



Equality Screening

Public Bike Share Scheme

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 or dennisl@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:-

Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme

Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

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

Belfast City Council aims to develop a Public Bike Share scheme as a high profile active travel project for Belfast which puts cycling in the heart of the city as a local transport solution. Cycling is one of the most sustainable transportation modes and offers tremendous potential to the City of Belfast for improving the environment, economic efficiency and accessibility.

The Council secured £698,700 funding for a Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme towards the provision of 30 docking stations with 300 bikes from funding available as part of the Department for Regional Development (DRD) Active Travel Demonstration Projects budget. The project must be delivered by March 2015.

A Business Case suggests that a public bike share scheme would be viable for Belfast based on experience and evidence from other cities.

Typical characteristics of a public bike share scheme are:

- Public access bikes situated on public spaces with a standard robust design;
- a networking of docking stations and bikes throughout city centre locations;
- A self service model; and
- Flexible rental periods with tariffs to encourage short term rentals.

Procurement - In March 2013 the Council approved to proceed with the procurement of design, build, operate and maintain services and appoint the most appropriate operator subject to decision regarding covering of revenue costs.

Legislative – There are various legislative implications for this project; legal services and the project delivery team are working closely together with DSO from DRD and other relevant stakeholders/landowners.

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

(What is the policy trying to achieve?)

The primary objective is to achieve a sustainable low cost transport system to service key location in Belfast City Centre.

This will be addressed by the:

- Establishment of a public bike share scheme providing up to 300 bikes for public use to improve and facilitate opportunities for cycling in Belfast
- Development of a scheme to allow users to either pay an annual membership fee or pay for short-term use (1-3 days). The subscription fee will be low cost.
- The provision of up to 30 docking stations, 300 metres to 500 metres apart on average serving key city centre locations. There will be between 10 to 20 bikes per docking station.
- The provision of a 3rd generation scheme in nature (characterised by 'secure-by-design' principles, smart card access technology, electronically operated docking stations and locks, telecommunications systems and online account management)
- Integration of the public bike share scheme with Belfast's existing and future public transport network.
- Information sessions on the public bike share scheme to ensure it is accessible to all residents and visitors to Belfast.
- Development of parallel programmes to promote cycling in local communities such as cycle proficiency training, bike club programmes and cycling events.
- A scheme which is open for use by tourists, designed to accommodate short term membership and serve key tourist destinations
- Integration of the scheme with workplace travel plans of major employers in the city and schools, colleges and universities.
- An increase in the profile of cycling in Belfast to address the stigma attached to cycling by normalising cycling
- Production of information of how to subscribe / use the public bike share scheme and on the cycle routes in the city linked to key destinations.

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
 - Students
 - Tourists
 - All residents

Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

Funding is coming from the Department of Regional Development/DRD. The land where the docking stations will be located is in ownership of DRD Roads Service, Department for Social Development, Harbour Commissioners, Odyssey Trust, Belfast Met and several private owners.

Different stakeholders from other organisations are members of the project board.

The project is one of four Active Travel Demonstration Projects of the DRD Active Travel Initiative. An important element of the Active Travel Strategy is to encourage local authorities to promote more walking and cycling in the communities they serve and to recognise the need to include people of all abilities.

Section B

1. Outline consultation process achieved or planned

The development of a Public Bike Share scheme is identified as a partnership project in Belfast City Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015 – the IP was object to a full equality impact assessment. Once funding was secured from DRD a stakeholder group was set up to help BCC identifying the locations for the docking stations and delivering the scheme.

The Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme has two public engagement goals: 1) to engage with a broad and diverse part of Belfast's residents, businesses, property owners and other stakeholders, and 2) to reflect the priorities and interests of a broad segment of people in the scheme, including infrequent and potential cyclists.

Consultation takes place in different phases:

- Development of the project
- Mobilisation phase
- During whole lifespan of the project

Key areas for discussion are working in partnership, access, location of docking stations, community benefits, appearance, safety and inclusiveness.

During the development phase consultation took place with representatives from communities groups directly affected by the scheme i.e. in areas of potential locations of docking stations.

Key stakeholders are engaged in regular workshops to identify the locations. They are taking place every 2 months supported by site visits. Suggestions of the stakeholders were taken on board and some of the locations changed accordingly.

In the mobilisation stage information sessions on the public bike share scheme to ensure it is accessible to all residents and visitors to Belfast. They will have the 'conventional' format of public events and workshop sessions as well as the format of demonstration days where cycling can be experienced firsthand. Ambassadors will be appointed by the Council and the operator to support potential subscribers of the scheme at the time when it will be launched and in the initial phase of operation.

Development of parallel programmes to promote cycling in local communities such as cycle proficiency training, bike club programmes and cycling events will also take

place. The scheme will be integrated in workplace travel plans of major employers in the city and schools, colleges and universities.

Budget is set aside for a marketing strategy and the production of information of how to subscribe / use the public bike share scheme and on the cycle routes in the city linked to key destinations.

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*

A range of evidence and information has been used including that obtained from the consultation outlined in the previous question. Information from the stakeholder workshops was especially used in the identification of locations for docking stations. As it is a unique project for Belfast, evidence was also used from best practice examples from elsewhere.

Officers working on the development of the project are in close contact to the Public Bike Share Officer from Dublin City Council and using Dublin's unique experience in developing the Belfast scheme.

Another source of evidence are relevant websites and blogs such as:

www.bike-sharing.blogspot.co.uk

www.bicyclenetwork.com.au

www.bikesharing.eu

www.ecf.com

www.go.itdp.org

Section 75 category	Details of evidence / information and engagement
Religious belief	<p>The scheme will be initiated in the city centre. The 2011 census indicates that 48.58% of Belfast's population indicated that they were Catholic, while 42.30% indicated they were Protestant or other Christian.</p> <p>The design and the colour of the bikes are not yet decided and are subject to the potential sponsor of the scheme. It is important that the design and colour of the bikes takes into consideration the symbolism of different religious beliefs and will have a 'neutral' appearance. The decision about sponsorship will be in line with Council's policies regarding specific products.</p>
Political opinion	<p>The design and the colour of the bikes are not yet decided and are subject to the potential sponsor of the scheme. It is important that the design and colour of the bikes takes into consideration the symbolism of political opinions and will have a 'neutral' appearance. The decision about sponsorship will be in line with Council's policies regarding specific products.</p>
Racial group	n/a
Age	<p>There are no age restrictions for the scheme. However, people only older than 16 can subscribe to the scheme. Users will have to sign up to the Terms & Conditions of using the Public Bike Share Scheme and Health & Safety Regulations will be paramount using the scheme.</p>
Marital status	n/a
Sexual orientation	n/a
Men & women	There is no evidence if there are more men or women cycling. Cycling is

generally	<p>in general an activity open to everybody.</p> <p>The bikes are designed in a way that most people can use them e.g. adjustable height</p>
Disability	<p>Members of IMTAC and Disability Action were consulted in the stakeholder workshops. They attended site visits and influenced the locations for the docking stations.</p> <p>A range of issues were discussed and the consultation is ongoing. Considerations such as mobility issues and the potential of introducing special bikes such as trikes will continuously influence the development of the scheme.</p>
Dependants	n/a

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	Not very likely – as the Council will make sure that the colour of the bikes will be neutral	minor
Political opinion	Not very likely – as the Council will make sure that the colour of the bikes will be neutral	minor
Racial group	There is no evidence of a likely impact based solely on race.	None
Age	Children under 16 will be affected as they cannot register to the scheme. Health & Safety Regulations	minor

	<p>will be part of the Terms & Conditions users have to sign up to.</p> <p>Development of the scheme is ongoing and considerations will be given to the introduction of child seats or children's bikes in the future.</p>	
Marital status	There is no evidence of a likely impact based solely on marital status.	none
Sexual orientation	There is no evidence of a likely impact based solely on sexual orientation.	none
Men and women generally	There is no evidence of a likely impact based solely on gender.	none
Disability	<p>There is potential for people with disabilities to be differentially affected as they might not be able to use the bikes.</p> <p>Development of the scheme is ongoing and considerations will be given to the introduction of trikes or other specific requirements in the future.</p>	major
Dependants	<p>There is no evidence of a likely impact based solely on whether or not you have dependents.</p> <p>Development of the scheme is ongoing and considerations will be given to the introduction of child seats or children's bikes in the future.</p>	none

4. 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 - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity as there is equal opportunity for a person of any religious belief to access the service.
Political opinion		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity as there is equal opportunity for a person of any political opinion to access the service.
Racial group		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity as there is equal opportunity for a person of any racial group to access the service.
Age	<p>Yes - Through the delivery of the action plans within the strategy there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity within this Section 75 category.</p> <p>Development of the scheme is ongoing and considerations will be given to the introduction</p>	

	of future activities. The actions include providing cycle training for young and older people.	
Marital status		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity as there is equal opportunity for a person of any marital status to access the service.
Sexual orientation		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity as there is equal opportunity for a person of any sexual orientation to access the service.
Men and women generally	<p>Yes - Through the delivery of the action plans within the strategy there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity within this Section 75 category.</p> <p>These include actions around the promotion of cycling among underrepresented groups such as 'try it' events for females.</p>	
Disability	<p>Yes - Through the delivery of the action plans within the strategy there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity within this Section 75 category.</p> <p>These include actions around the promotion of cycling among underrepresented groups such as 'try it' events for disabled people. There are also considerations of providing in the next</p>	

	phase of the scheme special bikes such as e-bikes or trikes. Users will have to sign up to the Terms & Conditions of using the Public Bike Share Scheme and Health & Safety Regulations will be paramount using the scheme.	
Dependants		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity as there is equal opportunity for a person with or without dependants to access the service.

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	<p>It is our belief based on evidence that there would like be a minor positive impact on people of different religious beliefs in that the proposed actions will provide opportunity for the promotion of cycling among underrepresented groups and those who would traditionally have no involvement or exposure to cycling. This is likely to include people from all religious backgrounds.</p> <p>The design and the colour of the bikes are not yet decided and are subject to the potential sponsor of the scheme. It is important that the design and colour of the bikes takes into consideration the</p>	minor

	symbolism of different religious beliefs and will have a 'neutral' appearance. The decision about sponsorship will be in line with Council's policies regarding specific products.	
Political opinion	<p>It is our belief based on evidence that there would like be a minor positive impact on people of different religious beliefs in that the proposed actions will provide opportunity for the promotion of cycling among underrepresented groups and those who would traditionally have no involvement or exposure to cycling. This is likely to include people from all political backgrounds.</p> <p>The design and the colour of the bikes are not yet decided and are subject to the potential sponsor of the scheme. It is important that the design and colour of the bikes takes into consideration the symbolism of different political opinions and will have a 'neutral' appearance. The decision about sponsorship will be in line with Council's policies regarding specific products.</p>	minor
Racial group	None	none

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		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote good relations as there are opportunities for people

		of any religious belief to access the service.
Political opinion		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote good relations as there are opportunities for people of any political opinion to access the service.
Racial group		No - It is our belief that there are no opportunities to better promote good relations as there are opportunities for people of any racial groups to access the service.

7. Multiple Identities

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

Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

None

Section C

Belfast City Council also has legislative obligations to meet under the [Disability Discrimination Order](#) and Questions 5 -6 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

Explain your assessment in full

Within the programme there are actions planned that provide an opportunity for the Council to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. These include:

- Host 'try it' events including some targeted at underrepresented groups such as people with a disability
- Begin discussions with the education sector in relation to the introduction of cycling training in schools including special needs schools

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

Explain your assessment in full

Members of IMTAC and Disability Action were consulted in the stakeholder workshops. They attended site visits and influenced the locations for the docking stations.

A range of issues were discussed and the consultation is ongoing. Considerations such as mobility issues and the potential of introducing special bikes such as trikes will continuously influence the development of the scheme.

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
<p>We will monitor reports/comments/complaints received from the Public Bike Share operator.</p> <p>A series of performance indicators have been included in the operational plan of the operator and these will be monitored on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Equality information will be included in the welcome pack that subscribers to the scheme will receive.</p> <p>Monitoring data will include information about the uptake of the scheme from different groups.</p>	<p>We will monitor reports/comments/complaints received from the Public Bike Share operator.</p> <p>A series of performance indicators have been included in the operational plan of the operator and these will be monitored on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Good relations information will be included in the welcome pack that subscribers to the scheme will receive.</p> <p>Monitoring data will include information about the uptake of the scheme from different groups.</p>	<p>We will monitor reports/comments/complaints received from the Public Bike Share operator.</p> <p>A series of performance indicators have been included in the operational plan of the operator and these will be monitored on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Disability information will be included in the welcome pack that subscribers to the scheme will receive.</p> <p>Monitoring data will include information about the uptake of the scheme from different groups.</p>

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened

Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	equality of opportunity and good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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"/>	*Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
--------------------------	--

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>*Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)</p> <p>Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:</p> <p>The design and the colour of the bikes are not yet decided and are subject to the potential sponsor of the scheme. It is important that the design and colour of the bikes takes into consideration the symbolism of political opinions and will have a 'neutral' appearance. The decision about sponsorship will be in line with Council's policies regarding specific products.</p> <p>Members of IMTAC and Disability Action were consulted in the stakeholder workshops. They attended site visits and influenced the locations for the docking stations.</p> <p>A range of issues were discussed and the consultation is ongoing. Considerations such as mobility issues and the potential of introducing special bikes such as trikes will continuously influence the development of the scheme.</p>
-------------------------------------	---



* **Screened Out** - Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)

- Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:
- Explain what mitigating actions and / or policy changes will now be introduced:

Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Sabine Kalke, Project Sponsor

Date: 13/05/2014

Department Property & Projects

Signature:

Screening decision approved by -

Name: Gerry Millar

Date: 15/05/2014

Department / Job Title: Director Property & Projects

Signature:

Please save the final version of the completed screening form and forward to the Equality and Diversity Officer – gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk / dennisl@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

gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk / dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk