

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Policy Screening Report

under

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998

December 2019

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. The report includes published screening for the period June 2019 to November 2019.

Policy/Procedure	Policy/Procedure Aims	Ranking/ Screening Decision
Performance Improvement Plan 2019/2020	<p>The aim of the Performance Improvement Plan is to set out what we will do in the year ahead to deliver on our statutory duty to secure continuous improvement in service delivery and bring about improvement against at least one of the following seven improvement areas as stipulated in Section 84(2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic effectiveness 2. Service quality 3. Service availability 4. Fairness 5. Sustainability 6. Efficiency 7. Innovation <p>Statutory performance indicators and standards, as set out in the Local Government Order (NI) 2015 are also reported on within the Performance Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The plan has been developed with the needs of residents, businesses and visitors in mind. It has been informed by the Community Plan and Corporate Plan. A public consultation was undertaken from March-May</p>	3

	2019 and views from a range of stakeholders was sought, including those on the Council's Section 75 consultation list.	
Civic Reception Policy	This is a new policy to introduce criteria and levels of recognition to individuals and groups in order to ensure that those who meet the relevant criteria are treated equally. It is intended to benefit all citizens of the Borough by treating everyone the same in relation to civic recognition.	3
<p>The Rainbow Flag will be flown at Banbridge Civic Building, Craigavon Civic Building, Craigavon Civic Centre and Palace Demesne on Belfast Pride Day 2019 (3rd August 2019) and annually thereafter</p> <p>On Belfast Pride Day 2019 the Council civic buildings will be lit up in the colours of the Pride Rainbow and annually thereafter.</p>	<p>This is a new policy. A Notice of Motion was agreed at the Council Meeting on Monday 24th June 2019 to fly the rainbow flag at Banbridge Civic Building, Craigavon Civic Centre and Palace Demesne on Belfast Pride Day 2019 (3rd August 2019) and annually thereafter.</p> <p>At the same Council meeting another Notice of Motion was agreed that on Belfast Pride Day 2019 the Council civic buildings will be lit up in the colours of the Pride Rainbow and annually thereafter.</p> <p>Flying the Rainbow Flag and lighting up our civic buildings will have a positive impact on the LGBTQ+ community in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. It will show that the Council wants to tackle prejudicial attitudes and behaviour, promote positive attitudes and raise awareness of the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. It also reflects the Council's duty to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between people of different sexual orientations and the Council's desire for a more inclusive society.</p> <p>The Council also recognises that different views exist within the borough. Some religious beliefs, political opinions and racial groups do not support the public recognition of the LGBTQ+ community. It is therefore important that the Council represents all views and in the carrying out of all its functions aims to be a welcoming and inclusive organisation.</p>	3

	<p>The buildings will be lit up and the rainbow flag will be flown for one day only and on a Saturday when the Council Offices are closed. While this reflects the Council's duty to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between people of different sexual orientations, because it is only for one day it is unlikely to have an adverse impact on those who hold different views and do not support the public recognition of the LGBTQ+ community.</p>	
<p>The Operation, Management & Control of Exclusive Right to Burial sales in Council's Municipal Cemeteries</p>	<p>The policy is based on the provision of consistent best practices and procedures, which will enable burials to be conducted in accordance with Burial Law, Council Rules and Regulations, industry standards and best practice. It will also meet the requirements of Health and Safety Legislation so far as is practicable and in accordance with the religious, cultural and ethnic beliefs/requirements and the wishes of the bereaved. Accessibility to cemeteries is met where practical. All major resurfacing/extension works will comply with relevant legislative requirements. Advanced right sales are to be restricted to over 60s. The rationale is to maintain longevity and sustainability of service provision of advanced rights as an open to all policy would not be sustainable. A shorter life expectancy diagnosis criterion has also been introduced to accommodate those under sixty.</p>	<p>3</p>