

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.

This is a facility charges booklet reflecting the proposed increase for the 24/25 calendar year.

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

The new facility charges will reflect the 50p increase in hourly room hire as well as the clarification regarding the concession rate criteria which now requires all eligible groups to be constituted with appropriate insurances in place.

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 Council to amend the policy?

The criteria have been amended in response to the Council's efficiency plan

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

The concession rates apply to

- Senior Citizens Groups (over 60s)
- Parent and Toddler Groups
- Disability Groups
- Youth Groups

The above section 75 groups will be able to avail of reduced room hire rates, so long as the groups meet the criteria of having a constitution and appropriate insurance in place.

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

Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Darryn Causby – Facilities and Infrastructure Manager
Who is responsible for implementation?	The Council

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

No

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

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

The Main stakeholders affected by the changes in this policy are service users, community and voluntary groups, the private sector, children & young people, elderly groups etc.

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

The Efficiency Plan

Available Evidence

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	Census 2021 a population of 218,656 residents in ACBCBC, when asked what their current religion; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41.7% identified as belonging to Protestant or other Christian religion • 41% identified Catholic and • 14.7% identified no religion and • 1.1% other religion.
Political opinion	There tends to be a generally accepted link between religious community background and political opinion in Northern Ireland. In terms of elected representatives, members of ACBCBC (May 2023 elections) belong to a range of parties across the political spectrum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Unionist Party – 13 • Ulster Unionist Party – 6 • Sinn Fein – 15

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Democratic and Labour Party – 1 • Alliance – 4 • Independent – 1 • TUV – 1 <p>Turnout for the elections in 2023 was 56.34% of the borough.</p>
Racial group	Census 2021 results identified approximately 3.3% of the borough population from a minority ethnic grouping with 8.6% of the population born outside of UK and 6.8% don't have English as their main language. The most prevalent languages spoken in ABC, outside of English are Polish (1.7%) and Lithuanian (1.2%). The main ethnic minority groups identified in the census were Mixed, Black African and Chinese.
Age	<p>2021 Census results on age of Borough citizens identified.</p> <p>0-15 years 22.1%, 16 – 24 years 10%, 25 – 49 years 32.9% 50 – 64 years 19% 65 and over 16%</p> <p>This represented a 26.7% increase in the 65+ age group and a 25.62% increase in the 50-64yr age group since the last census in 2011.</p>
Marital status	The 2021 Census provides information on the marital and civil partnership status of those aged 16 and over. Almost half of residents aged 16+ in the borough were married (49.0%).
Sexual orientation	The question on sexual orientation was new for the 2021 Census and was asked of all people aged 16 and over. However, while completing the census is a legal obligation, there was no statutory penalty for those people who failed to provide an answer to the question on sexual orientation. Just 1.5% of the population aged 16 and over in the borough identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+) while 90.5% identified as straight or heterosexual and 8% did not provide an answer to the question.
Men and women generally	2021 Census data – male 49.5% -- Female 50.5%
Disability	2021 Census results identified 22.3% of Borough citizens as having a limiting long term health problem or disability, affecting 36,488 households. Of those citizens in the Borough with a limiting long term health problem or disability, 56.8% are in the 65+ age group.
Dependants	The 2021 Census showed that 32% or 27,192 households in the borough contained dependent children. Results from the 2021 Census also show that 12% of the borough's population aged 5 years old and over (or 24,741 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46% provided 1 – 19 hours per week • 24% provided 20 – 49 hours per week • 30% provided 50+ hours per week. <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at November 2022 there were 8,120 claimants, or 4.8% of 16 and over population, claiming Carer's Allowance in the borough.</p>
--	--

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	The senior citizens groups (Over 60s), The parent and toddler groups and youth groups are entitled to the concessionary rate
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	Disability groups are entitled to the concessionary rate
Dependants	Parent and toddler groups are entitled to the concessionary rate

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	N/A	None
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	None
Age	N/A	Positive Minor
Marital status	N/A	None
Sexual orientation	N/A	None
Men and women generally	N/A	None
Disability	N/A	Positive Minor
Dependants	N/A	Positive Minor

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	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	

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	N/A	None
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	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	N/A	
Political opinion	N/A	
Racial group	N/A	

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.

Within the groups identified as eligible for the concessionary rate, there may be people who fall into more than one category. Young disabled girls and boys, older disabled men and women for example.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

Yes – this policy will make it more affordable for people with disabilities to use the community facilities across the borough.

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

Not Applicable

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.

This policy will have a minor impact on all user groups of our facilities due to a small increase in facility charges. These charges are necessary due to increased cost to provide the service but still remain below the inflation rates.

The concession rates apply to

- Senior Citizens Groups (over 60s)
- Parent and Toddler Groups
- Disability Groups
- Youth Groups

The above section 75 groups will be able to avail of reduced room hire rates, so long as the groups meet the criteria of having a constitution and appropriate insurance in place.

Mitigations

To mitigate the impact, we will communicate with user groups and stakeholders over the period of 3 months prior to the change in rate.

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

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

Not Applicable

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

We will monitor on a weekly basis by reviewing usage and income figures as well as liaising and engaging with user groups across all community facilities.

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/Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Emma Gribben	Programme Manager – Facilities & Services	29/11/2023
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Darryn Causby	Facilities & Infrastructure Manager	29/11/2023

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 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.

Community Facility Charges 24/25

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

Developing a *Choose an item.*

Adopting a *Choose an item.*

Implementing a *Choose an item.*

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

Community Facility Charges 24/25

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

The new facility charges will reflect the 50p increase in hourly room hire as well as the clarification regarding the concession rate criteria which now requires all eligible groups to be constituted with appropriate insurances in place.

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.

Community Facilities are located in both urban and rural locations in the borough

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.

All residents within the borough including those living in rural areas that use the community facilities will be impacted by the changes

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.

All residents within the borough including those living in rural areas that use the community facilities will be impacted by the changes

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.

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 policy will have a minor impact on all user groups of our facilities due to a small increase in facility charges. These charges are necessary due to increased cost to provide the service but still remain below the inflation rates.

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.

This policy will have a minor impact on all user groups of our facilities due to a small increase in facility charges. These charges are necessary due to increased cost to provide the service but still remain below the inflation rates.

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.

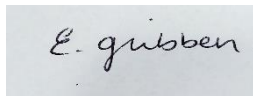
I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained, and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by: Emma Gribben

Position: Programme Manager – Facilities and Services

Department / Directorate: Community Development

Signature:



Date:

04/12/2023

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by: Darryn Causby

Position: Facilities & Infrastructure Manager

Department / Directorate: Community Development

Signature:



Date:

04/12/2023