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Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Policy Screening Report

under

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998

September 2023

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 April 2023 to August 2023.

Policy/Procedure	Policy/Procedure Aims	Ranking/ Screening Decision
<p>Armagh Free Presbyterian Church – Request to hold a bible camp in Killylea Recreation Area</p>	<p>Council Officers received a request from the Armagh Free Presbyterian Church to hold a holiday bible camp on the 19th – 22nd June from 6pm-8pm in Killylea Recreation Area. It was an outdoor activity session and included bible stories. It was not exclusive to parishioners and anyone could attend. The area remained open to the public. Due to poor weather the event took place on only two evenings.</p> <p>Equality Commission Guidance states that public authorities must consider how the policies it makes and implements affect relationships amongst the people it serves and employs. Promoting Good Relations: a Guide for Public Authorities, October 2007 – The Killylea Recreation Area is a shared space.</p> <p>The following measures were employed in order to mitigate any potential impact upon equality and good relations:</p> <p>Previous events had been approved by Council.</p> <p>The event took place for a short period of time in the evening.</p>	<p>2</p>

<p>Contract Management Policy</p>	<p>This is a new Policy. Contract Management is the process that enables both parties to a contract to meet their obligations in order to deliver the objectives required from the contract. It enables the Council to ensure that it is receiving the goods / services that it has procured, on time, at the agreed price and at the requisite quality.</p> <p>Contract management decisions are made solely on the basis of contract management monitoring and performance. Procurement Regulations are based on the EU Treaty Principles of: 1. non-discrimination 2. free movement of goods 3. freedom to provide services 4. freedom of establishment.</p> <p>In compliance with the guidance issued by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Central Procurement Directorate, the relevance of the statutory equality duties will be considered by the commissioning department before procurement begins and then, if relevant to the procurement exercise will be included in the planning, scoping, deciding the strategic objectives, the specification, when writing the project documentation and during the performance of the contract. Questions relating to the statutory equality duties are included in the Tender Request Form.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Lurgan Park – Request from Lurgan District LOL 6 to use Lurgan Park for car parking approximately 2000 cars on Wednesday 12 July 2023</p>	<p>Council Officers received a request from the Lurgan District LOL 6 to use Lurgan Park for car parking approximately 2000 cars on Wednesday 12th July 2023 between 9 am – 4 pm during the Co Armagh commemorative parade through the town centre. Providing car parking spaces in Lurgan Park would help reduce congestion in Lurgan Town Centre. Lurgan Park remained open, as normal, to members of the public.</p>	<p>3</p>

Performance Improvement Objectives	<p>Each year the Council is required under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (Part 12) to develop a Performance Improvement Plan (the Plan). This legislation provides a framework from which the Plan for 2023/24 is developed to support continuous improvement in the delivery of our services. The draft performance improvement objectives which are the subject of this screening will form the main part of the Plan and they have been aligned with the Borough Community Plan, and support our Corporate Plan and Medium Term Recovery Plan.</p> <p>The development of our annual Performance Improvement Plan and these draft objectives is central to ensuring we are delivering on our vision and meeting the needs of a range of stakeholders in the Borough many of whom will fall within the nine section 75 categories. PIO1 relates to sickness absence and this has the potential to positively impact on Disability. PI04 relates to communications on waste management and this has the potential to positively impact on both Disability and Race.</p>	3
Portadown Running Festival	<p>This was an event request from Portadown Running Club to set up event infrastructure and trade as part of Portadown Running Festival on Sunday 12th March 2023 from 7am – 3.30pm at Portadown People’s Park. The park remained open to the public throughout the event. It did not have any impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.</p>	3

<p>Procurement Policy</p>	<p>This policy will provide background information on the need for procurement, ensure Officers are aware of legislative requirements, identify the various procurement thresholds, and define roles and responsibilities for both the Procurement section and Council Officers.</p> <p>Procurement decisions are made solely on the basis of information returned. Procurement Regulations are based on the EU Treaty Principles of: 1. non-discrimination 2. free movement of goods 3. freedom to provide services 4. freedom of establishment.</p> <p>In compliance with the guidance issued by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Central Procurement Directorate, the relevance of the statutory equality duties will be considered by the commissioning department before procurement begins and then, if relevant to the procurement exercise will be included in the planning, scoping, deciding the strategic objectives, the specification, when writing the project documentation and during the performance of the contract. Questions relating to the statutory equality duties are included in the Tender Request Form.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Solitude Park – Request from Bells Amusements to provide a fun fair attraction at Solitude park for a two week period in June 2023</p>	<p>This was a request from Bells Amusements to trade in the amphitheatre area of Solitude Park and provide a fun fair environment to the residents of the Borough and wider area. This event would appeal to a wide range of people within the community particularly young people and families with young children.</p>	<p>3</p>

Sports Grant Aid Scheme	<p>The ABC Sports Forum is a voluntary organisation that provides a voice for local sport, assisting the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council by advising on the collective opinions of local sports interests.</p> <p>The purpose of the Sports Grant Aid Scheme is to provide financial support to help athletes, coaches/volunteers and sports clubs from the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area attain their full potential.</p> <p>The finances for this will be made available through the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and administered by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum.</p> <p>This Policy has been developed to support talented athletes and clubs from the Borough including those from a range of section 75 categories. In recognition that certain categories of persons might incur additional costs in participating, relevant additional costs e.g. costs that enable the athlete to compete will be permitted. This may include those falling within the age and disability categories.</p>	3
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