



# Equality Screening Template

**Environmental improvement works in Lombard Street and Rosemary Street, Belfast.**

## 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](mailto:gilmartins@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 duties<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> ECNI 'Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities' April 2010. [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org)

**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.

## Section A

### Details about the policy / decision to be screened

**Title of policy / decision to be screened:-** The carrying out of environmental improvement works in Lombard Street and Rosemary Street, Belfast.

**Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-** The Council has obtained funding from the Department for Social Development (DSD) to carry out works in the City Centre at Lombard Street and Rosemary Street. The Council has agreed to carry out these works on behalf of the DSD in order to deliver a £320,000 streetscape scheme for these areas of the City Centre. This project is associated with a larger project to develop the Royal Exchange as part of the Belfast City Centre Public Realm Masterplan. The works to Lombard Street and Rosemary Street are planned to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 and to finish by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. However, an overrun period of up to three months is allowed for in the event of delays in commencing the works.

While the Council has successfully carried out similar projects in the past, this is a new project and the objective is to improve the appearance of a streetscape in a major city centre location. Belfast City Council has appointed design consultants AECOM to design the project and act as Project Managers. This project is based upon the Streets Ahead Design Guide. At the time of the Guide being developed, various meetings were held and the matter was consulted on in relation to disability issues. This project is based on those designs that were originally consulted on. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to re-consult in relation to this matter and it is considered that the needs of persons with disabilities have been met in so far as it is reasonably possible to do so.

The Council undertakes to procure a contractor and this will be overseen by Department of Finance and Personnel Central Procurement Directorate. The Council will manage the contractor and delivery of the Scheme on a day-to-day basis. There are no legislative implications except that planning permission is required. Building Control staff have met with

staff from the Planning Service to discuss the proposals and a planning application has been made for the works. DSD are funding the project in its entirety.

**Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-** The project is an environmental improvement scheme and it aims to cost effectively improve the retail environment in this section of the City centre. It will involve laying new paving to the whole of Lombard Street and Rosemary Street. It will improve drainage by removing pooling, new urban trees will be planted and new skid resistant asphalt will be placed. These works are to be incorporated into the works associated with the development of Royal Exchange. The objectives are as follows:

- To promote the renewal of Belfast City Centre;
- To create a high quality designed and safe urban environment, which is attractive to investors, employees, residents and tourists and which generates a sense of pride in the City;
- To promote urban economic development at key locations and on suitable sites throughout Belfast City Centre;
- To create a sustainable and vibrant City Centre which supports a quality lifestyle that will be attractive to inward investors and potential future residents.

### **On whom will the policy / decision impact?**

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

■ Staff – there will be some impact on staff as Belfast City Council Building Control will be required to manage the project and contractor. The Council will also provide monthly reports to DSD. BCC will be responsible for procurement of the contractor while delivery of the scheme will be undertaken by the Council's Design Team.

■ service users – there will be some impact on traders, businesses, shoppers and persons using the streets where the works will be taking place. Impact in terms of general inconvenience associated with works (increased noise, dust, accessibility matters) will only be for the duration of the works as it is considered that the outcome

will be beneficial to all users.



other public sector organisations – Transport NI, DRD – road use will be affected for the duration of the works.



voluntary / community groups / trade unions - only those groups/ organisations based in the area where the works are taking place. Impact will only be for the duration of the works.



others, please specify None.

**Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?** DSD, DRD, DFP

CPD BCC Procurement Unit.

## Section B

### 1. Outline consultation process achieved or planned

Belfast City Council is committed to regeneration of the Belfast area (Belfast City Centre Regeneration Policy Statement (2004)). This project is an environmental improvement scheme that will upgrade and enhance the streetscape in a major city centre location. Lombard Street and Rosemary Street are located at an important part of the link between Belfast City Centre's two main shopping centres, Castle Court and Victoria Square. The area was identified based on its central location and due to its current poor conditions. The Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce has, on numerous occasions identified the poor conditions of this area.

The project meets several objectives of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Policy Statement (2004). Proposals for the renovation of surface finishes in Lombard Street and Rosemary Street are to be incorporated into the works associated with the development of Royal Exchange.

DSD, along with Council Officers, met with street traders and owners of local businesses in Rosemary Street and Lombard Street on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October as to the possibility of carrying out environmental improvement works to the area. The project will result in improved drainage, planting of new trees and new surface finishes. All persons consulted were in unanimous approval of the proposed project and it was agreed by everyone that this would result in positive improvements to the image and overall appearance of the area. As the works are projected to have a duration of two months (maximum five months) then it is not considered necessary to have follow-up meetings with these persons. However, the Council will be directly involved in managing the day-to-day running of the project and will meet regularly with contractors.

Due to their previous work in the Streets Ahead projects, AECOM are fully aware of the potential impacts their designs have on persons with disabilities. They are aware of what is required to ensure that the needs of disabled persons are met. The strategy, design, intent and approach takes on board the design guides of the previous Masterplan which was consulted on in 2006. The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) had been consulted in relation to that project. This project provides the opportunity to remove many of the building threshold obstructions and to introduce other improvements.

The design approach will tie in with the Phase 1 Streets Ahead proposals and the overall public realm Masterplan and associated design guides that were developed previously.

### Design approach

- Paving aggregate topped Concrete paving to colour match the granite colours on Arthur Street – all slip resistant.
- Central buff coloured resin bonded surface – in cold applied resin so can be touched locally for service reinstatements.
- New furniture line on Lombard Street – dark channel lines to demarcate.
- Same type of benches and seats as phase 1 (proportion of them to have full height backs and arm rests as before).
- Note the bin will be the standard council bin and not the one shown.
- Lighting is to stay as existing (building mounted).

### Updates

- Revised cycle stand with enhanced visibility for the partially sighted. Painted body with larger white visibility strip and tapping rail;
- Revised gully grating – heel friendly type proposed.

AECOM has positioned the seating and benches in between 2 dark grey bands which contrast with the buff coloured surfacing. They have also included a dark grey band perpendicular to the 2 stripes which further highlights the position of obstacles to persons who are partially sighted. They have also ensured that any street furniture will be spaced adequately so as not to impede wheelchair users. Level access into each building will be guaranteed on completion.

As to any negative impact during the course of the works, the contractor will ensure that any impact on persons with disabilities will be kept to a minimum. High visibility barriers will be used and level access into the properties will be maintained for the duration of the construction works.

## **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

It is envisaged that numerous parties will benefit from this project, including businesses, shoppers, workers and visitors to Belfast City Centre. The benefits from the project outputs will be new even streetscape surfaces, enhanced seating provision and improved links between Victoria Square and Castle Court.

### Monitoring Information

The project will be managed by Belfast City Council Building Control Service who will provide monthly reports to DSD. The procurement of the contractor will be undertaken by Belfast City Council and will be overseen by DFP CPD. The Contractor and delivery of the scheme will be managed on a day-to-day basis by Belfast City Council's appointed Design Team who will report directly to Belfast City Council Building Control Service.

The success of the project will be measured by completion of the project outputs within the programme's budget and specification. Belfast City Council will oversee the consultants; agree the scope of work and standards and will authorise payments to contractors and consultants. The Council will also liaise with its Planning Service, Belfast City Centre Management and local businesses. The Council's liabilities and obligations will be dealt with under contract.

The works are anticipated to have a lifespan of 5-10 years, by which time it is expected that the Royal Exchange development will have commenced. The materials used have a design life in excess of the likely maximum period for which they will be in place. The Council and Transport NI will carry out any required maintenance on surface finishes and street furniture.

## Complaints

Complaints are not envisaged given that the works are not to take place in a residential location and also given that works have an estimated duration of two months. In the event that there are complaints the Belfast City Council comments and complaints procedure will be available.

## Research/ Surveys

Research has been carried out by inspecting and photographing the areas in question and assessing what works would be required in order to improve the conditions of the area. Potential impact of the project and anticipated outcomes were assessed and it was found that the works would result in making these two streets more attractive for pedestrians. The anticipated outcomes include as follows:

- 841 Sq, of new paving;
- 1369 Sqm of new asphalt;
- 22 new street furniture (e.g. seating, bins, cycle stands, etc);
- 2 new urban street areas.

These outputs will result in new even streetscape surfaces, enhanced seating provision and improved links between Victoria Square and Castle Court.

The estimated total cost of the project including VAT is £336,556.00. A costs breakdown has been drafted.

## Consultation Exercise and Other Public Authorities

Belfast City Council has previously undertaken similar projects, with highly successful outcomes, as part of its aim to eradicate dereliction and improve dilapidated properties throughout the city. This involved carrying out works to buildings in order to improve their appearance and in so doing improving the appearance of the area and the city of Belfast as a whole. These works were also funded and were required to complete within a specific timeframe. They were linked to the Council's statutory powers to take legal action in relation to derelict and dilapidated properties. The Council envisages that given its experience and skills in such matters, this project will also be successful.

The costs of works have been assessed and it is anticipated that they will be completed to specification within the allocated timeframe.

As stated above, this project is based upon the Streets Ahead Design Guide. At the time of that project, various meetings were held and the matter was consulted on in relation to disability issues. This project is based on those designs that were originally consulted on. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to re-consult in relation to this matter and it is considered that the needs of persons with disabilities have been met in so far as it is reasonably possible to do so. It is understood that various disability groups have been notified of the Scheme.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence / information and engagement</b>
Religious belief	<b>N/A</b>
Political opinion	<b>N/A</b>
Racial group	<b>N/A</b>
Age	<b>N/A</b>
Marital status	<b>N/A</b>
Sexual orientation	<b>N/A</b>
Men & women generally	<b>N/A</b>
Disability	<b>The needs of disabled people have been considered as above.</b>
Dependants	<b>N/A</b>

**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	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None
Age	None	None
Marital status	None	None
Sexual orientation	None	None
Men and women generally	None	None
Disability	The needs of disabled people have been considered as above.	None
Dependants	None	None

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

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide reasons</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	No	Scheme involves carrying out funded works to the city centre within a set timescale – there are no opportunities to promote equality issues.
<b>Political opinion</b>	No	As above.
<b>Racial group</b>	No	As above.
<b>Age</b>	No	As above.
<b>Marital status</b>	No	As above.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	No	As above.
<b>Men and women generally</b>	No	As above.

<b>Disability</b>	No	The needs of disabled people have been taken into account as outlined within this document.
<b>Dependants</b>	No	As above.

**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?**

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>Likely impact?</b>	<b>Level of impact? Minor/Major/None</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	None	None
<b>Political opinion</b>	None	None
<b>Racial group</b>	None	None

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

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide reasons</b>
Religious belief	No	The Scheme

		involves carrying out funded works to the city centre within a set timescale – there are no opportunities to promote equality issues of this nature.
Political opinion	No	As above.
Racial group	No	As above.

## 7. Multiple Identities

**Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities.**

**Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

None.

## 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

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

**Explain your assessment in full**

Yes, the Scheme involves carrying out funded works to the City Centre within a set timescale, so while opportunities are limited, the needs of disabled people have been fully considered. The street furniture addresses the needs of persons with disabilities and certainly supports a positive attitude towards disabled persons, by ensuring that any facilities are accessible, suitably positioned with appropriate visibility.

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

**Explain your assessment in full**

Yes, given that the Scheme ensures that the needs of disabled persons are met, through provision of suitable furniture, which is adequately spaced, with visibility stripes. The project supports the participation by disabled people in public life, by ensuring that the area is accessible and supportive of their needs.

**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.

<b>Equality</b>	<b>Good Relations</b>	<b>Disability Duties</b>
Complaints will be considered.	Complaints will be considered.	Complaints will be considered.
Unusual trends will be considered.	Unusual trends will be considered.	Unusual trends will be considered.

# Section D

## Formal Record of Screening Decision

**Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened** The Carrying out of Public Realm Works in Lombard Street and Rosemary Street, Belfast.

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

X	equality of opportunity and good relations
X	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"/>	<b>*<u>Screened In</u></b> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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X	<b>*<u>Screened Out</u></b> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: There are no impacts on any protected groups as outlined above.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>* <u>Screened Out - Mitigating Actions</u></b> (minor impacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:</li> <li>• Explain what mitigating actions and / or policy changes will now be introduced:</li> </ul>
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## Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

### Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Stephen Hewitt

Building Control Manager

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Department Chief Executive's Department

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

### Screening decision approved by -

Name: Trevor Martin

Head of Building Control

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Department / Job Title Chief Executive's Department

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

Please save the final version of the completed screening form and forward to the Equality and Diversity Officer – [equality@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:equality@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 –

**Equality & Diversity Officer**  
**Belfast City Council**  
**City Hall**  
**Belfast**  
**BT1 5GS**  
**Telephone: 028 90270511**  
[equality@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:equality@belfastcity.gov.uk)