

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Policy Screening Report

under

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998

January 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 October 2022 to December 2022.

Policy/Procedure	Policy/Procedure Aims	Ranking/ Screening Decision
Age Friendly Strategy & Action Plan 2022-2025	<p>This is the first Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough and was developed in response to our ageing population to promote physical and social environments that support healthy and active ageing and a good quality of life for older people in the Borough. The strategy has been developed in partnership with the Borough’s Age Friendly Alliance, supported by the Council.</p> <p>Vision: People in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area are valued regardless of age and are supported to age well and with confidence</p> <p>Outcomes of the Strategy and Action plan:</p> <p>Outcome 1: As we get older, we enjoy good physical and mental health Outcome 2: As we get older, we participate meaningfully in community life Outcome 3: As we get older, we are heard, valued and respected Outcome 4: As we get older, we are independent and involved in decisions that affect us Outcome 5: As we get older, we are well informed about things that matter to us</p>	2

	<p>The proposed strategy and action plan will have a positive impact on all section 75 categories but in particular the following: People aged 50+ People with a disability Carers</p> <p>Implementation of the action plan should mitigate any issues.</p> <p>The strategy and action plan will be reviewed and revised annually by the Alliance to consider what has worked well and less well over the previous year taking into account new challenges and opportunities. Anticipated timescales for the completion of actions will also be reviewed and revised annually, as necessary. The strategy and action plan will also be included in the review processes for the Borough's Community Planning Strategic Partnership.</p>	
<p>Banbridge Town Dressing Project</p>	<p>The Banbridge Town Dressing Project is part of the Banbridge Benefits Realisation Project which was aimed at supporting the town as it entered into a new era in its development and in particular given the opening of the multi-million fund Game of Thrones Studio Tour.</p> <p>The scheme aims to install 40 no. 6m and 8m Flagpoles. It is believed once installed the flag poles will greatly enhance the gateways and approaches to the town centre, and will allow the council to showcase Banbridge at particular periods in the year through banners. The locations have been specifically selected because of their prominence. As a result of the planning permission process 2 sites were removed from the scheme.</p>	<p>2</p>

	<p>The scheme will benefit all Section 75 groups by enhancing and regenerating the physical environment and improving the general appearance leading to potential future regeneration opportunities. However, while we don't anticipate difficulties, there may be a possibility that other flags could be attached to the flagpoles within the residential areas and as a result this may have a negative impact on equality and good relations within these areas.</p> <p>The following measures will mitigate any potential impact on equality and good relations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While events are being advertised it is less likely that other flags will be flown 2. Similar flag poles have been erected in Armagh City but to date there have not been any issues. 3. The Council's Emerging Issues Working Group will address any potential difficulties if required. 	
<p>Corporate Health and Safety Policy</p>	<p>The policy will ensure a consistent approach to Health and Safety within the Council and make clear the Council's commitment to the Health and Safety of anyone who may be affected by the Council's acts or omissions.</p> <p>This is a technical policy which sets out the Council's commitment to Corporate Health and Safety. 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.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Quality Management Policy</p>	<p>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 in compliance with applicable legislation.</p>	<p>3</p>

	<p>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. It is a technical policy and 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.</p>	
<p>Small Settlement Business Support Grant Scheme</p>	<p>The Small Settlement Business Development Grant Scheme 2022 aims to improve the physical environment for all its users. It is considered that the scheme will not have an adverse impact on any of the Section 75 groups.</p> <p>The Council will not consider applications from Applicants that discriminate against Section 75 groupings.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to assist commercial property owners to improve the quality of the building stock and respective streetscape within Tandragee, Keady, Richhill, Rathfriland, Dollingstown, Gilford, Donaghcloney, Markethill, Magheralin, Laurelvale/Mullavilly, Aghagallon and Bleary.</p> <p>Property owners wishing to undertake works to enhance the lettability, functionality and appearance of their property will be able to apply for grant assistance through the Scheme to encourage commercial property owners to invest in their buildings and reduce long term vacancy, thereby improving the vitality and vibrancy of our Borough for all users.</p>	<p>3</p>