



Equality Screening Template

Linen Quarter Draft Public Realm Analysis and Vision

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

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.

¹ ECNI 'Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities' April 2010. 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 Draft Linen Quarter Public Realm Analysis and Vision.

Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

The City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy outlines a vision to develop a world-class city centre and identifies five special action areas including the Linen Quarter (an area to the south of the City Hall). The Linen Quarter includes a number of the city’s key business and public sector headquarters, as well a growing number of current and planned hotels. It also lies adjacent to the proposed £100m expansion of the Belfast Transport Hub at Great Victoria Street which will become the main regional hub for bus and train services in the years ahead. The Linen Quarter will therefore become one of the city’s key arrival points.

A draft public realm analysis and vision for the area has now been developed and will be the subject of public consultation during January and February 2016; consultation closes on 11th March. One of the key objectives of the vision for the Linen Quarter is to establish the conditions and delivery mechanisms to protect and enhance the heritage of the area, while ensuring that the office sector continues to grow and flourish.

The draft document contains proposals to complement existing development activity, while also increasing the commercial and financial viability of new developments. It identifies ways to reuse or redevelop existing buildings, as well as providing design guidance for new developments and public realm proposals.

The analysis includes a number of key proposals:

- introduce new public spaces;
- redefine streets and promote a different street hierarchy;
- retain and build on the area’s important building stock;
- set guidance for new buildings.

The draft public realm analysis and vision is being screened in order to identify those aspects of the proposals which may have impacts on people across the Section 75 equality categories in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations and to highlight opportunities to further promote these as the project is implemented.

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

The draft document sets out a clear vision for the Linen Quarter and aims to identify the appropriate conditions, framework and delivery mechanisms for the vision to be realised. It includes the development of non-statutory guidance which identifies ways to reuse or redevelop existing buildings, as well as providing design guidance for new developments and public realm proposals.

The guiding principles include:

- ensuring that the office sector continues to grow and flourish, while retaining the heritage that signifies the area;
- establishing appropriate linkages and connections to provide a strong sense of arrival and departure for tourists, visitors and locals;
- encouraging active uses of the public realm to provide activity and animation at street level.

The analysis also includes a number of key proposals:

- introduce new public spaces
- redefine streets and promote a different street hierarchy
- retain and build on the area's important building stock
- set guidance for new buildings

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 City Development Team will manage the development of the Vision document by the consultants produced to prepare it.
- ✓ service users – the development of the Vision will have a minimal impact on traders, businesses, shoppers and persons using the streets and it is considered that the outcome will be beneficial to all users. Detailed public realm proposals which emerge from the approved Vision will be the subject of further Equalities Screening as they are developed.
- ✓ other public sector organisations – Transport NI, DRD, DSD – proposals for public realm works will have implications for these organisations as Highways Authority and landowners.
- ✓ voluntary / community groups / trade unions - some S75 groups may experience impacts as a result of detailed public realm proposals which emerge from the approved Vision. Any such proposals will be the subject of further Equalities

Screening as they are developed.



others, please specify – see below

The Linen Quarter includes a number of the city's key business and public sector headquarters, as well a growing number of current and planned hotels, apartments, shops, cafés, bars and restaurants. It also includes the Ulster Hall and is immediately adjacent to St Malachy's Church. Those who will be affected by the project therefore include residents, all day time visitors (including office workers, customers of local businesses, shoppers and tourists) and evening visitors (including customers of cafés, bars and restaurants and Ulster Hall patrons). The realisation of the vision will facilitate the provision of events and exhibitions within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area on an ad hoc basis. The proximity to the existing transport links in Great Victoria Street and the planned Belfast Transport Hub means that the Quarter will also be used as a thoroughfare by visitors to other parts of the city.

Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments? DSD, DRD, DoE, Translink, NIEA

The vision is achievable only with co-operation across the public, private and third sectors and with the active engagement of current residents and businesses. In addition, a number of Agencies and Departments have their headquarters in the area and their co-operation will be integral to the development of the Quarter.

Section B

1. Outline consultation process achieved or planned

On 1st September 2015, the Council approved the Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS). Whilst not a formal planning document, it is a clear direction of travel – setting out the council’s intention to ensure that Belfast’s city centre drives growth and social, economic, and environmental well-being for the people of the city and the region.

The Strategy is based on the following core principles:

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

This Strategy was the subject of a consultation exercise and an equalities screening which found that a full EQIA was not required.

The draft Public Realm Analysis and Vision for Linen Quarter emerges from BCCRIS and its core principles have already been consulted on and screened in the context of the strategy described above.

The Council also undertook a consultation and engagement exercise on the draft Public Realm Analysis and Vision for Linen Quarter as described below:

Web-based consultation

- The document was made available on the Council’s webpage from 21st December 2015 until 11th March 2016 with an on-line questionnaire to respond;
- Larger print versions of the document and questionnaire were also placed on the webpage;

- Standard and large print versions of the document and questionnaire were also made available for send-out as hard copies;

Public Exhibition

- A public exhibition illustrating the proposals was held in the foyer of the Ulster Hall from 1st February – 11th March 2016;
- Council officers staffed the exhibition on 2nd and 18th February to answer queries from members of the public;
- On 18th February Council officers also facilitated a presentation and question and answer session at the exhibition for members of S75 groups who had requested it.

Presentations and Meetings

- 26th January: presentation and feedback with invited architectural and heritage groups;
- 26th January: presentation and feedback with Land Agents Forum;
- 18th February: presentation and feedback with invited business groups;
- 18th February: presentation and focus group with S 75 groups;
- 18th February: public meeting.

Consultation with Statutory Agencies

- All relevant statutory consultees were written to by the Director of Planning and Place and invited to respond

Press Releases and Social media

- Press releases issued in the first week of January 2016 publicising the document on-line and in last week of January 2016 to publicise the exhibition;
- Social media was used throughout the consultation period

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

Monitoring Information

As outlined above a wide range of people may be affected by the development of the Linen Quarter and it is not possible to quantify the overall numbers or their Section 75 characteristics. It is likely that those affected will be characteristic of the population of Northern Ireland as a whole; see Appendix 1 for data on the Belfast and Northern Ireland populations as set out in the 2011 Census. Views on the needs of specific Section 75 groups have been specifically sought and gathered through the current consultation process (as described in Section 1).

As the screening process has been used mainly to highlight opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity and good relations as the project is implemented, it is not essential to establish detailed evidence of current and potential users at this stage. However, as the focus of the Quarter at present is office premises, it is likely that young and older people are currently under-represented in terms of users.

In making the assessment, some reference has been made to hate crime statistics (as published by the PSNI) and to current best practice for disabled access (as defined in British Standard 8300:2009). This information is included in the table at question 9.

It is envisaged that numerous parties will benefit from the outworkings of this guidance as public realm improvement projects are developed. These would include businesses, shoppers, workers and visitors to the Linen Quarter and this would assist with correcting the likely under-representation of younger and older people using the area. The benefits from the implementation of the Vision document will be:

- new public spaces
- redefined streets and with a different street hierarchy
- retained and improved buildings in the area.

Amendment of the draft document to reflect the outcomes of the consultation exercise will be managed by Belfast City Council City Centre Development Team. Consultation responses and the resulting amendments will be reported to City Growth and Regeneration for approval, to Planning Committee for notation and to Council for endorsement of the document.

Complaints

Complaints are not envisaged given that the document is for guidance purposes only and does not have determinative weight in planning terms. They are unlikely therefore to be a source of available evidence.

Research/ Surveys

The development of the Vision for Linen Quarter has been undertaken by Planit Intelligent Environments, a design practice comprising Landscape Architects, Urban Designers, Visualisers, Animators and Graphic Designers based in Manchester and London. They have delivered comparable projects in GB and Europe and the development of the Linen Quarter document has benefited from their research and experience elsewhere - see <http://www.planit-ie.com/our-projects/>. In addition to projects, a number of relevant publications are also available on the website. In the Linen Quarter itself research has been carried out by historic building surveys, inspecting and photographing the areas in question and assessing what works would be required in order to improve the conditions of the area. It is proposed that further survey work will be undertaken as part of the development of any public realm proposals emerging from the Vision document.

Consultation Exercise and Other Public Authorities

The consultation exercise undertaken on the draft document by Belfast City Council is set out in section 1 (above). 66 responses were received by the closing date. A number of blogs and tweets offering comments are also now being assessed.

| Section 75 category | Details of evidence / information and engagement |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Religious belief | The Linen Quarter is generally perceived as a neutral, shared space within the city centre. The realisation of the vision will facilitate better access to and within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area. |
| Political opinion | The Linen Quarter is generally perceived as a neutral, shared space within the city centre. The realisation of the vision will facilitate better access to and within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area. |
| Racial group | The Linen Quarter is generally perceived as a neutral, shared space within the city centre. The realisation of the vision will facilitate better access to and within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area. |
| Age | <p>1. Evidence gathered through the engagement exercise suggests that the development of new public spaces at Blackstaff Square and Linenhall Square should make the public realm more accessible and attractive to families and older people.</p> <p>2. Evidence gathered through the engagement exercise suggests that proposals to redefine streets and promote a different street hierarchy have the potential to result in the loss of a number of on-street parking places and that older people are concerned at this prospect.</p> |
| Marital status | N/A |
| Sexual orientation | N/A |
| Men & women generally | N/A |
| Disability | <p>The needs of disabled people have been considered as described in the targeted consultation (see section 1 above). Specific concerns have been raised by those with sight loss about the creation of “shared surfaces” in certain locations if there are no kerbs to delineate pedestrian from vehicular areas.</p> <p>In the consultation responses received, a number of respondents drew attention to guidance on kerb heights in public realm schemes produced by the Department for Regional Development (issued in May 2015). It states that for public realm schemes, and in line with best practice, it is recommended that a ‘standard’ kerb height of 125mm should be generally used, though this may be reduced to a desirable minimum of 100mm to</p> |

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| | <p>suit local site circumstances. In exceptional circumstances, it is recommended that kerb heights should not be less than 60mm.</p> <p>The Council proposes mitigation by amending the Vision and Public Realm Analysis document to state clearly that kerbs proposed in any new public realm schemes will be a minimum of 60mm in height and that each project will take account of local site circumstances.</p> <p>Another organisation involved in the targeted consultation exercise has undertaken a number of parking surveys in Belfast city centre that indicate that around 80 Blue Badge holders currently park in on-street parking bays in the Linen Quarter. The Vision document identified 363 on-street parking spaces in total. Only five are for disabled parking and these are located at the western end of the Linen Quarter area on Great Victoria Street and Bedford Street.</p> <p>While the Council cannot directly implement proposals to increase the number of disabled parking bays (a DRD/TransportNI responsibility) it will work with DRD/TransportNI to increase provision of these bays in public realm proposals for the area as they are developed and in consultation with interested groups.</p> <p>To mitigate concerns about slippery surfaces the Council will ensure the use of materials which meet the minimum requirements set out in DRD design standards.</p> |
| Dependants | <p>The development of new public spaces at Blackstaff Square and Linenhall Square should make the public realm more accessible and attractive to families with young children and carers with dependents.</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 Linen Quarter is generally perceived as a neutral, shared space within the city centre. The realisation of the vision will facilitate better access to | Minor Positive |

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| | and within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area. | |
| Political opinion | The Linen Quarter is generally perceived as a neutral, shared space within the city centre. The realisation of the vision will facilitate better access to and within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area. | Minor Positive |
| Racial group | The Linen Quarter is generally perceived as a neutral, shared space within the city centre. The realisation of the vision will facilitate better access to and within the Quarter which will attract a wider range of people to the area. | Minor Positive |
| Age | <p>The development of new public spaces at Blackstaff Square and Linenhall Square (to be created at the junction of Linenhall Street and Clarence Street) should make the public realm more accessible and attractive to both children and young people and older people. There will therefore be minor positive impacts in terms of promoting equality of opportunity for these groups.</p> <p>Proposals to redefine streets and promote a different street hierarchy have the potential to result in the loss of a number of on-street parking places and that older people are concerned at this prospect.</p> | <p>Minor Positive</p> <p>Minor Negative</p> |
| Marital status | There are no specific aspects of proposals in the vision that will have an impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity for people of different marital status. | None |
| Sexual orientation | There are no specific aspects of the proposals in the vision that will have an impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity for people of different sexual orientation. | None |
| Men and women generally | There are no specific aspects of the proposals in the vision that will have an impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity between men and women generally. | None |
| Disability | The needs of disabled people have been considered as described in the targeted consultation (see | |

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| | <p>section 1 above). Specific concerns have been raised by those with sight loss about the creation of “shared surfaces” in certain locations if there are no kerbs to delineate pedestrian from vehicular areas. This idea will be revised in the final version of the document to require minimum kerb heights in any public realm schemes which are being developed. (see relevant sections on pages 10 and 11 re. minimum kerb heights and use of materials).</p> <p>While there is a significant amount of on-street parking in the area (263 spaces in total) only 5 are disabled parking bays. The Council cannot directly implement proposals to increase the number of disabled parking bays (a DRD/TransportNI responsibility) but it will work with DRD/TransportNI to increase provision of these bays in public realm proposals for the area as they are developed and in consultation with interested groups.</p> <p>Deaf people “read” the activities in their surroundings that may not be immediately apparent to many hearing people. Many aspects of the built environment can be designed to facilitate spatial awareness “in 360 degrees” and facilitate orientation and wayfinding.</p> <p>Mobility Issues</p> <p>Sight loss</p> <p>Deaf/hearing loss</p> | <p>Minor positive</p> <p>Minor negative /mitigation proposed</p> <p>Minor positive</p> |
| <p>Dependants</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of new public spaces at Blackstaff Square and Linenhall Square should make the public realm more accessible and attractive to families and carers with dependents. There will therefore be minor positive impacts in terms of promoting equality of opportunity for these groups. 2. The proposals to redefine streets and promote a different street hierarchy have the potential to result in the loss of a number of on-street parking places which could have a minor negative impact on families and carers with dependents who have difficulty using public transport (e.g. families with small children). | <p>Minor positive</p> <p>Minor negative</p> |

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

The proposals in the vision to introduce new public spaces and encourage active uses of the public realm to provide activity and animation at street level have the potential to attract a much wider range of people to the area, either on a regular basis or to participate in events and other scheduled activities. These proposals present considerable scope for better promoting equality of opportunity, particularly in terms of (1) increasing the diversity of the Quarter to make it more welcoming to a wider range of people and (2) improving safety, especially after dark.

| Section 75 category | If Yes, provide details | If No, provide reasons |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Religious belief | <p>1. The interpretation of the heritage of the Linen Quarter and the information provided to the public (in printed or online materials or interpretative panels) provides an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity for both main communities by ensuring that their unique heritage is incorporated.</p> <p>2. In developing the public realm, the safety of all residents and visitors can be given appropriate consideration, in terms of street lighting, CCTV cameras etc. PSNI statistics for 2013 showed 961 offences recorded with a sectarian motivation across Northern Ireland, 407 of which were within Belfast and 32 of which were within Shaftesbury Ward which includes most of the Linen Quarter. Increased safety may have a positive impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity for both main communities.</p> | |
| Political opinion | See religious belief. | |
| Racial group | <p>In developing the public realm, the safety of all residents and visitors can be given appropriate consideration, in terms of street lighting, CCTV cameras etc. PSNI statistics for 2013 showed 691 offences recorded with a racist motivation across Northern Ireland, 341 of which were within Belfast and 38 of which were within Shaftesbury Ward which includes most of the Linen Quarter. Increased safety may have a positive impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity for people of</p> | |

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| | different racial groups and make the area more welcoming to people from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background. | |
| Age | <p>1. The interpretation of the heritage of the Linen Quarter and the information provided to the public (in printed or online materials or interpretative panels) provides an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity for young people by ensuring that information is presented in a form which is of interest and welcoming to them.</p> <p>2. The proposals to encourage active uses of the public realm, including events and scheduled activities, offer an opportunity to increase the attractiveness of the area to both young and older people.</p> <p>3. In designing the new public spaces, there is an opportunity to provide facilities (such as seating, toilets and play equipment) that is accessible and beneficial to young and older people.</p> | |
| Marital status | | The vision does not include any proposals that would specifically impact on people of different marital status or provide opportunities to promote equality of opportunity within this category. |
| Sexual orientation | <p>1. The proposals to encourage active uses of the public realm, including events and scheduled activities, offer an opportunity to increase the attractiveness of the area to people of different sexual orientations.</p> <p>2. In developing the public realm, the safety of all residents and visitors can be given appropriate consideration, in terms of street lighting, CCTV cameras etc. PSNI statistics for 2013 showed 179 offences recorded with a homophobic motivation across Northern Ireland, 73 of which were within Belfast and 17 of which were within Shaftesbury Ward which includes most of the Linen Quarter. Increased safety may have a positive impact on the</p> | |

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| | <p>promotion of equality of opportunity for people of different sexual orientations and make the area more welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.</p> | |
| Men and women generally | <p>1. In developing the public realm, the safety of all residents and visitors can be given appropriate consideration, in terms of street lighting, CCTV cameras etc. Increased safety may have a positive impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity for women.</p> | |
| Disability | <p>1. The proposals to encourage active uses of the public realm, including events and scheduled activities, offer an opportunity to increase the attractiveness of the area to disabled people.</p> <p>2. In designing the new public spaces, there is an opportunity to provide facilities (such as seating, toilets and play equipment) that is accessible and beneficial to disabled people, including disabled children.</p> <p>3. British Standard 8300:2009 (and subsequent updates) sets out best practice in terms of facilities for disabled people to ensure both access and inclusion. In addition to following best practice in the development of the public realm, there is an opportunity to include specific advice in the guidance for the development of new buildings.</p> <p>4. The interpretation of the heritage of the Linen Quarter and the information provided to the public (in printed or online materials or interpretative panels) provides an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people (especially those with learning difficulties and those with visual impairments) by ensuring that information is presented in a form which is accessible and inclusive. The same principle applies to public signage in the Quarter.</p> <p>5. In developing the public realm, the safety of all residents and visitors can be given appropriate consideration, in terms of street lighting, CCTV cameras etc. The PSNI Hate Crimes Quarterly Bulletin (September 2015) shows that there were 140 incidents in Northern Ireland over the previous</p> | |

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| | <p>twelve months with a disability motivation². Increased safety may have a positive impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity for disabled people.</p> | |
| Dependants | <p>1. The proposals to encourage active uses of the public realm, including events and scheduled activities, offer an opportunity to increase the attractiveness of the area to people with dependants, especially families with dependent children.</p> <p>2. In designing the new public spaces, there is an opportunity to provide facilities (such as seating, toilets and play equipment) that is family friendly and attractive to carers with dependents of all ages.</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 | The vision is primarily about the built heritage and public realm design. It does not include any specific proposals that would either promote or detract from good relations. However, there are opportunities to better promote good relations through specific aspects of the implementation of the conditions and delivery mechanisms required to realise the vision – see question 11 below. | None |
| Political opinion | See above | None |
| Racial group | See above | None |

² Separate data for Belfast is not available.

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>1. The interpretation of the heritage of the Linen Quarter and the information provided to the public (in printed or online materials or interpretative panels) provides an opportunity to promote a better understanding of the heritage of the two main communities. There will be a need to consider the need for multi-lingual materials and signage.</p> <p>2. The proposal to develop the public realm and increase opportunities for people to interact provides an opportunity to encourage interaction between people from the two main communities. This will particularly apply to the current users of the Quarter as the vision emphasises the need for an ‘outdoor room’ where office workers can sit out at lunch time.</p> <p>3. The proposals to encourage active uses of the public realm offer an opportunity to increase diversity (within events, exhibitions etc.) and promote greater awareness and tolerance of the heritage and culture of people from the two main communities.</p> <p>4. To achieve the promote of good relations, it will be essential that the area remains free from flags, emblems and murals that tend to denote the territoriality of one community or the other.</p> | |
| Political opinion | See religious belief. | |
| Racial group | 1. The proposal to develop the public realm and increase opportunities for people to interact provides an opportunity to encourage interaction between people from different racial groups. This will | |

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| | <p>particularly apply to the current users of the Quarter as the vision emphasises the need for an 'outdoor room' where office workers can sit out at lunch time.</p> <p>2. The proposals to encourage active uses of the public realm offer an opportunity to increase diversity (within events, exhibitions etc.) and promote greater awareness and tolerance of the heritage and culture of people from different racial groups. This is particularly important at a time when the diversity of the city is increasing.</p> | |
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7. Multiple Identities

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

Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

No additional issues have been identified (beyond those described above).

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

5. 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 Vision document will provide guidance for:

- new public spaces
- redefined streets and with a different street hierarchy
- retained and improved buildings in the area

in a way which will have fully considered the needs of disabled people.

By making the public realm more accessible and will allow disabled people to

participate more fully in the life of this part of the city and, by making it easier interaction between all users of these public spaces, thus promoting more positive attitudes towards people with disabilities.

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. The public realm proposals which, it is hoped, will be developed using this guidance, will provide pavements, crossings, public spaces and street furniture which seek to address the needs of persons with disabilities, making this part of the city more accessible, thus increasing participation in public life.

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.

Monitoring arrangements for the Linen Quarter project have not yet been defined but will include consideration of issues relating to the promotion of equality of opportunity, good relations and attitudes to disabled people.

The establishment of the City Design Review panel proposed to advise on building quality provides an opportunity for issues relating to the promotion of equality of opportunity to be kept under consideration on a regular, on-going basis.

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened

Development of a Draft Public Realm Analysis and Vision report for the Linen Quarter

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"/> | * <u>Screened In</u> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA |
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| | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>*<u>Screened Out</u> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)</p> <p>Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:</p> <p>There are no impacts on any protected groups as outlined above.</p> |
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| X | <p>* <u>Screened Out - Mitigating Actions</u> (minor impacts)</p> <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: <p>As set out previously within the Disability category the proposals to create shared surfaces (with no kerbs to delineate pedestrian and vehicular areas) would have a positive impact for those with mobility issues but a negative impact on those with sight loss.</p> <p>Mitigation is proposed by setting a minimum kerb height of 60 mm for any public realm proposals in the Linen Quarter area.</p> <p>Comments relating to need to increase the number and location of accessible car parking bays will be forwarded to DRD Transport NI.</p> <p>Comments relating to possible reduction of general parking spaces will be forwarded to DRD Transport NI.</p> <p>To mitigate concerns about slippery surfaces the Council will ensure the use of materials which meet the minimum requirements set out in DRD design standards.</p> <p>Responses from the various consultation events will be forwarded to relevant stakeholders.</p> |
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Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Alice McGlone

Urban Development Officer

Date: 21st March 2016

Department Chief Executive's Department

Signature:



Screening decision approved by -

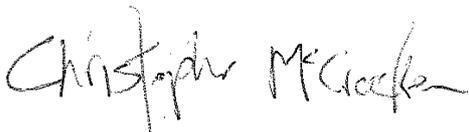
Name: Chris McCracken

Programme Manager

Date: 21st March 2016

Department: Chief Executive's Department

Signature:



Please save the final version of the completed screening form and forward to the Equality and Diversity Officer – 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
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