

## Policy Screening Form

### Policy Scoping

#### Policy Title Street Naming and Numbering Policy

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

This policy provides guidelines as to how Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council will provide the District with adequate street naming and numbering of buildings. The Policy also outlines the process for Council consideration in dealing with requests for dual language street names as well as the processes for renaming and re-numbering a street.

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

The purpose is to ensure that the residents, visitors and people who work within the Council boundary are provided with clear street naming and numbering of buildings to assist with the way-finding and to help in the easy identification of premises by emergency services, postal services and utility providers.

#### 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 street naming and numbering policy will ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory responsibility under Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. This Order commenced on the 15 May 1995 and repealed all previous related statutes. Article 11 of this Order also gives the Council discretionary power to erect dual language street signs or secondary signs in a language other than English. The policy also states that the signage and street naming provision will be delivered in an equitable and fair manner in accordance with the duties contained within the Council's Equality Scheme.

The Equality Commission advises on equality and anti-discrimination legislation, which presently does not cover the grounds of language. In relation to the use of minority languages the Equality Commission guidance on harmonious workplace states:

The use of languages other than English, for example in corporate logos and communications, will not, in general, constitute an infringement of a good and harmonious working environment.

The Committee of Experts or (COMEX) which monitors compliance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has been informed about several instances, especially within local councils, where it was decided not to promote or use the Irish language as it may contravene section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, which states that public authorities should take due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, among others between persons of different religious belief and political opinion. The Committee of Experts emphasises that the adoption of special measures in favour of

regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not to be considered an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.

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

The procedure for dealing with requests for Council consideration of dual language street signs ensures that anyone regardless of section 75 category can avail of the process. This procedure reflects the one used in a neighbouring Council which, following a legal challenge was proven to be lawful.

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

<b>Who initiated or wrote policy</b>	<b>Who is responsible for implementation?</b>
Tom Lavery – Head of Building Control	All relevant service area Directors, HoDs, Managers and Officers

**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 business community, other statutory bodies, community and voluntary sector, private sector, and the general public.

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

None

**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.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
Religious belief	The procedure for dealing with requests for Council consideration of dual language street signs ensures that anyone regardless of section 75 category can avail of the process. This procedure reflects the one used in a

	<p>neighbouring Council which, following a legal challenge was proven to be lawful.</p> <p>The Equality Commission advises on equality and anti-discrimination legislation, which presently does not cover the grounds of language. In relation to the use of minority languages the Equality Commission guidance on harmonious workplace states:</p> <p>The use of languages other than English, for example in corporate logos and communications, will not, in general, constitute an infringement of a good and harmonious working environment.</p> <p><i>'Promoting a Good and Harmonious Working Environment, A Guide for Employers and Employees', Equality Commission, October 2009, page 9.</i></p> <p>The Committee of Experts or (COMEX) which monitors compliance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has been informed about several instances, especially within local councils, where it was decided not to promote or use the Irish language as it may contravene section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, which states that public authorities should take due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, among others between persons of different religious belief and political opinion. The Committee of Experts emphasises that the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not to be considered an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.</p> <p><i>Council of Europe (2010) Report of the Committee of Experts on the Charter (UK 3<sup>rd</sup> Monitoring Cycle) ECRML (21 April 2010), para 123</i></p>
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Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	
Disability	
Dependants	

**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?

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Needs, experiences and priorities</b>
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Religious belief	The procedure for dealing with requests for consideration of dual language street signs ensures that anyone regardless of section 75 category can avail of the process. The policy permits Council consideration of any secondary sign in a language other than English, which is in keeping with the requirements of paragraph (4) of the Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women generally	
Disability	
Dependants	

### 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	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None
Age	None	None
Marital status	None	None
Sexual orientation	None	None
Men and women generally	None	None
Disability	None	None
Dependents	None	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
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Men and women generally		No
Disability		No
Dependents		No

#### 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		None
Political opinion		None

Racial group		None
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**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	
Political opinion	No	
Racial group	No	

**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.

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**Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

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

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

N/A
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**Screening Decision**

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

Please identify reasons for this below

The policy provides guidelines as to how Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council will provide the District with adequate street naming and numbering of buildings. The policy also outlines the process for establishing Council consideration in dealing with requests for dual language street names as well as the processes for re-naming and renumbering a street. The procedure for dealing with requests for dual language street signs ensures that anyone regardless of section 75 category can avail of the process. The policy permits Council consideration of any secondary sign in a language other than English.

The Equality Commission advises on equality and anti-discrimination legislation, which presently does not cover the grounds of language. In relation to the use of minority languages the Equality Commission guidance on harmonious workplace states:

The use of languages other than English, for example in corporate logos and communications, will not, in general, constitute an infringement of a good and harmonious working environment.

The Committee of Experts or (COMEX) which monitors compliance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages has been informed about several instances,

especially within local councils, where it was decided not to promote or use the Irish language as it may contravene section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, which states that public authorities should take due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, among others between persons of different religious belief and political opinion. The Committee of Experts emphasises that the adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not to be considered an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.

**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.

N/A

**C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED**

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

N/A

**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

The policy will be reviewed by the Head of Building Control on an annual basis.

## 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
Tom Lavery	Head of Building Control	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Sharon O'Gorman	Strategic Director (Position)	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2019

**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 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.