

# Equality Screening Template



The Council has a statutory duty to screen. 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. 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 first. To find out about the training needed or any other queries on screening, contact the Equality and Diversity Officers (job-share) Stella Gilmartin or Lorraine Dennis on extension 6026/7 or by email [equality@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:equality@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 and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website<sup>1</sup>.

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

**Section A** - provides details about the policy / decision that is being screened

**Section B** – gives information on the consultation process, supporting evidence gathered and has 4 key questions outlining the likely impacts on all equality groups.

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf>

# **Section A**

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

### **1. Title of policy / decision to be screened:-**

Belfast City Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035

### **2. Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-**

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

On 1 April 2015, as part of local government reform, Belfast City Council assumed responsibility for a number of functions previously carried out by government departments, including statutory town planning responsibilities. Alongside this, Belfast's district boundaries were expanded to take in around 53,000 additional residents, 21,000 households and 1,000 business premises from areas that were formally parts of Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and North Down Borough Council areas. In addition, the reform programme also introduced new Community Planning responsibilities.

The purpose of the Belfast City Local Development Plan, comprising the Plan Strategy and Local Policies, is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and guide development decisions within Belfast until 2035. The Plan is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will be used to guide development decisions within the Belfast City Area over the plan period until 2035.

The Belfast City LDP 2035 will set out a clear vision for how the council area should look in the future by deciding what type and scale of development should be encouraged and where it should be located. It will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and other regional planning policies, and will guide development decisions within Belfast up to 2035.

In summary:

**The Belfast City LDP 2035 will:**

- Provide a 15 year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the city, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development;
- Facilitate growth by coordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community;
- Allocate sufficient land to meet the needs of the city;
- Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within the local area should take place;
- Provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- Deliver the spatial aspects of The Belfast Agenda, the city's Community Plan.

Once adopted, this LDP will replace the current development plan for the district produced by the Department. In Belfast the existing development plan comprises:

- Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015 (adopted September 2014); and
- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) Subject Plan for the Belfast City Council Area 2015 (adopted December 2008).

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

*(What is the policy trying to achieve?)*

To provide a Planning framework which is in general conformity with the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) in facilitating sustainable growth and high quality development in the Belfast City Area throughout the Plan period, whilst protecting and where appropriate, enhancing, the natural and man-made environment of the Plan area. Preliminary work has been undertaken in the form of evidence based Topic Papers to underpin production. The Topics paper will lead to the development of the Preferred Options Paper. Following this, the new LDP will comprise of two development plan documents:

- **Plan Strategy** – The strategic policy framework for the plan area as a whole across a range of topics. It will set out an ambitious but realistic vision for Belfast as well as the

objectives and strategic policies required to deliver that vision. Establishing this strategic direction early in the plan process will provide a level of certainty on which to base key development decisions in the area as well as the necessary framework for the preparation of the Local Policies Plan; and

- **Local Policies Plan** – The council’s local policies and site specific proposals in relation to the development and use of land in Belfast. It will contain the local policies, including site specific proposals, designations and land use zonings required to deliver the council’s vision, objectives and strategic policies, as set out in the Plan Strategy.

Although the new LDP documents will be distinctive to Belfast, reflecting local circumstances and the challenges facing the council area, they should also ensure that the objectives are integrated with, add value to and assist in the delivery of national, regional and local policies and strategies within Northern Ireland, Belfast and other district councils. There is also a statutory link between the new LDP and the council’s emerging Community Plan, known as the Belfast Agenda. It is intended that the LDP will be the spatial reflection of the Belfast Agenda and that the two plans should work in tandem towards the same vision for the area and its communities and the long term social, economic and environmental objectives.

**4. On whom will the policy / decision impact?**

*Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential) and explain:-*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Staff</b>                                       | YES/ (In implementing the Local Development Plan )  |
| <b>Service users</b>                               | YES/(General Public with an interest in planning/Citizens interacting with the planning system/Applicants submitting a Planning Applications general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals |
| <b>Other public sector organizations</b>           | YES/(Statutory Consultees, Government Departments/  |
| <b>Voluntary / community groups / trade unions</b> | YES/(All users of, and with an interest in, the planning system)  |
| <b>Others</b> , please specify                     | YES/ General Public. All users of, and with an interest in, the planning system   |

**5. Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?**

- Northern Ireland Government Departments (The Executive Office, Department of Economy, Department for Infrastructure, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Department for Communities, Department for Education, Department for Health, Department for Justice, Department for Finance);
- Adjoining Councils such as Lisburn and Castlereagh, Antrim and Newtownabbey, North Down;
- Water/ Sewerage Undertaker; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Civil Aviation Authority;
- Any person to whom the electronic communication code applies by virtue of a direction given under Section 106 (3 ) of the Communication Act 2003 ©;
- Any person to whom a license has been granted under 10(1) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992(a); Any person to whom a license has been granted under Article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996(b)

## **Section B**

### **Information on the consultation process, supporting evidence gathered and has 4 key questions outlining the likely impacts for equality and good relations**

#### **6. Outline consultation process planned or achieved**

Prior to work commencing on the production of the Local Development Plan BCC Local Development Plan Team produced two key documents, **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Timetable** for the LDP. The SCI sets out the Council's policy for involving the community in the production of the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP). It will sets out who, how and when we will engage with the local community to participate in the different stages of both LDP formulation in a more meaningful and effective approach to enable interested parties and the local community to engage early in the plan process and throughout its preparation. It promotes a more meaningful and effective approach to enable interested parties and the local community to engage early in the plan process and throughout its preparation. The document will support and supplement the commitments in our Equality Scheme and our responsibilities to consult under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and represents a further step towards embedding meaningful consultation into our planning and decision-making processes. [Download our Statement of Community Involvement](#) (PDF - 1.52KB)

The second document is the **Timetable** which sets out the council's programme for the production of the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, including key milestones and timelines for plan production, covering all elements of the process through to adoption.

[Download the Local Development Plan Timetable](#) (PDF - 692KB)

To further support the production of the Local Development Plan considerable consultation has been undertaken in relation to work ongoing with Belfast Agenda for the community Plan through the Belfast Conversation. [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda)

## 7. 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.*

*It is important to record information gathered from a variety of sources such as: monitoring information; complaints; research surveys; consultation exercises from other public authorities.*

- Statement on Key Inequalities in Northern Ireland
- Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities February 2016
- NISRA Statistics
- [www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/Keyinequalities\(F\)1107](http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/Keyinequalities(F)1107)
- Development of range of Topic Papers leading to the development of the LDP – POP ( Preferred Options paper)

Belfast has witnessed a revival in recent years in terms of inward investment, including significant regeneration within the Titanic Quarter and waterfront areas, major growth in tourism and the Ulster University redevelopment in the city centre. However, there continues to be a range of issues that inhibit the ability of the city to fully function as one of the main urban centres in Europe. There are areas of the city that are fractured, disjointed and poorly presented. There are infrastructure and environmental constraints, such as traffic congestion and poor air quality.

There are opportunities to reconnect the city, to improve public transportation networks and extend service provision. This could be encouraged by promoting appropriate design in new developments to make the city more permeable and aid both vehicular and pedestrian movement. New development could be encouraged along routes connecting

the city centre to inner-city neighbourhoods that are currently poorly integrated with the urban core.

There are opportunities through planning and regeneration processes to increase equality of opportunity and contribute to a breakdown of the physical and psychological aspects of division. There is an opportunity to plan for regeneration that seeks to rejuvenate interface areas and facilitate the removal of barriers and other forms of infrastructure or architecture that serve to reinforce patterns of division within the city. There are opportunities to promote development of shared sites and facilities that provide safe access for all of the community and have potential to foster greater levels of social integration.

There are also opportunities to support and promote the continued regeneration of the city centre to attract inward investment and encourage a more diverse economy that will contribute to an enhancement in livability and the City Centre as a place. Such opportunities offer potential to attract residents to the city and facilitate initiatives to address dereliction and poor quality environments within the city, and to promote the night-time economy.

There is opportunity to foster civic leadership and support joined-up governance to address the challenges identified from the issues raised in the Belfast Conversation and those that have emerged through evidence based research.

The implementation of the LDP will make an important contribution in terms of the development of the key planning issues affecting the city in terms of possible approaches to new development and planned growth. In addition they support the aspirations set out in the emerging Belfast Agenda. The council believes that the LDP will not have specific adverse impacts for any Section 75 group but the analysis of available data and research shows that there are a number of key inequalities which the Plan may help to address.

The main purpose of this screening is to ensure that, the LDP, through the council and delivery agents, will provide due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity by addressing inequalities within and between Section 75 groups.

Overall, delivering significant investment in Belfast, through the implementation of the LDP, is likely to have a positive impact on all Section 75 groups, both directly and indirectly by contributing to the economic, social and environmental regeneration and wellbeing of the city. The council believes that the future Local Development Plan will not have specific adverse impacts for any Section 75 group but the analysis of available data and research and the consultation will help to address any key inequalities which the future LDP may help to address.

Section 75 category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	<p>The implementation of the LDP will make an important contribution in terms of the development of the key planning issues affecting the city in terms of possible approaches to new development and planned growth. The Local Development Plan will have a major positive impact.</p> <p>Core planning principle on creating and enhancing shared space highlights the important role that the planning system has in supporting Government with addressing barriers that prevent or interfere with the creation and maintenance of shared space.</p> <p>The council believes that the LDP will not have specific adverse impacts for any Section 75 group but the analysis of available data and research shows that there are a number of key inequalities which the Plan may help to address.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan is a major positive initiative for the city.</p>	Major
Political opinion	As above	Major
Racial group	As above	Major
Age	As above	Major
Marital status	As above	Major
Sexual orientation	As above	Major
Men and women generally	As above	Major
Disability	As above	Major

Dependants	As above	Major
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**8. 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?**

The LDP is likely to have a positive impact on all Section 75 groups, both directly and indirectly, by contributing to economic growth and social progress. It is anticipated, however, that some areas of development may have a differential impact on a number of Section 75 groups in a positive manner by addressing recognised need and these are highlighted below.

Future Planning Policy within the LDP will maximise inward investment and encourage new business startups. Initiatives designed to foster new businesses and expand existing small businesses will provide opportunities to target under-represented groups such as women, young people and disabled people.

Planning aimed at people, communities and neighbourhoods will help to reduce segregation and promote inclusion and integration of different communities.

Seek to ensure that public services are more accessible which will have particular benefits for those groups which currently experience barriers to access, including people from BME communities, migrant workers, disabled people, older people and people with dependants.

Support future investment include early years and lifelong learning projects targeted at young people and older people and will promote better use of local parks and leisure facilities, providing an opportunity to target under-represented groups.

The potential impacts of the LDP will only be realised when the Plan is fully developed.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide reasons</b>
Religious belief	Any section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered.  Enhanced community engagement / involvement in plan making will however likely result in a positive	Major

	impact on equality of opportunity for all groups who engage in the local development plan process.	
Political opinion	Please see statement above.	Major
Racial group	As above	
Age	As above	
Marital status	As above	
Sexual orientation	As above	
Men and women generally	As above	
Disability	As above	
Dependants	As above	

**9. 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>
Religious belief	Yes - Following proposed extensive and phased consultation at each stage of the Local Development plan process as identified in the Statement of Community Involvement and Timetable –	
Political opinion	As above	
Racial group	As above	
Age	As above	
Marital status	As above	
Sexual orientation	As above	

Men and women generally	As above	
Disability	As above	
Dependants	As above	

**10. 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	Yes – as above	Major
Political opinion	As above	Major
Racial group	As above	Major

**11. 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	Yes – as above	
Political opinion	As above	
Racial group	As above	

## Section C

**Belfast City Council also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order and Questions 12-13 relate to these two areas.**

### **Consideration of Disability Duties**

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

***Explain your assessment in full In all you work -***

The Local Development Plan will provide better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.

These issues will be addressed in further equality assessments and at each stage of the LDP process.

**13. 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 – further evidence – for the implications and development of the plan –***

The Local Development Plan will provide better opportunities to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life.

These issues will be addressed in further equality assessments and at each stage of the LDP process.

### **14. 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; 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>
<p>It is not considered that mitigation measures are required at this time but this will be reviewed in light of the analysis of consultation responses received in bringing forward the Preferred Options Paper and the draft Plan Strategy and Local Plan Policies</p>	<p>It is not considered that mitigation measures are required at this time but this will be reviewed in light of the analysis of consultation responses received in bringing forward the Preferred Options Paper and the draft Plan Strategy and Local Plan Policies</p>	<p>It is not considered that mitigation measures are required at this time but this will be reviewed in light of the analysis of consultation responses received in bringing forward the Preferred Options Paper and the draft Plan Strategy and Local Plan Policies</p>
<p>Monitor and respond to comments and representations as they arise through feedback as part of the public consultation, launches media releases, social media and engagement process.</p> <p>Any views on equality screening documents or draft EQIA will be sought with the specified period of the local development plan process as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>The draft Local Draft plan Strategy and policies will be subject to independent examination.</p>	<p>Monitor and respond to comments and representations as they arise through feedback as part of the public consultation, launches media releases, social media and engagement process.</p> <p>Any views on equality screening documents or draft EQIA will be sought with the specified period of the local development plan process as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>The draft Local Draft plan Strategy and policies will be subject to independent examination.</p>	<p>Monitor and respond to comments and representations as they arise through feedback as part of the public consultation, launches media releases, social media and engagement process.</p> <p>Any views on equality screening documents or draft EQIA will be sought with the specified period of the local development plan process as set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>The draft Local Draft plan Strategy and policies will be subject to independent examination.</p>

# Section D

## Formal Record of Screening Decision

<b>Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened</b> Belfast Local Development Plan
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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)*

X	* <b>Screened In</b> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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	* <b>Screened Out</b> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:
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	* <b>Screened Out -</b> Mitigating Actions (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: Martina Lundy

Date: 22/12/16

Department: **Department of Planning and Place**

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

### **Screening decision approved by –**

Name: Keith Sutherland

Date: 22/12/16

Department: **Department of Planning and Place**

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 –

**Stella Gilmartin / Lorraine Dennis**

**Equality & Diversity Officer (*job-share*)**

**Belfast City Council**

**City Hall**

**Belfast**

**BT1 5GS**

**Telephone: 028 90270511**

**[equality@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:equality@belfastcity.gov.uk)**