

## Policy Screening Form

## Policy Scoping

**Policy Title:** Request from Royal Black Institutions to hold an event in Loughgall Country Park – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

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

Council officers received a request from the Royal Black Institutions to hold an event in Loughgall Country Park on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 10am – 6pm, the event included a parade to Loughgall Country Park and religious service to celebrate the opening of their new headquarters on Main Street, Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands and included the following:

- Members gathered at the junction of Red Lion Road and Ballymagerny Road from 10am
- Parade commenced at 11.30am along Main Street to Loughgall Country Park and set down on the football pitch at approx. 12pm / 12.30pm.
- Members paraded to the new headquarters at 12.45pm led by 1 main band
- The new headquarters and exhibition were officially opened on Main Street at 1pm by the Sovereign Grand Master
- A bust of Sir Norman Stronge was commissioned and unveiled at the back of the building
- Members paraded back to Loughgall Country Park at 2pm where a religious service then took place
- Following the religious service members and bands paraded from Loughgall Country Park along Main Street returning to the starting point
- Food traders were positioned within Loughgall Country Park for the duration of the event

Loughgall Golf Club has sole use of the golf course every Saturday with over 150 members participating from 8am – 2pm. Discussions took place with event organisers to ensure Loughgall Golf Club could utilise the facility during the event and adequate car parking made available. A communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place and to expect some service disruption during particular periods of the day.

The event was subject to approval from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) as landowners.

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

The aim of the event was to celebrate the opening of the Royal Black Institution's Headquarters

**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 request to hold the event was received by the Health and Recreation Department in December 2021.

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

The Royal Black Institution came into existence in Ireland in 1797 and is based on the Christian Reformed Faith. To be a member of the Royal Black Institution, it is necessary to be a member of the Loyal Orange Institution and male. As this event is to celebrate the opening of the new headquarters on main street in Loughgall, it is likely that members of the Protestant/Unionist Community will benefit from this policy.

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

**Who initiated or wrote policy?**

The Council

**Who is responsible for implementation?**

The Council is responsible for implementation.

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

The event organisers are required to provide a risk assessment, insurance and a health and safety plan.

**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, members of the Royal Black Institution, event participants

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

Local

Good Relations Strategy  
Equality Scheme

Regional

The Together: Building a United Community Strategy T:BUC  
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland: Promoting Good Relations, A Guide for Public Authorities October 2007  
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland: Guidance on Good Relations in Local Councils 2015

<b>Available Evidence</b>
---------------------------

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.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Religious belief	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 43% of the population in the Borough were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 52% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1% 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><u>Loughgall Ward</u></p> <p>The 2011 census showed that 39.10% of the population were brought up in the Catholic religion and 57.42% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and other Christian (including Christian related)' religion.</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> <p>A meeting of the Council's Emerging Issues Working Group was held on the 21 February 2022. This group has cross party representation. A further meeting of the EI WG was held on the 23 February 2022.</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. 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. 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>Note figures may not sum due to rounding.</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. 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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5,550 or 16.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance</li> </ul> <p>15,130 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).</p>
Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed: 36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children. 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	This was a large event organised by the Royal Black Institution to celebrate the opening of the headquarters in Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands. Union Flags, Emblems and Banners were on display. The procession continued through the gates of Loughgall Park and proceeded down the avenue. The Museum of Orange Heritage is also based in Loughgall and the residents of the village are likely to be aware of the museum and the village's association with the Orange Order. While this was not a public event it was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be available at different periods throughout the day.
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	Access to the event is included as part of the risk assessment
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	<p>This was a large event organised by the Royal Black Institution to celebrate the opening of the headquarters in Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands. Union Flags, Emblems and Banners were on display. The procession continued through the gates of Loughgall Park and proceeded down the avenue. The Museum of Orange Heritage is also based in Loughgall and the residents of the village are likely to be aware of the museum and the village's association with the Orange Order. While this was not a public event it was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be available at different periods throughout the day.</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. <i>Promoting Good Relations: A Guide for Public Authorities, October 2007</i> Loughgall Country park is located in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant Community but it is also a Council facility and a shared space.</p>	Minor

	This is the first request the Council has received to hold a parade on Council land and the Council does not have an Events Policy.	
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	None
Age	N/A	None
Marital status	N/A	None
Sexual orientation	N/A	None
Men and women generally	N/A	None
Disability	N/A	None
Dependents	N/A	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		No. This was a large event organised by the Royal Black Institution to celebrate the opening of the headquarters in Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands. Union Flags, Emblems and Banners were on display. The procession continued through the gates of Loughgall Park and proceeded down the avenue. The Museum of Orange Heritage is also based in Loughgall and the residents of the village are likely to be aware of the museum and the village's association with the Orange Order. While this was not a public event it was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be available at different periods throughout the day.
Political opinion		As Above
Racial group		As Above
Age		As Above
Marital status		As Above
Sexual orientation		As Above
Men and women generally		As Above
Disability		As Above
Dependents		As Above

**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	<p>This was a large event organised by the Royal Black Institution to celebrate the opening of the headquarters in Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands. Union Flags, Emblems and Banners were on display. The procession continued through the gates of Loughgall Park and proceeded down the avenue. The Museum of Orange Heritage is also based in Loughgall and the residents of the village are likely to be aware of the museum and the village's association with the Orange Order. While this was not a public event it was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be available at different periods throughout the day.</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. <i>Promoting Good Relations: A Guide for Public Authorities, October 2007</i></p> <p>Loughgall Country park is located in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant Community but it is also a Council facility and a shared space.</p> <p>This is the first request the Council has received to hold a parade on Council land and the Council does not have an Events Policy.</p>	Minor
Political opinion	As Above	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. This was a large event organised by the Royal Black Institution to celebrate the opening of the headquarters in Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands. Union Flags, Emblems and Banners were on display. The procession continued through the gates of Loughgall Park and proceeded down the avenue. The Museum of Orange Heritage is also based in Loughgall and the residents of the village are likely to be aware of the museum and the village's association with the Orange Order. While this was not a public event it was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be available at different periods throughout the day.
Political opinion		As Above
Racial group		As Above

**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.

The Council acknowledges that no individual belongs exclusively to one equality group. However, participants of the event are the Royal Black Institution who are members of the Protestant community only.

**Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

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

Access to the event is included as part of the risk assessment

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

#### **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.

This was a large event organised by the Royal Black Institution to celebrate the opening of the headquarters in Loughgall. The event consisted of approx. 3,000 members and 15 accompanying bands. Union Flags, Emblems and Banners were on display. The procession continued through the gates of Loughgall Park and proceeded down the avenue. The Museum of Orange Heritage is also based in Loughgall and the residents of the village are likely to be aware of the museum and the village's association with the Orange Order. While this was not a public event it was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be available at different periods throughout the day.

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*

Loughgall Country park is located in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant Community but it is also a Council facility and a shared space.

This is the first request the Council has received to hold a parade on Council land and the Council does not have an Events Policy.

Equality Commission guidance also states that Councils should consider the cumulative impacts on good relations and put in place appropriate mitigation measures. Such impacts and mitigation measures may be more easily identified when policies are reviewed or developed at a strategic level rather than on a single issue basis. *Equality Commission for Northern Ireland Guidance on Good Relations in Local Councils 2015*

The following measures will mitigate any potential impact on equality and good relations:

- The event received cross party consensus.
- The development of an Events Policy so that a strategic framework will be available for the consideration of all events.
- Loughgall Golf Club has sole use of the golf course every Saturday with over 150 members participating from 8am – 2pm. Discussions took place with event organisers to ensure Loughgall Golf Club could utilise the facility during the event and adequate car parking made available.
- The event was for one day only and a communications plan was put in place to inform all users that an event would take place but also explained that the park would be made available at different periods throughout the day.
- The Outdoor Leisure Operations Manager was the point of contact for the organisations availing of the park on Saturday 2 April pre and during the event and carried out a post event evaluation.

### **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.

<b>Priority criterion</b>	<b>Rating (1-3)</b>
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

The Outdoor Leisure Operations Manager was the point of contact for the organisations availing of the park on Saturday 2 April pre and during the event and carried out a post event evaluation.

## 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
Michael Ruddy Mary Hanna	Outdoor Leisure Operations Manager Policy & Diversity Officer	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Jonathan Hayes	Head of Department	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

**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.