

Appendix 1 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title:  FE McWilliams Gallery & Studio Extension and Alterations 

Brief Description of Policy (please attach copy if available). Please state if it is a new, existing or amended policy. Revised Policy

The FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio Extension and refurbishment works are being carried out following the successful bid for funding to the Round 2 Levelling Up Fund. Council will receive over £3.5million to support the development and are financially supporting with an additional £397,000 investment. The F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio opened in 2008 and in it's first decade of operation attracted c.500,000 visitors, exceeding projection numbers by 150%. The current facility is now curtailing the success of the gallery. Limited space has meant most of the F.E. McWilliam collection is held in storage while the hosting of events are limited due to insufficient space. The renovations will see the extension of exhibition space to create a more open and engaging area to host events as well as multi-use space to enable a diverse range of educational programmes. The extension will add 927 m2 of floorspace on to the existing facility increasing the size of the exhibition space to allow more of F.E. McWilliam's work to be placed on display that are currently in storage. This additional space will lead to increased visitor capacity and enhance the facility as an international renowned cultural space.

Intended aims/outcomes. What is the policy trying to achieve?

There are two key challenges which set out the rationale for investment in this project. The first relates to overcoming local drivers of deprivation. Banbridge accommodates several of the most deprived areas in NI. The expansion of the Gallery will provide greater access to skills and training outside of the formal education environment.

The second is to raise the performance of the Borough in the visitor economy. The Gallery itself is an overwhelming success but across the Borough and throughout NI we are still underperforming as a visitor location. Investment in the Gallery will help to increase visitor numbers and support a programme of engagement including schools, workshops and coach visits.

A number of outputs have been set out for the redevelopment of the facility:

- Increase cultural floorspace
- Anticipated 46,750 increase in forecast annual visitor numbers within 3 years
- Creation of new jobs and volunteer opportunities
- Increase number of exhibitions per year from 5 to 0
- Increase number of engagements per annum to include adult and children workshops, school visits, baby and toddler events from 130 to 250
- Provide 2 training events for artists and teachers (currently nil)

- To host 46 Events to include fashion shows, meetings, weddings, other events (currently 5)
- To increase the number of coach visits from 20 to 60

The expected outcomes are:

- Greater accessibility to arts and culture
- Increase in the number of visitors to cultural venues
- Increase in the number of cultural events
- Increase in audience numbers for cultural events
- Increase in consumer spending at cultural venues
- Improved perceptions of place by businesses, residents and visitors
- Increased family and community activity and connections
- Increase in the number of visitors to Banbridge

Policy Framework

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to The Council to amend the policy?

An application to the Levelling Up Fund was made in 2022, this was supported by an economic appraisal and feasibility study created in 2018 which looked at the need for an extension. The appraisal found a number of shortcomings with the existing facilities including:

- Insufficient space to house art which is currently in storage
- Restriction in the number of events which could be held due to limited space
- Current café provision insufficient to meet demand
- Small reception and shop unable to cater for demand

The opportunity of funding for the project came in 2022 through the Levelling Up Fund and Elected Members approved proposals to apply for the funding.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the policy? If so, please outline.

As this is an extension there is likely to be minimal impact to Section 75 categories. Any changes will only enhance Section 75 user experience of the premises. Section 75 groups have been engaged as part of the consultation and have offered a number of suggestions around signage and staff training which is being considered by Council.

Who initiated or wrote the policy (if The Council decision, please state). Who is responsible for implementing the policy?

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Council submitted the application for funding to LUF and have appointed an ICT to assist with the implementation of the project. The application was based on a feasibility previously conducted by Hall Black Douglas

	in 2018 and an economic appraisal compiled by PKFFPM.
Who is responsible for implementation?	Currie and Brown are lead contractors on the ICT which includes Hall Black Douglas architects. Council remains responsible for the implementation and are subject to the funding requirements set out by LUF. External contractors will be appointed to undertake the construction.

Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?

NA

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, customers, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

Elected representatives
 F.E McWilliams Gallery and Studio staff
 Friends Of F.E McWilliams
 Local schools
 Section 75 groups
 Councils Policy, Equality and Diversity Officer

Are there any other policies with a bearing on this policy? If so, please identify them and how they impact on this policy.

Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Integrated Tourism Development & Marketing Strategy & Action Plan 2017-2022
 The plan indicates significant role tourism plays in the local economy. The strategy recognises the Gallery as one of its key heritage and tourism assets.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Arts, Culture and Heritage, A Framework for the Future 2021-2031
 The framework recognises the F.E McWilliam Gallery & Studio as one of the key assets that could drive cultural led tourism within the Council area.

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Recovery and Growth Framework
 The framework recognises the untapped tourism potential in Armagh and the critical role investment can play in driving recovery.

Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon – Arts, Culture and Heritage: A Framework for the Future 2021-2031
 The strategy makes specific reference to the opportunity to invest in cultural capital through the expansion for the F.E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio

The Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy (2020)
 The strategy recognises the competitive advantage the region presents as through quality of its tourism product.

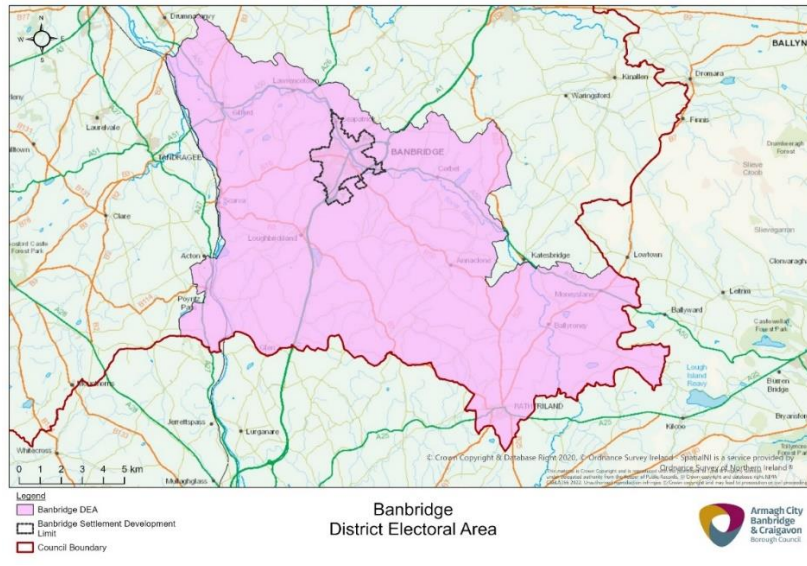
Department for Communities (Northern Ireland) The Art of Recovery Survive: Stabilise: Strengthen (August 2021)

The strategy sets out the importance of financial support for organisations, facilities and venues, and the significance of investment in built heritage and capital investment renewal to support the sectors ecosystem.

Available Evidence

The Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories. For up to date [S75 Borough Statistics](#)

Section 75 category	Evidence																																		
Religious belief	<p>The 2021 Census shows that the majority of the Banbridge settlement belonged to or were brought up in the Protestant religion (53%) compared to 35% who belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion. Similar to the borough where the majority still belong to or were brought up in the Protestant religion 47% in 2021.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Religion or Religion Brought Up In</th> <th colspan="2">Banbridge Settlement</th> <th colspan="2">Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough</th> </tr> <tr> <th>2011</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Catholic</td> <td>34%</td> <td>35%</td> <td>43%</td> <td>44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protestant</td> <td>59%</td> <td>53%</td> <td>52%</td> <td>47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>6%</td> <td>10%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>16,637</td> <td>17,400</td> <td>199,693</td> <td>218,656</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 5: Religion or Religion brought up in of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.</i></p>	Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough		2011	2021	2011	2021	Catholic	34%	35%	43%	44%	Protestant	59%	53%	52%	47%	Other	1%	1%	1%	1%	None	6%	10%	5%	8%	Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656
Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough																																
	2011	2021	2011	2021																															
Catholic	34%	35%	43%	44%																															
Protestant	59%	53%	52%	47%																															
Other	1%	1%	1%	1%																															
None	6%	10%	5%	8%																															
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656																															
Political opinion	<p>Banbridge DEA is made up of the following political representation:</p> <p>Alliance – 1 DUP – 2 SF – 2 UUP – 2</p> <p>The Banbridge DEA representatives were presented with the concept designs and invited to give feedback. They approved the submission of the application for planning (Appendix 4).</p>																																		



A map showing Banbridge District Electoral Area is above.

Racial group

Ethnicity
 On Census Day 2021, approximately 97.2% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area were white. This is just slightly higher than the figure for the borough overall at 96.7%. Mixed race and Chinese are the next biggest ethnic groups in the Banbridge Settlement area even though together they account for just 1.2% of the total population.

Ethnicity	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
White	98.95%	97.18%	98.54%	96.69%
Mixed	0.35%	0.69%	0.30%	0.76%
Chinese	0.27%	0.52%	0.26%	0.31%
Irish Traveller	0.01%	0.35%	0.07%	0.24%
Other Asian	0.13%	0.29%	0.23%	0.27%
Black African	0.01%	0.25%	0.10%	0.52%
Pakistani	0.05%	0.19%	0.10%	0.13%
Indian	0.08%	0.16%	0.19%	0.28%
Black Other	0.01%	0.06%	0.05%	0.24%
Other ethnicities	0.13%	0.31%	0.15%	0.56%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table 6: Ethnicity of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Country of Birth
 In the Banbridge Settlement area approximately 87% of residents were born in Northern Ireland which is slightly higher than the borough as approximately 85.5% of residents were born in Northern Ireland

Approximately 4.4% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area were born in England while 2.3% of residents were born in the Republic of Ireland.

Country of Birth	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
Northern Ireland	90.1%	87.0%	89.0%	85.5%
England	4.2%	4.4%	3.1%	3.2%
Scotland	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Wales	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Republic of Ireland	1.5%	2.3%	1.8%	1.9%
Other	3.3%	5.3%	5.5%	8.6%
Total	16,637	17,400	199,693	218,656

Table 7: Country of birth of residents in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Please note percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Main Language

The percentage of the population whose main language was English has fallen from 98.2% in 2011 to 96.8% in 2021 in the Banbridge Settlement area and from 95.7% to 93.2% in the borough overall.

Polish was the second most common main language for residents of the Banbridge Settlement area and the borough overall and this is unchanged from the 2011 Census. Persons with Romanian as a main language account for 0.31% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement area while those with Chinese as a main language account for 0.27%. Lithuanian and Portuguese as a main language is less common in Banbridge Settlement area compared to the borough overall.

Main Language	Banbridge Settlement		Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough	
	2011	2021	2011	2021
English	98.22%	96.77%	95.72%	93.17%
Polish	0.86%	1.08%	1.53%	1.69%
Romanian	-	0.31%	-	0.37%
Chinese	0.05%	0.27%	0.07%	0.09%
Bulgarian	-	0.18%	-	0.70%
Arabic	-	0.17%	-	0.11%
Hungarian	0.01%	0.11%	0.05%	0.17%
Russian	0.02%	0.10%	0.09%	0.15%
Irish	0.06%	0.10%	0.13%	0.20%
Lithuanian	0.10%	0.09%	0.91%	1.24%
Portuguese	0.01%	0.05%	0.44%	0.84%
Spanish	-	0.04%	-	0.06%
Latvian	0.01%	0.04%	0.18%	0.22%
Cantonese	-	0.03%	-	0.05%
Tagalog/Filipino	0.03%	0.01%	0.09%	0.06%
Slovak	0.03%	0.01%	0.10%	0.18%
Other languages	0.61%	0.64%	0.68%	0.71%
Total (Aged 3+)	15,851	16,824	190,526	210,402

Table 8: Main Language of residents aged 3+ in Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and Census 2021. Source: Census 2011 and Census 2021, NISRA. Note: The breakdown of languages has been taken from the 2021 Census. Those with no data for 2011 were likely included in the 'other languages' category. Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Age

Banbridge Settlement Area had an estimated population of 17,400 on Census Day 2021. There has been a significant increase in the population aged 65+ which has increased by 32% in the Banbridge Settlement Area and 27% in the borough overall. In the Banbridge Settlement area, the population aged between 0-15 years has decreased by 5%.

	Banbridge Settlement Area			Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough		
	2011	2021	% Change	2011	2021	% Change
All Persons	16,637	17,400	4.6%	199,693	218,656	9.5%
Males	8,118	8,525	5.0%	98,713	108,268	9.7%
Females	8,519	8,875	4.2%	100,980	110,388	9.3%
0-15 Years	3,647	3,468	-4.9%	44,206	48,246	9.1%
16-64 Years	10,713	10,919	1.9%	127,860	135,421	5.9%
65+ Years	2,277	3,011	32.2%	27,627	34,993	26.7%

Table 2: Gender and age profile of Banbridge Settlement Area and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough at Census 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

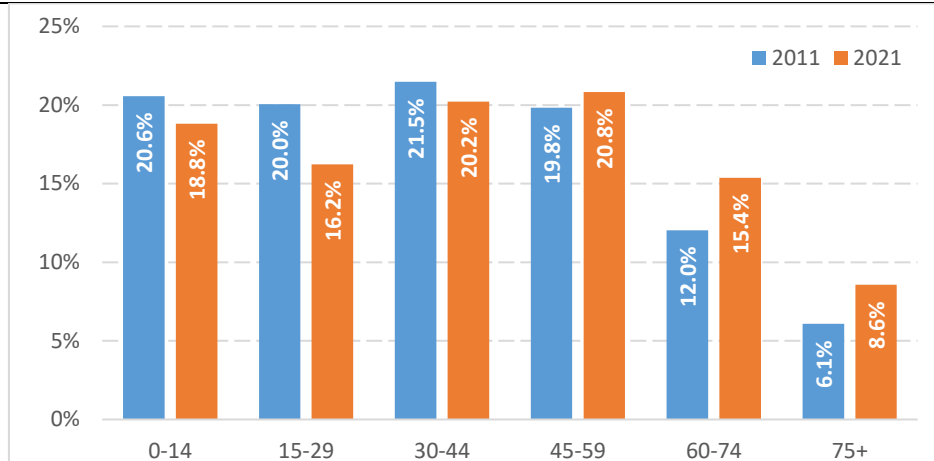
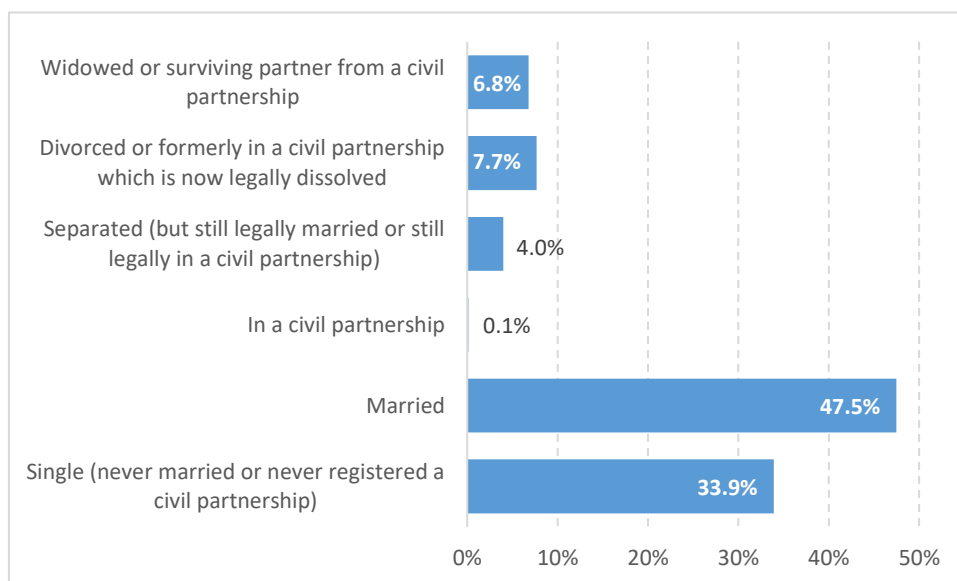


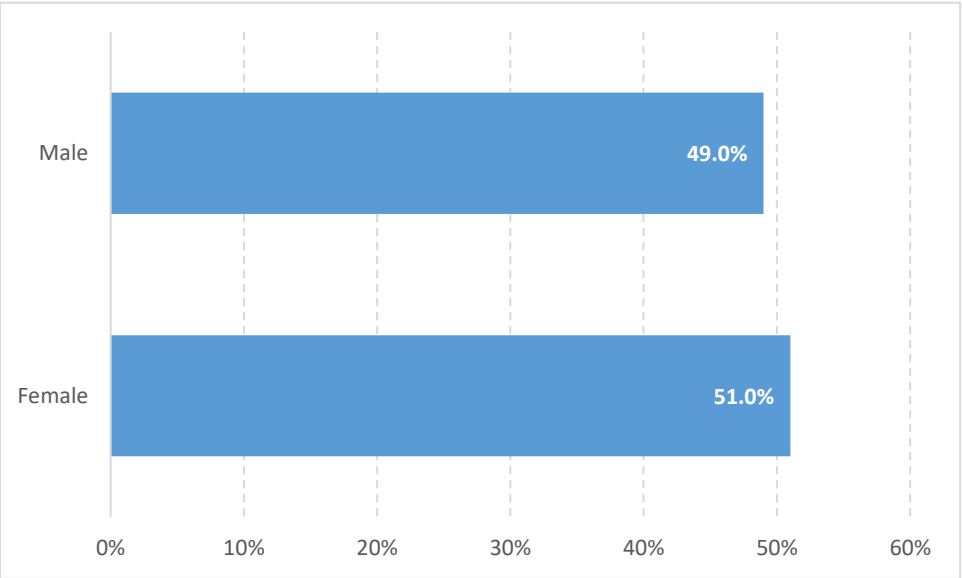
Figure 4: Age Structure of the population of Banbridge Settlement Area in 2011 and 2021. Source: Census 2011 & Census 2021, NISRA.

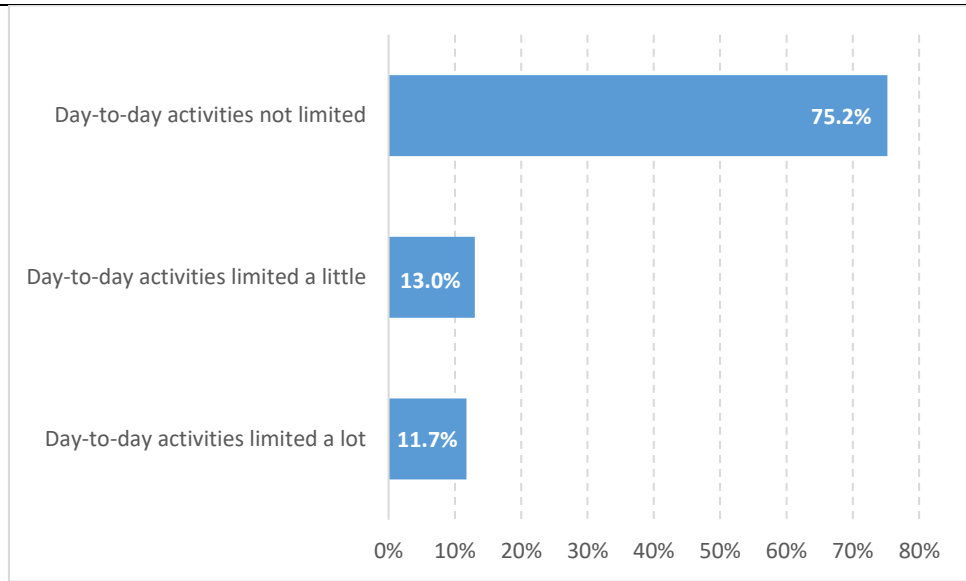
Figure 4 presents a more detailed breakdown of the age structure in Banbridge Settlement area in 2011 and 2021. There has been a decline in the proportion of the population aged from 0-44 although this was most significant for those aged 15-29. The proportion of the population aged 60+ has increased from 18.1% in 2011 to 23.9% in 2021, an increase of 5.8 percentage points. In the borough, the population aged 60+ increased by 2.7 percentage points while in Northern Ireland overall, the increase was 3.3 percentage points. Banbridge, like the rest of Northern Ireland and indeed the rest of the world, is experiencing a demographic shift which comes with its own opportunities and challenges.

Marital status

On Census Day 2021, 47.5% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area (aged 16 and over) were married while approximately 34% were single. Just 20 people (0.1%) were in a civil partnership.



<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>On Census Day 2021, 91% of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area (aged 16 and over) were straight or heterosexual while approximately 2% were gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation.</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sexual Orientation</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say/Not stated</td> <td>7.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gay, lesbian, bisexual, other sexual orientation</td> <td>2.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Straight or heterosexual</td> <td>91.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sexual Orientation	Percentage	Prefer not to say/Not stated	7.0%	Gay, lesbian, bisexual, other sexual orientation	2.0%	Straight or heterosexual	91.0%
Sexual Orientation	Percentage								
Prefer not to say/Not stated	7.0%								
Gay, lesbian, bisexual, other sexual orientation	2.0%								
Straight or heterosexual	91.0%								
<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>On Census Day 2021 there were an estimated 17,400 residents in the Banbridge Settlement area. Of those, approximately 8,875 (51%) were female while 8,525 (49%) were male.</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>49.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>51.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Gender	Percentage	Male	49.0%	Female	51.0%		
Gender	Percentage								
Male	49.0%								
Female	51.0%								
<p>Disability</p>	<p>On Census Day 2021, more than 4,300 people, which is almost one quarter of residents in the Banbridge Settlement Area had a health problem or disability (long term) which limited their day-to-day activities. Just under 12% reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot while 13% reported that their day to day activities were limited a little.</p>								



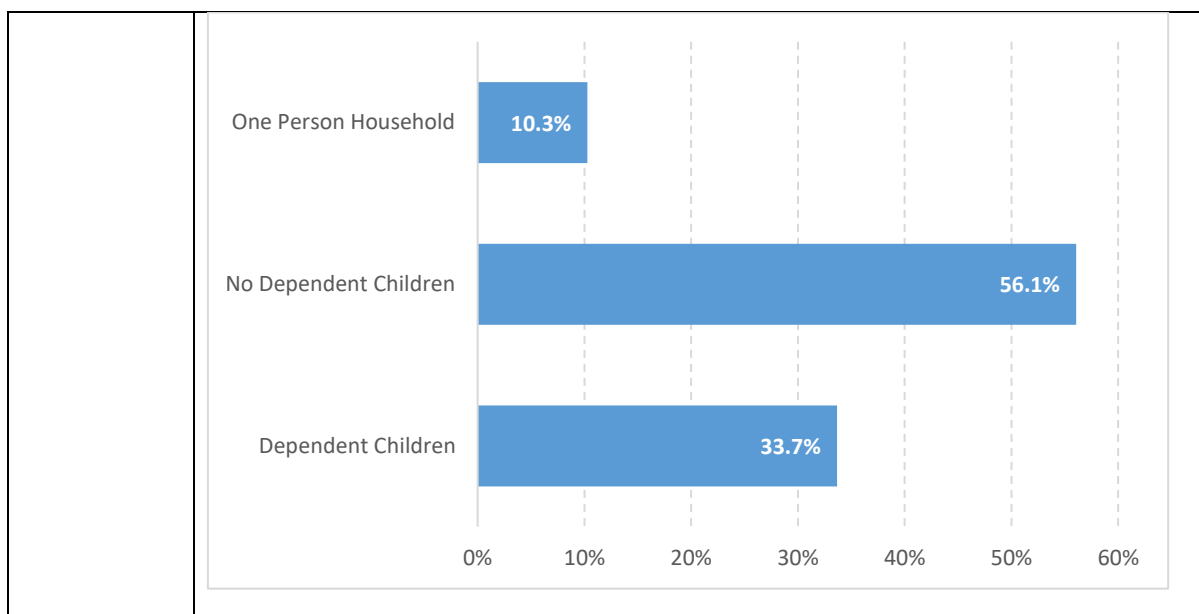
A survey was conducted in 2022 (Appendix 1) at the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio. 216 respondents were asked what their current perception was of accessibility at the facility, the results are as follows:

- Excellent 23%
- Good 49%
- Acceptable 17%
- Poor 6%
- Not Answered 5%

Respondents were asked for any additional comments regarding accessibility. These related primarily to signage along the M1 to ensure people were aware of the Gallery’s location. Three respondents noted that the café and shop area were small and restrictive for both wheelchair and pram users. A comment was also made about the difficulty of pedestrians accessing the gallery safely.

Dependants

On Census Day 2021, approximately 13,754 residents in Banbridge Settlement area were aged 16+. Of those, approximately 10% (1,414) lived in a one-person household and just over 56% (7,710) had no dependent children living at home. Just under 34% (4,630) of residents had dependent children (0-18 years) living at home.



Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information gathered above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this particular policy/decision?

Section 75 category	Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Political opinion	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Racial group	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Age	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Marital status	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Sexual orientation	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Men and women generally	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment
Disability	12% of respondents with disabilities reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a little while 13% reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot. The facility is being redeveloped with the aim of providing a space open and accessible to all. The survey indicated that 6% rated accessibility as poor, the majority of these comments related to poor signage. The café and shop area were also noted as being small and difficult to navigate in wheelchairs and with prams.
Dependants	Information provided has no bearing on the redevelopment

Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE	None

	McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	
Political opinion	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	None
Racial group	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	None
Age	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	None
Marital status	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	None
Sexual orientation	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	None
Men and women generally	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups.	None
Disability	Proposals to date are likely to have a positive impact on access to and within the FE McWilliam Gallery & Studio for all user groups. Concept drawings were presented to users within disability groups and feedback has been provided and will be considered to ensure accessibility is enhanced. Designs will be fully compliant with relevant legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)	None
Dependants	None	None

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		The facility is a neutral location with no religious association
Political opinion		The facility is a neutral location with no political association
Racial group		The facility is welcoming of all racial groups
Age		The facility is a welcoming location for everyone
Marital status		The facility is a welcoming location for everyone
Sexual orientation		The facility is a welcoming location for everyone
Men and women generally		The facility is a welcoming location for everyone
Disability	The redevelopment seeks to ensure an accessible and welcoming location for those with disabilities. Comments from the survey conducted show that some users felt the cafe and shop facilities were restrictive for those with disabilities. This will be considered during the internal design.	
Dependants		The facility is a welcoming location for everyone

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?

Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	NA	None
Political opinion	NA	None
Racial group	NA	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	NA	None
Political opinion	NA	None
Racial group	NA	None

Multiple Identity

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people). Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

No impact has been identified for all of the Section 75 categories apart from disabilities. Regardless of what identity users have the impact will remain as minimal to those within this group.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

Is there an opportunity for the policy to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

The new facility will include a changing places toilet which enables everyone, regardless of their access needs or disability or reliance on the assistance of carers or specialist equipment, to use a toilet facility with dignity and hygienically.

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Section 75 groups have been engaged as part of the consultation during the design phase and this included those within the disability sector. Feedback on the proposed designs were encouraging and described the proposed renovations as “providing a nice flow for accessibility with good amounts of both open and private spaces”. The two key suggestions offered by these groups were to consider training for staff to help with the interaction of those with disabilities. Another recommendation was to carefully consider the signage and consider some technology available, such as NaviLens. Any further feedback received will further inform revisions to the design to ensure accessibility is enhanced.

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

The facility is existing and designs have taken into account Section 75 users. The redevelopment will enhance the existing facility making it more accessible and ensuring the needs of all users are catered for, therefore no EQIA is considered necessary. Consultations have taken place with Section 75 groups and have informed the design stage. The design has been undertaken by experienced designers and consideration given to accessibility of the facility and movement internally.

B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated, or an alternative policy introduced. If so, an EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Timetabling and Prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

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 equality impact assessment.

Policy Criterion

Rating (1-3)

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations
Social need
Effect on people’s daily lives

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the Council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

Yes, the project is being funded by the Levelling Up Fund. Conditions of this include the project completion by March 2026.

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive or adverse).

Further information on monitoring is available in the Equality Commission's guidance on monitoring (www.equalityni.org).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

The project is monitored throughout the development phase with outputs and outcomes assessed on a quarterly basis. A baseline survey will be conducted six months prior to the construction phase and an evaluation performed six months after the gallery opening which will assess if the outputs and outcomes have been achieved. These include number of visitors, consumer spendings, greater accessibility to arts and culture etc. Alongside the evaluation a lessons learnt will be developed to benefit future developments. The Council is committed to monitoring all complaints and any section 75 issues that may arise throughout the development phase of the project.

Approval and Authorisation

A copy of the screening form for each policy screened should be signed off by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The screening recommendation should be reported to the relevant Committee/The Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Judith Tecey	Regeneration Project Officer	01/03/2024
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Samuel Dalzell	Growth Programme Lead	01/03/2024

A copy of the completed screening form should be signed off and approved by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The completed screening form should be attached to the relevant Committee paper when the policy is submitted for approval.

Following approval by Council please forward a copy of the completed approved policy and screening form to:

Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The policy and completed screening form will be made available on the Council's website.

Appendix 2 Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

SECTION 1

Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough The Council

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Council have received a £3.574m investment from the Levelling Up Fund for the redevelopment of the FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio. The additional capacity will enable even more visitors and events to visit the facility, enabling the Gallery to play an increased role in the economy.

1C Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to:

Developing a

Adopting a

Implementing a

Revising a

Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above

FE McWilliams Gallery & Studio Extension and Alterations

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

The proposals will deliver increased gallery and events space, improve accessibility and staff facilities. This will allow for the creation of new jobs and volunteer opportunities and allow the Gallery to welcome greater visitors and facilitate more events.

The expected outcomes are:

- Greater accessibility to arts and culture
- Increase in the number of visitors to cultural venues
- Increase in the number of cultural events
- Increase in audience numbers for cultural events
- Increase in consumer spending at cultural venues
- Improved perceptions of place by businesses, residents and visitors
- Increased family and community activity and connections
- Increase in the number of visitors to Banbridge

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

The Gallery sits within Banbridge town which had a population of 17,400 (2021 census). However, there may be job opportunities for those in the surrounding rural area and benefits to the rural accommodation providers as a result of the projected increase in overnight visitors.

SECTION 2

Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If response is No go to 2E

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

- Rural Businesses
- Rural Tourism
- Rural Housing
- Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas
- Education or Training in Rural Areas
- Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas
- Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas
- Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas
- Poverty in Rural Areas
- Deprivation in Rural Areas
- Rural Crime or Community Safety
- Rural Development
- Agri-Environment
- Other (Please state)

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

While there may be job opportunities for those in the surrounding rural area and a benefit to rural accommodation providers as a result of the projected increase in overnight visitors, this investment will ensure additional capacity and will enable even more visitors and events to visit the facility which is located in Banbridge town.

SECTION 3

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes

No

If response is No go to 3E

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders

Consultation with Other organisations

Published Statistics

Research Papers

Surveys or Questionnaires

Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources

(include details in Question 3C below)

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

This investment will ensure additional capacity and will enable even more visitors and events to visit the facility which is located in Banbridge town.

SECTION 4

Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

SECTION 5

Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

No

If response is No go to 5C

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section 5A was YES go to 6A.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

It has been recognised that there is a need for more integrated transport provision to the Gallery. However, the provision of public transport and linkage of the gallery to rural locations is the responsibility of Translink, provider of public transport in the region.

SECTION 6

Documenting and Recording


6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained, and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature: 

Date: 01/03/2024

01

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Department

Signature: 

Date: 01/03/2024

APPENDIX 1 – 2022 SAMPLE SURVEY

F.E. MCWILLIAM GALLERY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The F.E. McWilliam Gallery, Studio and Sculpture Garden

The Gallery opened in September 2008 and celebrates the work of internationally celebrated sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam who was born in Banbridge.

The venue currently comprises an exhibition space, a replica of McWilliam's studio, Quails Café and a small retail space featuring UK & Ireland craft and design. The Gallery is an accredited museum attracting prominent touring exhibitions, including from National Gallery of Ireland and The British Museum.

The Gallery has exceeded original expectations in terms of visitor numbers, reputation and profile. The Gallery attracts in the region of 45,000 visitors annually and has been awarded Tourism Northern Ireland's 4 star Visitor Experience accreditation. It is recognised for the quality of its programme and excellence of its visitor experience.

Our Development Plan

Now in its 14th year the Gallery needs to be able to recognise its full potential so that it can better engage with our local communities, attract visitors to the town and serve as a key cultural asset for the borough. In order to capitalise on its success the development will address some of the venues current shortcomings:

- It needs to accommodate more and larger school and community groups in an education/community space
- It needs to improve access to and display of F.E. McWilliam's work in a permanent collection gallery
- It needs to be able to host coach tours on a regular basis, welcoming larger groups of visitors into the town
- It needs more flexible space for events, workshops, meetings and for hire
- It needs an extended dining area
- It needs an enhanced entrance and retail space

We have plans for the development of the Gallery, Studio and Garden which include:

New gallery space to display F.E. McWilliam's work currently in storage

Improved entrance, shop and reception area

A flexible education and community engagement space

Increased parking provision including coach parking

Increased café space

We also have plans for a sculpture close to the site and visible from the A1 that will create a gateway attraction for Banbridge.

The plans will address our needs and provide for an improved venue, able to welcome more visitors, engage with local communities and bring greater economic return for the town.

The Levelling Up Fund

We are preparing an application to the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) so that we can realise this development plan. LUF is a capital only programme in which 10% match funding is encouraged. The deadline for LUF applications is 12.00 noon on the 6th July 2022.

What Do We Need From You

We are keen to get some feedback on the development of F.E. McWilliam Gallery.

If you could take a few moments to respond to our questions below that would assist in the development of the application for funding, which would enable this project to progress.

THANK YOU

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Have you visited FE McWilliam Gallery?

Yes

No

2. If yes, how often have you visited the FE McWilliam Gallery

Less than once a year

Once or twice a year

Three or four times a year

More than four times a year

3. What is your postcode

4. Thinking of your most recent visit to the Gallery, did you do anything else in Banbridge that day? For example, shopping, have a meal/drink, visit other attractions?

5. The development proposal for the FE McWilliam Gallery will enable us to better engage with our local community and schools, attract more visitors and cater for larger groups at the venue.

Please rate the importance of the key developments at FE McWilliam Gallery on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being Not Important at all to 5 being Extremely Important

A new gallery space to better display F.E. McWilliam's work, which is currently in storage.

A space for education and engagement programmes and workshops for our local communities, schools and our visitors.

Increased parking provision including coach parking to accommodate group bookings and visits.

Increased café and retail space.

6. Would you support investment to make the improvements outlined above to the FE McWilliam Gallery?

Yes

No

7. What are your current perceptions of the accessibility of the FE McWilliam Gallery and its programmes.

Excellent Accessibility

Good Accessibility

Acceptable Accessibility

Poor Accessibility

Inaccessible

8. Do you have further comments on Accessibility at FE McWilliam Gallery?

9. If the proposal proceeds as outlined how likely is it that you will visit the gallery on more occasions than previously.

Definitely

Highly Likely

Quite Likely

Quite Unlikely

Highly Unlikely

Definitely Not

10. If you would like to receive emails about future developments taking place at F.E. McWilliam Gallery, please provide your email address below.

Please complete and leave at FE McWilliam Gallery reception. Thank you.

APPENDIX 2 – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS DONE PRIOR TO PLANNING SUBMISSION

FE McWilliams Public Consultation Period

From Wed 1st to Tue 7th November concept designs and an animation of the proposed building were available for viewing in both Banbridge Civic Building and FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio. Feedback forms were available to fill out, responses detailed below.

On Tue 7th there was a drop-in event held at the gallery where Hall, Black and Douglas architects were available to ask questions from the public.

This was publicised in all local papers w/c 1st Nov and was also posted on Council's social media platforms.

Feedback Forms

Feedback forms were available both online and physically during the consultation period. Comments received on these included:

- The plan needs a scale bar and N sign
- No 13 (draught lobby) looks too small (domestic scale)
- Routes for art moving to/from delivery yard to/from galleries
- In respect of talks by guest speakers could attention be given to an effective PA system
- We would hope that the café will be open during reconstruction
- Please maintain the 4 existing disabled parking spaces
- Might it be better to have the private dining at 11 and café extension at 2. People choose to eat in area 12 at the moment, it's bright and has a view of the garden. Café is hidden (signage)
- Great to have new meeting rooms, especially bookable rooms

Drop in session Tuesday 7th November

Around 20 attendees had the opportunity to talk to both the architects and Council staff involved in the project. A number of key themes were highlighted:

- Consideration needs to be given to the movement of the art (in trolleys) around the gallery
- EV charging points should have a penalty for parking too long as people would park and then go to the Boulevard while they charge
- Shuttle bus should be considered for events due to limited car parking
- Moving wall between function rooms could provide issues with acoustics
- Consideration for disabled people should be given when choosing furniture

Joe Quail, café tenant also attended. Joe said he was very excited about the project and asked that there is a boiler placed in the function rooms which would be helpful if these rooms were being used for coaches. Danielle also agreed this would be beneficial for gallery staff during functions.

A request was also made to move the door in the existing facility into the current shop which would then become the new counter space for the café. HBD said this could be problematic as it would involve removing existing kitchen equipment but will have QS come and look at to assess if it is achievable and if there will be additional costs associated with it.

Banbridge Place Plan

During the consultation of the Banbridge Place Plan there was some discussion around the improvements being made to the F.E McWilliam Gallery and Studio. This included the following recommendations:

- Banbridge Drama society asked why there was a new facility for the arts sector but not for Drama.
 - A suggestion was made that a play park was created outside the gallery as the facility is popular with families.
 - There was discussion around using part of the gallery as a museum as currently there is nowhere in the town which can house artifacts of historical importance to the area.
-

Planning Consultation

As part of the planning consultation letters were issued to resident neighbours whose property is nearby or adjoining the application site. This letter informed residents of the application and offered them the opportunity to respond. No responses were received.

Statutory Consultees were also contacted as part of the planning process. This included:

- NIE
- Commissioner of Irish Lights
- DFI Roads
- NI Water
- Historical Environment Division
- NIEA
- Environmental Health (ACBCBC)

APPENDIX 3 – SECTION 75 FEEDBACK

Organisation	Date issued	Responded	Feedback
RNIB	16/11/23	14/12/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommend considering technology to ensure signage is easily usable for visually impaired - Recommended staff receive training to understand site loss and improve interactions with visually impaired - Suggested creation of a user group to discuss any related issues - Suggested looking at things such as floorings, lighting and colours to be considered. Also the use of tactile services - Suggested having the website tested to ensure web content is in keeping with accessibility standards - Advised to consider those with photophobia when looking to install large windows
Mae Murray Foundation	16/11/23	NA	
Action on Hearing Loss/RNID	16/11/23	NA	
Disability Action	16/11/23	NA	
Cedar Foundation	16/11/23	NA	
Barnardos DCYPPP	16/11/23	NA	
Guide Dogs NI	16/11/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage engagement of disabled people involved throughout consultation process - Ensure staff are properly trained. Guide dogs provides free, sighted guide training

APPENDIX 4 – APPROVAL FROM DEA MEMBERS

Minutes from Banbridge DEA Meeting – 30th November 2023

Attendees: Glen Barr, Ian Burns, Joy Ferguson, Paul Greenfield, Kevin Savage, Ian Wilson, Judith Tecey, David Back, Caroline Leonard, Riann Coulter, Brian Johnston

Cllr Chris Macartan was not in attendance

Following a presentation of the gallery extension by DB there was a few questions.

KS - Gallery is still surrounded by foliage. Can we make it more visible.

JT - DFI has already been contacted and there are discussions to cut back and possibly cut down trees obscuring signage.

Can we have nice signage so we can see it from the roads. If we can't trim the trees back what signage can we have?

PG - There is a lot to walk for senior people

DB - Tried to relocate disabled parking so it is just beside entrance. Need more places for drop off and more disabled car park. HBD to look again at drop off.

IW – is there a parking area for coaches or is it drop off. Do we plan to attract coaches to Banbridge?

DB - We have extended coach parking to two spaces and it will be parked there.

BJ - We will have to look at plan B for the coaches in Banbridge as tennis park isn't happening.

JF – What can we expect in terms of two gallery's? Will it be a mix of exhibitions?

What will the programme look like for the construction, will there be a long closure period?

JT – explained there will be a 3 stage process to limit closure time as much as possible. In the final stage when there is no use of the car park the gallery will be completely closed, this will last for about 2 months.

RC - New gallery to display FE McWilliams works. Schools bring pupils every year to see it. Second gallery will bring more exhibitions from the South of Ireland and UK as it is more high profile and a bigger space. Community and educational spaces will be available for short term exhibitions. Overall, we will be able to show greater range of work

JF - How do we sit alongside other galleries?

RC - We have always got above 40,000. People want to come to visit.

BJ – Is everyone happy with the proposed designs and that we can proceed with a planning application?

All – Yes.