuals with disabilities may require reasonable adjustments (e.g. accessible communication formats) to engage with the enforcement process.	minor
Dependants	No differential impact anticipated. The Strategy does not directly impact individuals based on dependency status.	none

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		The Strategy is regulatory in nature and applied

		consistently; no specific opportunities to promote equality of opportunity have been identified.
Political opinion		No opportunities identified, as enforcement is based solely on planning legislation and evidence.
Racial group		No specific opportunities identified; however, information can be provided in accessible formats on request.
Age		No opportunities identified as the Strategy applies equally across all age groups.
Marital status		No opportunities identified; the Strategy has no relevance to marital status.
Sexual orientation		No opportunities identified; the Strategy is applied uniformly.
Men and women generally		No opportunities identified; the Strategy is gender neutral.
Disability	Yes	There is an opportunity to promote equality by ensuring information is available in accessible formats and that reasonable adjustments are made to enable people with disabilities to engage with the enforcement process.
Dependants		No opportunities identified; the Strategy

		does not directly relate to dependency status.
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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	Negligible impact. Planning enforcement is based solely on planning legislation and evidence.	none
Political opinion	Negligible impact. Planning enforcement is based solely on planning legislation and evidence.	none
Racial group	Negligible impact. Planning enforcement is based solely on planning legislation and evidence.	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 details	If No, provide details
Religious belief		No, the purpose of the Strategy is to resolve enforcement issues informally where possible, control unauthorised development, remedy its impacts, take legal action when necessary, and act consistently and proportionately to maintain the integrity of the planning system
Political opinion		No, the purpose of the Strategy is to resolve enforcement issues informally where possible, control unauthorised development, remedy its impacts, take legal action when necessary, and act consistently

		and proportionately to maintain the integrity of the planning system
Racial group		No, the purpose of the Strategy is to resolve enforcement issues informally where possible, control unauthorised development, remedy its impacts, take legal action when necessary, and act consistently and proportionately to maintain the integrity of the planning system

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 Strategy is regulatory in nature and sets out the Council's approach to the enforcement of planning legislation. It does not introduce new policy directions, allocate resources, or target specific groups, and will be applied consistently and proportionately across all Section 75 categories. Screening

has identified no evidence of adverse or differential impacts on any equality group. As such, an EQIA is not considered necessary.

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?

N/A

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy? Yes / No. If No, please explain why

N/A

If 3. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

N/A

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? N/A

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:

The Planning Enforcement Strategy will be reviewed every three years. The necessity for a EQUIA will be considered at each review.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Ashley Donaldson	Senior Planning Officer	20.04.2026
Approved by:		
Jonathan McGilly	Assistant Director – Regeneration	18/5/2026

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.