

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Section 75 Policy Screening Report
Quarterly Report October – December 2022**

Policy	Details of policy	Screening Outcome
Draft Disability Action Plan 2023-2027	<p>The Draft Disability Action Plan 2023-2027 has been designed to ensure that Council fulfils its statutory obligations in compliance with section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006).</p> <p>The Disability Discrimination Act places duties on public authorities, when carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and ➤ Encourage participation by disabled people in public life. <p>This plan outlines the actions and processes which we as a Council will undertake to ensure issues facing people with disabilities and their carers are effectively mainstreamed within Council decisions and service delivery.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary
Draft Equality Action Plan 2023-2027	<p>The draft Equality Action Plan 2023–2027 builds upon Council’s action plan for the period 2020-2023 and recommends key areas of activity and details positive actions relevant to Council functions.</p> <p>The positive action measures have been set out under the five principles of the Equality and Diversity in Local Councils Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 1: Ensuring we work in a non-discriminatory environment, promote equality, and model best practice in equality and good relations • Principle 2: Ensuring all our decisions are based on evidence to assess the likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations 	No EQIA considered necessary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 3: Providing access to services, facilities and information • Principle 4: Recruiting and employing people fairly • Principle 5: Responding to and learning from complaints and incidents in a positive and pro-active way 	
Draft Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027	<p>The Strategy builds upon our Irish Language Strategy 2021-2023, and sets out how the Council will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the use of Irish language within its functions; • facilitate the use of the Irish language when communicating with the public and relevant stakeholders; and • promote and encourage the development of the Irish language across the Council area. <p>With regards to the Irish Language Strategy the draft strategy sets out a twofold mission and vision as follows:</p> <p>Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream the use of Irish Language in the internal administration of Council, and in its dealings with other public bodies and the community. • To embed equality of opportunity standards, address barriers of access to information and services, promote the development of the Irish Language, and to give leadership in meeting the evidenced needs of existing and emerging Irish language communities within the District. <p>Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a sustainable environment which supports and enables the use and development of the Irish language in public, personal, economic and community life. 	No EQIA considered necessary

	<p>The two strategic objectives within the draft Irish Language Strategy 2023-2027 are as follows:</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1: To facilitate, enable and encourage the development of the Irish Language within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the District.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2: To effectively engage with the Irish Language Community to strengthen community capacity, encourage collaboration, co-operation and identify appropriate funding opportunities.</p>	
Performance Improvement Policy	<p>The aims of this policy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	No EQIA considered necessary
Request to add 'unisex' symbol signage to single access toilets	<p>Leisure Services (Newry Leisure Services) received a customer comment asking that the Council consider adding a 'unisex' symbol to all single access toilets within Newry Leisure Centre <i>"so that anyone who identifies as Trans / non-binary has a place they feel comfortable using the bathroom"</i>.</p> <p>The customer comment was discussed at the Councillors' Equality & Good Relations Reference Group meeting on 29 September 2022. Members were supportive of the request and the consensus was that if progressed, this should be implemented across all Council facilities.</p>	No EQIA considered necessary

	<p>If implemented, a 'unisex' symbol would be affixed to all single access toilets, including accessible toilets.</p>	
<p>Provision of Newry Tennis Bubble – updated equality screening</p>	<p>The provision of a tennis bubble is referenced and set out as a specific recommendation within Council's Sports Facility Strategy. 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> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Not be subject to EQIA at this time</p>

	<p>within the grounds of Our Ladies Grammar School, toilets and changing facilities can be accessed at Newry Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Council will monitor and review in twelve months (December 2023) the full operation of the implementation of the Newry Tennis Bubble.</p>	
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