

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Proposed Notice of Motion seeking to direct Council management to prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project and give consideration to alternative sites.
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Revised
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	This relates to the Newry Civic Centre element of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project. The aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites such as the former LIDL site at Bagenal's Castle that came on the market in December 2023.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	No
If so, explain how.	
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	This relates to a proposed Notice of Motion to be considered
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Council is responsible for implementing decisions agreed.

Implementation factors

	Yes	No
Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?	X	
If yes, are they Financial	X	
If yes, are they Legislative	X	
If yes, and they are Other please specify:	Stakeholder and technical	

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

	Yes	No
Staff	X	
Service users		X
Other public sector organisations		X
Voluntary/community/trade unions		X
Other, please specify:		

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	N/A
Who owns them	N/A

Available evidence

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

The previous equality screening of the Newry City Centre Regeneration Project carried out in February 2022 set out the details of the consultation and engagement process undertaken by Otium Leisure Consultancy in relation to the current proposals for the regeneration of Newry City Centre.

Survey respondents were asked; *'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'*

A workshop specifically targeting representative regional groups for each of the Section 75 categories listed above was organised as part of the consultation process, however, those organisations which wished to comment chose to respond to the online survey in lieu of attending the workshop.

A total of 262 respondents addressed this question, of which 39 responded no, none or not applicable. The majority of comments were

general in nature and did not relate to specific Section 75 categories or to the implications of these proposals for rural residents. Worthy of note however is the fact that among these more general comments there is a call for better engagement to reinvigorate relationships between stakeholders such as local businesses and the council, and the fact that almost 10% of respondents (24) felt the proposals would lead to an increase in cross border travel and trade.

A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.

A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people’s ability to worship.

One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities																							
Religious belief	<table border="1" data-bbox="389 1319 1417 1632"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="389 1319 564 1435">LGD</th> <th data-bbox="564 1319 743 1435">All usual residents</th> <th data-bbox="743 1319 903 1435">Catholic</th> <th data-bbox="903 1319 1102 1435">Protestant and other Christian</th> <th data-bbox="1102 1319 1272 1435">Other religions</th> <th data-bbox="1272 1319 1417 1435">None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 1435 564 1514">Northern Ireland</td> <td data-bbox="564 1435 743 1514">1,903,178</td> <td data-bbox="743 1435 903 1514">869,753 (45.7%)</td> <td data-bbox="903 1435 1102 1514">827,545 (43.5%)</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1435 1272 1514">28,514 (1.5%)</td> <td data-bbox="1272 1435 1417 1514">177,360 (9.3%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 1514 564 1632">Newry, Mourne & Down</td> <td data-bbox="564 1514 743 1632">182,074</td> <td data-bbox="743 1514 903 1632">131,300 (72.1%)</td> <td data-bbox="903 1514 1102 1632">39,970 (22.0%)</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1514 1272 1632">1,327 (0.7%)</td> <td data-bbox="1272 1514 1417 1632">9,477 (5.2%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="389 1632 815 1675">(Source: Census Data 2021).</p>	LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian	Other religions	None	Northern Ireland	1,903,178	869,753 (45.7%)	827,545 (43.5%)	28,514 (1.5%)	177,360 (9.3%)	Newry, Mourne & Down	182,074	131,300 (72.1%)	39,970 (22.0%)	1,327 (0.7%)	9,477 (5.2%)					
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Political opinion	<p data-bbox="389 1776 1369 1845">Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area.</p> <p data-bbox="389 1890 1369 1924">The party breakdown of the Council’s elected members is as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="389 1966 1062 2033"> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 1966 938 2000">Sinn Féin</td> <td data-bbox="938 1966 1062 2000">20 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="389 2000 938 2033">SDLP</td> <td data-bbox="938 2000 1062 2033">8 seats</td> </tr> </table>						Sinn Féin	20 seats	SDLP	8 seats														
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	<p>Independents 2 seats Democratic Unionist 5 seats Ulster Unionist 1 seats Alliance 5 seats</p> <p>Councillors are elected within seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) across the Council area. With respect to party political representation, democratic deficits exist within particular DEAs i.e three DEAs have no PUL Councillor representation (Newry, Crotlieve and Downpatrick), two DEAs have one PUL (Slieve Croob and Slieve Gullion) Councillor and, one DEA has one CNR (Rowallane).</p>																																																												
Racial group	<p>According to the 2021 Census, 3.4% (65,604) of the usually resident population of Northern Ireland belongs to minority ethnic groups. This is almost double the proportion in 2011 (1.8%).</p> <p>The minority ethnic language profile within the area serves as a possible indicator of the BME community profile. The composition of language groups in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area is noted by NISRA (2021) as follows:</p> <p>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="389 1077 1375 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>English</td><td>168,408</td><td>96.1</td></tr> <tr><td>Polish</td><td>2,143</td><td>1.22</td></tr> <tr><td>Lithuanian</td><td>1,149</td><td>0.66</td></tr> <tr><td>Irish</td><td>553</td><td>0.32</td></tr> <tr><td>Romanian</td><td>347</td><td>0.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Portuguese</td><td>119</td><td>0.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Arabic</td><td>170</td><td>0.09</td></tr> <tr><td>Bulgarian</td><td>677</td><td>0.39</td></tr> <tr><td>Chinese (not otherwise specified)</td><td>70</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr><td>Slovak</td><td>98</td><td>0.05</td></tr> <tr><td>Hungarian</td><td>106</td><td>0.06</td></tr> <tr><td>Spanish</td><td>77</td><td>0.04</td></tr> <tr><td>Latvian</td><td>279</td><td>0.15</td></tr> <tr><td>Russian</td><td>180</td><td>0.10</td></tr> <tr><td>Tetun</td><td>22</td><td>0.01</td></tr> <tr><td>Malayalam</td><td>51</td><td>0.03</td></tr> <tr><td>Tagalog/Filipino</td><td>44</td><td>0.03</td></tr> <tr><td>Cantonese</td><td>38</td><td>0.02</td></tr> <tr><td>Other languages</td><td>711</td><td>0.41</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD	Number	Percentage %	English	168,408	96.1	Polish	2,143	1.22	Lithuanian	1,149	0.66	Irish	553	0.32	Romanian	347	0.2	Portuguese	119	0.06	Arabic	170	0.09	Bulgarian	677	0.39	Chinese (not otherwise specified)	70	0.04	Slovak	98	0.05	Hungarian	106	0.06	Spanish	77	0.04	Latvian	279	0.15	Russian	180	0.10	Tetun	22	0.01	Malayalam	51	0.03	Tagalog/Filipino	44	0.03	Cantonese	38	0.02	Other languages	711	0.41
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	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years Census 2021	8,912 (6.3%)	96,384 (6.4%)																
Sexual orientation	<p>Analysis of the Census 2021 indicates that between 2% and 10% of the population may be lesbian, gay or bisexual.</p> <p>There are no official statistics in relation to the number of gay, lesbian or bisexual people in Northern Ireland. However, research conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5% - 7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgendered and transvestite) (LGBT). This is a sizeable proportion of the population here in Northern Ireland.</p>																		
Men and women generally	<p>The gender profile for the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LGD</th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>936,132</td> <td>967,043</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry, Mourne and Down LGD</td> <td>90,063</td> <td>92,011</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Census 2021</p>			LGD	Male	Female	Northern Ireland	936,132	967,043	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	90,063	92,011							
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	<p>Ireland than any other part of the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 7 people in Northern Ireland have some form of hearing loss • 5,000 sign language users who use British Sign Language (BSL) and/or Irish Sign Language (ISL) • In Northern Ireland there are 57,000 blind people or people with significant visual impairment • 52,000 people with learning disabilities <p>(Source: Disability Action)</p>
Dependants	<p>Persons with dependants may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and / or a dependent older person.</p> <p>According to the Census 2021, there are 68,396 households in Newry, Mourne and Down, 33.9% of which have dependent children. With regard to these figures, dependents are defined as those aged 0-15 years or those aged 16-18 years who are in full-time education and living with their parents or grandparents. Similar to the regional trend, the proportion of households with dependents in the District has declined from 50% in 1981 to 33.9% in 2021.</p> <p>There are 5,639 lone parent households with dependent children in Newry, Mourne and Down which equates to just over 8% of number of total households in the District and is the fourth highest in Northern Ireland, after Belfast (17,292), Derry and Strabane (7,639) and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (6,556). Half of the parents in lone parent households in Newry, Mourne and Down are unemployed, almost a quarter are in full time employment and over a quarter are in part time employment. 93% of the parents in lone parent households in the District are female compared to 11% who are male.</p> <p>In 2019-21, the teenage birth rate (under 20 years old) was 6.5 per 1,000 mothers, which is the fourth highest in Northern Ireland after Belfast (11.4); Antrim & Newtownabbey (6.9) and Mid and East Antrim (6.8) but below the regional average of 6.8 per 1,000 births.</p>

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
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Religious belief	<p>As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites.</p> <p>Should Council agree to the notice of motion consideration should be given to the details of the consultation and engagement process undertaken by Otium Leisure Consultancy in relation to the current proposals for the regeneration of Newry City Centre.</p> <p>Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Maintaining car parking / accessibility to places of worship within the immediate area.</p>
Political opinion	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Racial group	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Age	As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project

	<p>with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites.</p> <p>Should Council agree to the notice of motion consideration should be given to the details of the consultation and engagement process undertaken by Otium Leisure Consultancy in relation to the current proposals for the regeneration of Newry City Centre.</p> <p>Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Creating age friendly environments / facilities.</p>
Marital status	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Sexual orientation	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Men and women generally	No adverse effect on needs, experience or priorities.
Disability	As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff

	<p>only, and give consideration to alternative sites.</p> <p>Should Council agree to the notice of motion consideration should be given to the details of the consultation and engagement process undertaken by Otium Leisure Consultancy in relation to the current proposals for the regeneration of Newry City Centre. Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p> <p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Maintaining access to services and create environments / facilities capable of being accessed and enjoyed by people with disabilities.</p>
Dependants	<p>As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites.</p> <p>Should Council agree to the notice of motion consideration should be given to the details of the consultation and engagement process undertaken by Otium Leisure Consultancy in relation to the current proposals for the regeneration of Newry City Centre. Survey respondents were asked; <i>'If you feel there are equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs implications associated with the Newry City Centre Regeneration Programme, please tell us more.'</i></p>

	<p>A total of 12 responses felt there was a potential adverse impact related to age. In the main these comments were about older people and related to the removal of parking at the cathedral which is used by this age group to access services at the cathedral and the city centre. However, reference was also made to meeting the needs of children and young people through the proposals.</p> <p>A total of 10 responses identified concerns about an adverse impact on the basis of religion, again related to the proposed reduction in parking availability at the cathedral and the impact of this on people's ability to worship.</p> <p>One respondent raised concerns about the impact of a reduction in parking availability on those with young dependents and a further two respondents were concerned about the impact on those with a disability.</p> <p>Key needs, experiences and priorities identified - Maintaining car parking / accessibility to car parking for people with dependants.</p>
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Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds?

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Major/minor/none
Religious belief	Should Council agree to action the notice of motion consideration should be given to the potential policy impact of the currently agreed proposal which related to perceived impact of car parking availability near to places of worship.	Minor
Political opinion	No adverse impact.	
Racial group	No adverse impact.	
Age	Should Council agree to action the notice of motion consideration should be given to the potential	

	policy impact of the currently agreed proposal which related to creating age friendly environments / facilities.	
Marital status	No adverse impact.	
Sexual orientation	No adverse impact.	
Men and women generally	No adverse impact.	
Disability	Should Council agree to action the notice of motion consideration should be given to the potential policy impact of the currently agreed proposal which related to perceived impact of the availability of accessible car parking and maintaining access to services and create environments / facilities capable of being accessed and enjoyed by people with disabilities.	
Dependants	Should Council agree to action the notice of motion consideration should be given to the potential policy impact of the currently agreed proposal which related to perceived impact of the availability of maintaining access to services and create environments / facilities capable of being accessed and enjoyed by people with dependants.	

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious belief		As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		

Sexual orientation		of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites.
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		
		No specific opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories have been identified at this stage.

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Major/minor/none
Religious belief	<p>As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites.</p> <p>Should Council agree to action the notice of motion consideration should be given to the potential policy impact of the currently agreed proposal which related to perceived impact on car parking availability near to places of worship.</p>	Minor
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

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 details
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Religious belief		<p>As stated, the aim of the proposed notice of motion is seeking Council to reconsider its current proposal related to the location of the Newry Civic Centre and to agree that management prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project with suitable office accommodation for Newry-based council staff only, and give consideration to alternative sites.</p> <p>No specific opportunities to better promote good relations have been identified at this stage.</p>
Political opinion		
Racial group		

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? (For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

None

Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should (please underline one):

1. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)
3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time

4. Be subject to an EQIA

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

The decision of the equality screening of the proposed Notice of Motion seeking to direct Council management to prepare a costing for Councillors of a downsized Newry Civic Centre project and to identify potential alternative sites is that it not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required). This is based on the fact that Council have not at this stage agreed to the actions set out within the notice of motion. Should Council agree to action the notice of motion consideration should be given to the potential impact of any options developed for consideration.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy? Yes / No. If No, please explain why

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4, is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	

Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

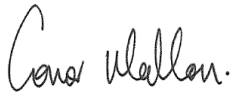
Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

N/A

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Colin Moffett	Head of Corporate Policy	15 May 2024
Approved by:		
	Director Economy, Regeneration and Tourism	15 May 2024

Note: The completed policy screening template, signed off by the appropriate policy lead within the Council, and approved by the senior manager responsible for the policy, should be forwarded to the Head of Corporate Policy who will arrange for it to be included in the Council's Quarterly Report on Screening and made available on the Council's website.