



<b>Subject:</b>	Equality & Diversity: Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report Quarter 4 2023-24
<b>Date:</b>	24 May 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/ Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Bridgeen O'Neill, Equality & Diversity Support 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>Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for Quarter 4 2023-24.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report which will be published on the Council's website.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background</u>  As Members will be aware, the Council has a duty to have, under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to the nine equality categories; and</li> <li>• Regard to the desirability of promotion good relations</li> </ul> <p>In addition, under section 1 of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services.</li> </ul> <p>To this end, the Council has a process to carry out equality screening and rural needs assessment of new and revised policies. This allows any impacts related to equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs to be identified and addressed.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</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 4 2023-24 is attached at <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This report contributes to the Council’s compliance with section 75 or the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Rural Needs Act 2016.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<b>Appendix 1</b> – Screening Outcome Report for Quarter 4 2023-24.