



Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

Local Development Plan

Equality Impact Assessment

MARCH 2018

www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Have your Say

This EqIA report has been prepared alongside the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Preferred Options Paper (POP). The POP document and other supporting documentation, including this report and the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report will be available on the Council's website:

www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The documents are also available in hard copy to view during office hours at the following offices:

Planning Office Bridgewater House 23A Castlewellan Road Banbridge BT32 4AX	Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre 66 Lakeview Road Craigavon BT64 1AL
Banbridge Civic Building Downshire Road Banbridge BT32 3JY	Palace Buildings The Palace Demesne Friary Road Armagh BT60 4EL

Public Consultation on the POP and associated documents will begin on **Wednesday 28th March 2018**, and will be open for a period of 9 weeks, ending on **Wednesday 30th May 2018**. As set out in our Equality Scheme section 3.2.6 the consultation period will normally last for minimum of 12 weeks. However, in exceptional circumstances when the timescale is not feasible we may shorten timescales to 8 weeks or less. In this instance we have had to shorten this consultation period to 9 weeks for the following reasons:

- To comply with the Local Development Plan (LDP) timetable;
- This nine week consultation forms just part of the ongoing engagement on the LDP and it will continue as we move to the next stages of the Plan.

Your comments on this document, the POP and other supporting documentation can be submitted by various means below:

By email: ldp@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

By post: Planning LDP Team
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Bridgewater House
23a Castlewellan Road
Banbridge
BT32 4AX

Online Questionnaire: <https://armaghbanbridgecraigavon.citizenspace.com/>

The closing date for the receipt of comments is: **Wednesday 30 May 2018, at 5pm**

The POP and supporting documents can be made available on request in other formats, and alternative languages where possible, by contacting the Council's Planning Office:

By telephone: 0300 200 7830 (NI General Planning Line)
0300 0300 900 (Main Council Line)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

In accordance with the aforementioned Act, all information submitted in response to this consultation may be made available on request.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This EqIA Report has been prepared alongside Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Preferred Options Paper published on 28th March 2018.

The Council has a Statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.

In addition to this, public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.

The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council under the provisions of Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 is responsible for the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the Borough.

The Council has published a Plan Timetable and a Statement of Community Involvement which set out how Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council intends to facilitate and promote public participation throughout the Local Development Plan process.

Following on from this there are three main documents to be published in the course of preparing the LDP:

1. The Preferred Options Paper (POP)
2. The Plan Strategy (PS)
3. The Local Policies Plan (LPP)

In the preparation of the POP the Council have produced an evidence base in the form of 14 topic based preparatory papers which provide a comprehensive overview of our Borough. These include Paper 1 Population and Growth in which the Council carried out an initial assessment of those Section 75 groups likely to be impacted upon by the key planning policy areas within the Local Development Plan (See Table 1).

Whilst the initial assessment carried out in Table 1 provided a useful baseline, it has been reassessed on the basis of the additional detail available at this preferred option stage. Where any additional group is considered likely to be affected as a result of the Preferred Option or approach this has been included in this Equality Impact Assessment.

All the topic based preparatory papers are available to view at:
www.armaghibanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

The Council have also engaged with statutory consultees and with individuals and organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups. This information has helped identify key issues specific to the Council area and the options to address them. The POP indicates the Council's Preferred Options for the future development and growth in the Borough and provides the basis for consulting

with the public and stakeholders on matters that may have a direct effect on the plan area with the aim of stimulating public comments and encouraging the meaningful involvement of interested parties at an early stage in the plan preparation process.

3.0 EQUALITY SCREENING ASSESSMENT

An Equality Screening Assessment will be carried out at each of the three main stages in the new LDP process to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required.

The POP is the first stage in this process and the options presented in it are not defined policies but are suggested policy approaches to take forward to the next stage in the production of the Plan Strategy.

The issues identified in this phase 1 of the EqlA LDP – POP will act as a guide to development of subsequent assessments, reports and consultations; but each stage of the LDP will be subject to separate equality assessments.

The purpose of this EqlA is to –

- Consider the potential equality and good relations impacts of the Preferred Options Paper at a Strategic level focussing on the key inequalities which the preferred options can help to reduce;
- Provide an outline analysis of data and research on current major inequalities experienced by people in the section 75 groups in relation to the key commitments under the LDP
- Establish the positive equality impacts which the future Local Development Plan can make.

The Council will be conducting this EqlA in line with the Practical Guidance issued by the Equality Commission. It will follow the recommended 7 step process of;-

- Stage 1: Defining the aims of the policy;
- Stage 2: Consideration of available data and research;
- Stage 3: Assessment of Impacts
- Stage 4: Consideration of measures which might mitigate any adverse impact or alternative policies which might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity:
- Stage 5: Formal consultation
- Stage 6: Decision by public authority and publication of results of the EqlA;
- Stage 7: Monitoring for adverse impact in the future and publication of the results of such monitoring

This EqlA includes the first 4 stages.

4.0 DEFINING THE AIMS OF THE POLICY

The POP is a new feature of the LDP process specifically brought into effect by Part 3 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and subsequent transfer of powers to Local Authorities in April 2015.

The POP is a public consultation document to be issued in the early stages of the Local Development Plan process. It identifies a range of strategic planning issues in the ACBCBC area. Generally, these issues have either emerged from our evidence base or from prior informal consultation with a range of statutory consultees, council officials Elected Members and Section 75 groups. In some cases, these issues have been identified through Council Plans or Strategies eg. The Corporate Plan, Community Plan,

Regeneration and Development Strategy and the Tourism Strategy.

The main purpose of the POP is to stimulate public debate on these strategic planning key issues and it will help inform the next stage of the Plan Strategy. For each issue, the POP identifies the Councils' Preferred Option, as well as setting out a range of alternative options where appropriate.

The POP aims to ensure that the public, stakeholders and other interested parties are fully engaged at an early stage in the plan preparation process. Whilst the focus is on strategic planning matters which apply across the Borough, there will be opportunity at a later stage in the Plan process to engage on matters of a more specific nature.

The key issues will fall under the following broad strategic headings:

- Spatial Growth Strategy;
- Economic Theme;
- Social Theme; and
- Environment Theme

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF AVAILABLE DATA AND RESEARCH

In developing the POP data and research were gathered to help assess the likely impact on the 9 section 75 equality groups. Quantitative and qualitative information was drawn from a number of sources.

A robust evidence base was gathered which provides a Borough profile of ACBCBC. This includes statistical data and analysis contained in our suite of 14 evidence based topic papers along with the outcomes of engagement with key statutory bodies. Engagement also took place with key identified overarching bodies who represent the 9 identified Section 75 groups. As noted above 574 groups were contacted, in writing, offering them the opportunity to identify any particular issues or needs which they consider the Plan should address.

The quantitative and qualitative information gathered through the engagement process has informed the EqIA.

Baseline information of relevance to the EqIA is contained in Figure 1.

Table 1: A preliminary identification of local planning policy likely to have an impact on community relations & social equality

POLICY TYPE	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial group	Age	Marital status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments – nature of policies and likely impact of policies on the S – 75 Groups
Settlement	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Designation and status of settlements and identification of development opportunities and limits may impact on groups of religious belief / political opinion due to the spatial distribution of such groups
Housing	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	Quantum and distribution of zoned housing lands could have a differential impact on religious / political groups. The amount whether it is urban / rural, accessible, social / private will also have differential impacts on the ethnic groups, elderly persons/ house-forming people, persons with disabilities and those with dependents.
Business and Industry	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	X	X	Quantum and distribution of employment land could result in differing access to employment for certain groups i.e. religion, race, gender and age
Open Space & Recreation	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	Quantum and distribution of open space and recreation facilities could result in differing levels of access for identified groups i.e. Religion / political. Also Disability, Gender, Dependency and Age.
Retailing and town centres	√	√	X	X	X	X	√	√	X	The hierarchy of commercial/town centres, development opportunities and control policies could result in differing levels of accessibility to retailing and leisure related services for identified groups. Town centres tend to be relatively neutral areas.
Community Uses	√	√	X	X	X	X	√	√	√	Spatial and physical accessibility to Community uses can have particularly on religious groupings / political opinion, age and disability.
Transportation	√	√	X	√	X	X	√	√	X	Differing levels of accessibility to all services depending on location/quality of infrastructure for identified groups.
Environment	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Location of protected areas for conservation, archaeology or landscape could have differential impacts, positive or negative, for different groupings.
Minerals	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The location of areas protected for / constrained from minerals proposals could have differential impacts, for different religion / political groups.
Countryside	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	The location of policy areas and resultant protection / restrictions on development, could have differential impacts, positive or negative, for different groupings - religion / political. Also persons of house-forming age.
Services and Utilities	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	X	X	Differing levels of accessibility to public services and utilities depending on location of facilities provided - religion / political.
Tourism	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Location of areas protected for and constraining tourism proposals could have differential impacts on different religious / political groups.
Design	X	X	x	√	X	X	x	√	√	Design both in terms of appearance and physical access affects everyone but has a particular impact on people with mobility difficulties such as the disabled, elderly and people with young children.
Totals	12	12	2	7	0	0	5	6	4	

Figure 1: Data on Population

Section 75	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	<p>In 2011, the population within the Borough were predominately, of a Protestant background at 52% (above NI average) with 43% from a Catholic background (below NI average).</p> <p>The proportion of people who were brought up in a different religion or with no religion was 6% (below NI average).</p>
Political Opinion	<p>There are 41 elected members in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. The breakdown by political party is:</p> <p>DUP: 13 seats UUP: 11 seats Sinn Féin: 8 seats SDLP: 6 seats UKIP: 1 seat Independent: 2 seats</p> <p>This breakdown is taken as an approximate representation of the political opinion of the people within the borough.</p> <p>In the 2011 Census, 50.49% of the usual resident population indicated that they had a British identity, 25.18% indicated an Irish national identity and 28.85% a Northern Irish national identity.</p>
Racial Group	<p>The 2011 Census figures indicate that 98.5% of the population in ACBCBC are white and 1.5% from other ethnic groups including Asian, Black and Mixed.</p>
Age	<p>In 2015 63% of the population of ACBCBC were of working age (16-64 years), 15% were aged 65 years+ and 22% of the population were 0-15 years (NISRA).</p> <p>The Borough has a growing and aging population. By the end of the plan period in 2030, it is forecast that 19.53% of the population of ACBCBC will be aged 65 years+.</p>
Marital Status	<p>Since 2001, there has been an increase in the percentage of divorced people, a decrease in the percentage of people married and an increase on the proportion of single people in Northern Ireland. In ACBCBC, the trend is similar but the proportion of married people is above the regional average and the number of single people is below this average</p> <p>The 2011 Census showed that 33.64% of the borough population is single, 54.73% are married, 5.18% are divorced and 6.52% are widowed.</p>

Sexual Orientation	<p>There is limited information available for this category. The Continuous Household Survey undertaken in 2015/2016 by NISRA found that 97.9% of all Northern Ireland adult respondents identified themselves as heterosexual/straight; with the remaining adults identifying as either gay/lesbian, bisexual, 'don't know' or not providing an answer.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census indicated that 49% of the population in ACBCBC was male and 51% was female.</p>
Disability	<p>The 2011 Census indicates that 20% of ACBCBC residents have a long term health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities, with 11% of people suffering a mobility or dexterity difficulty. In May 2016 statistics show that 22,430 people within the Borough were claiming Disability Living Allowance and 5,810 were claiming attendance allowance.</p>
Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 36% of households in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough contained dependent children with 12% of the Borough's population providing unpaid care to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health.</p>

6.0 Analysis of Data and Research and actual and potential impacts

Table 2: Preliminary equality screening (assessment of preferred options as identified in the POP) in relation to identified Section 75 Groups

Key Issue	Policy Area	Preferred Option	Comments and Likely Impacts
Spatial Growth Strategy			
SGS1	Settlement Hierarchy	<p>The preferred option with the POP is to bring forward a new settlement hierarchy through the re-classification of existing settlements and the inclusion of new settlements/new settlement nodes based on robust evaluation.</p> <p>Derrymacash and Scotch Street are to be re-classified upwards to become villages and Derrylee is to be re-classified downwards to become a small settlement.</p> <p>New small settlements are to be recommended at Pier/Byrnes Rampart Craigavon, Whitehall Road Craigavon and a new node is recommended at Derryadd Craigavon</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Having considered the geographical distribution of the main towns and villages across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant negative differential impact within this Section 75 group. The proposed re-classification, designation and de-designation of certain settlements may impact on groups of religious belief due to their spatial distribution. Current statistical information does not allow for detailed analysis at the small settlement tier of the hierarchy. However, initial analysis of wider geographical areas indicates that the spread of religious belief across the relevant settlements is largely reflective of the Borough as a whole. Therefore no significant differential impacts are indicated at this stage. This will be subject to further assessment at a later stage to take account of any changes to the proposed settlement hierarchy as a result of public consultation on the POP.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p>

SGS2, 3	Spatial Growth Strategy	<p>The Spatial Growth Strategy suggests focusing major population growth and economic development in the three main hubs whilst facilitating appropriate growth in Small Towns and sustaining Villages and Small Settlements. In the open countryside, the emphasis is on facilitating sustainable development opportunities taking into account of the need to protect rural character and the environment, while sustaining a strong and vibrant rural community.</p> <p>The Spatial Growth Strategy sets out the broad distribution of new housing and economic development between the different tiers of the settlement hierarchy and generally between these settlements and the countryside. It does not allocate a quantum of growth to individual settlements</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u></p> <p>Designation and status of settlements and identification of development opportunities and limits may impact on groups of religious belief due to the spatial distribution of such groups</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u></p> <p><u>As above</u></p> <p><u>Racial Group</u></p> <p>Having considered the geographical distribution of the three main hubs and lower tier settlements across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be a differential negative impact within this Section 75 group.</p> <p><u>Age</u></p> <p>Through maintaining a focus of economic development and population growth in the main hubs and small towns, the surrounding settlements and rural area should benefit from the clusters of shared resources and infrastructure. It is considered this will positively impact this group through increased opportunity for employment and optimum access to public transport and community facilities.</p> <p><u>Disability/Dependency</u></p> <p>As above</p>
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Social Theme			
SOC 1,2	Housing (Urban and Rural)	<p>The POP supports an approach to new residential development in settlements in line with existing policies, tailored to reflect regional direction and to meet local circumstances</p> <p>With regard to rural housing the preferred option is to support rural housing in line with existing policies and regional direction tailored to meet local circumstances.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> No differential impacts within this group can be readily discerned at this stage in the plan process.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Racial Group</u> The POP advocates appropriate housing growth which is largely reflective of existing trends and therefore it is considered that there will be no differential impact within this group.</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>
SOC 3	Design and Place-making	The POP advocates supporting good design and positive place-making in both development and advertisement proposals through criteria based policy with provision for additional design criteria and supporting guidance for certain identified areas or	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> It is not anticipated that the promotion of good design and positive place-making through advocating good design principles will have any significant differential negative impact within this Section 75 group. Rather, it is expected to yield positive benefits in regard to the creation or enhancement of 'shared spaces'.</p>

		types of development such as recognised areas of heritage importance/value or types of development where appropriate.	<u>Political Opinion</u> As above <u>Age</u> As above <u>Disability</u> As above
SOC 4, 5	Open Space, Sport and Recreation	<p>The preferred option is to protect existing open space (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new provision) in line with existing policy and regional direction tailored to meet local circumstances.</p> <p>With regard to Play park provision in large scale residential developments the preferred option is a locally tailored approach, with amendment to the existing criteria to increase provision in larger schemes to more than one equipped play area (as currently required in existing policy), as well as provide the option for Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs), where appropriate, unless otherwise specified in LDP Key Site Requirements.</p>	<u>Religious Belief</u> It is expected that this option will positively impact on all sections of society. This will be achieved through providing increased opportunities for leisure and recreation and by aiding community cohesion and reinforcing health and wellbeing.

SOC 6	Community and Cultural Facilities	<p>The LDP has limited influence over the location of new community facilities that are provided by bodies other than Council. However, it can take account of the location of existing community facilities in zoning land for new housing and enhancing connectivity to such facilities.</p> <p>It is proposed that the plan will identify and protect sites for community and cultural facilities where there is a firm proposal in place and bring forward a criteria based policy for development proposals to be assessed against and to facilitate new community and cultural facilities (including extensions to existing facilities).</p>	In the absence of policy details at this stage, it is not possible to discern any differential impacts within or between Section 75 groups.
SOC 7	Developer Contributions	The preferred approach with regards to Developer Contributions would be to provide strategic policy and identify sites where developer contributions would be appropriate in the Local Policies Plan	In the absence of policy details at this stage, it is not possible to discern any differential impacts within or between Section 75 groups. Nonetheless, it is possible that developer contributions may aid the delivery of community facilities, where a need has been identified, for the benefit of everyone, irrespective of Section 75 identity.

Economic Theme

ECN1, 2,3,4

**Economic Development
(Urban and Rural)**

The POP sets out the preferred approach for the allocation of economic development land, with a focus on the hubs. The preferred option is to evaluate existing economic development zonings and identify new sustainably located sites to meet projected needs.

It also sets out the preferred option for the location of Class B1 Business Uses to be in Town Centres, District Centres or local centres and within economic development zonings (or identified parts thereof) as part of a sequential approach.

The POP identifies sites within economic development zonings for start-up and grow-on business space within economic development land/zonings by identifying land to be used specifically for start-up and grow-on business space, and also use redundant buildings or land on existing economic sites for start-up and grow-on business space.

Religious Belief

No defined quantum of economic development land is allocated to particular settlements at this stage. No specific sites have been identified for Class B1 Business Uses, for start-up/grow on business space, or for compatible economic uses/businesses outside the traditional Part B Business Uses. This means that no differential impacts within this group can be readily discerned at this stage in the plan process.

Political

Opinion

As above

Racial

Group

As above

Age

As above

Gender

As above

		<p>It also supports a sustainable approach to rural economic development in line with existing policies and regional direction tailored to meet local circumstances, including in relation to facilitating the apple orchard/cider tourism experience.</p>	
<p>ECN 5,6,7,8,9</p>	<p>Town Centres and Retailing</p>	<p>The POP sets out the Hierarchy of Centres to align with the Settlement Hierarchy. The preferred approach is to identify a new hierarchy of centres within settlements based upon the current role and function of our settlements and identify new centres, where appropriate. The preferred option is to review and identify Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores, where appropriate, accompanied by policy to protect and strengthen town centres. Town Centres are to be promoted as first choice for a variety of complementary town centre uses to facilitate the growth of the evening and night-time economy. Office development (Class A2 uses) will be facilitated through a sequential approach in the town centres.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Having considered the geographical distribution of the main towns and small towns across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be a significant negative differential impact on this Section 75 group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> The proposed new hierarchy of centres may have a positive impact on this group as it may facilitate mixed use development in appropriate locations within town centres to ensure easier access to retail, housing, leisure, employment, community facilities and other services.</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>

		Existing designated Development Opportunity Sites (DOSs) will be reviewed and new DOSs identified, where appropriate.	
ECN 10	Tourism	The preferred option is to carry forward an approach in line with existing policy to support and facilitate appropriate sustainable tourism development in both settlements and the countryside with additions that are tailored to meet specific local tourism needs and protect tourism assets within the Borough.	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Proposals to continue with current policy for tourism within settlements/countryside with additions tailored to meet local tourism needs and to protect tourism assets should have no differential impact on those in this Section 75 group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p>
ECN 11	Minerals Development	The POP supports a balanced approach between the need for mineral resources and the need to protect the environment and other interests of acknowledged importance in line with existing policy and further regional direction by designating Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) and Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs) where appropriate	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Retention/identification of areas of mineral constraint and mineral safeguarding zones will be undertaken at later stages of the plan. There are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any meaningful impact on Section 75 groups at this stage.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p>

			<u>Dependency</u> As above
ECN 12	Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Utilities	The POP proposes to provide a criteria based policy in line with existing policies and regional direction.	It is not anticipated that the preferred approach which is in line with existing policies and regional direction will result in any significant negative differential impact within this Section 75 group.
ECN 13, 14, 15,16,17,18	Transportation	<p>With regard to transportation the preferred option is to bring forward an approach that is in line with existing Protected Route’s Policy tailored to meet the needs of the Borough; to identify and safeguard strategic road improvement schemes in the LDP: to protect key park and ride sites and identify and safeguard potential new sites across the Borough and to enhance accessibility within the Borough.</p> <p>With regard to disused transport routes the preferred option is that they are to be protected in line with existing policy and identify and safeguard routes within the LDP that have a reasonable prospect of becoming useful in the future.</p> <p>The POP also advocates the promotion of active travel network and sustainable</p>	<u>Religious Belief</u> Further assessment will be undertaken at a later stage in the LDP process in terms of policy amendments and transport designations. There are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any meaningful impact on Section 75 groups at this stage. <u>Political Opinion</u> As above <u>Age</u> As above <u>Disability</u> As above <u>Dependency</u> As above

		transport and all new development within settlements will demonstrate accessibility to and integration with existing public transport, walking and cycling routes.	
Environment Theme			
ENV 1	Built Heritage and Archaeology	The POP advocates an approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets within the Borough and review existing areas/designations and identify new areas/designations as appropriate	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> It is not anticipated that the preferred approach to conserving, protecting and/or enhancing the built and archaeological heritage assets and Conservation Areas will result in any significant negative differential impact within this Section 75 group. Any designation or policy that seeks to protect built heritage and archaeological heritage assets, including within Conservation Areas, will seek to provide for benefits for all sections of society and future generations, irrespective of Section 75 group identity.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>

<p>ENV 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</p>	<p>Natural Heritage and Landscape</p>	<p>The preferred approach in the POP is in line with existing policy direction with regards to protecting and enhancing international, national and local nature conservation that are not LDP Designations</p> <p>With regards to protecting and enhancing local nature conservation designations the preferred option follows an approach in line with existing policy whilst also reviewing existing and identifying new plan designation, where appropriate</p> <p>The POP also seeks to consider areas of sensitive landscape for designation as Areas of high Scenic Value(AoHSV) or Special Countryside Areas (SCA),</p> <p>It will also evaluate and as appropriate retain existing, designated Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) and consider the identification of new LLPAs and introduce and consistent LLPA policy and review existing open space wedges and policy zones as potential urban landscape</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Within the POP, It is not anticipated that the preferred approach to conserving, protecting and/or enhancing the landscape, natural heritage assets and nature conservation and biodiversity will result in any significant negative impact within this Section 75 group.</p> <p>Any designation or policy that seeks to protect the environment, natural heritage and/or nature conservation/biodiversity interests will seek to provide benefits for all sections of society and future generations, irrespective of Section 75 group identity. The protection of natural heritage assets has positive impacts on the ecosystem services that benefit society as a whole such as meeting society’s needs for open space and recreation and maintaining or enhancing air and water quality</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>
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		wedges and identify both new urban and rural landscape wedges with associated policy	
ENV 7, 8	Flood Risk and Drainage	<p>The POP advocates adopting a precautionary approach in line with existing policy and regional direction having a presumption against development in floodplains other than in exceptional circumstances</p> <p>The preferred option of managing surface water drainage within any new developments will be to encourage the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in development where appropriate.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Further assessment will be undertaken as a later stage in the LDP process in terms of policy amendments. At this stage there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p> <p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>
ENV 9, 10	Renewable energy and waste management	<p>The POP proposes to facilitate sustainable renewable energy development in line with existing policy but also identify areas of sensitive landscape which may be unsuitable for particular forms of renewable development.</p>	<p><u>Religious Belief</u> Further assessment will be undertaken as a later stage in the LDP process in terms of policy amendments. At this stage there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p><u>Political Opinion</u> As above</p>

		<p>The preferred approach to waste management is in line with existing criteria based policy but tailored to meet local circumstances and in addition identify suitable locations for waste management facilities, where appropriate.</p>	<p><u>Age</u> As above</p> <p><u>Disability</u> As above</p> <p><u>Dependency</u> As above</p>
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7.0 CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES

The main purpose of this EqIA is to ensure that the LDP will have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity from the very onset of policy formulation. Table 2 highlights that the preferred options will have differing impacts on the Section 75 groups, both positive and negative. Where negative impacts are identified as likely at this stage, mitigating measures can be considered in the later stages of the LDP process.

The potential impact of the LDP will only be realized when the LDP is fully developed and Equality Assessment has been undertaken at each stage of the LDP process.

8.0 FORMAL CONSULTATION

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council is committed to consultation which is timely, open and inclusive and conducted in accordance with the Equality Commission's Guiding Principles. The next stage of the EqIA process will involve formal consultation with interested parties to obtain:

- Views on the assessment of impacts (stage three above);
- Any further information which could be useful in assessing the impacts;
- Comments and suggestions on the mitigating measures (stage four above)
- Comments and suggestions with regard to the consultation process.

Timescale

The consultation period will last **9 weeks** from **Wednesday, 28th March 2018**. The closing date for responses is **Wednesday, 30th May 2018 at 5pm**.

All equality consultees will be notified of the availability of this report and invited to comment.

The POP and supporting documents can be made available on request in different formats, by contacting the Council's Planning Office:

By telephone: 0300 200 7830 (NI General Planning Line)
0300 0300 900 (Main Contact Line)

All comments and queries regarding this report should be addressed to:

Planning LDP Team
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Bridgewater House
23a Castlewellan Road
Banbridge
BT32 4AX

Telephone: 0300 200 7830 (NI General Planning Line)
0300 0300 900 (Main Council Line)

Email: ldp@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

All comments are welcome and will be accepted in any format.

9.0 NEXT STEPS

The POP identifies a broad range of key strategic planning issues which are likely to influence the direction of future development within the Borough, during the life-time of the LDP (up to 2030) and defines a range of options for addressing these issues, including the Council's preferred approach (with justification). It is hoped that the POP and associated documentation (published alongside) will encourage feedback from a wide variety of interested parties. All feedback received (relating to strategic issues), during consultation will be taken into account during the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy, the next stage of the plan process.

After the close of the **9 week consultation (on 30th May 2018)**, a summary of all representations received, including from Section 75 Groups will be presented to elected members in the form of a Public Consultation Report. This report will detail strategic issues raised during consultation responses. All representations will be held on a database which will be used for the preparation of the Borough's LDP in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and taken into account whilst formulation the Draft Plan Strategy. The Public Consultation Report will be published on the Council's website and will also be considered during independent examination of the Plan Strategy.

Representations made at the POP stage should relate to strategic matters as these will be used to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy. There will be an opportunity, further on, at Local Policies Plan stage to submit representations of a site specific nature and such representations will only be considered at that stage.

Indicative timescales for the key stages in the LDP process are outlined in the Local Development Plan Timetable which can be viewed on our website:

www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/local-development-plan-residents/

Each of the LDP documents will be accompanied by a full EqIA report, for consultation and consideration at the respective Independent Examinations

The POP offers the opportunity for anyone who lives or has an interest in the future of the Borough to engage in the early stages of the plan process, and to influence the LDP to guide the future development decisions within the Borough.

We welcome your comments on our Preferred Options Paper and associated documents including the EqIA.



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Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council**

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