

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Provision of Newry Tennis Bubble – updated equality screening
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	<p>Existing – The provision of a tennis bubble is referenced and set out as a specific recommendation within Council’s Sports Facility Strategy.</p> <p>The Newry Tennis Bubble is not located on Council property, but within the grounds of Our Ladies Grammar School.</p> <p>Following Equality Commission advice received 30 November 2022 Council has reconsidered the previous equality screening.</p>
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>Recommendation 11 within the Council’s Sports Facility Strategy is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a partnership approach to the development of a bubble to cover 2 tennis courts at either Newry Tennis Club or Newcastle Tennis Club to provide a facility within the local authority that provides for all year round tennis <p>The subsequent action has been the development of an additional tennis bubble facility located within the grounds of Our Ladies Grammar School.</p> <p>For reference, the overall vision of Council’s Sports Facility Strategy is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Development of an evidence based assessment of facility need, which will inform and prioritise future investment in and development of, a network of high quality sports facilities, addressing the needs for increased community participation in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’ <p>The Strategy aim is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop a strategic framework for the future provision of sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This identifies the need for provision and the priorities for investment into sports facilities, informed by evidence of need, consultation with key stakeholders and a supply and demand analysis. <p>The Strategy Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the existing range of facilities provided at local level in Newry, Mourne and Down.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To undertake consultation with strategic stakeholders to identify current and future facility needs and locations. • To undertake a supply and demand assessment to identify gaps in current provision, plus future needs. • To develop a facility framework reflecting identified current and future community needs. • To link this strategic framework where relevant to the network of local sports facilities. • To develop a set of strategic principles underpinning all future investment in sports facilities. • To link the identified sports facility needs in Newry, Mourne and Down into the priorities identified at national level, where appropriate. • To recommend priority investment(s) in sports facility provision in Newry, Mourne and Down.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.	It is intended that all section 75 categories will benefit from the provision of the Newry Tennis Bubble.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Conor Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure Paul Tamati, Assistant Director Leisure and Sport
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities

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	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	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

<p>What are they? Who owns them?</p>	<p>This specific recommendation within Council's Sports Facility Strategy reflects the wider – NI 10 Year Plan for the provision of Strategic Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016), which focuses on the need for future provision that are of cultural significance, as well as those that provide for high performance training and competition.</p> <p>These facilities contribute to the vision and targets set out within strategic documents such as the Programme for Government (2011-2021), Building a Better Future (2011-15) and Sport Matters, the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation (2009-19).</p> <p>At local level, the identification of need for sports facility provision is also aligned to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 and the new Community planning process.</p>
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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	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">LGD</th> <th style="text-align: center;">All usual residents</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Catholic</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Protestant and other Christian</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Other religions</th> <th style="text-align: center;">None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Northern Ireland</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,810,863</td> <td style="text-align: center;">817,385 (45.14%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">875,717 (48.36%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16,592 (0.92%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">101,169 (5.59%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Newry, Mourne & Down</td> <td style="text-align: center;">169,211</td> <td style="text-align: center;">122,544 (72.42%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">40,273 (23.8%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">861 (0.5%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5533 (3.3%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(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>Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area.</p> <p>The party breakdown of the Council's elected members is as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Sinn Féin</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDLP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democratic Unionist</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independents</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Unionist</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alliance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TUV</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1 seat</td> </tr> </table>						Sinn Féin	16 seats	SDLP	11 seats	Democratic Unionist	5 seats	Independents	4 seats	Ulster Unionist	2 seats	Alliance	2 seats	TUV	1 seat				
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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>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 595 1382 1151"> <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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	partnership which is now legally dissolved																		
	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	8408	97088 (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"> • 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 				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"> • 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>
Dependants	<p>Persons with dependants 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 dependants. With regard to these figures, dependants 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 dependants 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	The consultation undertaken for the Sports Facility Strategy raised specific issues regarding a lack of provision or quality of provision. Specifically in relation to tennis it identified a need to improve tennis facilities.
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	The strategy details outdoor tennis court provision as follows: Downpatrick Tennis Club – 4 bitmac courts (Down High School), fenced no floodlights, Newcastle Tennis Club - 4 polytop all-weather, fenced and floodlit, Warrenpoint Tennis Club - 3 bitmac courts, Newry Tennis
Marital status	

	Club – 4 polymeric courts, plus Mourne Esplanade Kilkeel (3 courts), Kilbroney Park Rostrevor (2 courts) and Annalong Tennis Court (1 court).
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	Key statistics relating to the future population of the area include:
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The total population is projected to increase to 191,282 in 2025 and to 205,000.
Dependants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The number of children (i.e. those aged under 16) is projected to increase from 39,740 in 2015 to 41,924 in 2025 and then to reduce slightly in 2037 to 40,811. ➤ The working age population is projected to increase from 109,777 in 2015 to 117,398 in 2025 and then to increase to 121,102 in 2037. ➤ The number of those aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 28,378 in 2015 to 32,511 in 2025 and to 42,358 in 2037. <p>It is clear from the above population data that Newry, Mourne and Down has a growing, if ageing, population, the majority of whom are in good health. Most people are in employment and own their own home and there are areas of deprivation. Levels of car ownership are high, which means that the population is mobile. The number of those under 16 is set to increase, as will the number of older people; both age cohorts will need to be catered for in terms of access to opportunities to be physically active.</p> <p>These factors point to a community which is, in the main, able to access sports facilities and opportunities to be physically active. The fact that the population is ageing has some impact on the type of activities in which people choose to be involved. For older people access to opportunities for physical activity may be more important than simply the provision of sports facilities. For young people and those in their later teens to early 30s, access to good quality, accessible indoor and outdoor sports facilities may be more of a priority, Growing obesity levels suggest there is a need to facilitate increased participation and to ensure availability of quality sports facilities, which are both affordable and accessible to the local community. It will be important to ensure that communities have equal access to sports and leisure facilities to ensure that levels of obesity do not continue to show significant increases.</p> <p>The context and environment in which young people have grown up is different to previous generations – Some change in delivery is required just to maintain levels of interest in sport amongst each new generation. Technology is an integral part of young people’s lives, they do not separate online and offline activities. Sporting activities need to reflect this.</p> <p>Young people’s behaviour does not always reflect their attitude to sport – we need to focus on changing behaviours not attitudes – Many young people feel positive about sport but aren’t necessarily looking to take part; for them, sport and physical activity needs to be more visible and</p>

	<p>accessible, with stronger reminders of their positive associations – Other young people are uninterested in sport but find wider reasons to take part. Promoting the benefits they are looking for is more effective; selling sport as fun does not resonate with them.</p> <p>For many, there is a shift in teenage years towards taking part for more functional or lifestyle reasons – Motivations change as young people grow up, with health, fitness and looking and feeling good becoming more important. The shift towards fitness-related activities is occurring at an earlier age than previously. We need to keep engaging and providing feedback to young people, particularly girls, on what actually matters to them not what matters to sport.</p> <p>Don't underestimate passive participation – Playing sport is a passive act for many young people who are carried along by what their friends/family are doing or what's happening in their educational setting. As they grow up more proactive choices are required. Sport therefore has to compete or connect to other interests and priorities.</p> <p>Levelling the playing field can help to overcome the emotional baggage of sport – Young people with negative associations, driven by previous experiences and a perceived lack of competence, are more likely to have a narrower definition of sport focused on traditional, competitive activities. New or unusual sports or different positioning can provide more of a level playing field. Whilst the activity can be sport, the message that sells it doesn't have to be.</p> <p>Young people are seeking meaningful experiences – There needs to be reasons for young people to keep coming back to make sport a habit which benefits them as an individual, reinforces their place in their social group or helps them develop themselves.</p> <p>The supply of sport tends to reach those who are already engaged – There is a need for a broader offer which meets more diverse needs to break the norms of sport participation.</p> <p>As the population continues to grow, demand for access to quality sports facilities will increase. The opening of facilities on education sites to create a greater level of public access could facilitate increased levels of participation in sport and physical activity, which could contribute to reducing health inequalities (for reference see guidance set out in Your School, Your Club).</p> <p>In addition, the Council's Sports Facility Strategy generally notes that actions including providing and / or upgrading toilet, changing facilities, social and meeting areas at facilities have potential to increase access and participation. Provision of toilet and changing areas at facilities has potential to improve the user experience for all Section 75 equality groups, including people with a disability.</p>
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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	<p>The impact of this is the upgrade of a current tennis facility within the grounds of Our Ladies Grammar School, via installing the provision of a tennis dome providing all year-round access for tennis.</p> <p>There has never been toilet or changing facilities located specifically at this school tennis facility in Our Ladies Grammar and previous provision has been via the school's substantive provision.</p> <p>As a result of this upgrade, additional toilet and changing provision at Newry Leisure Centre can now be accessed either by pathways between Newry Leisure Centre and Our Lady's Grammar School and/or via new road/vehicular access provision for people with mobility issues including older people and people with a disability or with dependents.</p> <p>As a result of new road/vehicular access the site now includes two accessible parking bays located directly at a staffed wheelchair accessible entry point designed to specifically address the design feature of maintaining the air vacuum within the facility.</p>	Major - positive
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
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	<p>Yes</p> <p>As previously noted, provision of toilet and changing areas at facilities has potential to improve the user experience for all Section 75 equality groups, including people with a disability.</p>	
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		

Disability	<p>While there has never been toilet or changing facilities directly located at the tennis facility at Our Ladies Grammar School, additional provision at Newry Leisure Centre can be accessed via either a pathway or road/vehicular access.</p> <p>Council has sought to mitigate potential adverse impact for people with mobility issues such as older people and people with a disability, and people with dependents accessing the facility via the addition of a pathway between Newry Leisure Centre and Our Lady's Grammar School, and via new road/vehicular access and the provision of two accessible parking bays located directly of the site. Furthermore a staffed wheelchair accessible entry point designed to specifically address the design feature of maintaining the air vacuum within the facility as also been established.</p> <p>The provision of toilet and changing facilities at the tennis facility at Our Lady's Grammar would also be a matter for the department of education and the school to consider as part of their responsibilities under section 75 of the NI Act 1998.</p>	
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	N/A	None No specific needs, experiences and priorities have been identified in relation to the good relations equality categories.
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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 specific needs, experiences and priorities have been identified in relation to the good relations equality categories.
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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).

N/A

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:

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:

The outcome of the equality screening is that the provision of Newry Tennis Bubble located within the grounds of Our Ladies Grammar School not be subject to an

equality impact assessment at this time.

This decision has been reached on the basis that Council has sought to mitigate potential adverse impact for people with mobility issues such as older people and people with a disability, and people with dependents accessing the facility.

As noted, in addition to the pathways from Newry Leisure Centre and Our Lady's Grammar School, the site contains road access and two accessible parking bays located directly at a staffed wheelchair accessible entry point designed to specifically address the design feature of maintaining the air vacuum within the facility.

Council acknowledges that provision of toilet and changing areas at facilities could have potential to improve the user experience for all Section 75 equality groups, including people with a disability. However, while there are no toilet or changing facilities directly located at the upgraded tennis bubble facility within the grounds of Our Ladies Grammar School, toilets and changing facilities can be accessed at Newry Leisure Centre.

Council will monitor and review in twelve months (December 2023) the full operation of the implementation of the Newry Tennis Bubble.

It should be noted the provision of toilet and changing facilities at the tennis facility at Our Lady's Grammar would also be a matter for the department of education and the school to consider as part of their responsibilities under section 75 of the NI Act 1998.

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: _____

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:

Council will monitor and review in twelve months (December 2023) the full operation of the implementation of the Newry Tennis Bubble.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	16 December 2022
Approved by:		
Paul Tamati	Assistant Director	3 January 2023

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.