

## Policy Screening Form

### Policy Scoping

**Policy Title: Request from the Banbridge Baptist Church to hold a praise in the Park event on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> June and the 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Solitude Park from 6.30pm to 7.30pm each evening.**

**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 Banbridge Baptist Church to hold a praise in the Park event on the 5<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> June and the 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Solitude Park from 6.30pm to 7.30pm each evening.

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

The aim of the event is to provide a praise in the park event

### 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 application to hold the service was received by the Environmental Services Department by way of application and was an annual event since 2012 with the absence of the last 2 COVID years.

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

These are 3 events which are open to all religious beliefs.

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

Who initiated or wrote policy?	Who is responsible for implementation?
The Council	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)?**

No previous negative comments or complaints have been received in relation to these events

**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)

Service 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 : DUC  
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland]: Promoting Good Relations a guide for Public Authorities October 2007.

**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 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.
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> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <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:</p> <p>36% or 27,287 households in the Borough contained dependent children.</p> <p>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	These were 3 service events that were held by the Banbridge Baptist Church. The event consisted of 3 Sunday evening praise services which were not solely for their parishioners to attend.
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	N/A
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	These were 3 events lasting 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event.	Minor
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
Dependants	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		These were 3 events lasting 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the

		parishioners and anyone could listen to the event.
Political opinion	N/A	N/A
Racial group	N/A	N/A
Age	N/A	N/A
Marital status	N/A	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A	N/A
Disability	N/A	N/A
Dependents	N/A	N/A

**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	These were 3 events lasting 1 hour on each occasion. They was delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event.	Minor
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	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		These were 3 events lasting 1 hour on each occasion. They were delivered in a public park whilst the facility was open to the public and all users across the borough. It was not exclusive to the parishioners and anyone could listen to the event.
Political opinion	N/A	N/A
Racial group	N/A	N/A

**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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The Council acknowledges that no individual belongs exclusively to one equality group. However the majority of participants of the event are parishioners of the Banbridge Baptist Church who are members of the Protestant Community.

**Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

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

N/A

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, 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.

These were 3 service events that were held by the Banbridge Baptist Church. The event consisted of 3 Sunday evening praise services which were not solely for their parishioners to attend.

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 – The Council-owned Solitude Park is a shared space.

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

Previous events have been approved by council.

The events only take place for a short period of time on Sunday evenings and no previous complaints have been received.

**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

Complaints are monitored.

## 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
Kieran Cahoon	Outdoor Spaces Maintenance Manager	29.04.22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Barry Patience 	Head of Environmental Services	29.04.22

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.