

Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

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

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a fair, equitable and consistent framework for the handling of situations where disciplinary action against an employee of the Council is considered necessary.

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

The main objective of this procedure is to give every employee an opportunity to improve their behaviour or conduct. This procedure will not be invoked until an employee has been advised of any allegation of unsatisfactory behaviour and has been given every reasonable assistance by way of advice, information, guidance or training to achieve the desired standard.

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 procedure is compliant with current legislation and reflects the provisions of the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) code of practice on Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures.

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

N/A

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

Who initiated or wrote policy?
HR Working Group in conjunction with the Local Government Reform Joint Forum (LGRJF) and Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC)

Who is responsible for implementation?
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)?

N/A

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 procedure applies to all employees of the Council.

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

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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	There is no evidence/information that the policy has an impact on any Section 75 category.
Political opinion	As Above
Racial group	As Above
Age	As Above
Marital status	As Above
Sexual orientation	As Above
Men and women generally	As Above
Disability	As Above
Dependants	As Above

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	There is no evidence/information that the policy has an impact on any Section 75 category.
Political opinion	As Above
Racial group	As Above
Age	As Above
Marital status	As Above
Sexual orientation	As Above
Men and women generally	As Above
Disability	As Above
Dependants	As Above

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	There are no specific impacts on any of the equality categories.	None
Political opinion	As Above	None
Racial group	As Above	None
Age	As Above	None
Marital status	As Above	None
Sexual orientation	As Above	None
Men and women generally	As Above	None
Disability	As Above	None
Dependents	As Above	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	There are no specific impacts on any of the equality categories.	No
Political opinion	As Above	No
Racial group	As Above	No
Age	As Above	No
Marital status	As Above	No
Sexual orientation	As Above	No
Men and women generally	As Above	No
Disability	As Above	No
Dependents	As Above	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

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.

No specific impacts have been identified for people with multiple identity. The policy will affect all employees regardless of what equality category they fall within.

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

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a fair, equitable and consistent framework for the handling of situations where disciplinary action against an employee of the Council is considered necessary.
The procedure was written in conjunction with the LGRJF and LGSC and is compliant with current legislation and reflects LRA guidelines on best practice.

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, 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)

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

The policy will be reviewed annually or if there is a change in legislation.

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
Aisling Knipe	Head of HR	26.02.15
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date

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.