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1.0 Introduction

The 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.

2.0 Aim/Purpose

The policy is aiming to achieve a consistent and uniform approach to service delivery, continual improvement in service delivered, the development of staff and compliance with applicable legislation.

3.0 Scope

The policy applies to Council employees within the Environmental Health Department and in a broader context to the Chief Executive and Management Teams. The policy is externally audited on an annual basis to ensure continued compliance, necessary for retention of certification.

4.0 Policy Detail

The policy complements a Quality Manual which provides the detail on the organisational structure of the Environmental Health Department, the roles and responsibilities of those responsible including the Interim Strategic Director, Management Teams, Officers delivering the service and Officers responsible for the management of the Quality Management System.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

All Officers within Environmental Health have responsibility for compliance with the Policy.

6.0 Related Policies

Enforcement policies related to Environmental Health.

Environmental Health Department Quality Policy Statement

The Environmental Health Department of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council provides people centred services that will improve quality of life and health and wellbeing, through the delivery of statutory and non-statutory services, in partnership with other Council Directorates, other Councils, external agencies and the wider community.

Through the retention of ISO 9001 certification we make the following commitments, with the aim of providing services that satisfy the requirements of our customers and stakeholders and the continual improvement of our Quality Management System.

We will:

Provide a customer focused service appropriate to the purpose, context and strategic direction of the Council.

- Set objectives that seek to improve the quality of services delivered.
- Monitor and review the quality and effectiveness of our services, implementing change as necessary.
- Achieve consistency in service delivery across all our service localities to help our citizens and meet the expectations of stakeholders.
- Abide by all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and future proof the service to meet the demands of new legislation and changes to existing legislation.
- Strive to provide high quality services that use resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Work as a team and commit to the continual improvement of our services and the continual development of our employees.
- Adhere to the requirements of our Quality Management System

This Policy shall be communicated, understood and practised by our employees and is available to interested parties, as appropriate. It shall be reviewed as part of the management review of the Quality Management System.

Signed:



Chief Executive
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Date: 29 October 2024

Appendix 1 Equality Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title:

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

The 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.

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

The policy is aiming to achieve a consistent and uniform approach to service delivery, continual improvement in service delivered, the development of staff and compliance with applicable legislation.

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?

The policy has been developed to meet the requirements of the Quality Management System ISO 9001 and to demonstrate a commitment to the provision of a high quality service.

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

No. This policy will have no impact on equality.

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?	Business Support Manager (2015)
Who is responsible for implementation?	Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Heads of Service and all employees within the Environmental Health Department

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

Financial and legislative factors impact on the implementation of the policy. Staff resource, staff awareness and accountability are also contributing factors.

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 Members, Council Employees, those working on behalf of the Council, Statutory agencies/funding bodies such as FSA, DFI and members of the public are affected

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

Yes, other policies that are related to the delivery and enforcement of the Environmental Health Service.

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	N/A
Political opinion	N/A
Racial group	N/A
Age	N/A
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	N/A
Dependants	N/A

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	N/A
Political opinion	N/A
Racial group	N/A
Age	N/A
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	N/A
Dependants	N/A

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	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None
Age	None	None
Marital status	None	None
Sexual orientation	None	None
Men and women generally	None	None
Disability	None	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	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None
Age	None	None
Marital status	None	None
Sexual orientation	None	None
Men and women generally	None	None
Disability	None	None
Dependants	None	None

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	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	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	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	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.

N/A

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

N/A

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

N/A

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

This is a technical policy. It 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.

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.

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

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
Glenn Ferry	Corporate Manager (Safety & Resilience) Regulatory Services, Estates & Assets	12/08/2024
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Elizabeth Reaney	Head of Department: Environmental Health Regulatory Services, Estates & Assets	15/08/2024

Please forward a copy of the completed policy and form to:

Equality@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.

The above officer is also responsible for issuing reports on a quarterly basis on those policies "screened out for EQIA". This allows stakeholders who disagree with this recommendation to submit their views. In the event of any stakeholder disagreeing with the decision to screen out any policy, the screening exercise will be reviewed.

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.

Environmental Health Quality Management Policy

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

Developing a

Adopting a

Implementing a

Revising a

Policy

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

Environmental Health Quality Management Policy

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

Provide services that satisfy the requirements of our customers and stakeholders.

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.

Policy relates to Quality Management System and has no impact on rural areas.

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.

Policy relates to Quality Management System and has no impact on rural areas.

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?

Policy relates to Quality Management System and has no impact on rural areas.

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.

N/A

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.

Policy relates to Quality Management System and has no impact on rural areas.

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: Glenn Ferry

Date: 12/08/2024

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Position:

Department / Directorate:

Signature: Elizabeth Reaney

Date: 15/08/2024