

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Policy Screening Report

under

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998

December 2024

Equality Scheme Policy Screening Report

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has developed a number of new policies. In complying with the Council's Equality Scheme Duties, these policies have been screened for any possible adverse impact that they may have under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998. The nine groups are:

Age; Marital status; Women (including girls) and Men (including boys); Persons with a disability and Persons without; Persons with dependants and Persons without; Political Opinion; Racial Group; Religious belief; and Sexual Orientation.

The policies have been screened against the questions below and have been ranked 1,2 or 3

1	'screened in' for equality impact assessment, including date of EQIA
2	'screened out' with mitigation
3	'screened out' without mitigation

Screening Questions

- A What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? (minor/major/none)
- B Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?
- C To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/major/none)
- D Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

The attached schedule is being published for consultees information. Comments may be submitted in writing, by telephone, e-mail, or in person and should be forwarded to the address below.

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This document is available in alternative formats on request

Section 75 Northern Ireland Act 1998 – Policy Screening Exercise

Policies have been assessed against the four screening questions and a ranking allocated. For each of the policies detailed below, a more comprehensive ‘screening’ document is available on the Council website or on request. Copies can be found at <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/council/policies/> The report includes published screening for the period September 2024 to November 2024.

Policy/Procedure	Policy/Procedure Aims	Ranking/ Screening Decision
Business Continuity Policy	<p>The Business Continuity Policy provides a strategic framework to enable critical functions to be maintained, or quickly restored to minimise any effect on service delivery standards.</p> <p>The aim of the policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enable the Council’s Senior Management Team to make informed strategic decisions in relation to critical services during periods of significant disruption. - It will define how Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council will approach business continuity, how it will be structured and resourced. - It will enable the organisation to be aware of when to trigger the Business Continuity Plans. <p>This policy outlines the Council’s commitment to ensuring business continuity to critical services. It will not negatively impact on any of the section 75 categories. Where service delivery impacts on customer wellbeing/human welfare the Council will be required to provide support to the more vulnerable in society. These may include older, disabled and people with dependants.</p>	3

	Each department will develop their own business continuity plans and where possible will ensure that there will not be any barriers to access for the section 75 groups.	
Community Development Cultural Event in Solitude Park	The Community Development Department hosted a cultural event in Solitude Park. It is likely the event would appeal to a wide range of people within the community, particularly people from diverse cultural backgrounds. This event would likely have a positive impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	3
Corporate Health and Safety Policy	This policy states the Council's commitment to Health and Safety. It is a technical policy and has no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	3
Environmental Health Quality Management Policy	This policy sets out the commitment by the Environmental Health Department to provide services that fully satisfy the requirements of customers and stakeholders, the continual improvement in the quality of service delivered and compliance with applicable legislation. It is a technical policy and has no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	3
Environmental Improvement Scheme - Gilford	<p>The Gilford Environmental Improvement Scheme will extend and enhance the previous scheme. Additionally there will be an extension to the footpath on Castle Street and the existing public realm on Castle Hill will be extended. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct high quality pavement finishes • Provide bespoke lighting, street furniture and decorative 	3

	<p>features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an attractive public space • Celebrate the heritage of Gilford • Improve pedestrian flow and • Create a pleasant experience for users and visitors. <p>It is considered that the scheme will have a positive impact for all Section 75 groups and in particular for:</p> <p>Younger people, older people with a disability and those with dependants.</p>	
<p><u>Environmental Improvement Scheme - Markethill</u></p>	<p>The Markethill Environmental Improvement Scheme will enhance the streetscapes on Main Street, Keady Street and the connecting Fairgreen Road area. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct high quality pavement finishes • Provide bespoke lighting, street furniture and decorative features • Create an attractive public space • Celebrate the heritage of Markethill • Improve pedestrian flow and • Create a pleasant experience for users and visitors. <p>It is considered that the scheme will have a positive impact for all Section 75 groups and in particular for:</p> <p>Younger people, older people with a disability and those with dependants.</p>	<p>3</p>

<p>Environmental Improvement Scheme - Rathfriland</p>	<p>The Rathfriland Environmental Improvement Scheme will enhance the streetscapes on Main Street and Downpatrick Street. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct high quality pavement finishes • Provide bespoke lighting, street furniture and decorative features • Create an attractive public space • Celebrate the heritage of Rathfriland • Improve pedestrian flow and • Create a pleasant experience for users and visitors. <p>It is considered that the scheme will have a positive impact for all Section 75 groups and in particular for:</p> <p>Younger people, older people with a disability and those with dependants.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Risk Management Policy</p>	<p>This policy focusses on managing threats and opportunities so that the Council is in a stronger position to deliver its objectives and is an essential business tool that encourages innovation and enterprise and not risk aversion. Risk management includes identifying and assessing risks and then responding to them to ensure effective controls are in place. Failure to manage risk effectively may result in financial losses, disruption to services, bad publicity or claims for compensation.</p> <p>This is a technical policy and there is no impact on those belonging to section 75 categories.</p>	<p>2</p>