

## Policy Screening Form

## Policy Scoping

**Policy Title: Community Event to be held in respect of Armed Forces Day – 18 June 2022.**

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

In October 2015, following a report to Governance, Policy and Resources Committee, Council agreed that an expression of interest be made to host a future Armed Forces Day within the Borough. Subsequently, at the Council meeting on 29 May 2018, a Notice of Motion was tabled and adopted as follows-

“This Council accepts that Armed Forces Day (AFD) has become a permanent and important date in the calendar for many within our society and across both communities; whilst being sensitive to those who may not wish to celebrate AFD that this Council registers its interest with RFCA NI to bring AFD to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.”

In September 2019, following a meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Committee the Council agreed to the request by the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland (RFCA NI) to hold Armed Forces Day in the Borough in June 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event did not take place. On 9 July 2020, the Economic Development and Regeneration Committee agreed to the request that Armed Forces Day be held in the borough in 2022. Subsequently, in association with RFCA NI, 18 June 2022 was confirmed as the date of the event.

The event, compered by UTV’s Paul Clark took place on 18 June 2022 from 10.30am to 5.15pm and was held in Banbridge Rugby Club. It had a community focus and attracted customers of all ages and the programme included by way of example:

- Drumhead Service
- Military Wife’s Choir
- RAF Falcons Parachute Display
- RLC Silver Stars Parachute Display Team
- RAF Red Arrows Fly Past
- Music and Entertainment – including The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Ballroom Blitz NI and The Soda Popz
- Military stands and displays
- Food stalls
- Charity stands
- British Forces Broadcasting Service Radio
- Children’s activities
- Rugby 7s competition
- Vintage Aircraft and Vehicles
- Beating of the retreat with the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment

The RFCA NI organised and funded the core of the event, and the Council covered the costs of music, entertainment and family fun elements along with providing the event infrastructure and general marketing.

The RFCA NI suggested that the Council could fly the Armed Forces Day Flag from the Saturday before the event for one week. The former Craigavon Borough Council Flags policy which is still in place permits the Armed Forces Day Flag to be flown at Craigavon Civic Centre on an annual basis on days requested by the Ministry of Defence. This commitment is not in place for Armagh or Banbridge.

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

The national aim of Armed Forces Day is to boost public support and appreciation of all those who serve and have served in HM Armed Forces. It provides an opportunity for the public to recognise the contribution that the Armed Forces (serving personnel and veterans) make and have made to the nation. It also provides the Armed Forces with an opportunity to showcase the units and personnel based and recruited from here as well as the various cadet organisations who, although individual youth movements and not part of the MoD, are sponsored by the respective single Services.

**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 policy was developed in response to a request by RFCA NI to hold Armed Forces Day in the Borough in June 2020 and was subsequently reviewed in advance of the staging of the event in June 2022

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

Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist Community. Due to the “legacy of the troubles” any events undertaken to acknowledge the role of the armed forces are less likely to be supported by the Catholic/Nationalist community. They are more likely to be supported by the Protestant/Unionist community. Protestants and Unionists may be expected to benefit from this policy. However, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and have a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories. It was suitable for all ages and reasonable adjustments are made where necessary to accommodate those with disabilities and their carers.

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

<p><b>Who initiated or wrote policy?</b> The Council</p>	<p><b>Who is responsible for implementation?</b> The Council is responsible for implementation.</p>
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**Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?**

Financial implications. It cost the Council approximately £60,000 to host the event.

**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)

Members of the public, staff members and the armed forces

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

The Council's Good Relations Strategy  
Former Craigavon Borough Council Flags Policy

**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.

Section 75 category	Evidence
Religious belief	<p>The 2011 Census shows that 43.0% of residents in the borough belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 51.7% belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. A further 0.8% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions while 5% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion.</p> <p>Religion or Religion Brought up in Catholic, 85,770 (43%) Protestant &amp; Other Christian 103,315 (51.7%) Other 1,590 (0.8%) None 9,018 (4.5%) Total 199,693 (100%)</p> <p><i>Table 1: Religion or religion brought up in of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: Religion or Religion Brought Up In - KS212NI (administrative geographies), Census 2011, NISRA.</i></p>
Political opinion	<p>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has 41 elected members, the breakdown of seats by political party is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic Unionist Party – 11</li> <li>• Ulster Unionist Party - 10</li> <li>• Sinn Fein - 10</li> <li>• Social Democratic and Labour Party - 6</li> <li>• Alliance - 3</li> <li>• Independent - 1</li> </ul> <p>A total of 79,309 votes were polled in the borough from an eligible electorate of 147,977 giving a turnout of 53.6%. This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of people within the Borough.</p>

Racial group	<p>The 2011 Census showed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 98.5% of the usually resident population of the Borough were White and 1.5% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals).</li> <li>• 89.0% of residents in the Borough were born in Northern Ireland. The Borough had 5.4% of residents or 10,846 individuals who were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.</li> </ul> <p>4.1% of residents aged 3+ years or (7,896 individuals) spoke a language other than English or Irish as their main language.</p> <p>Apart from English and Irish, the most common other main languages were Polish (2,919 residents aged 3+ years), Lithuanian (1,736) and Portuguese (834). Of those whose main language is not English or Irish, 34% cannot speak English or cannot speak it well (based on the three legacy council areas).</p>
Age	<p>The population of the Borough was estimated to be 216,205 at 30 June 2019. The profile by age group is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-15 years - 23%</li> <li>• 16-39 years - 30%</li> <li>• 40-64 years - 32%</li> <li>• 65+ years - 16%</li> </ul> <p>The Borough has a growing and ageing population. The population of the Borough is projected to increase by almost 8% or 16,675 people over the next 10 years to 2029. The largest percentage increase is projected in the 65 and over age group (29%). Within this age group the number aged 85 and over are projected to increase by an extra 1,781 people (46%).</p>
Marital status	<p>The 2011 Census provides information on the marital status profile of those aged 16 and over in the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) - 34%</li> <li>• Married - 51%</li> <li>• In a registered same-sex civil partnership - 0.1%</li> <li>• Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) - 4%</li> <li>• Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved - 5%</li> </ul> <p>Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership - 7%</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The 2011 Census did not include a question on sexual identity. The Continuous Household Survey provides results on the sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over. In 2017/18 - 2019/20, 98% of respondents to the survey identified as Heterosexual/Straight, 1% as Gay/Lesbian and 1% as Bisexual in the Borough. Note figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding.</p> <p>Results from the 2019 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey showed for adults aged 18 and over in NI overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am 'gay' or 'lesbian' (homosexual) - 2%</li> <li>• I am heterosexual or 'straight' - 90%</li> <li>• I am bi-sexual - 1%</li> <li>• Other answer - 1%</li> <li>• I do not wish to answer this question – 7%</li> </ul> <p><i>Note figures may not sum due to rounding.</i></p>

Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49% (98,713) of usual residents were males and 51% (100,980) were females.</p> <p>Population estimates for 2019 show the borough is made up of 107,540 (49.7%) males and 108,665 (50.3%) females.</p>
Disability	<p>In 2011, one fifth (20%) of people (or 39,861 individuals) in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities.</p> <p>The Family Resources Survey showed, using data for 2015/16 to 2017/18, 19% of individuals in the Borough were disabled, similar to the level in NI overall (21%).</p> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities showed as of May 2020 there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,120 or 4.4% of under 16 population and 6,070 or 18.1% of 65 and over population claiming Disability Living Allowance</li> <li>• 5,550 or 16.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance</li> <li>• 15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment</li> </ul> <p><i>(Experimental statistics).</i></p>
Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed: 36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children.</p> <p>12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided unpaid care. Of those who provided unpaid support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58% provided 1-19 hours per week,</li> <li>• 17% provided 20-49 hours per week, and</li> <li>• 25% provided 50+ hours per week.</li> </ul> <p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that at May 2020, there were 7,940 claimants or 4.7% 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	<p>Although not all Protestants are necessarily Unionist and not all Catholics are Nationalist. Those from a Protestant, Unionist background are more likely to appreciate the significance of Armed Forces Day compared to those of a Catholic, Nationalist background. Due to the "legacy of the Troubles" any events undertaken to acknowledge the role of the armed forces are less likely to be supported by the Catholic/Nationalist community. However, the Council has</p>

	<p>adopted a Community Covenant which complements at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant. The aim of the Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the armed forces community within their area and promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.</p> <p>The findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed there was a more positive opinion of UK Armed Forces now, compared to during the Troubles. In particular, one half of Catholic respondents had a negative opinion of how they acted during the Troubles, while 26 per cent thought this of Armed Forces today.</p> <p>This was the only event held in the Borough during Armed Forces Week. It had a community focus and was held in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant community.</p>
Political Opinion	N/A
Racial group	N/A
Age	The event was suitable for all ages. The findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed that younger age groups (those who had no experience of the troubles) were more likely to indicate that they did not know or had a neutral opinion of the UK Armed Forces.
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	Access to the event – parking and viewing and information prior to and during the event is considered and reasonable adjustments made where necessary.
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	Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist Community. However, the findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed there	Minor

	was a more positive opinion of UK Armed Forces now, compared to during the Troubles. In particular, one half of Catholic respondents had a negative opinion of how they acted during the Troubles, while 26 per cent thought this of Armed Forces today.	
Political opinion		
Racial group	The event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories.	None
Age	The event planned was suitable for all ages. The findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed that younger age groups (those who had no experience of the troubles) were more likely to indicate that they did not know or had a neutral opinion of the UK Armed Forces.	None
Marital status	This event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories.	None
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

**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		No. Although the event is more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories.
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

**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	Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community therefore a differential impact is likely to be experienced by the Catholic/Nationalist community.	minor
Political opinion	Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community therefore a differential impact is likely to be experienced by the Catholic/Nationalist community.	minor
Racial group	No impact	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		No. Although the event is more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community as stated above, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible.
Political opinion		Although the event is more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community as stated above, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible.
Racial group		Although the event is more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community as stated above, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible.

**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.

A range of categories were represented and the Council acknowledges that no individual belongs exclusively to one equality group.

### **Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

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

Access to the event- parking and viewing and information prior to and during the event is considered and reasonable adjustments made where necessary.

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

### **Screening Decision**

#### **A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY**

Please identify reasons for this below

Although not all Protestants are necessarily Unionist and not all Catholics are Nationalist. Those from a Protestant, Unionist background are more likely to appreciate the significance of Armed Forces Day compared to those of a Catholic, Nationalist background. However, the findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed there was a more positive opinion of UK Armed Forces now, compared to during the Troubles. In particular, one half of Catholic respondents had a negative opinion of how they acted during the Troubles, while 26 per cent thought this of the Armed Forces today. Younger age groups (those who had no experience of the troubles) were more likely to indicate that they did not know or had a neutral opinion of the UK Armed Forces.

The EQIA conducted on the former Craigavon Borough Council Armed Forces Day Flag, although restricted to assessing the impact of flying the Armed Forces Day Flag and not hosting an Armed Forces Day event did not reveal any significant impact for the Catholic Nationalist community. Two respondents (0.23%) from within the Borough felt the policy should be amended by Flying the Armed Forces Day Flag for a more limited duration. No responses were received in support of not flying the Armed Forces Day flag at all.

The Council has adopted a Community Covenant which complements at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant. The aim of the Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the armed forces community within their area and promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the armed forces community. This was the only event held in the Borough during Armed Forces Week. It had a community focus, was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories. It was held in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant community. It was suitable for all ages and reasonable adjustments are made where necessary to accommodate those with disabilities and their carers.

**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, 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.

Priority 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](http://www.equalityni.org)).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

Comments and Complaints from Attendees  
Requests for reasonable adjustments prior to and during the event.

## 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
Brian Johnston	Head of Tourism, Arts and Culture	12.05.22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Olga Murtagh	Strategic Director (Place)	12.05.22

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

[mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)  
who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.

The above officer is 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.