

**Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

**Policy Screening Report**

**under**

**Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998**

**April 2016**

## 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 one of the addresses 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 January 2016 to March 2016.

Policy/Procedure	Policy/Procedure Aims	Ranking/ Screening Decision
<p><b>Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Interim Local Rural Development Strategy SOAR (ABC)</b></p>	<p>This is a new strategy which offers an opportunity to develop a connected, dynamic, sustainable and equitable rural society in the new Council area. The strategy describes a framework for the delivery of priority 6 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area. The areas of intervention for grant assistance include – Rural Business Investment, Rural Basic Services, Rural Village Renewal, Broadband and cooperation.</p> <p>The Local Action Group (LAG) has adopted the following broad aim to guide it in its management of priority 6 of the new rural programme 2014-2020.</p> <p>“To contribute to the regeneration and development of the rural areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting new and existing rural businesses</li> <li>• Supporting farm diversification businesses</li> <li>• Regenerating villages</li> <li>• Ensuring the continued provision of public, private and community services in rural communities, in a manner which is inclusive,</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>

	<p>sustainable and equitable.”</p> <p>In the development of the strategy, open consultations were held and all individuals, bodies included in the Council’s equality database were advised of the consultation events. Additional one to one meetings were also held.</p> <p>As a result of the consultation meetings, a number of older people advised that they may have difficulty filling in the on-line form. As a mitigation, hard copy applications were made available.</p>	
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