



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Equality and Diversity: Quarter 1 2022-23 Screening Outcome Report/ Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report 2021-22</b>
<b>Date:</b>	19th August, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Lisa McKee, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide the Committee with a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments from April – June 2022 and to submit for its approval the Council's Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for 2021-2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• note the contents of the screening outcome report for Quarter 1 2022-23;</li><li>• note the submission of the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return to DAERA, on a holding basis, subject to approval by the Committee and ratification by the Council; and</li><li>• approve the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return.</li></ul>

3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Council is required under its Equality Scheme to carry out screenings of new and revised policies. This allows any impacts related to equality of opportunity and/or good relations to be identified and addressed.</p>
3.2	<p>In addition, the Council has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 (“the Act”) to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions and is furthermore required under the Act to submit an annual report to DAERA. The rural population of Belfast is approximately 1,484 people comprising the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><u>Quarterly Screening Outcome Report – Quarter 1 2022-23</u></p> <p>An equality screening and rural needs impact assessment template is completed by the relevant officer, in collaboration with the Equality and Diversity Unit. On a regular basis, the Unit collates all completed templates into a screening outcome report and publishes onto the Council’s website along with the relevant completed templates. The current screening outcome report for Quarter 1 22-23 is attached at <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p><u>Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return</u></p> <p>The requirement to monitor and report under the Act has applied to all Northern Ireland departments and district councils since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. Under section 3 (1) of the Act, the Council is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1(1) of the Act;</li> <li>• Include that information in its annual report; and</li> <li>• Send that information to DAERA on the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return</li> </ul> <p>The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring return relating to the period April 21 - March 22 is set out at <b>Appendix 2</b>. The Council currently does not have an annual report. However, a copy of this return, together with the RNIAs mentioned therein will be published on the Council’s website.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>

3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The actions outlined contribute to the Council’s legal compliance regarding the promotion of equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Screening Outcome Report for Q1 22-23</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return 2021-2022</p>