

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

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 website¹.

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.

¹ <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:-

Draft Developer Contributions Framework – A guide to developer contributions and planning agreements.

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

This draft Framework has been prepared to provide advice and guidance on Belfast City Council's approach to securing developer contributions as part of the planning application process.

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

The Council has routinely used planning agreements to secure developer contributions since the transfer of planning powers to local government in 2015. Their use is supported by legislation and planning policy.

The guidance contained in the draft Framework brings together existing regional and local planning policies on the use of planning agreements and developer contributions and sets out the Council's interpretation of these policies.

This draft Framework has been produced for use by developers, elected members, and the general public and by planning officers in the assessment of planning applications within the Belfast area.

4. On whom will the policy / decision impact?

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

Staff	YES/NO
Service users	YES/NO
Other public sector organizations	YES/NO
Voluntary / community groups / trade unions	YES/NO
Others, please specify	YES/NO

The draft Framework can be used by the public, developers and their agents in preparing planning applications. This document will also become a material consideration for planning officers when considering relevant planning applications, which have been submitted to the Council.

5. Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

The draft Framework is supported by existing legislation and the current planning policy framework. Linkages include the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) and other relevant Planning Policy Statement's which fall under the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Planning Policy Division. Therefore, there is a clear linkage between this draft Framework and DfI Planning Policy Division.

In operating the Framework, and planning obligations, which may be secured as a result of this approach. Additional linkages may also be established between the council and Department for Communities (Public Realm), Translink (Sustainable Transport), Department for Infrastructure (Roads Service) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Natural Heritage, Biodiversity, Air Quality, Waste Management). Consideration may also be required in considering applications, which may traverse with neighbouring councils.

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

It is intended that this draft Framework will be launched for a 12-week public consultation exercise from July 2018. The date for consultation will be confirmed once the document is endorsed for committee by the Council's Planning and Strategic Policy and Resources committees.

The consultation exercise will be conducted in line with existing council policy and will have regard to the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

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.

As outlined above, the draft Framework does not introduce any new policy, but instead sets out the Council's interpretation of existing policy regarding the use of planning agreements and developer contributions. The principal policy document which provides the overarching strategic justification for the draft Developer Contributions Framework is the SPPS, September 2015.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

A final Equality Screening report was published alongside the SPPS in September 2015. As the high level strategic planning policy statement for NI, there are no specific policies within the SPPS that directly infringe upon the draft Framework. However, the screening report notes that the SPPS, and the planning system generally, "is for securing the orderly and consistent development of land across Northern Ireland under a two-tier planning system". It concludes that "it will be uniformly applied across all section 75 categories without prejudice"

and, as such, “will not positively or negatively discriminate towards” and Section 75 groups. It is, in fact, expected to equally benefit all Section 75 groups”.

Other Relevant Planning Policies

There are also a range of other regional Planning Policy Statements and guidance referred to within this draft Framework. These documents have been prepared by public bodies who are subject to the general equality duty that s75 places on a public body. The Equality Screening for the SPPS highlights similarities between the SPPS and the existing suite of PPSs, noting that as high level, strategic policies that it is unlikely that there will be any adverse impacts on the equality of opportunity or promotion of good relations for any section 75 group.

Section 75 category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Political opinion	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Racial group	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Age	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of	Minor Positive

	development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	
Marital status	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Sexual orientation	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Men and women generally	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Disability	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive
Dependants	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	Minor Positive

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?

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief	As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.	
Political opinion	See above	
Racial group	See above	
Age	See above	
Marital status	See above	
Sexual orientation	See above	
Men and women generally	See above	
Disability	See above	
Dependants	See above	

9. 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		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age		No
Marital status		No

Sexual orientation		No
Men and women generally		No
Disability		No
Dependants		No

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	The draft Developer Contributions Framework offers no specific opportunities to promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group.	None
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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	The draft Developer Contributions Framework offers no specific opportunities to promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group.	None
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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?

This draft Framework doesn't provide an opportunity to promote positive attitude towards disabled people, over and above that provided for in the existing planning system.

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

This draft Framework doesn't generally provide an opportunity to actively increase the participation of disabled people in public life.

14. Multiple Identities

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

N/A

Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

15. 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
The impact of development on equality, good relations or disability duties will be addressed, in accordance with relevant legislation and prevailing planning policies, as part of the application process. It is proposed that an annual report will be produced		

setting out the number and nature of planning agreements entered into in the preceding year. This annual report will also include a section which highlights any equality implications of planning agreements entered into in the previous year.

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened
 Developer Contributions Framework – A guide to developer contribution and planning agreements

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)*

	* <u>Screened In</u> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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x	<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>As the purpose of planning agreements is to ensure that the negative impacts of development are appropriately mitigated, all section 75 groups may benefit from this policy approach.</p>
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	<p>* <u>Screened Out</u> - Mitigating Actions (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:
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Formal Record of Screening Decision *(cont.)*

Screening assessment completed by (Officer Level) –

Name: Mark Mulholland

Date: 9th August 2018

Department: Planning and Building Control

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

Screening decision approved by –

Name: Ed Baker

Date: 9th August 2018

Department: Planning and Building Control

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. 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 9027 0511

equality@belfastcity.gov.uk