



Equality Screening Template

The Connswater Community Greenway Programme

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 / 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:-

Connswater Community Greenway Programme

Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

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

The Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) is a major environmental improvement project in East Belfast. It will create a 'living landmark' of a 9km linear park following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers; build new and improved bridges and crossings and 16kms of cycle and walkways; improve 5km of river banks; and create a new civic square at Hollywood Arches. The scheme also incorporates £11million of flood alleviation works.

BCC is contributing £4 million to the delivery of the £40 million scheme as part of the Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015.

The construction of the Greenway commenced in Summer 2013 and includes two phases. Phase 1 (Orangefield and Victoria Parks) will be delivered by Summer 2014 with the remaining Greenway sections envisaged to be complete by the end of 2016. To facilitate compliance with the funding requirements that the community greenway be accessible at all times for 40 years, BCC has agreed to manage and maintain the scheme once delivered.

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

(What is the policy trying to achieve?)

The Connswater Community Greenway will connect the open and green spaces and reconnect the rivers with the local communities. It will create a vibrant, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation and community events and activities, The CCG vision is to develop a safe, accessible, sustainable greenway which is an inspirational living landmark that improves the quality of life for the people of East Belfast, now and for future generations.

The key objectives identified for the CCG are to:

- Improve the access, safety and quality of green and open space in East Belfast for the people of this community, improving the living environment for present and future generations.

- Remediate the Connswater River system and transform the rivers into community assets for East Belfast.
- Increase the pedestrian and cycle facilities and links in East Belfast and provide alternative and healthier transport options.
- Improve health and well-being through providing a better living environment and enhanced exercise and recreation opportunities, accessible by all.
- Provide vision, resources, hope and a sense of pride and identity for communities in East Belfast.
- Build and strengthen relationships between fragmented local communities.
- Develop connections and linkages between buildings, people and places in East Belfast.
- Provide space for walking trails, heritage trails, public art and an environment in which wildlife can thrive.
- Realise the potential of the river as an educational asset for current and future generation

On whom will the policy / decision impact?

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



Staff



service users



other public sector organizations



voluntary / community groups / trade unions



others, please specify - general public/local residents of East Belfast

Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

Yes. The governance framework in place to ensure the successful deliver of the CCG Programme is underpinned by the principles of partnership working and is represented by officers from East Belfast Partnership, BCC, and other funding bodies.

East Belfast Partnership both developed the CCG concept, and secured the funding including £23.5m from the Big Lottery's' Living Landmarks Programme to enable it's delivery. BCC is now the grant holder and works in partnership with EBP to deliver the scheme.

In addition to £4million support through BCC's Investment Programme, funding is also in place from the Department of Social Development (DSD) £3m and the Department of Agriculture and Regional Development's Rivers Agency. In line with the scheme DRD's Rivers Agency is taking forward a £11million Flood Alleviation Scheme to provide increased protection to properties and businesses near to the Knock, Loop and Connswater river courses that are at risk from river and tidal flooding.

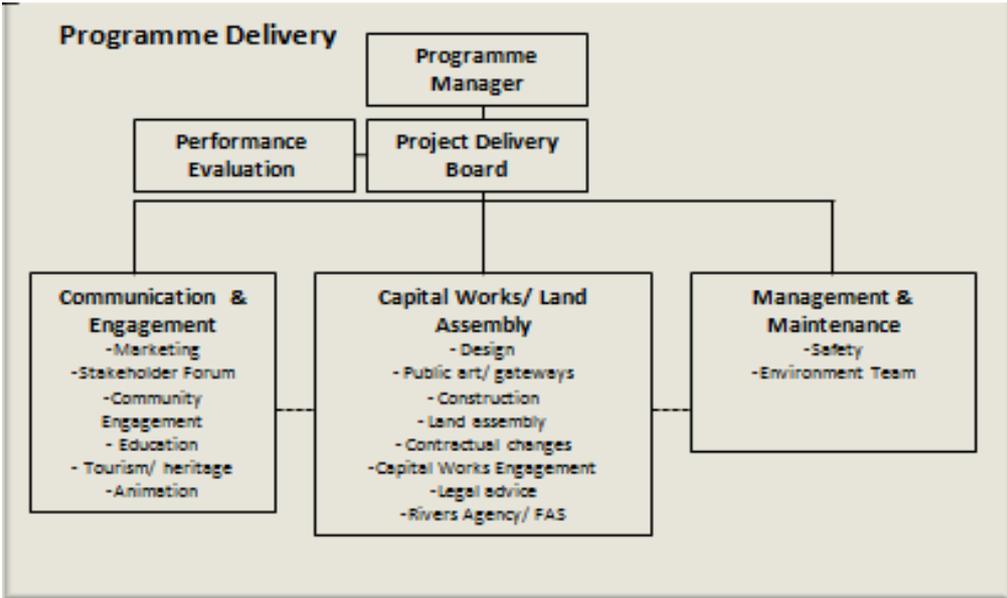
Section B

1. Outline consultation process achieved or planned

The Connswater Community Greenway has been a community led from the outset. East Belfast Partnership (EBP) developed the initial concept to create a linear park through East Belfast connecting people and places from Castlereagh Hills to Belfast Lough along the Connswater, Knock and Loop rivers; and in 2009 secured a £23.5 million grant towards its delivery after a successful bid to the BIG Lottery Living Landmarks awards initiative. In their assessment, the judges considered the Greenway as the best submission of over 300 entries, with only three receiving funding. The project has since won an RTPI award for sustainable planning and BURA awards for the masterplan and partnership approach.

In 2010, to ensure a reduction of the overall risks associated with this major project, it was agreed that BCC take over as employer of the main Connswater Greenway contract with EBP remaining as primary community interface.

The current governance structure for the overall Programme (illustrated below) reflects its three main strand. In addition to ‘Capital Works’ it includes ‘Management and Maintenance’ which is led by BCC Parks and Leisure Department, and ‘Communication and Engagement’ which is led by East Belfast Partnership.



A ‘Communication and Engagement Sub-Group’ has been established to take ‘the later’ work stream forward. Activities set out in the ‘communication and engagement

plan' ensure the planning and the delivery of the capital works is informed, supported and linked into the local community; and ultimately where possible that local needs are met, community ownership fostered, and benefits for local people maximised.

Specific consultation exercises on the CCG scheme carried out to-date includes:

- A community consultation exercise carried out by Blue Print Consultancy in 2013/2014, to ascertain the views of stakeholders and local residents on the design and use of the CCG scheme, and specifically the intended opening/lighting of the spine of the CCG 24 hrs a day;
- The 'Name the Bridge' public consultation/competition process for the footbridge in Victoria Park (Summer 2013);
- As part of DoE Planning Service's determination of the CCG capital works planning application in 2008, through a public advert in the local press, they invited written comment on the development proposal.
- Ongoing community engagement and consultation (inc local surveys) as part of the PARC (Physical Activity and the Rejuvenation of Connswater) Study, carried out by The UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI) which constitutes a 'before and after' assessment of the impact of the CCG on the physical activity, health and wellbeing of the local population in East Belfast. Summaries of QUB findings are accessible via the CCG project website.
- During the project development phase 2007 / 2008 an extensive community engagement exercise was undertaken, led by EBCDA (East Belfast Community Development Association) the umbrella organisation for community groups, enabling the community to input and influence the design. Community groups remain engaged and informed via the community ebulletin and CCG stakeholder forum.

Numerous community events and activities have been delivered to date to link people into the developing scheme, and include: charity events, walks and talks, community led activities supported by the CCG team, organised cycles, schools visits, and rambles for people with disabilities.

Ongoing engagement activities includes:

- Quarterly, community and public stakeholder meetings and newssheets
- Establishment of CCG outreach centres throughout catchment area
- Hosting of information sessions on design proposals etc

- Local meetings held for specific groups (park friends groups, local residences businesses, emergency services and other statutory agencies).
- Focused engagement with local politicians (breakfast briefings etc)
- Regular stories in City Matters, Bloom Magazine, East Belfast Extra, other newspapers.
- A strong social media presence, working with key stakeholders, including competitions and campaigns
- A programme of festivals, events and the development of self guided trails

More information on community engagement relating to the Connswater Community Greenway scheme, including copies of published articles, can be found on the Connswater Community Greenway website: www.communitygreenway.co.uk

A 6 monthly report on communications and engagement is available on request.

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*

From the outset, the development of the CCG scheme has been informed by ongoing community engagement, consultation and research delivered, commissioned and coordinated by East Belfast Partnership. Specific research papers include:

- Health Impact Assessment of the bid to the Big Lottery for the Connswater Community Greenway in East Belfast (2007)
- Community consultation report prepared by EBCDA (2007)
- User group surveys undertaken by QUB (2007)
- Ongoing PARC Study (*of impacts of the CCG on physical activity and the healthy of the local population in East Belfast*) research findings including: Potential Cost

Effectiveness of the Physical Activity Loyalty Card Scheme; Cost Effectiveness of the Greenway; Walkability index

- We have installed a people / cycle counter to enable us to monitor use of the Sam Thompson Bridge on a daily basis since opening 04/04/2014.
- We undertook an observational study (SOPARC) 2010 looking at how the spaces and parks are used by people and for what purpose.

More information can be found at www.communitygreenway.co.uk

East Belfast

On census day 2011, the usually resident population of East Belfast was 92,221.

- 18.52% of which were aged under 16 years old and 17.38 were aged 65 and over, with 39 being the average age of the population.
- 47.80% of the usually resident population were male and 52.2% were female.
- 97.14% were from the white (inc Irish Traveller) ethnic group.
- 12.7% were brought up in the Catholic religion, with 75% brought up in Protestant or Other Christian.
- 70.36% indicated British national identity, 9.62% Irish national identity, with 29.94% indicating a Northern Irish national identity (*respondents could indicate more than one national identity*).
- 22.29% had long-term health problems or disability that limited their day to day activities.
- 8.34% lived in lone parent households with dependent children

Section 75 category	Details of evidence / information and engagement
Religious belief	None directly applicable
Political opinion	None directly applicable
Racial group	None directly applicable

Age	None directly applicable
Marital status	None directly applicable
Sexual orientation	None directly applicable
Men & women generally	None directly applicable
Disability	None directly applicable
Dependants	None directly 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	It is our belief based on the evidence that there would be no likely impact based solely on religious belief.	None
Political opinion	It is our belief based on the evidence that there would be no likely impact based solely on political opinion.	None
Racial group	It is our belief based on the evidence that there would be no likely impact based solely on political opinion.	None
Age	It is our belief based on the evidence that there would be no likely impact based solely on age.	None

Marital status	It is our belief, based on the evidence, that there would be no likely impact based solely on marital status.	None
Sexual orientation	It is our belief, based on the evidence, that there would be no likely impact based solely on sexual orientation.	None
Men and women generally	It is our belief, based on the evidence, that there would be no likely impact based solely on gender	None
Disability	It is our belief, based on the evidence, that there would be no likely impact based solely on disability.	None
Dependants	It is our belief based on the evidence that there would be no likely impact based solely on those with dependants.	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		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of their religious beliefs.
Political opinion		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of their political opinion.

Racial group		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of their religious groups.
Age		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of their age.
Marital status		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of their marital status.
Sexual orientation		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of their sexual orientation.
Men and women generally		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG is being maximised for men and women generally.
Disability		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and make use of the CCG is being maximised for people who have a disability.
Dependants		It is our belief that equality of opportunity to access and

		make use of the CCG will be the same for people regardless of whether or not they have dependants.
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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	As the CCG is to be a shared space it is our belief that there would be no likely impact based solely on religious belief as the CCG will be accessible to all.	None
Political opinion	As the CCG is to be a shared space it is our belief that there would be no likely impact based solely on political opinion as the CCG will be accessible to all.	None
Racial group	As the CCG is to be a shared space it is our belief that there would be no likely impact based solely on racial group as the CCG will be accessible to all.	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		In the scope of the current activity, it is our belief that there are no further opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different

		religious belief.
Political opinion		In the scope of the current activity, it is our belief that there are no further opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different political opinion.
Racial group		In the scope of the current activity, it is our belief that there are no further opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different racial group.

7. Multiple Identities

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

Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

None Identified

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

The CCG will make the parks and routes along the courses of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers accessible to all, and therefore there will be equality of opportunity for people with disabilities to benefit from use of the asset. It is our belief that the scope of BCC's current activities on the scheme, do not provide an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.

- 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

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

Yes - as the Connswater Community Greenway scheme will improve, as well as create new, cycling and walking paths and bridges/crossings (all of which will be DDA compliant where possible), by its very nature, it will provide people with disabilities the opportunity to actively increase their participation in public life in East Belfast.

In regards to specific design considerations, all environmental improvements throughout the scheme will have 'high contrast finishes' with the purpose of benefiting people with visual impairments by drawing attention to changes in gradients/levels and furniture etc. Specific examples include:

- Light concrete path against the darker grass/ ground surrounding
- Light colour kerbs at junctions with darker materials to signify change in level
- Contrast edging/ nosing to steps to signify change in level

- High contrast strips in benches and bollards.

In addition, all 'interpretive signage' along the CCG will be compliant with the Equality Act [Disability] 2013 and will fully reflect accessibility design considerations set out within the Environment Agency's 'Access for All' design guide. This will ensure that they specifically reflect the needs of: wheelchair users and the mobility impaired (e.g. in regards to the height of graphics, identification of path grading on maps etc); people with learning difficulties (e.g. in regards to content and spacing of text and use of pictorial information etc); and the partially sighted (e.g in regards to text font and size, colour of graphics etc).

Lighting has been introduced along the spine of the Greenway which will remain open and lit 24/7.

Numerous crossings are being introduced along the CCG, controlled and uncontrolled, to support access and use of the greenway by all user groups.

A Management and Maintenance Action Plan for the Greenway has been developed by BCC Parks Services who are responsible for the CCG in the long-term. Any unforeseen barriers to accessibility identified in the future will be addressed by BCC Parks Service through this Action Plan.

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
Data gathered as part of the as part of the CCG PARC study's baseline assessment will allow us to monitor any impacts here. Periodic evaluations are carried out to monitor and	(as before)	(as before)

<p>measure overall CCG progress, which may potentially identify any unanticipated impacts in regards to BCC's equality, good relations & disability duties.</p>		
<p>Number of complaints /feedback received</p>	<p><i>(as before)</i></p>	<p><i>(as before)</i></p>

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened

The Connswater Community Greenway Programme

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
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	* Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In the scope of the current activity, it is our belief that there are no adverse impact on any Section 75 group.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	* Screened Out - Mitigating Actions (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:
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Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Eiméar Vance

Date: 11th August 2013

Department: Parks and Leisure

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

Screening decision approved by -

Name: Rose Crozier

Date: 11th August 2013

Department/ Job Title: Assistant Director Parks & Leisure

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 – gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk or 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*)

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