

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Policy Screening Form

Policy Information

Name of the policy	Church Street & De Courcy Place Public Realm Scheme
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	New Scheme
What is it trying to achieve (aims/outcomes)	<p>The purpose of this Scheme is to provide urban environmental improvements, which will comprise of the installation of new paving and kerbing on the footways. New decorative street lighting, street furniture, tree planting and the under-grounding of overhead services are also proposed as part of the scheme.</p> <p>Its aim is to provide this physical regeneration investment into this historic part of Downpatrick.</p>
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	This proposed project will have a direct impact upon people with a disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people.
If so, explain how.	The current streetscape has not had investment in over 20 years and is very hazardous in regards, uneven pavement surfaces, lack of tactiles at crossings and poor lighting throughout. Upgrading these obvious issues, will directly benefit some of the core Section 75 groups, especially regarding mobility.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	Seamus Crossey, Project Manager (ERT)
Who owns and who implements the policy?	Conor Mallon, Director of Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism

Implementation factors

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

Main stakeholders affected

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

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

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they	Church Street & De Courcy Place PR Scheme – Outline Business Case
Who owns them	The Appraisal was completed on behalf of Newry Mourne & Down District Council (NMDDC) and the Department For Communities (DFC) and used as the basis for obtaining Funding for the project.

Available evidence

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

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities					
Religious belief	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%)
	(Source: Census Data 2021).					
Political opinion	Elected political party representation is an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within the Council area. The party breakdown of the Council’s elected members is as follows:					

	<div><div>Sinn Féin20 seats</div><div>SDLP8 seats</div><div>Democratic Unionist5 seats</div><div>Alliance5 seats</div><div>Independents2 seats</div><div>Ulster Unionist1 seats</div></div> <div>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).</div>																																																									
Racial group	<div>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%).</div> <div>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:</div> <div><div>Minority Ethnic Language Profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD Area</div><table><tr><td>Main language of residents in Newry, Mourne and Down District LGD</td><td>Number</td><td>Percentage %</td></tr><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></table></div>	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
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	Other languages	711	0.41
Age	According to the 2021 Census, the age profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down LGD is as follows:		
	Age Profile	NI	Newry, Mourne & Down
	0-4	113,825	11,722
	5-7	73,456	7,693
	8-9	51,020	5,259
	10-14	126,919	13,151
	15	23,220	2,254
	16-17	46,641	4,923
	18-19	43,343	4,024
	20-24	111,383	10,022
	25-29	116,407	10,354
	30-44	375,518	34,970
	45-59	381,910	36,612
	60-64	113,043	10,755
	65-74	176,934	16,922
	75-84	110,149	9,872
	85-89	25,877	2,344
	90+	13,517	1,191
Marital status	The table below provides an overview of the marital status profile of the Newry, Mourne and Down area:		
	Marital Status	Newry, Mourne and Down LGD	NI
	All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	141,996	1,514,743
	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership) Aged 16+ years	52,128 (36.71%)	576,708 (38.07%)
	Married: Aged 16+ years	68,076 (47.94%)	690,509 (45.59%)
	In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	201 (0.14%)	2,742 (0.18%)
	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	4,975 (3.50%)	57,272 (3.78%)
	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil	7,704 (5.43%)	91,128 (6.02%)

	partnership which is now legally dissolved																	
	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	8,912 (6.28%)	96,384 (6.36%)															
	Census 2021																	
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><tr><td>LGD</td><td>Male</td><td>Female</td></tr><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></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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Northern Ireland	936,132	967,043																
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Disability	<p>According to the 2021 Census 22.88% of people in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area has a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities.</p> <table><tr><td>LGD</td><td>All usual residents</td><td>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot</td><td>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little</td><td>Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Ireland</td><td>1,903,179</td><td>217,964 (11.45%)</td><td>245,057 (12.88%)</td><td>1,440,158 (75.67%)</td></tr><tr><td>Newry, Mourne and Down</td><td>182,074</td><td>19,789 (10.87%)</td><td>21,868 (12.01%)</td><td>140,417 (77.13%)</td></tr></table> <p>In Northern Ireland the profile of people with a disability is cited as follows:</p>			LGD	All usual residents	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited	Northern Ireland	1,903,179	217,964 (11.45%)	245,057 (12.88%)	1,440,158 (75.67%)	Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	19,789 (10.87%)	21,868 (12.01%)	140,417 (77.13%)
LGD	All usual residents	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Long-term health problem or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited														
Northern Ireland	1,903,179	217,964 (11.45%)	245,057 (12.88%)	1,440,158 (75.67%)														
Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	19,789 (10.87%)	21,868 (12.01%)	140,417 (77.13%)														

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population in Northern Ireland has a disability The incidence of disability is higher in Northern Ireland than any other part of the UK • 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 dependents 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 68,387 households in Newry, Mourne and Down, 32% of which have dependents. 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 37.5% in 2011 to 32% in 2021.</p> <p>There are 5,638 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 (17,290), Derry and Strabane (7,638) and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (6,556). Half of the parents in lone parent household 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 are female compared to 7% who are male.</p> <p>In 2015-17, the teenage conception rate (under 17 years old) was 0.73 per 1,000 mothers, which is the third lowest in Northern Ireland after Fermanagh and Omagh (0.56) and Mid Ulster (0.0).</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
Religious belief	While the policy will positively directly impact upon people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, it is not envisaged that people of different religious belief have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Political opinion	While the policy will positively directly impact upon people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, it is not envisaged that people of different political opinion have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Racial group	While the policy will positively directly impact upon people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, it is not envisaged that people of different racial group have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Age	The policy has potential to directly impact upon people of different age (older people and young people).
Marital status	While the policy will directly impact upon people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, it is not envisaged that people of different marital status have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Sexual orientation	While the policy will positively directly impact upon people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, it is not envisaged that people of different sexual orientation have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Men and women generally	While the policy will positively directly impact upon people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, it is not envisaged that men and women have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy.
Disability	People with disability, including people with visual impairment or mobility issues, will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to this policy. Sections 5.4 and 6.9 outline information on additional factors and safety of pedestrians to be taken into consideration in making decisions.
Dependants	The policy has potential to directly impact upon people with dependents (families and carers).

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		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None
Age		Minor - As noted, Council acknowledges people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to the outworking of this scheme. Having consulted directly with the Community, Scheme Consultants and Transport Authorities during the Concept Design & Planning Stage, Council have worked with its partners to ensure that many of the suggestions put forward by way of maximising mobility will be delivered upon.
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		None
Men and women generally		None
Disability		Minor - As noted, Council acknowledges people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to the outworking of this scheme. Having consulted directly with the Community, Scheme Consultants and Transport

		Authorities during the Concept Design & Planning Stage, Council have worked with its partners to ensure that many of the suggestions put forward by way of maximising mobility will be delivered upon.
Dependants		Minor - As noted, Council acknowledges people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to the outworking of this scheme. Having consulted directly with the Community, Scheme Consultants and Transport Authorities during the Concept Design & Planning Stage, Council have worked with its partners to ensure that many of the suggestions put forward by way of maximising mobility will be delivered upon.

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		No. This is a Public Realm Scheme and cannot assist in this category.
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No
Age	As noted, Council acknowledges people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, will have	

	specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to the outworking of this scheme. Having consulted directly with the Community, Scheme Consultants, Scheme Contractor & its Supply Chain, Transport Authorities and Sustrans NI during the Concept Design / Planning Stage / Onsite Design & Build Stage, Council have worked with its partners to ensure that many of the suggestions put forward by way of maximising mobility will be delivered upon.	
Marital status		No
Sexual orientation		No
Men and women generally		No
Disability	As noted, Council acknowledges people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to the outworking of this scheme. Having consulted directly with the Community, Scheme Consultants and Transport Authorities during the Concept Design & Planning Stage, Council have worked with its partners to ensure that many of the suggestions put forward by way of maximising mobility will be delivered upon.	
Dependants	As noted, Council acknowledges people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people, will have specific needs / experiences / priorities in relation to the outworking of this scheme. Having consulted directly with the Community, Scheme Consultants and Transport Authorities during the Concept Design & Planning Stage, Council have worked with its partners to ensure that many of the suggestions put forward by way of maximising mobility will be delivered upon.	

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		None
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
Religious belief		No. This is a Public Realm Scheme and cannot assist in this category.
Political opinion		No. This is a Public Realm Scheme and cannot assist in this category.
Racial group		No. This is a Public Realm Scheme and cannot assist in this category.

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).

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:

Having screened the Warrenpoint Front Shore Public Realm Scheme, the decision is that it is not to be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)

The purpose of this Project is to improve the physical streetscape infrastructure along Warrenpoint Front Shore from Slieve Foy Place to Dock Street Junction. While other areas within the town (i.e. Queen Street / Church Street / The Square) have been brought up to an acceptable urban environment standard over this last decade, the Front Shore has missed out and is now long overdue for significant investment and regeneration.

The current status quo within the project area is one of uneven ponding pavements, with a patchwork quilt of surfaces, no tactiles at existing pedestrian crossing points, no pedestrian crossing points as key points, tree planters/poles/columns in the middle of pathways and poor-quality lighting standards throughout.

At the outset of the project the Council were well aware of the below standard streetscape environment they were faced with and through its consultants set about undertaking a detailed Concept Design process for a new Public Realm Scheme at this location. As part of the Concept Stage Council engaged directly with the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) as the main adopting authority regarding the pathways and lighting infrastructure in the area.

However, being mindful of the whole area of access and mobility within a modern urban environment, the Council directly engaged with a number of mobility umbrella groupings, to discuss the scheme with them. These groups were:

- RNIB (Northern Ireland)
- IMTAC
- Guide Dogs for the Blind

Having visited the proposed project area and held a Teams meeting to follow up, these above groupings put forward a variety of suggestions and recommendations that the final design should try to look at and take on board to ensure maximum mobility access for all. (See attached Appendix A)

This feedback was in turn discussed with the adopting authority (DFI) and on their recommendation the majority of the mobility suggestions were included in the final planning design drawings. Where some of the mobility suggestions could not be incorporated directly into the design:

- No works are planned further up Queens Street in terms of Disabled Bays
- The one-way system sits outside the scope of this project

Others such as installing a Controlled Crossing rather than an Uncontrolled Crossing are being taken forward.

In summary the Council has tried to ensure that key Section 75 groupings (people with disability, visual impairment, people with mobility issues, older people, families and carers and young people), will be impacted by this project in a positive way. Having worked closely with key mobility groupings as outlined above, important mitigation has been put in place to ensure that this scheme, delivers a modern urban environment within the confines of being situated in one of most exposed parts of Warrenpoint Sea Front.

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:

The project is currently going through the Design and Build Delivery period. All those that fed views through on the mobility aspects of the design will be kept up to speed on the resulting timescales and completion of the project.

Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Seamus Crossey	Project Manager	20 th December 2024
Approved by:		
Conor Mallon	Director of Economy Regeneration and Tourism.	17 th January 2025

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.