**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report**

# **Quarterly Report April - June 2023**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Details of policy** | **Screening Outcome** |
| Conflict of Interest Policy and associated  Conflict of Interest Procedures | The aim of the Conflict of Interest Policy is to ensure the Council’s compliance with, and consistent application of, best practice in relation to Conflicts of Interest.  This Policy applies to:   * all staff and Elected Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; * all those who work for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (including but not limited to employees, agency staff, elected members, other public representatives, contractors, agents, consultants, servants of the Council and all third party data processors). | No EQIA considered necessary |
| Digital Transformation Flexible Fund | This Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) is a new initiative emerging through the Department for the Economy’s Complementary Fund. The BRCD successfully applied to the Fund with an outline of the need for a DTFF to stimulate innovation and transformation among businesses within the City Deal region. As neither a programme nor a project (but rather a Fund) the DTFF OBC may not come within the definition of a ‘policy’ as defined for the purposes of equality screening, and relates to businesses rather than individuals, it has been subjected to this process at the request of Invest NI.  The DTFF concept was initially developed in response to the low levels of innovation and digital transformation taking place across the region - particularly among the small business community and social enterprises. The DTFF aims to address the financial barrier that small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform by establishing a capital grant fund that will support investment in the types of capital equipment considered critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions (e.g., hardware, software, bespoke system development).  The capital grant fund of £7.5m to which businesses can apply on a competitive basis comprises:   * £6m ring-fenced through the NI City & Growth Deal Complementary Fund * £1.1m committed by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) * £450k from Derry City & Strabane Growth Deal     The Outline Business Case submitted to DfE and INI for approval is supported by all 11 local Councils. It has been designed in continuous engagement with relevant council representatives and with other relevant stakeholders and informed by data and analysis to explore and understand the barriers to small and micro businesses innovating and transforming and the opportunities for addressing these barriers.  This has highlighted a particular need for capital funding to promote investment in certain transformative technologies. The OBC has been endorsed and approved by the BRCD E&S Board, the BRCD Executive Board and individual Councils through their normal Committee approval arrangements (Dec 22).  It is important to note that this Fund is not open to individuals but only to businesses/social enterprises and is not therefore likely to create any adverse impact to any individual from a Section 75 category. | No EQIA considered necessary |
| Business Continuity Policy | Newry Mourne and Down District Council’s Business Continuity Policy provides a structure through which:   * + Critical services and their supporting activities/resources can be identified.   + Plans will be developed to ensure continuity of critical service delivery following disruption, which may arise from loss of facilities, personnel, IT and/or communications or failure within the supply and support chains.   + Activation of business continuity plans throughout the Council can be managed.   + Plans are subject to continuous review and validation through exercising and testing. | No EQIA considered necessary |
| Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 | The Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 includes the following five objectives, all of which are linked to the Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2021-23.   1. We will support the health and wellbeing of local people by improving our leisure facilities and services 2. We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs 3. We will improve the cleanliness of our District by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents 4. We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change 5. We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme | No EQIA considered necessary |
| Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) | The new Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) aims to deliver a connected enterprise support service that enables individuals and businesses to access the relevant support services to meet their needs and the growth ambitions of their businesses.  The scope of the services includes activity to be delivered under four elements, (engage, foundation, enabling growth, accelerated scaling) representing a continuum of support that will be required from pre-start support, through start-up and the growth journey thereafter. Each element may comprise of a range of projects or initiatives, each with their own area of focus and expertise to help individuals, entrepreneurs, and businesses in addition to the provision of grant funding.  The key objectives of the NIESS align to the 10x Economic Strategy, Programme for Government, DFE Economic Recovery Action Plan, City & Growth Deals, and the Community Plans of local Councils, in particular:   * Creating employment and opportunity * Fostering business growth * Strengthening business relationships and making it easy to do business * Reducing economic inequalities * Address barriers to employment at structural and personal levels * Address educational inequalities and increase skills attainment * Reduce poverty and economic inactivity * Requirement for a long-term business start interventions * UK government drive to push out the “levelling up” agenda, and need to consider models for local delivery of targeted 2 interventions * Development of new ways of working such as Labour Market Partnerships, which create templates for alternative partnership approaches with councils at the core in “bridging” local need with regional/national policy.   The NIESS will provide an offer than can meet future ambitions whilst ensuring an inclusive approach, where local ecosystems in each Local Government District will be able to cater for a diverse range of entrepreneurs and enterprise types. | No EQIA considered necessary |
| Retention & Disposal Schedule | This document sets out the minimum time periods for which the various records created by Newry Mourne and Down District Council should be retained, either due to their ongoing administrative value or as a result of statutory requirements.  It will enable the Council to dispose of records promptly when they cease to be of any continuing administrative/legal value and will identify records which should be transferred to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) because of their long-term historical/research value. The schedule complies with the requirements in the Public Records Act (NI) 1923 and the Disposal of Documents Order (S.R.& O.1925 No 167). | No EQIA considered necessary |