Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Policy on naming Council facilities
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Revised following review – Version 3
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	The aim of this policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming of Council facilities. The policy also addresses requests regarding park benches and plaques.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	
If so, explain how.	None directly anticipated
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Colin Moffett, Head of Corporate Policy

Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract	X	
from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?		
If yes, are they Financial	X	
If yes, are they Legislative	X	
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	Χ	
Service users	Χ	
Other public sector organisations	X	
Voluntary/community/trade unions	Х	

Other, please specify:	Members of the	
	community generally.	

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

	,
What are they	 External policy context: There are a number of relevant policy frameworks in place in Northern Ireland which relate to, and inform, the issue of (re)naming facilities including: Together: Building a United Community strategy, key priority - Our Shared Community Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 Equality Commission for Northern Ireland advice on Good Relations in Local Councils Equality Commission for Northern Ireland Guidance on Promoting a good and harmonious working environment Internal policy context: Within Council there are relevant policy strands which relate to or inform the issue of (re)naming facilities including: Equality Scheme re: Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 Good Relations Action Plan (Section 75 (2)) Naming, Postal numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures. This policy and associated procedures outline guidance on new development names, new names for existing roads and dual language street signage.
Who owns there	
Who owns them	While these are corporate responsibilities specific responsibility for the internal policy context lies with the Director of Corporate Services, Director of Active and Healthy Communities and Director of Economic Regeneration and Tourism.
	I

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/exp	eriences/	priorities		
75			C C			
Category						
Religious						
belief	LGD	All usual	Catholic	Protestant	Other	None
		residents		and other	religions	
				Christian		
	Northern	1,903,178	869,753	827,545	28,514	177,360
	Ireland		(45.7%)	(43.5%)	(1.5%)	(9.3%)
	Newry,	182,074	131,300	39,970	1,327	9,477
	Mourne		(72.1%)	(22.0%)	(0.7%)	(5.2%)
	& Down					
	(Source: Ce	ensus Data 2	021).			
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	_			(or any location		
		•		ecause assigni	•	and in
	•			I, can be a pov		
	permanent	identity for a	a public spa	ce and facility	•	
	This has be	on domonst	rated in nar	ticular with ro	sport to the	logacy
				ticular with res	•	
	Newry and Mourne District Council's decision to rename Patrick Street					
	Play Park as Raymond McCreesh Park in 2001. This lead to a complaint to Council alleging non-compliance with Council's equality					
	scheme, conduct of an equality impact assessment, a Schedule 9					
	Paragraph 11 investigation by the Equality Commission for Northern					
	Ireland, and subsequent further review of the decision.					
	il Cialiu, alii	u subsequen	t fulfiller re	view of the de	CISIOII.	
Political	Flected polit	ical narty rer	recentation	n is an approxi	mate harom	eter of
opinion	•	. , .		Council area.	mate baroni	ictei oi
Ориноп	political opin	ion or people	c widilii dic	courien area.		
	The party br	eakdown of	the Council	's elected men	nhers is as f	ollows:
	The party bi	caraowii oi	the country	5 ciccica men	15015 15 45 1	Ollowsi
	Sinn Féin			20 seats		
	SDLP			8 seats		
	Independent	ts		2 seats		
	Democratic			5 seats		
	Ulster Union			1 seats		
	Alliance	-		5 seats		
	Councillors a	re elected w	ithin seven	District Electo	ral Areas (D	EAs)
				ct to party pol	•	•

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).

The naming / renaming of facilities (or any location) is complex and potentially emotionally evocative because assigning a name, and in particular the name of an individual, can be a powerful and permanent identity for a public space and facility.

This has been demonstrated in particular with respect to the legacy Newry and Mourne District Council's decision to rename Patrick Street Play Park as Raymond McCreesh Park in 2001. This lead to a complaint to Council alleging non-compliance with Council's equality scheme, conduct of an equality impact assessment, a Schedule 9 Paragraph 11 investigation by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, and subsequent further review of the decision.

Racial group

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%).

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:

Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area

Main language of residents in	Number	Percentage %
Newry, Mourne and Down		
District LGD		
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
specified)		
Slovak	98	0.05
Hungarian	106	0.06
Spanish	77	0.04
Latvian	279	0.15

Russian	180	0.10
Tetun	22	0.01
1alayalam	51	0.03
Tagalog/Filipino	44	0.03
Cantonese	38	0.02
Other languages	711	0.41

Age

According to the 2021 Census, the age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:

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

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	141,996	1,514,743
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) Aged 16+ years	52,128 (36.7%)	576,708 (38.1%)
Married: Aged 16+ years	68,076 (47.9%)	690,509 (45.6%)
In a registered same- sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	201 (0.14%)	2,742 (0.19%)
Separated (but still	4,975	57,272

3.8%)
,
1.120
1,128
5.0%)
5,384
5.4%)
and 10% of the
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of gay, lesbian rch conducted
e UK population
(transsexual,
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GD is as
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Newry, Mourne
Newry, Mourne problem or
oroblem or
Long-term
Long-term health
Long-term
Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day
Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities
Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day
Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities

Newry,	182,074	19,789	21,868	140,417	
Mourne and		(10.87%)	(12.01%)	(77.13%)	
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.

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.

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.

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.

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	Council must demonstrate strong civic leadership as a public authority when naming Council facilities.
	As stated, the naming / renaming of facilities (or any location) is complex and potentially emotionally evocative because assigning a name, and in particular the name of an individual, can be a powerful and permanent identity for a public space and facility.
	This has been demonstrated in particular with respect to the legacy Newry and Mourne District Council's decision in 2001 to rename Patrick Street Play Park as Raymond McCreesh Park. This lead to a complaint to Council alleging non-compliance with Council's equality scheme, conduct of an equality impact assessment, a Schedule 9 Paragraph 11 investigation by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, and subsequent further review of the decision.
	In addition, a recommendation of the investigation by the Equality Commission was that Newry and Mourne District Council review its policy on naming facilities. Due to impending local government reform, and the amalgamation of Newry and Mourne and Down District Councils, it was agreed that this be deferred to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to review and agree a policy on naming of Council facilities.
	A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.
	There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.
Political opinion	Council must demonstrate strong civic leadership as a public authority when naming Council facilities.
	As stated, the naming / renaming of facilities (or any location) is

complex and potentially emotionally evocative because assigning a name, and in particular the name of an individual, can be a powerful and permanent identity for a public space and facility. This has been demonstrated in particular with respect to the legacy Newry and Mourne District Council's decision in 2001 to rename Patrick Street Play Park as Raymond McCreesh Park. This lead to a complaint to Council alleging non-compliance with Council's equality scheme, conduct of an equality impact assessment, a Schedule 9 Paragraph 11 investigation by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, and subsequent further review of the decision. In addition, a recommendation of the investigation by the Equality Commission was that Newry and Mourne District Council review its policy on naming facilities. Due to impending local government reform, and the amalgamation of Newry and Mourne and Down District Councils, it was agreed that this be deferred to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to review and agree a policy on naming of Council facilities. A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility. There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures. A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming Racial group facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility. There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures. A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming Age facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.

	There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.
Marital status	A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.
	There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.
Sexual orientation	A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.
	There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.
Men and women generally	A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.
	There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.
Disability	A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.
	There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.
Dependants	A consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming facilities is important, and key issues for consideration are authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and

the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.
There must be a clearly defined scope to any proposed policy and associated procedures.

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 Political opinion Racial group Age Marital status Sexual orientation Men and women generally Disability Dependants	The aim of this policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to decision-making in relation to naming Council facilities. The policy also addresses requests regarding park benches and plaques. Key issues such as authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility have been considered in the development of the policy. Council will only consider naming of facilities to recognise a specific unique geographic location. The scope of the policy will not extend to facilitating requests to memorialise a deceased person (or family). To implement the policy aim, the Council has developed a Guidelines and Associated Procedure. The policy and procedure defines specific criteria, organisational roles and responsibilities with regard to the assessment of applications. The following principles will apply to the process: Specific criteria Application form Assessment Consultation (if required) Decision-making Review mechanism Accordingly, no adverse impact is anticipated.	None 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	If No , provide details
	details	
Religious belief		To implement the policy aim, the
Political opinion		Council has developed a Guidelines
Racial group		and Associated Procedure.
Age		
Marital status		The policy and associated procedure
Sexual orientation		defines specific criteria,
Men and women		organisational roles and
generally		responsibilities with regard to the
Disability		assessment of applications.
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	There is nothing to suggest that	None
Political opinion	the policy and implementation	
Racial group	Guidelines and Associated Procedure will adversely impact	
	upon good relations.	
	The aim of this policy is to	
	provide the framework for a	
	consistent approach to decision- making in relation to naming	
	Council facilities. The policy also	
	addresses requests regarding	
	park benches and plaques.	
	Key issues such as authenticity,	
	marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of	
	Council, promoting, developing	
	and maintaining shared space,	
	and the potential impact of	
	contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross	
	community mobility have been	
	considered in the development	
	of the policy.	
	Council will only consider naming	

of facilities to recognise a specific unique geographic location. The scope of the policy will not extend to facilitating requests to memorialise a deceased person (or family).

To implement the policy aim, the Council has developed a Guidelines and Associated Procedure.

The policy and procedure defines specific criteria, organisational roles and responsibilities with regard to the assessment of applications.

The following principles will apply to the process:

- Specific criteria
- Application form
- Assessment
- Consultation (if required)
- Decision-making
- Review mechanism

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 Political opinion Racial group		To implement the policy aim, the Council has developed a Guidelines and Associated
	Procedure. The policy and associated procedure defines specific criteria, organisational roles and responsibilities with regard to the assessment of applications.	
		As per the guidelines and associated procedure names should not be considered which:

	•	Cause confusion duplication or names sound similar to existing named facilities / locations. Unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of the Council's Equality Scheme and Good Relations policies and the Together Building a United Community strategy. Are party-political in intention or use.

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:

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's policy on naming facilities, and the guidelines and associated procedure, were developed through our Councillors' Equality and Good Relations Reference Group facilitated by John Kremer. All political parties within Council have representation on the Reference Group which considers sensitive and contentious issues.

The Council acknowledges it must demonstrate strong civic leadership as a

public authority when naming Council facilities, and the aim of the policy is to provide the framework for a consistent approach to decision-making in relation to this.

The naming / renaming of facilities (or any location) is complex and potentially emotionally evocative because assigning a name, and in particular the name of an individual, can be a powerful and permanent identity for a public space and facility.

In developing the policy Council considered the key issues of authenticity, marketing and branding, addressing perceptions of Council, promoting, developing and maintaining shared space, and the potential impact of contentious decisions on territorialisation and cross community mobility.

The Council will consider naming of facilities to recognise a specific unique geographic location. The scope of the policy will not extend to facilitating requests to memorialise a deceased person (or family). In terms of agreeing the policy it is not proposed to undertake a review of current names of all facilities, buildings and rooms etc.

The agreed principles of the process are as follows:

- Specific criteria
- Application form
- Assessment
- Consultation (if required)
- Decision-making
- Review mechanism

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 police	cy:
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:	
roposed date for confinencing 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 policy will be reviewed in line with the Council's agreed policy review cycle i.e. every four years (as per Council's Equality Scheme commitment 4.31).

Annual reports on the implementation and outcome regarding requests are tabled for information at the Council's Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Suzanne Rice	Corporate Policy and Equality Officer	14 April 2025
Approved by:		
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	14 April 2025
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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.