



Equality Screening

Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan

15th Jan 2015

Belfast City Council - Equality Screening Template

The Council has a statutory duty to screen all policies. Please note a policy can be written or unwritten, formal or informal. This includes our strategies, plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. Please note a policy can be written or unwritten, formal or informal.

This screening template is designed to help departments consider the likely equality impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training. To find out about the training contact – gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk or dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk

The accompanying [Screening Guidance](#) note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties¹ and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

Section A - asks you to provide details about the policy / decision that is being screened.

Section B - has 4 key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence.

Section C - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order

Section D - is the formal record of the screening decision.

¹ ECNI 'Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities' April 2010. www.equalityni.org

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened

Title of policy / decision to be screened:-

Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan

“At its meeting on 22 November 2013, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed the development of a policy framework which fully integrates planning, regeneration and economic development. The approach is intended to address thematic challenges including city centre living, repopulation, student housing and capturing the benefit of regeneration for the communities of Belfast. The specific objectives would focus on securing economic growth, capturing benefits for residents, addressing quality of life issues and creating neighbourhoods of choice.

This work in turn would provide a policy basis for developing similar regeneration plans across other areas of the City.” (<http://poochie:9070/mgAi.aspx?ID=23801>)

The Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan report has been prepared on behalf of Belfast City Council by Urban Strategies Inc. The final report was presented to Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 3 December 2014 for approval and agreement to proceed to public consultation January 2015.

Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

(Explain - Is this a new, revised or existing policy? Are there financial / legislative / procurement implications?)

This is a new policy. The Council, through existing policies and strategies such as the Belfast Masterplan and Belfast Investment Programme, identified the city centre as a spatial objective to create an accessible, vibrant and dynamic city centre driving the regional economy. The City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan is an aspirational strategic vision for Belfast City Centre for the next 10 years, building upon and refreshing the existing policy framework. It is intended to provide a holistic approach to the delivery of regeneration within the city centre.

Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-

(What is the policy trying to achieve?)

The Council is very aware of the importance of the city centre to Belfast's prosperity. The draft Belfast Master plan demonstrated that the city centre is the driver of the regional economy. The intention to develop a regeneration strategy emphasises the importance of the city centre in planning for future economic growth and competitiveness as a healthy and prosperous city centre isn't just important for the local area, it benefits all of Belfast and Northern Ireland.

The City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan is a high level document that identifies eight policies, projects and city areas to address the development and investment priorities for the city.

The eight policy objectives are:

- Increase the employment population
- Increase the residential population
- Manage the retail offer
- Maximise the tourism opportunity
- Create the region's learning and innovation centre
- Create a green, walkable, cyclable city centre
- Connect to the city around
- A shared space

To facilitate the implementation of the eight policies for the city centre (and its four sub areas; South Centre; The Core; North Centre and Lagan Corridor) a series of key projects have been identified which support the vision for the different districts of the centre within the context of the whole.

Many of the projects will be undertaken in partnership with the private sector and other organisations. It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation.

Five Special Action Areas have been identified at a greater level of detail to help guide shorter term implementation. The five areas identified are the Northern Quarter, the Western Quarter, the North East Quarter including Royal Exchange, the

Transport Hub and the Oxford Street District.

It is anticipated that a comprehensive action planning exercise would be undertaken to prepare a more detailed local master plan identifying specific projects and initiatives along with urban design and transport guidance. Where possible, it is anticipated that the plans will be accompanied by an implementation and delivery schedule. These will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city and ensuring that the growth agenda, at the heart of the city centre framework, is one that can be shared by people across the new council area. This will require a collaborative partnership approach, with the appropriate agency/department taking the lead and be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people. The plans and projects will be screened as appropriate.

On whom will the policy / decision impact?

Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential)

- Staff
- Service users
- Other public sector organisations
- Voluntary / Community groups / Trade Unions
- Others, please specify
 - All those who live in, work in, study in, invest in or visits the city

Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

The City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan contains a number of proposals and recommendations to develop a vibrant and prosperous city centre. These will require close collaborative working and partnership delivery across a number of agencies and organisations from across the public, private and community sectors, with the appropriate agency/department taking the lead and will be driven by

a strong focus on outcomes for local people. These sectors have been included in the consultation process.

Key agencies include:

Government:

Departments for Regional Development / Social Development / Environment / Finance and Personnel / Employment and Learning / Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Translink; Arts Council; Visit Belfast / NI Tourist Board; Belfast City Centre Management; Invest NI; Community Relations Council; Policing & Community Safety Partnership; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Strategic Investment Board

Institutions:

University of Ulster; Queens University; Belfast Metropolitan College; Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; BBC

Area / Community:

Neighbourhood and Area Partnerships representing local communities. Young people / Older People

Business:

Representative bodies: Chamber of Commerce; Institute of Directors; CBI; Belfast Harbour Commissioners; Key developers (e.g. Titanic Quarter Limited); Banks

Other:

Forum for Alternative Belfast; Belfast Healthy Cities; Royal Town Planning Institute; RICS

Section B

1. Outline consultation process achieved or planned

Background process

Belfast City Council approved the appointment of a consultation team (Urban Strategies, Deloitte and ARUP) to develop the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan. The consultation team undertook extensive meetings and consultations with city stakeholders between March and June 2014 to garner background, ideas and information which have contributed to the strategy, culminating in the Future City Conference in June 2014. The Initial Directions Report, which outlined the initial proposals for the city centre was also presented at the conference and opened an initial consultation process on the proposals. Urban Strategies continued their engagement on the city centre proposals with key stakeholders during the summer months to prepare a final draft of the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment plan.

Future City Conference

The Future City Conference took place on 20th June 2014 in Belfast Waterfront Hall. It provided an opportunity to test the policies, projects and approaches developed by the consultation team from their initial engagement with stakeholders and representative organisations from the public, private and community sectors.

The Future City conference hosted 223 attendees representing a range of anchor institutions, community, voluntary, a number of private sector organisations such as the banks and business parks, as well as public sector organisations (including key government departments such as the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), Department for Social Development (DSD), and Department for Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI).

The conference included a series of debates with invited experts on thematic areas including the city centre economy, tourism, connectivity, the waterfront and employment. The feedback from the conference and workshop discussions demonstrated general support for the themes and proposals as outlined by Urban Strategies. This was summarised and reported to the Council's Transformation Committee in August 2014.

The report and minutes are available through the following link:

<http://poochie:9070/documents/s77187/Belfast%20Future%20City%20Conference.pdf>

Initial Directions Report

Following the conference and media launch of the Initial Directions Report, the council put out a call for feedback on the emerging policies, projects and delivery approach. Feedback and responses were received from across all three sectors on the initial proposals, providing additional ideas and areas for further consideration to the consultation team. Following the conference, the consultation team continued to meet with key stakeholders between June and September to further develop their plan.

Belfast as a Regional Driver and Testing the Plan

Professor Michael Parkinson chaired and moderated the Future City Conference. He was engaged to update his research reinforcing the role of Belfast as the regional driver and highlighting that for the city centre to be successful as the generator of growth for Belfast and the region, the city centre requires specific attention to address the critical issues of innovation, connectivity and quality of the environment which are essential to attract people. Within this research, Professor Parkinson consulted key stakeholders and tested the ideas presented by Urban Strategies, by meeting with council party group leaders and representatives from DSD, DEL, DFP, DRD, DETI, Strategic Investment Board, Belfast Harbour Commission and Titanic Quarter.

All Councillors were invited to the Belfast: Future City conference in June 2014. The consultation team met with the Council's Budget & Transformation Panel and reports were presented at *Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, Development Committee and Transformation Committee*.

<http://poochie:9070/documents/s75547/Minutes%20of%20Budget%20and%20Transformation%20Panel%20Meeting.pdf> point 4 – March 14

<http://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/s77187/Belfast%20Future%20City%20Conference.pdf>

<http://poochie:9077/mgAi.aspx?ID=97>

Planned Consultation

Urban Strategies presented the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Framework to a special meeting of the Shadow Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 3 December 2014. Subject to Council approval in January 2015, the document will be made available on the Council website for public consultation between January and March 2015 for 12 weeks.

The public consultation process will be open to all and advertised through the Council's Facebook page and Twitter feed. In addition, the stakeholders consulted and the Future City Conference attendees will be written to, inviting a response to the final proposals.

Within the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment plan, a series of projects related to each policy area have been identified to translate the policy into action. Work is ongoing to develop and implement the most effective delivery structure within the Council. Given the significance of these projects, they will be subject to appropriate equality considerations and processes.

2. Available evidence

What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below to help inform your screening assessment. Please note: It is important to record information gathered from a variety of sources such as:

- *Monitoring information*
- *Complaints*
- *Research /surveys*
- *Consultation exercise and other public authorities*

Background information and links to other policies:

A range of evidence and a variety of information sources have been interrogated to inform the development of this policy. This includes desk research, stakeholders' engagement sessions, and consultations.

Section 75

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity across all section 75 groups and promote good relations.

Regional Government Policies

The Programme for Government for the period 2011-2015 sets out the actions which the Executive will take to deliver a vibrant economy which is capable of transforming our society and at the same time addressing the issues of deprivation and poverty. It contains a clear set of commitments with an emphasis on delivering results which should impact positively on people's daily lives.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) aims to strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver. The Spatial Framework Guidance in the RDS includes "Growing the population of the city of Belfast" and "Enhance the role of Belfast City Centre as the regional capital and focus of administration, commerce, specialised services and cultural amenities". The RDS identifies the need to support and strengthen the distinctive role of Belfast City Centre as the primary retail location in Northern Ireland; enhance the employment potential of the city centre; close the gap in quality of life for those living in deprived areas; and develop Belfast as Northern Ireland's cultural and arts centre.

A New Approach to Regional Transportation seeks to complement the RDS by providing a transportation network that supports economic growth while meeting the needs of all in society and reducing environmental impacts.

The DSD publications People and Place and Belfast City Centre Regeneration Policy Statement establish regeneration objectives for the city centre which are very much aligned with the regeneration strategy. The objectives for the city centre include: enhancing its role; promoting its physical renewal; creating a high quality and safe urban environment which is attractive to investors, employees, residents and tourists; and creating a sustainable and vibrant city centre which supports a quality lifestyle attractive to inward investors and potential future residents, amongst other objectives.

However, none of the (regional) plans provide a holistic and focused approach to the city centre. The regeneration strategy is intended to fill that void by providing an up to date vision that bridges the gaps in existing policies and plans and supports their delivery.

Belfast City Council Strategies and Policies

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 provides the land use context to planning for the wider city region and its recent adoption helps provide greater certainty. Whilst many of the policies remain valid, some parts of BMAP have naturally become outdated due to the length of time passed since inception.

The Belfast City Council Investment Programme was developed to address the economic downturn and work towards making the city a better place to live, work, visit and invest. The programme outlined this commitment through a programme of work investing over £200m in major schemes to boost the economy, create jobs and improve quality of life our neighbourhoods.

At a city-wide level, it is also the Council's intention to produce a number of supporting strategic documents, aimed at addressing some of the broader economic and social outcomes that require attention, for example, an Integrated Economic Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Employability and Skills Strategy and an Active Travel Strategy. These are being developed with the city's communities and other stakeholders to identify their priorities for Belfast and their local areas.

Integrated Economic Strategy

The Belfast Integrated Economic Strategy sets out how the council intends to develop a strong and growing private sector by promoting a culture of entrepreneurship developing indigenous businesses and attracting high quality foreign direct investment. In doing so, by 2020, the council expects to reduce the percentage of the working age population with no skills, create an additional 8,900 jobs, achieve an average GVA growth of 2.6% per annum, reduce unemployment to 7.2%, and so reduce the levels of deprivation in the city.

Tourism Strategy

The Belfast Tourism Strategy sets out the main priorities and major activities for the city to improve tourism over the next five years. Tourism currently attracts almost 9.5 million visitors to the city each year and contributes over £430 million to the Belfast economy. This in turn supports over 9,300 full time jobs. The aim of the strategy is to double this by the year 2020.

The Council commissioned this strategy but it has been developed through extensive consultation with partners and stakeholders. It is very much a strategy for the city and will help focus everyone's efforts around the priority issues. The improvements that it suggests will be delivered in partnership with all those organisations that have an interest in increasing tourism into the city.

Impact of Local Government Reform

On 1 April 2015, a new council for Belfast will be formed. This is part of government plans to improve the services provided to citizens, by reducing the number of councils from 26 to 11.

This will mean changes across three main areas:

- how the council is managed – there will be changes to the structures used to make decision, how political parties share power and the standards the council operates under.
- boundary extension – Belfast City council boundary will expand to include additional areas from Lisburn, Castlereagh and North Down
- new and additional powers – a number of key duties will transfer from central to local government, including town planning, urban regeneration, community development, off street parking and local economic development. The new powers will include community planning and a general power of competence.

To successfully deliver on the responsibility for urban regeneration, the Council has developed this overarching Strategic Planning Framework for the city by engaging independent specialist support, with international experience in strategic planning.

(<http://poochie:9070/documents/s73229/Transfer%20of%20Functions%20-%20Urban%20Regeneration.pdf>)

To complement the delivery of the regeneration strategy commitments are numerous Council plans and strategies, such as the Good Relations Strategy, Open Spaces

and Active Living Strategy, Transport Policy and Public Bike Hire Scheme, which will enhance and balance the objectives of the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan.

Background Analysis

The Council commissioned Deloitte to undertake background analysis on the economic and property market in Belfast to provide context to the Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan. This paper draws together a wide range of research, evidence and statistical information related to the economy, population and property markets in the city to determine the key drivers, opportunities and challenges.

The focus of the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan is on the city centre. Belfast City is recognised as a popular visitor and tourist destination, acting as a gateway to the rest of Northern Ireland. It is also a regional centre for shopping within Northern Ireland.

The work produced by Deloitte on the economic and property market suggests that there is a small but increasing city centre population.

The Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan is based on the research which states that economic growth is driven by cities and was developed to achieve the following objectives

- To provide an integrated strategic policy framework which will inform the City Centre element of the Local Development Plan;
- To promote the sustainable physical regeneration of the city centre and linkages to the city neighbourhoods;
- To drive economic growth and increase sustainable employment levels;
- To grow the City's Rate Base to increase the resources available for redistribution into the city's neighbourhoods.

Given the scope and rationale for the development of the strategy, the impact of the strategy should be felt beyond the city council boundaries. While information is provided for each of the Section 75 categories at a Belfast level, it is important to note that the plan has an effect at a regional level.

| Section 75 category | Details of evidence / information and engagement |
|---------------------|--|
| Religious belief | <p>In terms of religion or religion brought up in, the 2011 Census indicates that 48.6% of Belfast City residents are from a Catholic community background and 42.3% from a Protestant community background.</p> <p>With respect to staff, at 1st January 2012, 43.0% identified themselves as coming from a Catholic community background and 53.1% from a Protestant community background.</p> <p>Examining the new boundary of Belfast following local government reform, census data indicates that 48.8% of Belfast City residents will be from a Catholic community background and 42.5% from a Protestant community background.</p> <p>The focus of the Regeneration Strategy and Investment Plan is on Belfast city centre. There is no agreed administrative boundary to capture data on the city centre population. The background analysis undertaken by Deloitte on the economic and property market suggests there is a small but increasing city centre population. Without an agreed boundary, it is not possible to identify the community background of this city centre population; therefore statistics for the city as a whole have been examined.</p> <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan takes a larger view of what constitutes Belfast City centre than has typically been used in the past by exploring both the traditional city centre and examining the city centre functions which spread across the centre core, along the River Lagan, around the Westlink and Titanic Quarter.</p> <p>Belfast City is recognised as a popular visitor and tourist destination, acting as a gateway to the rest of Northern Ireland. It is also a regional centre for shopping within Northern Ireland. There are approximately 108,000 people who work in Belfast but live outside it, with 25% of residents in council areas surrounding Belfast employed in the city.</p> |

People from a variety of religions live, work, visit or study in the city centre. This strategy aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre. The strategy has eight policy objectives including increasing the residential population, connecting the city centre to the communities that surround it and ensuring that the city centre is a welcoming and attractive place for everyone in Belfast.

A 2010 research study by Queen’s University examines the role of Belfast City Centre as a neutral and shared space. The study suggested that Belfast city centre has the potential to be an important arena driving social change in the everyday life of the city.

http://www.conflictincities.org/PDFs/WorkingPaper15rev_11.3.10.pdf

Issues concerning shared space in the city centre are key to both main communities.

Political opinion

The results of the May 2011 Belfast City Council elections (current boundaries) were:

| Party | Vote share | Seats | Change |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Sinn Féin | 30.9 | 16 | +2 |
| DUP | 23.4 | 15 | +2 |
| SDLP | 13.7 | 8 | = |
| Alliance | 12.6 | 6 | +2 |
| UUP | 8.6 | 3 | -6 |
| PUP | 2.8 | 2 | = |
| Other | 8.0 | 1 | = |

The results of the May 2014 Belfast City Council elections (new boundaries) were:

| Party | Councillors |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Sinn Féin | 19 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) | 13 |
| Alliance Party | 8 |
| Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) | 7 |
| Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) | 7 |
| Progressive Unionist Party | 3 |
| Green Party | 1 |
| People before Profit Alliance | 1 |
| Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) | 1 |

60 councillors were elected, which is nine more than our current total of 51.

The increased number of councillors will represent the new Belfast boundary area, which will be larger after taking in parts of Lisburn, Castlereagh and North Down.

People from a variety of political backgrounds live, work, visit or study in the city centre. This strategy aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre. The strategy has eight policy objectives including increasing the residential population, connecting the city centre to the communities that surround it and ensuring that the city centre is a welcoming and attractive place for everyone in Belfast.

Issues concerning shared space in the city centre are key to all political communities.

Racial group

There is a higher than average proportion of people from all minority ethnic groups in Belfast compared with Northern Ireland as a whole. The largest minority ethnic groups in Belfast are the Chinese community (0.79%) and the Indian community (0.78%). The 2011 Census shows that 2.85% of the Belfast populations were born in EU countries.

Examining the new boundary of Belfast following local government reform, census data indicates that the three new areas (Castlereagh,

| | |
|-----|---|
| | <p>Lisburn and North Down) have broadly similar proportions across all ethnics groups to that of the Belfast averages. The only exception being North Down, which has a higher percentage of people in the area from an Indian ethnic group (2.6%).</p> <p>In addition, within the current Belfast boundary 87.5% of the population was born in Northern Ireland. After local government reform, this figure will increase to 92.4%. This is mainly due to population transfer from the Lisburn area where 94.1% of the population living there was born in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>People from a variety of ethnic backgrounds live, work, visit or study in the city centre. This strategy aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre by ensuring that it is a welcoming and attractive place for everyone in Belfast.</p> |
| Age | <p>Belfast has a lower percentage of young people (aged under 16 years) than the NI average and almost exactly the same percentage of older people (aged over 65 years) as the NI average. According to the 2011 Census, 18.61% of Belfast residents are under 16 years (compared with 20.95% in NI as a whole) and 14.55% are aged over 65 years (compared with 14.56%). Population projections for the 15 year period ending 2021 indicate that the percentage of young people is likely to fall and the percentage of older people is likely to rise.</p> <p>Examining the new boundary of Belfast following local government reform, census data indicates that within the three new areas (Castlereagh, Lisburn and North Down), Lisburn has a younger population compared to the current Belfast average. Castlereagh has a higher than average proportion of persons aged over 60.</p> <p>Belfast has a large student population with two universities and further education college. In 2012/13, approximately 8.7% of the Belfast council area population was enrolled in further or higher education (based on 2012/13 midyear estimates).</p> <p>In 2014, Belfast was the first city in Northern Ireland to join the World</p> |

| | <p>Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities. An age-friendly city is one in which organisations work together to make sure the quality of life for people is enhanced as they age. Belfast City Council is part of the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) working with older people to ensure Belfast is changing to meet the needs and desires of older people.</p> <p>People from a variety of ages live, work, visit or study in the city centre. This strategy aims to improve the public realm, connectivity, entertainment and other amenities of the city centre to make it an attractive living option for younger newcomers to the city and existing city resident empty nesters. Student accommodation and social housing opportunities may also be created through the regeneration programme.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Marital status | <p>In terms of marital status, the 2011 Census indicates that of the city population (based on residents aged 16+ equal to 81.4% of total city population):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 1122 1469 1744"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="411 1122 938 1211">Current Belfast boundary:</th> <th data-bbox="941 1122 1469 1211">New Belfast boundary:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1216 938 1305">34.2% are married</td> <td data-bbox="941 1216 1469 1305">35.6% are married</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1310 938 1400">46.6% are single</td> <td data-bbox="941 1310 1469 1400">45.3% are single</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1404 938 1449">0.1% are in a civil partnership</td> <td data-bbox="941 1404 1469 1449">0.1% are in a civil partnership</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1453 938 1498">5.4% are separated</td> <td data-bbox="941 1453 1469 1498">5.4% are separated</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1503 938 1615">6.2% are divorced/civil partnership dissolved</td> <td data-bbox="941 1503 1469 1615">6.2% are divorced/civil partnership dissolved</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1619 938 1744">7.5% are widowed/surviving partner</td> <td data-bbox="941 1619 1469 1744">7.5% are widowed/surviving partner</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Current Belfast boundary: | New Belfast boundary: | 34.2% are married | 35.6% are married | 46.6% are single | 45.3% are single | 0.1% are in a civil partnership | 0.1% are in a civil partnership | 5.4% are separated | 5.4% are separated | 6.2% are divorced/civil partnership dissolved | 6.2% are divorced/civil partnership dissolved | 7.5% are widowed/surviving partner | 7.5% are widowed/surviving partner |
| Current Belfast boundary: | New Belfast boundary: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34.2% are married | 35.6% are married | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46.6% are single | 45.3% are single | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.1% are in a civil partnership | 0.1% are in a civil partnership | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.4% are separated | 5.4% are separated | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.2% are divorced/civil partnership dissolved | 6.2% are divorced/civil partnership dissolved | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7.5% are widowed/surviving partner | 7.5% are widowed/surviving partner | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sexual orientation | <p>The Rainbow Project estimates that, on the basis of national and international research, 1 in 10 people in Northern Ireland would not identify as being heterosexual.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men & women generally | <p>Belfast has a predominantly female population (51.92% of residents).</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <p>This is slightly higher than the NI figure of 51.00%.</p> <p>The gender split before and after local government reform will remain largely the same as the current proportions.</p> |
| Disability | <p>The 2011 Census showed that one in seven (14.7%) of Belfast residents has a disability or long term health problem (defined as day-to-day activities as limited a lot), which is close to the NI average of 11.9%.</p> <p>Examining the new boundary of Belfast following local government reform, census data indicates that the proportion of Belfast residents with a disability or long term health problem will fall slightly to 14.4%</p> |
| Dependants | <p>On Census Day 2011, 28.57% of households in Belfast included dependent children, compared with the NI average of 33.85%. 11.76% of households consisted of a lone parent and a dependent child or children, compared with the NI average of 9.13%. 92.78% of lone parents in Belfast are female.</p> <p>Examining the new boundary of Belfast following local government reform, census data indicates 29.74% of households in Belfast included dependent children. 12.09% of households consisted of a lone parent and a dependent child or children.</p> |

3. What is the likely impact (indicate if the policy impact is positive or negative) on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?

| Section 75 category | Likely impact? | Level of impact? Minor/Major/None |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Religious belief | The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically | Minor |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-------|
| | <p>dynamic and attractive city centre that is a welcoming, shared space and attractive for everyone in Belfast.</p> <p>There is potential for minor positive impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | |
| Political opinion | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre that is a welcoming, shared space and attractive for everyone in Belfast.</p> <p>There is potential for minor positive impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | Minor |
| Racial group | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre that is a welcoming, shared space and attractive for everyone in Belfast.</p> <p>There is potential for minor positive impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | Minor |
| Age | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre that is a welcoming, shared space and attractive for</p> | Minor |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------|
| | <p>everyone in Belfast. Proposals within the strategy aim to grow the residential population making it an attractive living option for younger newcomers, existing city resident empty nesters and students.</p> <p>There is potential for minor positive impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | |
| Marital status | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It is not considered have any impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | None |
| Sexual orientation | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It is not considered have any impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | None |
| Men and women generally | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It is not considered have any impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | None |
| Disability | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. The strategy promotes equal and open access to the city centre by ensuring that all people have access throughout the city centre.</p> <p>Going forward in the delivery of the projects, the</p> | Minor |

| | | |
|------------|--|-------|
| | <p>design of projects will require engagement with Section 75 groups.</p> <p>There is potential for minor positive impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | |
| Dependants | <p>The regeneration strategy and investment plan provides an overarching framework for future development of the city centre. It aims to develop and transform the city centre into an economically dynamic and attractive city centre that is a welcoming, shared space and attractive for everyone in Belfast. Proposals within the strategy aim to grow the residential population making it an attractive living option and to make the city centre environment much more hospitable to children.</p> <p>There is potential for minor positive impact relevant to the equality of opportunity of this group.</p> | Minor |

4. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

| Section 75 category | If Yes, provide details | If No, provide reasons |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Religious belief | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Political opinion | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Racial group | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Age | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Marital status | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Sexual orientation | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| | <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Men and women generally | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Disability | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Dependants | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city.</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |

5. To what extent is the policy likely to impact (positive or negatively)on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? What is the level of impact?

| Good relations category | Likely impact? | Level of impact? Minor/Major/None |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Religious belief | It is our belief based on evidence that there would likely be a minor positive impact on people of different religious beliefs in that the proposed actions will provide opportunity for the promotion of a shared, welcoming and vibrant city centre. | Minor |
| Political opinion | It is our belief based on evidence that there would likely be a minor positive impact on people of different political backgrounds in that the proposed actions will provide opportunity for the promotion of a shared, welcoming and vibrant city centre. | Minor |
| Racial group | It is our belief based on evidence that there would likely be a minor positive impact on people of different ethnic backgrounds in that the proposed actions will provide opportunity for the promotion of a shared, welcoming and vibrant city centre. | Minor |

6. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

| Good relations category | If Yes, provide details | If No, provide reasons |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Religious belief | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| | and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people. | |
| Political opinion | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |
| Racial group | <p>The regeneration strategy will focus on improving quality of life for people across the city</p> <p>It should be noted that any significant projects in the document will require engagement with S75 groups and screening in their own right by the lead delivery organisation and will be driven by a strong focus on outcomes for local people.</p> | |

7. Multiple identities

Provide details of the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities

Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

This decision is unlikely to have an impact on people with multiple identities.

Section C

Belfast City Council also has legislative obligations to meet under the [Disability Discrimination Order](#) and Questions 5 -6 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

8. Does this proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity for the Council to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Explain your assessment in full

The high level regeneration strategy and investment plan will have no direct impact on disabled people. Each project delivering on the objectives of the plan will address these issues separately.

9. Does this proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life?

Explain your assessment in full

The high level regeneration strategy and investment plan will have no direct impact on disabled people. Each project delivering on the objectives of the plan will address these issues separately.

Monitoring Arrangements

Section 75 places a requirement the Council to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity.

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

| Equality | Good Relations | Disability Duties |
|---|---|---|
| Each significant project will address these duties separately | Each significant project will address these duties separately | Each significant project will address these duties separately |

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened

Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Plan

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Equality of opportunity and good relations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Disabilities duties |

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is –

***place an X in the appropriate box below**

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | *Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA |
|--------------------------|--|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | *Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: This is a high level regeneration strategy and investment plan. The significant projects within the plan that will be taken forward will be screened in their own right by the lead delivery organisation. |
|-------------------------------------|--|

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | * Screened Out - Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:• Explain what mitigating actions and / or policy changes will now be introduced: |
|--------------------------|--|

Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Christina Bateson

Date: 23rd December 2014

Department: Development Department

Signature:

Screening decision approved by -

Name: John McGrillen

Date: 23rd December 2014

Department /Job Title: Director, Development Department

Signature:

Please save the final version of the completed screening form and forward to the Equality and Diversity Officer – gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk or dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk . The screening form will be placed on the BCC website and a link provided to the Council's Section 75 consultees.

For more information about equality screening contact –

Stella Gilmartin / Lorraine Dennis

Equality & Diversity Officer (*job-share*)

Belfast City Council

City Hall

Belfast

BT1 5GS

Telephone: 028 90270511

[Gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk) or dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk