

Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Small Rural Settlements Environmental Improvement Scheme Phase 1

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

The programme is aimed at identifying [through community based organisations] and carrying out a range of small environmental improvement schemes in villages and settlements across the Borough with a population of less than 1000 inhabitants.

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

The intended outcome of the programme is to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements within small rural settlements throughout the Borough. Projects will be identified through community based organisations and will be in response to identified need to improve the quality of life in those areas.

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?

No

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

It is likely that this programme will benefit all sections of the community in terms of improvements to improvements to the quality of life in small rural settlements.

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

Who initiated or wrote policy?

Armagh City, Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council

Who is responsible for implementation?

Armagh City, Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council

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

None identified at this stage. Specific factors may be identified when the individual projects are identified for individual settlements

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)

General public will be the main beneficiaries of the programme. Specific stakeholders may benefit from individual projects but these will have to be assessed on a case by case basis once the projects have been identified.

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

- **Community Plan for Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017 – 2030**
- **Regeneration & Development Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Corporate Plan 2018 - 2032**

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	Only one response received from contacted groups. It is anticipated that there will be a better level of response when draft projects are circulated as they become available for comment.
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?

Section 75 category	Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	No evidence of any different needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 Group. All groups will benefit directly and / or indirectly from this programme
Political opinion	No evidence of any different needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 Group. All groups will benefit directly and / or indirectly from this programme
Racial group	No evidence of any different needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 Group. All groups will benefit directly and / or indirectly from this programme
Age	Any schemes will be designed to fully meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Schemes will also meet the requirements of the elderly and very young in the public realm where applicable
Marital status	No evidence of any different needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 Group. All groups will benefit directly and / or indirectly from this programme
Sexual orientation	No evidence of any different needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 Group. All groups will benefit directly and / or indirectly from this programme
Men and women generally	No evidence of any different needs, experiences and priorities for this Section 75 Group. All groups will benefit directly and / or indirectly from this programme
Disability	Any schemes will be designed to fully meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act in the public realm
Dependants	Any schemes will be designed to fully meet the requirements of dependants in the public realm

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	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people with different religious beliefs	None
Political opinion	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people with different political opinions	None

Racial group	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people of differing racial / ethnic groups	None
Age	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people of differing age groups	None
Marital status	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people of different marital status	None
Sexual orientation	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people of different sexual orientation	None
Men and women generally	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people of different gender	None
Disability	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people with a disability	None
Dependents	The programme aims to deliver a range of small scale environmental improvements for all users which will not have an adverse impact on people with dependents	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		None identified
Political opinion		None identified
Racial group		None identified
Age	Any potential schemes may provide increased opportunity for use of the public realm space	
Marital status		None identified
Sexual orientation		None identified
Men and women generally		None identified
Disability	Any potential schemes may provide increased opportunity for use of the public realm space	

Dependents	Any potential schemes may provide increased opportunity for use of the public realm space	
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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	This programme will benefit all user groups and by improving the physical environment may have a positive impact on all sections of the local community	Minor
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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	This programme will benefit all user groups and by improving the physical environment may act as a catalyst to promote good relations between user groups	
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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.

This programme will benefit all user groups regardless of their Section 75 category

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

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

All schemes initiated under the programme will be designed in accordance with current design standards to be DDA compliant

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

All schemes initiated under the programme will be designed in accordance with current design standards to be DDA compliant

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, 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.

Not to be subjected to an EQIA with mitigating measures / alternative policies
The aim of this programme is to identify [with the local community] and develop proposals for small scale environmental improvement schemes within small rural settlements. It is not envisaged that the schemes will adversely impact any Section 75 groups. Each scheme will be considered on merit to ensure it makes a positive contribution to all user groups and enhances the local environment.

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).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

All schemes put forward for consideration will be reviewed as to their suitability and impact on improving the environment in small scale rural settlements. As detailed proposals are developed they will be further considered and screened to ensure they meet the requirements of all user groups. It is envisaged that design proposals will be sent through to identified representative groups for review and comment as they are developed.

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
Peter Westbury	Director – MWA partnership	8 th January 2019
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Maria Magennis	Deputy Manager – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	January 2019

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

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.