

Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

Screening Form

This EQIA screening report has been adapted by **Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council** Community Planning Manager from a screening report used to assess the Programme for Government. The contents of this report relate to the requirements contained within Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and will assist in determining the need for an EQIA for the **Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan**.

EQIA SCREENING REPORT

Legislative Requirement: The Development, implementation and monitoring of the Community Plan is a legislative function prescribed in the *Local Government Act (NI) 2014*.

Determination

An EQIA is not required because the Community Plan is a high-level document that has no differential impact on any section 75 group and no direct impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations. The impact of subsidiary action plans, strategies, policies and programmes will be considered separately at an appropriate level.

The Responsible Authority is Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Contact Officer: Catharine McWhirter, Community Planning Manager

Signed:.....Date: 15th December 2016

Background to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities designated for the purposes of the Act to comply with two statutory duties. The first duty is the **Equality of Opportunity Duty**, which requires public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.

The second duty, the **Good Relations Duty**, requires that public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 was intended to be transformative. Its aim was to change the practices of government and public authorities so that equality of opportunity and good relations are central to policy making, policy implementation, policy review and service delivery.

The duties on public authorities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations grew out of attempts to make the earlier non-statutory Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment (PAFT) initiative more effective, and from the agreement reached in the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland, that is The Belfast Agreement/Good Friday Agreement (the Agreement).

The Section 75 statutory duties make equality and good relations central to the whole range of public policy decision-making. Experience in Northern Ireland and elsewhere shows that questions of equality and good relations may easily become side-lined in organisations. More focused attention addresses this problem by requiring all public authorities to engage directly with equality and good relations issues through all stages of policy making and service delivery.

The Section 75 statutory duties aim to encourage public authorities to address inequalities and demonstrate measurable positive impact on the lives of people experiencing inequalities, through paying due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and paying regard to the desirability of promoting good relations. Its effective implementation should improve the quality of life for all the people of Northern Ireland.

Application of the screening criteria was applied with ‘Guidance for Implementing Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998’ from the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

Responsible Authority	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (as facilitator of the Community Plan)
Contact Address/ Person	Mrs Catharine McWhirter Community Planning Manager Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, BT27 4RL Tel: 028 9244 7513 Catharine.McWhirter@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk
Date of Screening	16 th December 2016
Title of Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan
Purpose of Plan	The Community Plan will be a strategic long-term plan for the geographical area of Lisburn & Castlereagh, which will inform the design and delivery of public services. The Plan will provide the framework for collaboration among a number of Community Planning Partners.
What Prompted the Plan (i.e. legislation, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Council has a legislative duty, under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 to ‘initiate, maintain, facilitate, and participate in Community Planning’. The Community Planning (Partners) Act requires statutory partners to participate and assist the Council in the discharge of its duties in relation to Community Planning. This is a new Plan.
Subject	Community Planning
Period covered by the Plan	10-15 years with a review of performance against outcomes published every two years and a review of the plan every four years.
Area covered by the Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh area (map attached at Appendix 1)
Summary of nature/ content of the Plan	The Community Plan will set out the long-term vision, desired outcomes and indicators for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. This will include: - Development of a baseline of the existing conditions in the area; - An integrated view of the social, economic and environmental needs of the area in the context of regional, national and European policies and strategies and taking account of communities and issues that extend into neighbouring council areas and jurisdictions;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long-term vision for the area; - Long-term outcomes against which progress can be monitored and evaluated via a set of indicators; - A focus on delivering in the short to medium term to achieve the long-term vision - Governance structure and delivery arrangements
<p>Are there any proposed Plan objectives? a. Are these attached?</p>	<p>Our plan will have five outcomes rather than objectives. The plan a page complete with outcomes and indicators is attached to the end of this document.</p>

Part 1: Plan screening

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or plan under consideration. The purpose of scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy or plan, being screened. At this stage, scoping will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Information on the plan Name of the plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan
Is the plan existing, revised or new?	New
What are the intended aims/outcomes of the plan?	
<p>By producing an outcomes focused Community Plan, Lisburn & Castlereagh will be an exciting, linked, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be. The Community Plan, will work towards the achievement of five outcomes:</p> <p>The Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan is built around five key outcomes under the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People. • The Economy. • Health and Wellbeing. • Where We Live. • Our Community. <p>The outcomes are important goals that are achievable over the 15 year lifetime of the plan and towards which the Partnership can make real and measurable progress in the short to medium term as well.</p>	
Are there are S.75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended plan?	
<p>No. The purpose of the Community Plan for the Lisburn & Castlereagh area is to ensure that the work of all community planning partners focuses on the achievement of better wellbeing outcomes for all citizens. While it is anticipated that this will result in increased effectiveness of the work of the partners in outcomes terms, there should be no differential positive or negative impacts on section 75 groups because of the implementation of the plan.</p>	
Who initiative or wrote the plan?	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Who owns and who implements the plan?	Lisburn & Castlereagh Strategic Community Planning Partnership

Evidence to inform the screening

1. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this plan? (Specify details for each section 75 category)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Big Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Big Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Racial group	Not applicable – The Big Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Age	<p>The Community Plan contains specific reference to making the Lisburn & Castlereagh area a great place for children and young people to grow up and for people to grow old.</p> <p>This reference acknowledges that the most efficient and effective approach to tackle many issues is to focus on early interventions, avoiding the potential for more serious adverse future impacts.</p> <p>Lisburn & Castlereagh has an aging population. This trend is projected to increase beyond 2030. Evidence shows that if you plan for older people you in effect plan for everyone.</p> <p>The intention of the Community Plan is therefore to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages, by giving them the support they need in early and later life.</p>
Marital status	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Men and women generally	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Disability	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Dependants	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group

2. What are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this plan? (Specify details for each section 75 category)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Racial group	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Age	<p>The Community Plan contains specific reference to making Lisburn & Castlereagh a place for “our children and young people to have the best start in life”. Also it refers to people “live healthy, fulfilling and long lives”.</p> <p>Lisburn & Castlereagh has an aging population. This trend is projected to increase beyond 2030. Evidence shows that if you plan for older people you in effect plan for everyone.</p> <p>The intention of the Community Plan is therefore to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages, by giving them the support they need in early and later life.</p>
Marital status	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Men and women generally	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Disability	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group
Dependants	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group

Part 2: Screening questions

3. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for this affected by this plan – major/minor/none? (Specify details for each section 75 category)

Section 75 Category	Details of impact	Level of impact
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Racial group	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Age	<p>The Community Plan contains specific reference to making Lisburn & Castlereagh a place for “our children and young people to have the best start in life”. Also it refers to people “live healthy, fulfilling and long lives”.</p> <p>Lisburn & Castlereagh has an aging population. This trend is projected to increase beyond 2030. Evidence shows that if you plan for older people you in effect plan for everyone.</p> <p>The intention of The Community Plan is therefore to improve wellbeing outcomes for people of all ages, by giving them the support they need in early and later life.</p>	None
Marital status	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Men and women generally	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Disability	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	None
Dependants	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	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	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Racial group	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Age	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Marital status	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Sexual orientation	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Men and women generally	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Disability	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	
Dependants	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group	

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

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no direct good relations impact	None
Political opinion	Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no direct good relations impact	None
Racial group	The Community Plan contains an overarching ambition to promote good relations	Minor positive impact

6. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial groups?

Good relations category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	No – The Community Plan has no direct good relations impact	
Political opinion	No – The Community Plan has no direct good relations impact	
Racial group	The Community Plan contains an overarching ambition to promote good relations	Minor positive impact

Additional considerations

- 7. 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?**

Not applicable – The Community Plan will have no differential impact on this section 75 group.

Part 3: Screening decision

The decision is that the Community Plan for Lisburn & Castlereagh does not require a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed.

8. If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.
The Community Plan for Lisburn & Castlereagh has no differential impact on any Section 75 group, and no direct impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations.
9. If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.
<p>By producing an outcomes focused Community Plan, Lisburn & Castlereagh will be an exciting, linked, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be. The Community Plan, will work towards the achievement of five outcomes:</p> <p>The Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan is built around five key outcomes under the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and Young People.• The Economy.• Health and Wellbeing.• Where We Live.• Our Community. <p>The outcomes are important goals that are achievable over the 15 year lifetime of the plan and towards which we can make real and measurable progress in the short to medium term as well.</p> <p>While this has no direct impact on equality or good relations it is anticipated that the impact of the Community Plan will be positive for individuals and groups benefitting from subsidiary action plan, strategies, policies and programmes. For this reason, it is not considered necessary to mitigate the impact of the exercise, or to bring forward and alternative plan.</p>
10. If the decision is to subject the plan to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.
Not applicable
11. Can the plan be amended or changed or an alternative plan introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? If so give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative plan.

Not applicable

Part 4 - Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Approved by:		