



Equality Screening Template

Dilapidated Buildings Project

Belfast City Council -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, 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.

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:-

Dilapidated Buildings Project

Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

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

Health & Environmental Services (through Building Control Service) have been allocated an extra £470,000 from the DOE to improve tackle issues concerning Ruinous or Dilapidated buildings throughout Belfast. This money is in addition to the £100,000 allocated to this project through Departmental Finances. Previously Council approved a prioritized list of buildings to be addressed through this project.

Procurement – A Tender quotation has been followed for the use of an external contractor to do this work.

Legislative – There are various legislative implications for this project, legal services and Head of Building Control have been working closely on this project since it started.

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

(What is the policy trying to achieve?)

To deal positively with the impact of dilapidated buildings in Belfast, which have increased in numbers dramatically since the advent of the economic downturn.

By either carrying out cosmetic works to, or demolishing badly dilapidated buildings, we will:

- (i) improve the aesthetics of neighbourhoods,
- (ii) remove focal points for antisocial behavior,
- (iii) provide alternative community uses for some sites,
- (iv) provide opportunities for regeneration and redevelopment, in several cases for proposed social economy or public realm works

We will where possible focus these efforts on main arterial routes, tourist areas, areas of deprivation and areas where complimentary redevelopment works are proposed.

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

Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

There are linkages to various Departments across the Council such as;

Legal – We are working closely with legal on this project as the additional funding will require increased support;

Corporate Comms – Have been supporting this project by assisting with development of various communication and media messages to let local people know that this work is progressing

Department of Environment – We are linking closely with officers from DOE as they have provided significant funding for the project.

Section B

1. Outline consultation process achieved or planned

Achieved

To date we have carried out the following Consultation Process;

- Survey of every street in Belfast
- Developed a prioritization matrix to ensure suitable buildings are addressed;
- Worked with elected members to ensure all relevant buildings were surveyed
- Advertised project in City Matters

Planned

- Consulting with local elected members before work progresses in their electoral area;
- Consultation with Area Working Groups North, South, East, West and Shankill

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

The consultation carried out to date through objective study has indicated that there is no specific evidence relating to any of the Section 75 categories.

This project is unique in so far as it is dealing with buildings which are in a ruinous state or dilapidated. The project chose suitable properties to be addressed through a prioritization matrix which scored a list of potential properties that were suitable for this project.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence / information and engagement
Religious belief	None applicable
Political opinion	None applicable
Racial group	None applicable
Age	None applicable
Marital status	None applicable
Sexual orientation	None applicable
Men & women	None applicable

generally	
Disability	None applicable
Dependants	None applicable

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	This decision will have a positive impact on residents from this category as it will improve the physical of dilapidated buildings across the city. If there is a misconception of one particular group benefitting, clarity of communication is central to how the project proceeds.	Minor
Political opinion	As above	Minor
Racial group	As above	Minor
Age	As above	Minor
Marital status	As above	Minor
Sexual orientation	As above	Minor

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

2. 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		This project is unique in so far as it is dealing with buildings which are in a ruinous state or dilapidated. The project chose suitable properties to be addressed through a prioritization matrix which scored a list of potential properties that were suitable for this project.
Political opinion		As above
Racial group		As above
Age		As above
Marital status		As above
Sexual		As above

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

3. 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 project may address properties at interface areas which are in a ruinous / dilapidated state. This will help improve the physical make up of the area which can contribute to reduction in tensions and improve feelings of safety. Whilst it may be perceived that some groups or areas are benefitting more than another group, the use of the prioritization matrix for identifying dilapidated buildings has been clearly communicated.	Minor
Political opinion	As above	Minor
Racial group	As above	Minor

4. 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	We do recognise that some people may be impacted on both positively and negatively by this decision but are also cognisant of the following comments made by the Equality Commission: 'The notion that providing equality or protection for one group limits their availability for another is both unfounded in itself and acts to the detriment of all who seek to live in a society that is fair and equitable and should in avoided in drafting of public policy'.	
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 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

N/A

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

N/A

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
Number of properties addressed N,S,E,W	Number of properties addressed at interfaces	
Number of complaints received	Number of complaints received	

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened
Dilapidated Buildings Project

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

√	equality of opportunity and good relations
√	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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<input type="checkbox"/>	* <u>Screened Out</u> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:
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√	* <u>Screened Out - Mitigating Actions</u> (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: <p>A focus on communication of the objectives measures when selecting the buildings will be clearly communicated.</p>
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Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Mark McCleery

Date: 19/2/13

Department : Health and Environmental Services

Signature:

Screening decision approved by -

Name: Trevor Martin

Date: 19/2/13

Signature:

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

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Belfast

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