

Equality Screening Template



The Council has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies, plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. This screening template is designed to help departments consider the likely equality impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training first. To find out about the training needed or any other queries on screening, contact the Equality and Diversity Officers (job-share) Stella Gilmartin or Lorraine Dennis on extension 6026/6027 or by email equality@belfastcity.gov.uk

The accompanying **Screening Guidance** note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website¹.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

Section A - provides details about the policy / decision that is being screened

Section B – gives information on the consultation process, supporting evidence gathered and has 4 key questions outlining the likely impacts on all equality groups.

Section C - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order

Section D - is the formal record of the screening decision.

¹ <http://www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf>

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened

1. Title of policy / decision to be screened:-

East Bank Development Strategy: Stages 1 & 2

2. Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

Stages 1 and 2 of the strategy present for consideration and consultation the high level, conceptual framework for land use on the East Bank of the River Lagan in an area including the Howden Sirocco Works, Short Strand, Bridge End, Middlepath Street, SSE Arena Car Park and including the entire waterfront of the East Bank. The area comprises 43 acres with 865 metre frontage on the Lagan.

East Bank was identified in the Belfast Metropolitan Plan (BMP; 2014) and City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS; 2015) as an area with the potential for new growth in the city centre. The area extends along the east bank of the River Lagan from the SSE arena carpark to the north, including a central zone which comprises a collection of privately owned sites and DfI/DfC car parks (known as the 'shatter zone'), along to the Howden Sirocco Works site to the south, and bounded by the Short Strand Road to the east. During the 19th and 20th century, heavy industries such as shipbuilding and rope works predominated in the area and in particular the Howden Sirocco Works, a site that has been purchased and sold on again, and now remains vacant.

While the area included in the Strategy currently facilitates access to the city centre via a road and rail infrastructure, this comes at a considerable cost to the local area.

- The M3 stretch of the motorway runs from west-east across the site to the north with associated on and off slip roads.
- The central 'shatter zone' area is surrounded by Middlepath Street and Bridge End which provide primary vehicle routes to the city centre from the east.
- The rail routes to the north and east towards Bangor are in part on embankment and on an elevated structure.

In total, this infrastructure contributes to a negative perception of East Bank as no more than a barren gateway to the city, and also serves to help disconnect the Short Strand community from the centre of Belfast.

The draft strategy aims to rebalance the highway network so as to transform the pedestrian, cycle and public transport user experience while incorporating strategic access within the area and to the city centre. It seeks to fully coordinate the development of key sites for a variety of uses (including commerce and housing), and also to help realise a world class waterfront along the River Lagan, thereby delivering social, economic and environmental benefits to the area and to the wider city.

The future development of the plan will require an ambitious and integrated approach to urban design and placemaking. Stages 1 and 2 of the project have involved the initial development of a framework for the identified East Bank area that will in turn go on to inform a longer term assessment of the potential for change that could inform future planning and development decisions, and including transport, housing and commerce/business.

The Stage 2 Consultation Report was made available for public consultation in June 2017². This report sets out a number of proposals for the area, including 12 transport and movement projects, four development sites, and five public realm schemes (see Appendix 1).

The report also describes a process of phased implementation based on a collaborative approach involving the Council, government departments and the private sector. For example, the next phase of the project will involve engagement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to develop a plan for a consolidation of the transport infrastructure in the area, while discussions with the Department for Communities (DfC) will continue to ensure that any proposed housing projects are able to complement existing provision.

In the short term (2017 – 20) it is proposed that research will continue to profile and evaluate existing use of the area, along with modelling of future use and the development of business cases and cost-benefit analyses. In the medium term (2021-26) it is proposed that work will commence on various projects including building the Sirocco site footbridge, relocating the existing Park and Ride facilities and removal of the Station Street flyover. In the longer term (2027-37), major works will hope to have been undertaken, and completed, on all major projects attaching to the strategy, including housing and public realm schemes.

The consultation on Stage 2 of the Draft Strategy closed on September 29th 2017 (see below). At this time it was proposed that a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the East Bank Development Strategy was required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2004; this decision was subsequently confirmed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, acting as the Consultation Authority, on October 13th 2017. A copy of the relevant SEA screening report is available at - https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/development/eastbank/user_uploads/sea-screening-report-for-east-bank.pdf

The Strategic Environmental Appraisal is scheduled to commence in February 2018, and this Section 75 screening form will reflect on any proposals contained within the draft strategy up to that date.

3. Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-

The overarching aim of the strategy is to maximise the potential of development sites across the area and thereby, by 2030, to fully integrate the East Bank into the fabric of the city centre by developing a space that is lively, diverse, accessible and well connected to the city centre, the River Lagan and surrounding communities. The spatial framework of the strategy is based on four mutually supporting themes:

- Maximising the potential of development sites across the area
- Energising the Lagan corridor
- Developing a connected and legible East Bank
- Making streets and spaces for people

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https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/development/eastbank/supporting_documents/Belfast%20East%20Bank%20Strategy%20Stage%202%20Report_V11.pdf

4. On whom will the policy / decision impact?

Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential) and explain:-

- Staff:** YES
All staff involved in the development and implementation of the masterplan, from design through to delivery.
- Service users:** YES
Those who access any of the transport routes to or from the East Bank, or engage with any development sites or public realm schemes, whether as residents, tenants, landlords, consumers, service/facilities providers or transport users.
- Other public sector organisations:** YES
Ongoing engagement with a range of bodies including Translink, DfI and DfC through a collaborative approach to the strategy design and implementation.
- Voluntary / community groups / trade unions:** YES
As the strategy evolves so, the impact of projects on particular communities and groups will become more apparent. The Council commits to screening successive iterations of the strategy as and when required to consider the needs and experiences of groups and their representatives.
- Others, please specify:** YES
The strategy is likely to involve a wide array of public and private sector bodies as it continues to develop, as well as service users and providers (e.g. apartments, shops, cafés, bars and restaurants). Those who will be affected by the emerging strategy may therefore include residents, all day time visitors (including commuters, office workers, customers of local businesses, shoppers and tourists) and evening visitors (including residents, concertgoers, customers of cafés, bars and restaurants). The realisation of the vision will enhance the area and will attract a wider range of people to the area on an ad hoc basis. The new and existing transport links means that the area will also be used as a thoroughfare by visitors to other parts of the city.

5. Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

The strategy will continue to be developed in close collaboration with a number of key partners, in both the private and public sectors, and including DfC, DfI and Translink, and these linkages will continue to characterise the strategy through to its conclusion.

Appendix 3

Section B

Information on the consultation process, supporting evidence gathered and four key screening questions outlining the likely impacts for equality of opportunity and good relations.

Outline consultation process planned or achieved

The Council undertook a consultation and engagement exercise on the draft East Bank Draft Development Strategy as described below:

Web-based consultation

The document was made available on the Council's webpage from 7th July 2017 until 29th September 2017, with an on-line questionnaire inviting responses.

Standard and large print versions of the document and questionnaire were also made available for send-out as hard copies and in Word Format. Availability in Word made the document more accessible for use by screen reader software used by those who have experienced sight loss.

Public Exhibition

A public exhibition illustrating the proposals was held in the foyer of the Cecil Ward Building at Linenhall Street from 7th July 2017 to 29th September 2017; Council officers were available to answer questions on the exhibition as and when required

Presentations, Meetings and "drop-in events"

- 8th August: exhibition and drop-in event at East Belfast Community Development Association (EBCDA);
- 17th August: exhibition and drop-in event at EBCDA;
- 23rd August: exhibition and drop-in event at the Lagan Lookout;
- 1st September: presentation and Q&A at EBCDA Community Development Café (networking event for community workers);
- 7th September: exhibition and drop-in event at the Short Strand Community Centre;
- 14th September: exhibition and drop-in event at the Short Strand Community Centre;
- 20th September: presentation and Q&A at eastside Urban Village Steering Group;
- 26th September: presentation circulated at Equality Consultative Forum
- 27th September: public consultation event targeted at children and young people and facilitated by the Eden Project at the Black Box

Consultation with Statutory Agencies

All relevant statutory consultees were contacted by e mail on 6th July, 5th September and 10th October 2017; The consultation was also discussed at the City Centre Joint Regeneration Group on 19th June, 22nd August and 18th September, a meeting which is attended by DfI, DfC and SIB.

Press Releases and Social media

Press releases were issued in the first week of July 2017 publicising the document on-line and the exhibition; Social media was used throughout the consultation period

The 12 week public consultation on Stage 2 of the Draft Strategy closed on September 29th 2017 at which time it was agreed that a strategic environmental assessment (SEA)

of the East Bank Development Strategy was likely to be required, and this decision was confirmed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on October 13th 2017. The SEA is scheduled to commence in February 2018 and to run for 12 weeks, and the outcome of this Section 75 screening exercise will also be consulted on in parallel with this SEA.

7. Available evidence

What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below to help inform your screening assessment.

It is important to record information gathered from a variety of sources such as: monitoring information; complaints; research surveys; consultation exercises from other public authorities.

Monitoring Information

The strategy is likely to impact on a significant number of people both within the immediate vicinity and more widely across the City and Northern Ireland in general, together with tourists to the area. To endeavor to profile this population at this time is not feasible other than by way of broad demographic features.

The two Belfast Wards which include East Bank are Sydenham Ward and Island Ward, both of which would be characterised by features of disadvantaged communities. For example, the Belfast East Constituency profile (January 2015)³ revealed that 750 (15.1%) of those in Sydenham and 800 (15.3%) in Island Ward were in receipt of at least one disability allowance, in comparison with 13.7% across East Belfast as a whole and 13.6% across Northern Ireland.

While 10.8% of school leavers had continued to further education across Northern Ireland, in East Belfast this figure falls to 9.4%, and within Sydenham (8.9%) and Island (8.8%) the figure falls yet further. With regard to higher education, 4.5% of the Northern Ireland population are enrolled in higher education but only 3.9% in East Belfast, and 2.4% in Island Ward and 2.8% in Sydenham Ward.

In 2015, 5.7% of the population of East Belfast were in receipt of unemployment benefit, while Sydenham (6.2%) and Island Wards (9.2%) were both characterised by higher rates. In total, 39.5% of residents of Sydenham Ward were on low incomes and in receipt of benefits and 40.1% of those in Island Ward, again higher than in either East Belfast (38.8%) or Northern Ireland as a whole (38.9%).

In East Belfast as a whole, 20.8% of children aged 0 – 15 years were living in low income families, in comparison with 21.5% in Northern Ireland. The equivalent figures for Island and Sydenham Wards were 38.0% and 19.9% respectively.

Island Ward in particular is also characterised as having both the highest number of reported crimes (per 100,000 persons) by ward across Belfast (17,493), and the highest road traffic collision rates (per 100,000 persons) (1,393).

The religious breakdown of each ward is similar, with 90.3% of Sydenham and 89.5% of Island Ward being classified as Protestant, and 3.8% and 5.3% respectively categorised as Roman Catholic.

While the demographic profile of local residents is important, it is likely that the area will be accessed and used by the wider population of Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole. Appendix 2 provides additional data on the population of Belfast by Section 75

³ <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/constituency-profiles/2016/Belfast-East-Profile-June-2016.pdf>

grounds⁴, while Appendix 3 includes an extract from the LDP Topic Paper on Population, also highlighting interesting Section 75 considerations⁵. In summary, the topic paper highlights that:

- Persistently high levels of inequality between the affluent suburbs in the South and East of the city and the neighbourhoods in West and North Belfast that are the most deprived and segregated in Northern Ireland.
- A higher than average working age population with lower than NI average child and pension age populations.
- Higher life expectancy leading to an ageing population as the number of pensioners is predicted to increase across Northern Ireland by 40% by 2025.
- A considerably higher level of single people over 16 (45.32%) compared with the NI average of 36.14%, which is reflected in the lower level of households with dependent children than the NI average (29.74% compared with 33.85%)
- Belfast has the highest proportion of single person households of all the new Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland with over 1/3 of all properties falling within this category.
- Belfast, whilst the most ethnically diverse LGD, is not particularly racially diverse but some super output areas now have more significant national minority groups.
- Belfast has a proportionally small LGBT community, with 1.4% in NI self-selecting this sexual orientation category in the Integrated Household Survey in 2013.
- Areas in North and West Belfast have significantly higher concentrations of disability related benefits claimants than the Northern Ireland average and the low levels found in the South and East of the city council area.
- Belfast remains subject to religious segregation in working class communities with higher proportions of the population declaring themselves as non-religious, a small increase in those stating their religious background as Roman Catholic and a more significant decrease of 6.1% for those declaring Protestant backgrounds.
- The religious background affiliation is in part reflected in part by the political composition of the council with 26 nationalist councillors and 24 unionists with the 10 non-designated councillors holding the balance of power.

Further consultation on the strategy, and including the screening process, will be used to highlight opportunities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations as the project continues to evolve and be rolled out. In the absence of detail on the projects falling under the strategy then it is not feasible to establish detailed evidence of current and potential users. However, as the focus of the strategy encompasses so many diverse activities then it is likely that an extremely wide variety of groups attaching to Section 75 must be given due regard in due course.

It is envisaged that numerous parties will benefit from the strategy as its elements are put in place. These would include local residents, users of amenities and facilities in the area, businesses, shoppers, workers and tourists/visitors.

Any feedback from the consultation process will be managed by Belfast City Council City Centre Development Team. Consultation responses and the resulting amendments will be reported to City Growth and Regeneration for approval, to Planning Committee for notation and to Council for endorsement of the document.

⁴ Draft Belfast Agenda (Community Plan) 2017 – 21 EQIA, December 2016

⁵ <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.aspx?IID=20492&SID=18628>

Complaints

Complaints are not envisaged at this stage given that the strategy is at a relatively early stage of development. They are unlikely therefore to be a source of available evidence.

Research/ Surveys

Belfast City Council appointed Arup, a multinational firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists, to bring forward the East Bank Development Strategy. This will include successive consultations at each stage of development of the strategy.

Consultation Exercise and Other Public Authorities

The public consultation on the Stage 2 Report ended on September 27th 2017 (see above). A total of 190 responses were received, including 22 via citizenspace, of which the majority were positive or very positive. A summary of responses is shown below.

Statutory Agencies

In terms of statutory agencies, almost all were supportive. DfI Transport Strategy Division's response was non-committal subject to further traffic modelling being undertaken while DfI Rivers notes that the document needs to say more about how to address present-day flood risk to the proposed development as well as the impact of future climate change and in particular, potential sea level rise due to climate change. NIHE is also broadly supportive and would support a 20% affordable housing requirement across the Strategy area, incorporating a range of house types and tenures including accessible dwellings and wheelchair housing units. NIHE also supports the integration of the principles of inclusive design where public realm and buildings are designed to enable disabled people, children and older people to be involved on an equal basis (lifetime neighbourhoods).

Community Groups and Members of the Public

Eastside Partnership responded positively, welcoming the inclusion of Sirocco, the 'shatter zone' and Odyssey Quays within one plan and supporting the four place-making themes identified as enabling the East Bank to become fully integrated with the city centre, bringing the centre 'across the river', and connecting Titanic Quarter to the city centre. The Partnership was keen, however, to retain the existing Titanic Quarter rail halt and also offered suggestions for inclusion in the finalised document.

84 drawings and illustrations were received from an event described as the 'Youth Urban Almanac' organised by the Eden Project and facilitated by Seed Head Arts which was attended by 60 young people aged between eight years and mid-20s. Most of the ideas relate to public realm and use of the river and were innovative and original including permanent and temporary suggestions, for example bandstands for buskers, giant chess sets, concrete table tennis tables, open air swimming pools and boardwalks.

Lagan Currachs response included support for better access points to the Lagan and made a number of suggestions for activities on the water as well as by the river, including houseboat infrastructure. They disagreed with proposals to relocate the railway station on grounds of cost.

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) response, which was generally supportive, focused on the need to pay due regard to accessible transport, safe streets and accessible information. In particular, it emphasised the importance of barrier free access to the pedestrian environment and barrier free access to different modes of transport so as to support inclusive and independent living for people with sight loss. Of particular concern were any proposals for 'shared surfaces' in public realm schemes. RNIB does not support the use of flush surfaces and recommends that the memorandum guidance on kerb heights in public realm schemes produced by the Department for Regional Development (issued in May 2015) is adhered to. Within this

guidance it states that, 'For public realm schemes, and in line with best practice, it is recommended that a 'standard' kerb height of 125mm should be generally used.' This response reflects comments which RNIB submitted to the public consultation exercise which the Council undertook on the Linen Quarter Public Realm Vision and Guidance in 2015, and is in line with the ongoing dispute regarding kerb height in the public realm scheme in Lisburn City Centre.

The Titanic Foundation generally agreed with the vision and reiterated the importance of the East Bank being fully woven into the fabric of the city centre, to include Titanic Quarter. The Foundation argued it was important to look at the whole of the Lagan with a view to achieving an animated waterfront on the East Bank that continued to include Titanic Quarter and beyond - as far as HMS Caroline and the Thompson Dock. The concept of a Maritime Mile between Donegal Quay and HMS Caroline has been developed as part of the Titanic Quarter Destination Plan and Titanic Foundation will be progressing this as a theme which ultimately will link key tourism, heritage and employment hubs. The Foundation generally agreed with proposed interventions other than that to re-locate the rail halt. It was argued that further transport modelling was required before agreeing / disagreeing with this move.

74 letters of objection were received from Short Strand residents on grounds that a land allocation for affordable/social housing had not been identified within the Sirocco site. Two similar letters from St Matthew's Housing Association and the Short Strand Partnership were on the same grounds but also referred to the failure to identify the Translink bus garage on Mountpottinger Street as a development opportunity for housing and leisure uses⁶. Both St Matthew's and the Short Strand Partnership also referred to a deficit of leisure facilities for Short Strand residents and the need to address this in the East Bank Strategy.

Major Landowners

Responses were received from Turley Associates on behalf of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Titanic Quarter and Swinford (Sirocco). There were no major points of contention in the first two responses. However, Sirocco (Swinford) while supportive of the majority of the draft Strategy and the Sirocco design principles set out in Appendix 3 of the draft Strategy, highlighted their view concerning, the 'prescriptive way in which the Strategy moves beyond the high level conceptual diagrams on pages 18 and 19 and imposes the basis of a masterplan to interpret these principles' as 'not acceptable, nor is the approach to phasing'.

Overall, responses from the consultation did not highlight significant concerns in relation to Section 75 issues *per se* other than the need to continue to pay due regard to the needs of those with a disability when designing access to and through public spaces and when reconfiguring transport arrangements to and through the area in general. The need to continue to engage with local communities at each stage of implementation was seen as crucial by local community groups, for example in relation to housing and traditional routes, and these matters may have Section 75 implications which should continue to be borne in mind.

⁶ Please note, the bus garage falls outside the Strategy area and the city centre strategy boundary.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence / information and engagement
Religious belief	The area is currently seen as isolated and is little used by those of different faiths or religions. Future housing developments must recognise the needs of local communities while transport reconfiguration should be mindful of sensitivities regarding traditional routes within the area.
Political opinion	The area is currently seen as isolated and is little used by those of different faiths or religions. Future housing developments must recognise the needs of local communities while transport reconfiguration should be mindful of sensitivities regarding traditional routes within the area.
Racial group	The area is currently seen as isolated and is little used by those of different ethnicity.
Age	Older people may have difficulties visiting the East Bank at the present time and in particular those with mobility problems given the absence of any measures to enhance accessibility.
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	The creation of well used and 'safe' public areas on currently remote, disused and abandoned sites will enhance the safety of the areas for all potential users. Safety in public areas is a priority identified by many groups representing the LGBTQ communities.
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	Arup are progressing the Strategy mindful of the need to have due regard to people with a range of disabilities and in line with current guidelines and obligations generally under the Disability Discrimination Act. Guidance on the design of public realm schemes and buildings generally will be taken on board during each stage of implementation, with a particular focus on accessibility and mobility for those with sensory and/or motor impairment.
Dependants	The needs of those with caring responsibilities often coincide with the needs of those with a disability in terms of mobility and access (see above).

8. What is the likely impact (indicate if the policy impact is positive or negative) on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?

Section 75 category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	East Bank at present is generally perceived as a collection of neutral if under-used brown field sites close to the city centre. The Strategy should enhance the area generally and facilitate better access to and within the area thereby attracting a wider diversity of people to the East Bank as a safe, shared space for visitors and residents alike, including those of different faith.	Minor (+ve)
Political opinion	East Bank at present is generally perceived as a collection of neutral if under-used brown field sites close to the city centre. The Strategy should enhance the area generally and facilitate better access to and within the area thereby attracting a wider diversity of people to the East Bank as a safe, shared space for visitors and residents alike, including those of different political opinion.	Minor (+ve)
Racial group	East Bank at present is generally perceived as a collection of neutral if under-used brown field sites close to the city centre. The Strategy should enhance the area generally and facilitate better access to and within the area thereby attracting a wider diversity of people to the East Bank as a safe, shared space for visitors and residents alike, including those of different ethnicity.	Minor (+ve)
Age	Increased opportunities for accessing the East Bank are likely to enhance its value for those who currently may have limited mobility and including older people. The range of proposed amenities and public realm projects are likely to appeal to both younger and older people.	Minor (+ve)
Marital status	N/A	None
Sexual orientation	The creation of well used, well lit and 'safe' public areas on currently disused and abandoned sites will enhance the safety of the area for all potential users. Safety in public areas is a priority of many groups representing the LGBTQ communities.	Minor (+ve)
Men and women generally	N/A	None

Disability	The Strategy will make the area more accessible and friendly for all and including those with sensory and physical disability who may currently regard the area as 'out of bounds. Public realm schemes will be developed mindful of all current guidance, e.g. kerb heights and pavement cafes. Where public transport is relocated then full consultation will be undertaken with relevant representative groups to ensure needs of those with a disability are shown due regard.	Major (+ve)
Dependants	Arup are progressing the Strategy mindful of the need to have due regard to people with a range of caring responsibilities. Any changes in public transport arrangements and the design of public realm schemes will take into account the needs of those with a disability at successive stages of implementation	Minor (+ve)

9. 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	During implementation, should any proposed developments have the potential to impact adversely on traditional cultural/community displays of identity then these proposals will be subject to further scrutiny under Section 75 and including screening as necessary.	
Political opinion	During implementation, should any proposed developments have the potential to impact adversely on traditional cultural/community displays of identity then these proposals will be subject to further scrutiny under Section 75 and including screening as necessary.	
Racial group		The proposals are likely to enhance the area for all potential users, residents and visitors.
Age	Any changes to public transport arrangements will take into account the needs of older people and including those with limited mobility, and including	

	the proposed relocation of the Titanic Quarter train halt.	
Marital status		N/A
Sexual orientation		The development of 'safe' shared spaces on currently derelict land will enhance the safety of the area for all.
Men and women generally		N/A
Disability	<p>Kerb heights in public realm schemes have been subject to considerable discussion since the Department for Regional Development issued its most recent guidance in May 2015. This states that for public realm schemes, and in line with best practice, it is recommended that a 'standard' kerb height of 125mm should be generally used, though this may be reduced to a desirable minimum of 100mm to suit local site circumstances. In exceptional cases, it is recommended that kerb heights should not be less than 60mm.</p> <p>The Council proposes mitigation by amending its Vision and Public Realm Analysis document to state clearly that kerbs proposed in any new public realm schemes and including East Bank will be a minimum of 60mm in height and that each project will take account of local site circumstances.</p> <p>To mitigate concerns about slippery surfaces the Council will ensure the use of materials which meet the minimum requirements set out in DRD design standards.</p> <p>More generally the Council and Arup will be minded of recent guidance on disability access at each stage of implementation.</p>	
Dependants	The projects will accommodate the needs of those with caring responsibilities at the design stage and all reasonable adjustments will be made.	

10. To what extent is the policy likely to impact (positive or negatively) on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? What is the level of impact?

Good relations category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	Through the creation of safe, shared spaces and including a range of facilities and services then community relations should be enhanced.	Minor (+ve)
Political opinion	Through the creation of safe shared spaces and including a range of facilities and services then community relations should be enhanced.	Minor (+ve)
Racial group	Through the creation of safe shared spaces and including a range of facilities and services then community relations should be enhanced.	Minor (+ve)

11. 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 reasons
Religious belief	Proposals will be brought forward under the scheme mindful of the need to be sensitive to any traditions or events associated with local communities. Section 75 scrutiny will be applied as and when appropriate to avoid an adverse impact on good relations locally and including any proposed housing developments.	
Political opinion	Proposals will be brought forward under the scheme mindful of the need to be sensitive to any traditions or events associated with local communities. Section 75 scrutiny will be applied as and when appropriate to avoid an adverse impact on good relations locally and including any proposed housing developments.	
Racial group		The development of safe, shared spaces should enhance good relations on grounds of ethnicity.

Section C

Belfast City Council also has legislative obligations to meet under the **Disability Discrimination Order** and Questions 12-13 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

12. Does this proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity for the Council to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Yes, the future outworking of the Strategy will provide guidance for:

- new and enhanced transport systems
- new public spaces
- new housing and facilities

in a way which will fully accommodate the needs of disabled people.

By making the area generally more accessible this will allow disabled people to participate more fully in the life of this part of the city and, by encouraging positive interaction between all users of these public spaces, more positive attitudes towards people with disabilities will be promoted.

13. Does this proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life?

Yes. The proposals attaching to the Scheme are likely to make the area more accessible and friendly for those with a disability and including those with limited mobility and/or sensory impairment.

14. Multiple Identities

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy with multiple identities

At this time there is no information available on the potential impact on users with multiple identities but should any issues arise during successive stages of implementation then they will be addressed accordingly.

15. Monitoring Arrangements

Section 75 places a requirement the Council to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity.

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

At this stage of the project monitoring arrangements for the East Bank

Development Strategy have yet to be fully determined but will include consideration of issues relating to the promotion of equality of opportunity, good relations and duties to disabled people. Use of emerging spaces and facilities will be kept under constant review to ensure that there is no adverse impact.

The establishment of the City Design Review Panel to offer advice on building quality will provide an opportunity for issues relating to the promotion of equality of opportunity to be kept under consideration on a regular, on-going basis.

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

East Bank Development Strategy: Stages 1 & 2

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

X	equality of opportunity and good relations
X	disabilities duties

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is – *(place an X in the appropriate box below)*

	*<u>Screened In</u> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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X	<p>*<u>Screened Out</u> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)</p> <p>All necessary adjustments and accommodations in relation to Section 75 have been made to the Strategy to this stage of its development. Should any matters arise from the consultation or during successive stages of implementation then appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that appropriate mitigation is applied and Section 75 issues will be mainstreamed into the fabric of the policy.</p>
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	<p>* <u>Screened Out - Mitigating Actions</u> (minor impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: • Explain what mitigating actions and / or policy changes will now be introduced:
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Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Alice McGlone

Date:30/01/18

Department : Chief Executive's Department, City Centre Development Team



Screening decision approved by -

Name: Sean Dolan

Date:30/01/18

Department: : Chief Executive's Department, City Centre Development Team

Signature:



Please save the final version of the completed screening form and forward to the Equality and Diversity Officer – equality@belfastcity.gov.uk. The screening form will be placed on the BCC website and a link provided to the Council's Section 75 consultees.

For more information about equality screening contact –

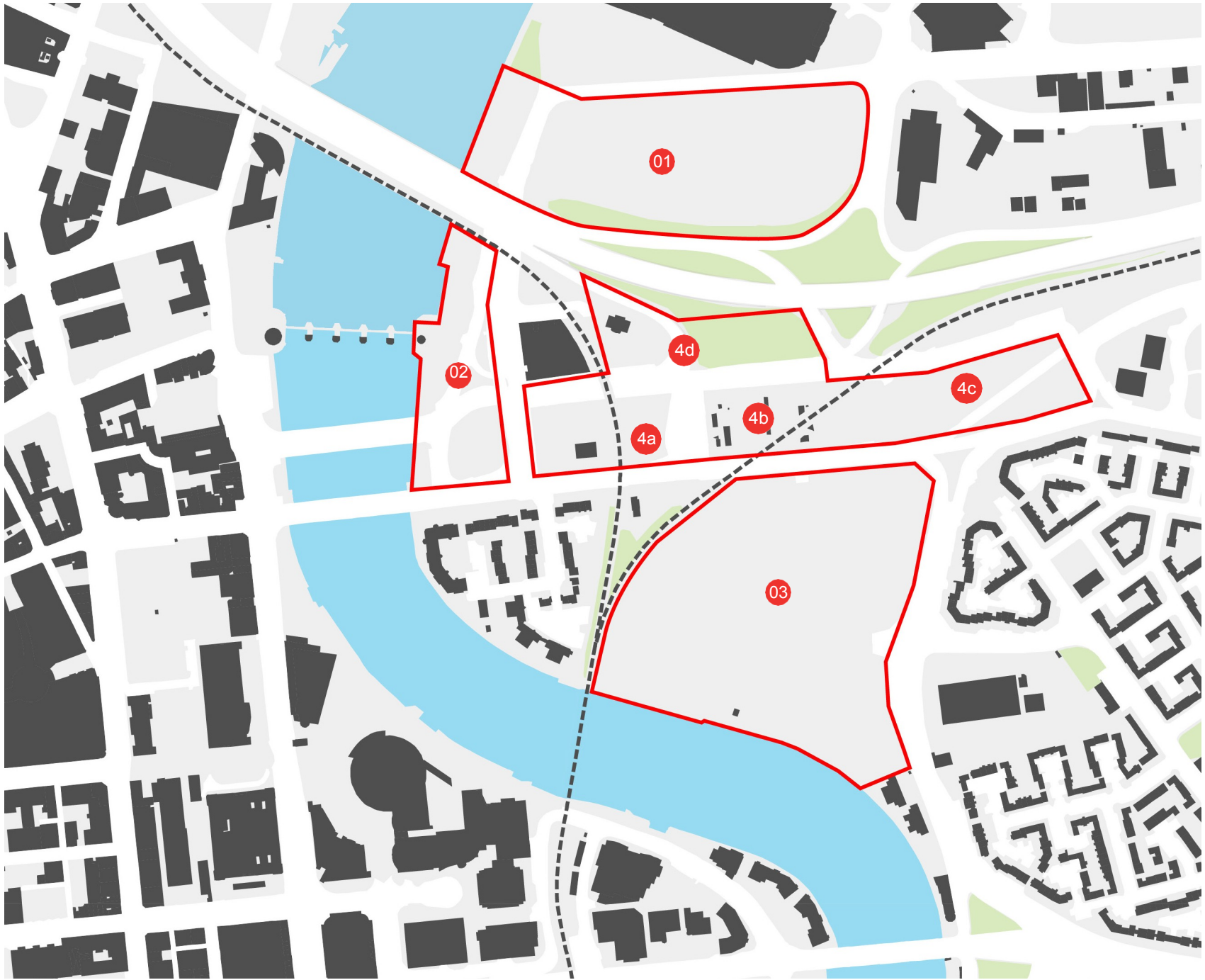
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APPENDIX 1: Belfast East Bank Development Strategy: Stage 2 Report (*Appendix II*)

	Key transport and movement projects	Phasing	Delivery	Comments
1.	Integrated multi modal transport modelling, business case and funding bids preparation	S	Belfast City Council Transport NI	Refinement of integrated scenarios and their detailed testing. Selection and development of preferred option, development of business case and funding bids, detailed design of construction phases
2.	Introduction of a new car parking standard for all new development in the East Bank area	S	Belfast City Council	In partnership with Transport NI the development and adoption of a new car parking standard as part of the Local Plan Framework
3.	Middlepath Cycle path	S	Department for Infrastructure	Implementation of proposed cycle path
4.	Bus Rapid Transport Network	S	Department for Infrastructure	Implementation of the BRT network in the area linking SSE Arena, Titanic Visitor Centre and NI Science Park to the city centre
5.	Odyssey Quays development	S/M	The Odyssey Trust Company/Odyssey Millennium Ltd	Impact of access to and from 2,700 car parking spaces to be considered in light of additional car parking provision at Queen's Quay and Sirocco Quays
6.	Queen's Quay development	S/M	Department for Communities/Private development Partner	Removal of Station Street flyover
7.	Sirocco Quays	S/M	Sirocco Quays development	Improvements to Short Strand and Bridge End including contributions to the realisation of Boulevard concept, improved pedestrian crossings to Short Strand community area
8.	Bridge End/Middlepath Street/Dalton Street	M/L	Department for Infrastructure Transport NI	Implementation of new road hierarchy and allocation of road space, removal of A2 flyover, introduction of two way routing, enhanced bus access and improved pedestrian and cycle environment subject to 1. above
9.	Rationalisation of A2 flyover	M/L	Department for Infrastructure Transport NI	In partnership with Belfast City Council, DfI and TNI. Subject to 1. above
10.	North-south pedestrian link	M/L	Department for Infrastructure Transport NI	In partnership with Belfast City Council, DfI and TNI. Subject to 1. above
11.	Relocation of Titanic Rail Station	M/L	Department for Infrastructure Transport NI	In partnership with Belfast City Council, DfI and TNI. Subject to 1. above
12.	Relocation of Eastside Park and Ride site	M	Transport NI	Closure of the existing car park creating a development site and the re-provision of car parking in an outer location



Key development sites projects		Phasing	Delivery	Comments
1.	Odyssey Quays	S/M	The Odyssey Trust Company/Odyssey Millennium Ltd	Area: 6.9 hectares, 17 acres Height: 5 to 29 storeys Size: 158,000 sqm, 1.7m sqft Uses: apartments, hotels, retail, offices, cafés, bars, restaurants, community uses, car parking (2,700 spaces) Planning approval granted
2.	Queen's Quay	S/M	Department for Communities/Private development Partner	Area: 1.3 hectares, 3.2 acres Uses: mix to be determined Removal of Station Street flyover and Handy Park surface car park facilitates a larger development site opportunity Viability testing ongoing
3.	Sirocco Quays	S/M	Swinford (Sirocco) Ltd (part owned by St. Francis Group)	Area: 6.5 hectares, 16 acres Uses: offices, housing, hotel, apartment hotel, restaurant, cafe, local retail, multi-storey car park, new pedestrian bridge across the River Lagan Current scheme subject of public and stakeholder consultation until May 2017
4.	Central Spine sites	S/M	Belfast City Council Private Developers	Multiple sites requiring land assembly Potential for significant development density and creation of enclosing building frontages
	a. Station Street to Dalton Street (West)	S/M	Belfast City Council Private Developers	Requires removal of Queen's Bridge (East) Handy Park surface car park, adjacent surface car park and rationalisation of Dalton Street
	b. Dalton Street (East) to elevated railway line	M/L	Belfast City Council Private Developers	Requires land assembly of existing employment space
	c. Elevated Railway Line to Middlepath Street/ Newtownards Road	M/L	Belfast City Council Private Developers	Requires land assembly, removal of M3 off ramp, removal of park and ride site and new rationalised road layout. Inclusion of existing petrol filling station subject to feasibility
	d. Scrabo Street/Middlepath Street (North)	M/L	Belfast City Council Private Developers	Land assembly and rationalisation of M3 slip road required



	Key public realm projects	Phasing	Delivery	Comments
1.	East Bank Public Realm Design Guide and Manual	S	Belfast City Council	The guide will ensure the co-ordinated design of the public realm identifying key design principles and parameters, street furniture and materials palette, temporary, event and pop up uses, public art and lighting, management and maintenance, procurement
2.	Lagan River front Pedestrian Walkway	S/M/L	Belfast City Council	The co-ordinated design and delivery of the Lagan Loop concept
	Section a - SSE to Queen's Bridge	S/M	Odyssey Quays and Queen's Quays developments	The potential for temporary and pop up uses to draw visitors into the area should be considered at an early stage. Queen's Quay to deliver major facelift and improvement of existing walkway spaces
	Section b - Queen's Bridge to Lagan Viaduct	S/M	Belfast City Council	Upgrade of existing walkway
	Section c - Lagan Viaduct to Albert Bridge	S/M	Sirocco Quays development	To include new footbridge linking Sirocco Quays to Lanyon Quay and Belfast Waterfront, River front Plaza and new extended board walk, piers, pontoons and moorings
3.	Odyssey Quays Plaza	S/M	Odyssey Quays development	Explore opportunities for alignment with the East Bank Strategy at an early stage
4.	Sirocco Quays		Sirocco Quays development	Major public realm improvements are required of this development
	a. River front Plaza	S/M	Sirocco Quays development	River front plaza design to fully integrate with transformed river front walkway spaces including extended board walk, view points, piers, pontoons, moorings
	b. Internal spaces e.g.. Bridge End Square, public court yards	M	Sirocco Quays development	The Spatial Framework Plan promotes a network of connected courtyard spaces within major street blocks and the creation of a space facilitating access to the relocated rail station and into the site.
	c. Key internal streets	M	Sirocco Quays development	To include a clear a hierarchy of streets, paths and walkways
	d. Key external streets interface - Short Strand, Bridge End	M	Sirocco Quays development	The scheme must contribute to the creation of a consistent building line and frontage along Bridge End and Short Strand and the realisation of the Bridge End Boulevard concept.
5.	Key mixed use streets	M/L	Transport NI	In partnership with Translink, TNI and Belfast City Council
	a. Station Street	M	Transport NI	As above. Linked to the delivery of Bus Rapid Transit and the Queen's Quay development.
	b. Sydenham Street	M	Transport NI	Linked to the Odyssey Quays development
	c. Middlepath Street	M/L	Transport NI	As above. Feasibility study/traffic modelling required short term to determine possible interventions. Financial contributions from frontage sites required.
	d. Bridge End	M/L	As above, Sirocco development	As above. Key bus, cycle and walking route, Boulevard Concept to be further developed. Financial contributions from frontage sites required.
	e. Short Strand	M/L	As above, Sirocco development	As above. Improved pedestrian crossings to be included.

Appendix 3



Appendix 2: Section 75 Profile, Belfast City Council Area⁷

Religious belief/ Political opinion

- 1.1 In 2015, the council boundary extended as a result of local government reform and the census data shows that 49 per cent of the usual residents were from a Catholic community background compared with 42 per cent from a Protestant or other Christian related background.¹
- 1.2 In the last local government election held on 22 May 2014, 31.8% of first preference votes were cast for Sinn Féin (SF), 20.8%% for the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), 12.5% for the Alliance Party, 10.9% for the Social, Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), 9.8% for the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), 7.1% for the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), 2.88% for Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV), 2.53% for the Green Party, and 1.69% for the People before Profit Alliance. A total of 60 councillors were elected to Belfast City Council. The table below provides an overview of the number of councillors by each political party.

Political Party	Number of councillors elected
Sinn Féin	19
Democratic Unionist Party	13
Alliance Party	8
Social Democratic and Labour Party	7
Ulster Unionist Party	7
Progressive Unionist Party	3
Traditional Unionist Voice	1
Green Party	1
People before Profit Alliance	1

- 1.3 The Department for Social Development's "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) reports use data collected from the Family Resources Survey in Northern Ireland. In 2013-14 the survey showed that in Northern Ireland 23% of Catholics and 20% of Protestants lived in relative poverty before housing costs. After Housing Costs those who considered themselves to be

¹ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁷ Derived from the Draft Belfast Agenda (Community Plan) 2017-2021 EQIA, Appendix 2

'no religion' recorded the highest levels of relative poverty, at 28%, compared to 19% of Protestants and 23% of Catholics.²

- 1.4 The draft Equality Commission NI report "Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in NI" notes that "although Northern Ireland saw a decrease in residential segregation, across all sectors, between 2001 and 2011, it is still the case that segregated housing markets in Northern Ireland lead to differing experiences of waiting lists for social housing, with a particular impact upon households which have a Catholic or Other religion household reference person (HRP)."³ The same draft ECNI report also notes that significant and specific data gaps remain across a number of themes in relation to a number of equality grounds.
- 1.5 The Labour Force Survey religion report 2014 indicates a convergence in the unemployment rate between Protestants and Catholics at the Northern Ireland level, with the rate standing 6% and 8% respectively.⁴
- 1.6 Taken from the 2011 Census, across Northern Ireland as a whole, the percentage of economically active people broken down by religion does not show any significant variance – 65% of both Catholics and Protestants were recorded as economically active.⁵
- 1.7 School leaver data for Northern Ireland from the Department of Education shows that there is an attainment gap in that Catholic school leavers perform better than those from a Protestant background, despite patterns of socio-economic background running in the other direction.⁶
- 1.8 Department of Education statistics from 2013/14 show that a higher proportion of school leavers from a Catholic background go on to higher education (45.7%) compared with those from a Protestant background (37.8%). Conversely, Protestant school leavers were more inclined to go on to further education (41.1%) in comparison with Catholic school leavers (30.3%).⁷
- 1.9 Analysing Census information on the highest level of qualification of the Belfast population by religion shows that 60% of those from a Catholic

² Households Below Average Income, NI Statistics & Research Agency 2013/14

³ Key inequalities in Housing and Communities, Northern Ireland (Draft), Equality Commission 2016

⁴ OFMdFM Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2014

⁵ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁶ Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report, Number Three, Paul Nolan, March 2014,

⁷ Destination of school leavers by gender and religion of pupil 2013/2014, Department of Education

background are skilled to Level 2 compared with 55% of those from a Protestant background.⁸

- 1.10 The most recent census information showed that 76.7% Catholics in Belfast considered themselves to be in good or very good health compared to 71.3% who identified as Protestant or other Christian.⁹
- 1.11 The PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police” shows that in 2014/15 there were 647 incidents with a sectarian motivation recorded in Belfast, an increase of 73 incidents from the previous year. The Bulletin also reports that there were 424 recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation in Belfast, an increase of 14 crimes from the previous year. This represents almost 41% of all recorded crimes with a sectarian motivation across N Ireland in 2014/15.¹⁰
- 1.12 Marginally fewer Protestants (32%) participated in sport than Catholic adults (35%).¹¹
- 1.13 Marginally fewer Catholic adults (31%) than Protestant adults (34%) participated in arts activities. Both were less likely to participate in the arts than adults with other/no religion (51%).¹²

Racial group

- 1.14 Country of birth statistics taken from the last census in 2011, show that 6.55% of all usual residents were born outside the UK and Ireland. Almost a third of this group (2.1% of all residents) were born in Middle East & Asia.¹³
- 1.15 It is recognised that people from a minority ethnic background may have more difficulties accessing public services, particularly if English is not their first language. Census data from 2011 shows that for 4.34% of the Belfast

⁸ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁹ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

¹⁰ PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police”, 2015

¹¹ Sport and Physical Activity Survey, Belfast LGD Report, Sport NI, 2010

¹² Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland: analysis by section 75 groups., DCAL, 2013/14

¹³ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency,

population (aged 3+) English was not their main language, a higher proportion than the Northern Ireland average (3.14%).¹⁴

- 1.16 The Traveller community makes up 0.08% of the population of Belfast (267 people).¹⁵ Inequalities between the Traveller community and the wider population are an enduring issue:
- Research into Travellers' education needs reveals education disadvantage with 58% of Traveller children leaving school with no qualifications. ¹⁶ In comparison, 0.8% of all school leavers in Northern Ireland left school in 2013/14 with no formal qualifications.¹⁷
 - Life expectancy for Travellers is around 20% lower than average. Only 10 per cent of Travellers live to be 40 years old and only one per cent live to be over 65; ¹⁸
 - At a Northern Ireland level, the 2011 census identified that 69% of those from an Irish Traveller ethnic background are economically inactive.¹⁹
- 1.17 Issues and risk factors for disease and ill health are more prevalent in certain nationalities and cultures:
- Diabetes is more prevalent in Asian and black ethnic groups (12.4% and 8.4% respectively) compared to Northern Ireland population (5.4%); ²⁰
 - People of African-Caribbean origin have a lower prevalence of coronary heart disease compared to the white population; but a higher prevalence of and mortality from hypertension and stroke. ²¹
- 1.18 The recent census identified that in Northern Ireland, 79.4% of those who identified as white reported they were in good or very good health. Other ethnic communities such as Asian (90%), Black (90.4%) or Mixed (92.6%) identified significantly higher self-reporting of good or very good health. The only exception was the Irish Traveller community, only 66.3% reported they

¹⁴ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

¹⁵ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

¹⁶ Inequalities in Education Facts and Trends 1998 – 2008, Equality Commission NI

¹⁷ School leavers - 2013/14 statistical bulletin, Department for Education

¹⁸ Inequalities in health and wellbeing: working together for change, Good Practice Guide 4, Promoting health and wellbeing in black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, including Travellers and migrant workers, Public Health Agency, 2010

¹⁹ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

²⁰ Inequalities in health and wellbeing: working together for change, Good Practice Guide 4, Promoting health and wellbeing in black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, including Travellers and migrant workers, Public Health Agency

²¹ Inequalities in health and wellbeing: working together for change, Good Practice Guide 4, Promoting health and wellbeing in black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, including Travellers and migrant workers, Public Health Agency

- were in good or very good health.²²
- 1.19 The 2011 Census data shows that 59% of BME people aged from 16 – 74 in Northern Ireland are in employment (fulltime, part-time, self-employed), slightly higher than the 57.6% of the whole 16-74 population.
 - 1.20 The PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police” shows that in 2014/15 there 671 incidents with a racist motivation recorded in Belfast, an increase of 203 incidents from the previous year. This represents 49.5% of all incidents with a racist motivation recorded in N Ireland in 2014/ 15. The Bulletin also reports that there were 487 recorded crimes with a racist motivation in Belfast, an increase of 147 recorded crimes from the previous year. This represents 52.9% of all recorded crimes with a racist motivation across N Ireland in 2014/ 15.²³
 - 1.21 Draft Equality Commission research for Northern Ireland also comments on the accommodation needs of Irish Travellers, migrant workers and minority ethnic people.²⁴
 - 1.22 Draft Equality Commission research²⁵ notes at the Northern Ireland level that migrant workers are often subject to tied accommodation with poor conditions and overcrowding. And that the homes of minority ethnic people and migrant groups may be vulnerable to racial attacks.
 - 1.23 While white people are more likely than BME people to cycle for health and recreation, there are no differences between the groups in relation to walking or taking part in sport more generally.²⁶
 - 1.24 In the UK participation rates in a number of cultural activities were lower for those from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups than for respondents from the white group. In the 12 months prior to being interviewed, adults from BME groups compared with the white group were less likely to have: visited a heritage site (57.0% compared to 74.4%); engaged with the arts (68.0% compared to 78.2%); visited a museum or gallery (43.4% compared to 52.9%).

²² Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

²³ PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police”, 2015 ²⁴Key inequalities in housing and communities, (draft) Northern Ireland, Equality Commission 2016 ²⁵Key inequalities in housing communities,(draft) Northern Ireland, Equality Commission 2016

²⁶ Adult participation in sport Analysis of the Taking Part Survey Helen Jones, Peter Millward (Knight, Kavanagh and Page) and Babatunde Buraimo (University Of Central Lancashire) August 2011

However, adults from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups had higher rates of library attendance than adults from the white group (45.5% compared to 33.6%).²⁷

Age

- 1.25 The age profile of Belfast is similar to that of the wider region. Almost one in five residents (19.23%) are aged under 16, slightly lower than the Northern Ireland average (20.95%). The working age population (aged 16-64 years) make up two-thirds (66.32%) of all Belfast residents. Older people (aged 65+) currently account for 14.44% of the Belfast population.²⁸
- 1.26 The NI Health Minister's recent 10 year vision for Health & Social Care, 'Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together', identifies that our society is getting older: people are living longer, often with long-term health conditions, and we are having fewer children. Estimates indicate that by 2026, for the first time, there will be more over 65s than under 16s. By 2039, the population aged 65 and over will have increased by 74% compared to the position in 2014. This will mean that one in four people will be aged 65 and over. Similarly, the population aged 85 and over will increase by 157% over the same period, which will see their share of the population increase from 1.9 % to 4.4%.²⁹
- 1.27 Much research exists which shows that participation levels in sport and physical recreation reduces significantly with age. Young People in Sport in Northern Ireland reported that 68% of Belfast P7 pupils participated in organised sport outside school. However, this figure reduces to 50% by the time pupils reach 16 years old.³⁰
- 1.28 The Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS) 2010 identified that 36% of Belfast adults participated in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport in the last 7 days. However this figure is reduced to 18% of the population for

²⁷ Taking Part 2014/15 Quarter 1 Statistical Release (DCMS) October 2014

²⁸ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

²⁹ Health and Wellbeing 2026 - Delivering Together, Department of Health, 2016

³⁰ Young People & Sport in Northern Ireland Analysis by district Council Area, Evidence from the 2015 Young Life and Times and Kids Life and Times Survey, Sport NI

older people (aged 50 or older). Older people are also less likely to be members of a sports club (17% compared to all adults – 24%).³¹

- 1.29 Young adults aged 16-24 years were the age group more likely to participate in arts activities than all other age groups. Adults aged 16-24 were more likely to attend the arts than adults aged 65 and over. From 25-34 years to 65 years and over, the proportion of adults who attended arts events decreased significantly between each consecutive ten year age band.³²
- 1.30 The most recent Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI) identified that 60% of adults were either overweight (34%) or obese (26%) and 25% of children were assessed as either overweight (16%) or obese (9%).³³
- 1.31 Research in Great Britain suggests that 20% of children have a mental health problem in any given year, and about 10% at any one time. The UK also came bottom of the rank for children's wellbeing compared with North America and 18 European countries and 24th out of 29 European countries in more recent survey.³⁴
- 1.32 The DSD Households Below Average Income (HBAI) for 2013/ 14 reports that 23% of children in Northern Ireland were in poverty in 2013/ 14, approximately 101,000 children. This is an increase from 20% the previous year and represents the first increase since 2009/ 10.³⁵
- 1.33 The HBAI for 2013/ 14 also reports that 21% of people of pensionable age were living in poverty in 2013/ 14 (approximately 63,000 people). This is an increase from 20% the previous year.³⁵
- 1.34 The 2011 Census data records the economic activity of usual residents in Belfast by age (16 – 74). 8.4% of those aged 16 – 24 are registered unemployed, higher than the 5.6% of the total of those aged 16 – 74.³⁶

³¹ Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS), Sport NI, 2010

³² Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland: analysis by section 75 groups, 2013/14

³³ Health Survey (NI): First Results 2015/16, Department of Health, 2016

³⁴ No health without mental health: A cross- Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages, Dept of Health, 2011 referenced in Improving the Mental Health of Northern Ireland's Children and Young People: Priorities for Research, QUB, 2011

³⁵ Households Below Average Income (HBAI) for 2013/ 14, Dept for Social Development, 2015

- 1.35 The vast majority of 16 – 24 year olds are students either full-time (38%) or part-time (53%).³⁶ In the UK a recent survey found that 45% of full-time students reported having a part-time job, including a third of students now working part-time during term. Significantly, 13% of students now hold down full-time jobs (either during term, holidays or both).³⁷
- 1.36 In relation to those aged over 65 (48,226), the Census 2011 data shows that 6% are economically active. The majority (85%) are economically inactive due to retirement.³⁶
- 1.37 In relation to crime, in 2015/16 there were 3,935 domestic abuse crimes recorded in Belfast. Of those, 503 (12.8%) were crimes in which the victim was under 18. Across N Ireland, there were 2,186 domestic abuse crimes where the victim is under 18, meaning that 23% of all domestic abuse crimes in N Ireland where the victim is under 18 occurred in Belfast.³⁸
- 1.38 For victims under 18, the majority of crimes (89%) were victims of violence against the person offences, or victims of sexual offences. Of victims aged 65 or over, the majority of crimes (79%) were victims of theft, burglary or of criminal damage.³⁹
- 1.39 In the 2014 BCC Residents Survey, 15.7% of respondents over 60 felt they were unsafe after dark in their local area. This compares to the average of all respondents, of which 10.6% felt unsafe in their local area after dark. In contrast only 3.2% respondents aged 60+ felt unsafe during the daytime in their local area.⁴⁰
- 1.40 With reference to feeling safe in the city centre, 6.9% of respondents over 60 felt unsafe in the city centre during the day, slightly above the average for all respondents of 5.9%. When asked if they felt safe in the city centre after dark, 22.7% of respondents aged over 60 said they felt unsafe whereas the average for all respondents who felt unsafe in the city centre after dark was 18.1%.⁴⁰

³⁶ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

³⁷ Endsleigh's 2014 Student Survey, NUS Services, 2014

³⁸ PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/5 – 2015/16", 2016

³⁹ PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Police Recorded crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2014/15", 2015

⁴⁰ Belfast City Council Residents Survey, Social Market Research, 2015

- 1.41 Equality Commission research⁴¹ notes that in general older people are more likely to have inadequate non-decent housing conditions than younger age groups.

Marital Status/Civil Partnerships

- 1.42 Just over one third (35.6%) of all usual residents in Belfast (aged 16+) are married – a relatively low proportion when compared with the Northern Ireland average (47.6%). Belfast has a higher percentage (45.3%) of residents who are single when compared with the Northern Ireland average (36.1%). There is also a higher than average proportion of people in Belfast who are separated (5.4% compared to 4% NI average) and divorced (6.2% to 5.5% NI average).⁴²
- 1.43 Belfast also has 353 residents (0.1%) who are in a registered same-sex civil partnership, almost a third of all such partnerships in Northern Ireland.⁴²
- 1.44 A Section 75 Analysis of Mortality Patterns in Northern Ireland 2003-2007, published in 2012 report found that the life expectancy of those who were married was higher than the Northern Ireland average. Married men (79.6 years) and women (83.8 years) was on average higher than the overall life expectancy among males (77.5 years) and females (81.9) aged 16+. Divorcees have lower life expectancy on average than those who are married and this effect was more pronounced among men (73.3 years). Female divorcees had a life expectancy of 80.9 years.⁴³
- 1.45 Evidence from 2003 showed that divorced and separated people have the highest risk of poverty while married or co-habiting households have the lowest.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Key inequalities in housing, Northern Ireland, Equality Commission 2016

⁴² Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁴³ Section 75 Analysis of Mortality Patterns in Northern Ireland 2003-2007, DHSSPS, NI Health & Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System, January 2012

⁴⁴ Poverty and Social Exclusion in NI, Democratic Dialogue, 2003

Sexual Orientation

- 1.46 Several UK and NI based studies have attempted to quantify the number of people who identify as LGB. Estimates for LGB population range from 0.3-10% using different sources. A commonly used estimate of LGB people in the UK, accepted by Stonewall UK, is approximately 5-7% of the population.⁴⁵
- 1.47 A growing body of research indicates that LGB young people are more likely than their heterosexual peers to experience bullying, exclusion and intimidation in the educational institution. This can lead to higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation, self-harm and other risk-taking behaviours amongst LGB&T young people.⁴⁶ Young LGB people are 5 times more likely to be medicated for depression, 2.5 times more likely to self-harm and 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual counterparts. Further to this 28.6% of young same sex attracted men showed signs of a mental health problem compared to 10.2% of those who were attracted to the opposite sex.⁴⁷
- 1.48 One of the key issues for LGB people is the promotion of community safety across the city to reduce both homophobic hate crime incidents and fear of crime. Research by the Rainbow Project in 2009 found that 21% of gay and bisexual males and 18% of LGB females had been victim of one or more homophobic hate crimes or incidents in the previous three years and 30% of these incidents resulted in physical injury. In addition, 13% of LGB people felt that harassment/attacks on people because of their sexual orientation in their neighbourhood was a problem.⁴⁸
- 1.49 The PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police” shows that in 2014/ 15 there 126 incidents with a homophobic motivation recorded in Belfast, an increase of 11 incidents (9.6% increase) from the previous year. This represents 37.7% of all incidents with a homophobic motivation recorded in N Ireland in 2014/ 15 (334). The Bulletin also reports that there were 82 recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation in Belfast, an increase of 9 recorded crimes (or 12%) from the previous year.

⁴⁵ Through Our Eyes, The Housing and Homeless Experience of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people in Northern Ireland, NIHE, 2015

⁴⁶ OUTstanding in your field: Exploring the needs of LGB&T people in rural Northern Ireland, The Rainbow Project, 2016

⁴⁷ Inequalities in Health: A Strategy for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, The Rainbow Project, 2010

⁴⁸ Through Our Eyes: Perceptions and Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People towards Homophobic Hate Crime and Policing in Northern Ireland, The Rainbow Project, 2009

This represents 39.2% of all recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation across N Ireland in 2014/ 15 (209 recorded crimes in NI with a homophobic motivation).⁴⁹

- 1.50 Equality Commission research⁵⁰ for Northern Ireland notes that lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people can feel harassed and unsafe in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

Gender

- 1.51 Belfast has a higher female population (52% of all residents), slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average of 51%. The difference is largest in the over 65 population, where 59.3% of all residents are female.⁵¹
- 1.52 Belfast experiences the lowest life expectancy levels within Northern Ireland for both males (75.7 years) and females (81.0 years). The gender gap is also greater within Belfast (5.3 years) when compared to the Northern Ireland average (4.3 years).⁵²
- 1.53 Almost one quarter of females reported some form of long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities, whereas only 1 in 5 males reported a similar health problem.⁵³
- 1.54 The Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS) 2010 reported that 46% of men compared to 27% among women participated for at least 30 minutes with moderate intensity in the last seven days across Belfast Northern Ireland. The difference between the genders is even more extreme in Belfast than in Northern Ireland as a whole (43% of males compared to 31% of females). This difference is particularly striking in young age groups (16-29 year olds: 71% of men participate compared to 40% of women) and among people aged 50+ (25% men compared to 13% women). The same report found that men in Belfast are more than twice as likely as women to join a club in which they can participate in sport (34% compared to 16%).⁵⁴

⁴⁹ PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police", August 2015

⁵⁰ Key inequalities in housing, Northern Ireland, Equality Commission 2016

⁵¹ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁵² Vital Statistics: Life Expectancy for areas within Northern Ireland 2011-2013, NISRA, October 2015

⁵³ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁵⁴ Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS), Sport NI, 2010

- 1.55 According to the 2011 census data, there were 245,963 residents living in Belfast aged 16-74. Of these, 130,121 (52.9%) were employed (full-time, part-time or self-employed). When broken down by gender, 55% of males aged 16-74 were employed and 51% of females aged 16-74 were employed. In relation to fulltime employment 34.7% of all residents were in fulltime employment; 41.3% of all males and 28.4% of all females were in full time employment. In relation to part time employment, 12.9% of all people living in Belfast aged 16-74 were employed part time. Broken down by gender, 5.7% of males and 19.6% of females were in part-time employment.⁵³
- 1.56 Young males demonstrate a high rate of unemployment – 11.6% of 16-24 year males were classed as unemployed in the 2011 census; whereas 5.2% of females were classed as unemployed.⁵³
- 1.57 In relation to earnings, the NISRA publication ‘Women in Northern Ireland’ reports that, in N Ireland at April 2014, the median gross weekly wage for full-time females in NI was £444.40 while for full-time males the figure was £460.50.⁵⁵
- 1.58 The PSNI most recent annual bulletin for trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes recorded by the police (published 14 October 2016) shows an increase in both the number of incidents recorded and crimes reported in Belfast. The incidents with a domestic abuse motivation by Belfast policing district for 2015/16 was 7,613, an increase of 547 incidents (7.7%) from the previous year. In relation to the number of recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation, the number for Belfast has increased by 12.3% in the last year to 3,935.⁵⁶ While the PSNI do not break report the number victims by gender, the NI Peace Monitoring Report (Number Three) cites that women are twice as likely as men to be victims of domestic abuse.⁵⁷
- 1.59 The PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police” shows that in 2014/15 there 10 incidents with a transphobic motivation recorded in Belfast, an increase of 1 incident (11.1% increase) from the previous year. This represents 47.6% of all incidents with a transphobic motivation recorded in N Ireland in 2014/15 (21). The Bulletin also reports that there were 6 recorded crimes with a transphobic motivation in

⁵⁵ Women in Northern Ireland, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2015

⁵⁶ PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/5 – 2015/16”, 2016

⁵⁷ Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report, Number Three, Paul Nolan, March 2014

Belfast, an increase of 5 recorded crimes (or 500%) from the previous year. This represents 75% of all recorded crimes with a transphobic motivation across N Ireland in 2014/15 (8 recorded crimes in NI with a homophobic motivation).⁵⁸

Disability

- 1.60 Census figures show that almost one quarter (23%) of Belfast residents have a long-term health problem or disability which affects their day to day activities. This is a higher proportion than the Northern Ireland average (20.1%). Over one-third of Belfast residents reported that they had a long-term condition (defined as a condition which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months). The most common conditions were mobility or dexterity difficulty (39% of all those affected), pain or discomfort (34%), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (31%) and emotional, psychological or mental health condition (23%).⁵⁹
- 1.61 People with disabilities are regarded as an under-represented group in terms of sports participation. This is evidenced in the Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS) 2010 which identified that 36% of Belfast adults participated in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport in the last 7 days. People with disabilities are significantly less likely to participate in sport with 14% having participated for at least half an hour (moderate intensity) in the last seven days compared to 19% in Northern Ireland overall.⁶⁰
- 1.62 In addition, people with disabilities in Belfast are significantly less likely than average to be members of sports clubs (14% compared to 24% for all adults). Furthermore, slightly less than half of people with disabilities (46%) are satisfied with sports' provision in the local area which is significantly less than the Belfast average (62%). Levels of satisfaction increase if people with disabilities participate in sport (52%) but are still lower than among those without a disability (69%).⁶⁰
- 1.63 DCAL's Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland: Analysis by Section 75 groups Annual Report (2013-14) found that there was

⁵⁸ PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police", August 2015

⁵⁹ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁶⁰ Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS), Sport NI, 2010

no difference in arts participation in relation to disability within Northern Ireland. However, a lower proportion of adults who have a disability attended arts events and visited a national museum than adults who do not have a disability.⁶¹

- 1.64 2011 census data for NI indicates that 9.25% of households in Northern Ireland with a dependent child have one or more persons with a long term health problem or a disability and 31.04% of households without a dependent child have one or more persons with a long term health problem or a disability.⁶²
- 1.65 According to DSD report Households Below Average Income 2013-14 (published 3 September 2015), one quarter of individuals living in a family where someone is disabled were living in relative poverty. People with multiple disabilities are at the greatest risk of poverty (47%) compared with those with a single disability (38%) and those without a disability (21%).⁶³
- 1.66 According to the Disability Action report Hard At Work, 33% of people with disabilities are in employment – less than half the rate of people without disabilities.⁶⁴
- 1.67 According to the 2011 Census, there were 47,957 residents aged 16-74 whose day-to-day activities are limited. 19% of these are in employment and 81% are not in employment.⁶²
- 1.68 People with a limiting long-term illness (LLTI) are reported as having a lower life expectancy (Male 70.0, Female 75.3) than those without a LLTI (Male 81.5, Female 86.9).⁶⁵
- 1.69 The PSNI Annual Bulletin “Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police” shows that in 2014/15 there 46 incidents with a disability motivation recorded in Belfast, an increase of 1 incident (2.2% increase) from the previous year. This represents 33.3% of all incidents with a disability motivation recorded in N Ireland in 2014/15 (138). The Bulletin also

⁶¹ Engagement in culture, arts and leisure by adults in Northern Ireland: Analysis by Section 75 groups Annual Report (2013-14), DCAL

⁶² Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁶³ Households Below Average Income 2013/ 14, DSD, 2015

⁶⁴ Hard at Work, Disability Action, 2016

⁶⁵ Section 75 Analysis of Mortality Patterns in Northern Ireland 2003-2007, DHSSPS, NI Health & Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System, January 2012

reports that there were 29 recorded crimes with a disability motivation in Belfast, a reduction of 1 recorded crimes (or 3.3%) from the previous year. This represents 38.2% of all recorded crimes with a disability motivation across N Ireland in 2014/15 (76 recorded crimes in NI with a disability motivation).⁶⁶

- 1.70 Equality Commission research⁶⁷ notes that those with a learning disability or mental health problems are not always afforded an opportunity to live independently. And that many people with disabilities live in homes that are not adequate to meet their disability related needs.

Dependents

- 1.71 The Belfast City Council Residents Survey 2014, reported that 32.3% of the population have dependents or caring responsibilities.⁶⁸ The 2011 Census shows that 28.58% of households in Belfast include dependent children, compared with the Northern Ireland average of 33.86%.⁶²
- 1.72 An analysis of Census information regarding lone parent households with dependent children shows that in half of all such households (50.77%), the lone parent is not in employment. In 32.94% of households, the lone parent works on a part-time basis and in 16.29% of households, the lone parent is in full-time employment.⁶⁹
- 1.73 As of February 2015, a total of 14,750 people in Belfast claimed Carer's Allowance, a non-contributory benefit for people who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week. A larger proportion of these carers were female (62%) compared with males (38%).⁷⁰
- 1.74 The DSD Households Below Average Income (HBAI) survey for 2013/14 reports that of all family types, couples without children had the lowest risk of being in relative poverty. The family type with the highest proportion of

⁶⁶ PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police" , August 2015

⁶⁷ Key inequalities in housing, Northern Ireland, Equality Commission 2016

⁶⁸ Belfast City Council Residents Survey, Social Market Research, 2015

⁶⁹ Census of Population, NI Statistics & Research Agency, 2011

⁷⁰ Carers Allowance Claimants, DSD (via NINIS website)

individuals living in relative poverty was single adults with children (30%).⁷¹

Multiple Identities

- 1.75 The 'cumulative impact' of multiple problems affecting particular groups indicates the need for effective collaboration and co-ordination of mitigating measures across the council and its community planning partners. The workstreams outlined in the Belfast Agenda can only be successfully delivered in partnership with other public, private and community and voluntary sector bodies.
- 1.76 In many instances there is an important spatial dimension to these issues. For example, areas of multiple deprivation suffer from a concentration of problems and outcomes which may reflect the cumulative impact of multiple inequalities as evidenced by health and lifestyle indicators. Deprived areas have lower life expectancy, worse health outcomes, suffer from increased morbidity and mortality, have substantially higher levels of teenage pregnancy than the region's average and perform less well in terms of educational outcomes.
- 1.77 Multiple deprivation is a particular issue in Belfast. The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation. This uses information on seven types of domains of deprivation covering income deprivation; employment deprivation; health deprivation and disability; education, skills and training deprivation; proximity to services; the living environment as well as crime and disorder.
- 1.78 According to the 2010 Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) 46% of the population of Belfast live in the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland and 8 out of the 10 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland lie within the city's boundaries. However deprivation levels in Belfast vary considerably with the city also having some of the least deprived wards in Northern Ireland. The majority of these deprived areas are situated in the west and north of Belfast.⁷²

⁷¹ Households Below Average Income 2013/ 14, DSD, 2015

⁷² Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, NISRA, 2010

- 1.79 Seven out of 10 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland in terms of health deprivation are in Belfast. There are pockets of health inequalities across the city and the gap in life expectancy is not reducing between the most affluent areas and the most deprived.
- 1.80 There is significant educational inequalities across the city with a 33% gap in educational attainment between those who are entitled to free school meals and those who aren't. (Educational attainment refers to the achievement of 5 GCSEs A*-C, including English and maths).
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Appendix 3: Extract from Belfast Local Government Plan Topic Paper 17: Population (2017)

4.0 Equality Considerations

4.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 places a statutory duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

4.2 In addition, without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are required to have regard to the need to promote good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

4.3 The principle of promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between people must be a key objective behind the plan and will be a central theme of the sustainability assessment. In land use planning terms, this means ensuring everyone benefits from quality housing, employment, and access to public services and recreation facilities. These themes will be addressed in more detail in later papers. However, this paper begins the process of identifying issues and needs facing different groups within the area over and above the general population, so that these can be considered at every stage of the plan making process. If an aim of the plan is also to help build a cohesive society then it must also be recognised that this can only be achieved by “sharing space” and “accessing opportunities”.

(A) Age Structure

4.4 The age structure of a population has obvious implications for planning. A growing young population will impact on the demand for and provision of childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools. A growing working age population would necessitate that planning provides adequate housing especially for those entering the housing market and employment opportunities. For a growing elderly population, adequate services and housing to meet their specific needs must also be considered.

Figure 9: Age Structure of Population 2014

District	All Persons	Persons: 0-15 years	Persons: 16-39 years	Persons: 40-64 years	Persons: 65+ years
Northern Ireland	1,851,621	385,200 (20.80%)	583,116 (31.49%)	591,481 (31.94%)	291,824 (15.76%)
Belfast LGD 2014	338,907	66,581 (19.65%)	122,942 (36.28%)	100,076 (29.53%)	49,308 (14.55%)

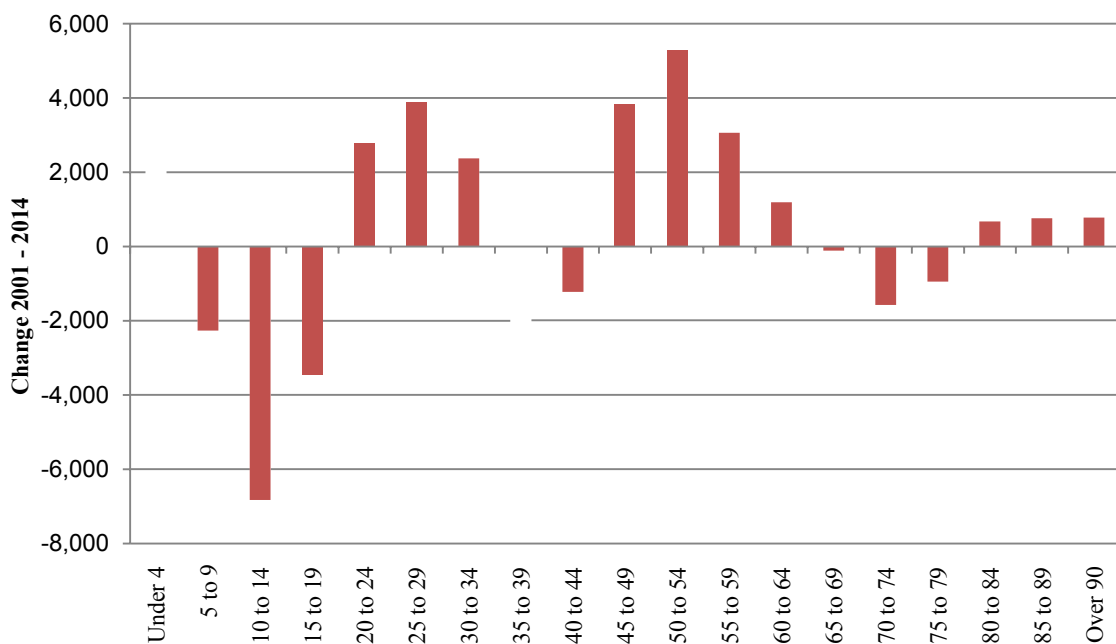
Source: NISRA Population Estimates Broad Age Bands 2014 (Administrative Geographies)

4.5 On Census day 2011, the median age of those living in Belfast in 2011 was 35 years, which is lower than the Northern Ireland average (37 years) (BCC City Profile 2015). NISRA estimate that in 2015, 19.65% of the Belfast population were children aged 0-15 years, lower than the Northern Ireland average of 20.8%. Older persons (i.e. 65 years

and over) made up 14.55% of the Belfast population, again lower than the Northern Ireland average of 15.76%.

4.6 Over the decade 2014-2024² the population of Northern Ireland is projected to increase by 5.3 per cent (i.e. 98,217 people), reaching 1,938,715 people in 2024. While the overall population of Belfast increased between 2001 and 2014, several age groups declined in size during this period. This includes younger people aged 5 to 19, residents aged 35 to 44 and those aged 65 to 79 years old. The strongest growth occurred in those aged 50 to 54 over this period, but comparatively strong growth was also seen in the those age groups around this cohort (45 to 64) and the younger working age population (20 to 34).

Figure 10: Change in the Age Profile of Belfast 2001 – 2014



Source: NISRA, Turley 2016¹

4.7 Population growth is expected for each of the 11 new local government districts over the decade, ranging from 1.4 per cent (Derry and Strabane) to 10.4 per cent (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon). Based on these projections, Belfast’s growth of 3.3 per cent is the fifth highest out of the 11 Local Government Districts.

4.8 In Belfast, the number of people of working age (as defined in April 2010, consists of the male population aged 16-64 and the female population aged 16-59) is projected to increase marginally from 94,357 people in 2014 to a projected 96,453 people in 2024 (2.2% increase). In contrast the number of people of pensionable age (Pensioners as defined in

² **NB.** The Belfast City Population and Housing Growth Study completed on behalf of the Council in October 2016 is based on the 2014 population estimates and 2014-based population projections, being the most recent data available at the time.

April 2010 (males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over) is projected to increase from 33,779 in 2010 to 36,647 in 2025, an increase of 8.4%.

- 4.9** Closer examination of the Super Output Areas (SOAs) within the new council area indicates that some have slightly older populations than the district average and some have much younger populations. A higher proportion of children under 16 years can be found in areas such as Whiterock 1, Cliftonville 1, Legoniel 1, Ardoyne 3, Ballymacarrett 2, Falls 2 and Shankill 1, which all have children as over a quarter of their populations, whilst a significant proportion of the SOAs around Queen's University in Stranmillis and Botanic have under 10% of their populations as Children. In contrast, the proportion of population aged 65 and over is significantly higher than district level in areas including Upper Malone 1, Cherry Valley 1, Crumlin 1, Stormont 1, Fortwilliam 1 and Andersonstown 1 & 2, which are all over a quarter over 65. These areas are contrastable with the SOAs near Queen's University with SOAs at Botanic (1-5), Windsor (2, 3 & 4) and Stranmillis (2 & 3) all having less than 7% over 65s.
- 4.10** These variations between areas will require more targeted responses with regard to the type of services needed. The growing number of elderly people is a key factor in declining average household size. This has been taken into account by DRD when formulating the Regional Development Strategy 2035 Housing Growth Indicators. A Local Development Plan has a role in providing development land to meet these indicators (which will be discussed in the housing paper) and facilitate housing units to meet the needs of the elderly, particularly nursing homes, sheltered accommodation and smaller sized units. It also has a role in ensuring such units are accessible. The Development Plan housing zonings need to ensure that all housing, including for the elderly, is sited where it is accessible to local services and transportation. These services include health and other community facilities together with recreation and shops. A rising elderly population will also increase demand for health and community services, the development of which will also need to be accommodated.
- 4.11** In 2011, around one fifth of the population was under 16. Children are also a vulnerable group. In 2014/2015, approximately 109,500 children (25%) in Northern Ireland were in relative poverty before housing costs. This is two percentage points higher than 2013/2014 and 5 percentage points higher than 2012/2013. Young people can be particularly vulnerable to the vehicular traffic; therefore, safe and sustainable access to community and recreation facilities, including play parks and sports grounds, must remain high on the agenda.

(B) Gender and Life Expectancy

- 4.12** The usually resident population in Northern Ireland and the Belfast LGD is broadly split on a 50/50 basis between men and women with slightly more females in 2014 in both.
-

Figure 11: Gender balance of Belfast Population- 2011

Sex	Belfast LGD (%)	N.Ireland (%)
Male	48.2	49
Female	51.8	51

Source: NISRA Population Totals (LGD2014)

- 4.13** Life expectancy continues to improve for both males and females. Between 2000 and 2010, life expectancy for males improved at a slightly faster rate than for females, reducing the gender gap to females. Belfast continues to have a life expectancy of slightly more than two years less than the NI average. Belfast has a larger differential between male and female life expectancy than the NI average with females having a life expectancy of five years more than men born in the same year do.
- 4.14** In the UK, life expectancy at birth is expected to increase by around five years between 2012 and 2037 (Office of National Statistics, 2013) for both men and women and it is therefore anticipated that life expectancy will similarly increase in Belfast.

Figure 12: Life Expectancy by Gender at Birth in Belfast - 2000 & 2010

	2000		2010		% Change	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
NI	75.25	80.17	77.82	82.28	3.42%	2.63%
Old Belfast LGD	73.20	78.80	75.20	80.60	2.73%	2.28%

Source: NISRA Demography Life Expectancy at Birth

(C) Marital Status

- 4.15** The marital status of the population influences the composition of households and therefore the demand for housing. Since 2001, there has been an increase in the percentage of divorced people, a decrease in the percentage of people married and an increase in the proportion of single people in N. Ireland. In the new Belfast City Council Area, The 2011 census data shows that in the new Belfast Council Area there is higher proportion of single people, 45.32% of over 16s, than the Northern Ireland (NI) average (36.14%). A lower proportion of the adult population is married (35.57% compared with a NI average of 47.56%) and a marginally higher proportion are divorced (6.17% compared with the regional average of 5.45%).

Figure 13: Marital Status- 2011

	All People ≥ 16	Single (never married) %	Married ³ %	Divorced %	Widowed ⁴ %
NI	1,431,540	36.14	47.56	5.45	6.78
Old Belfast LGD	269,654	45.32	35.57	6.17	7.46

Source: NISRA Census 2011

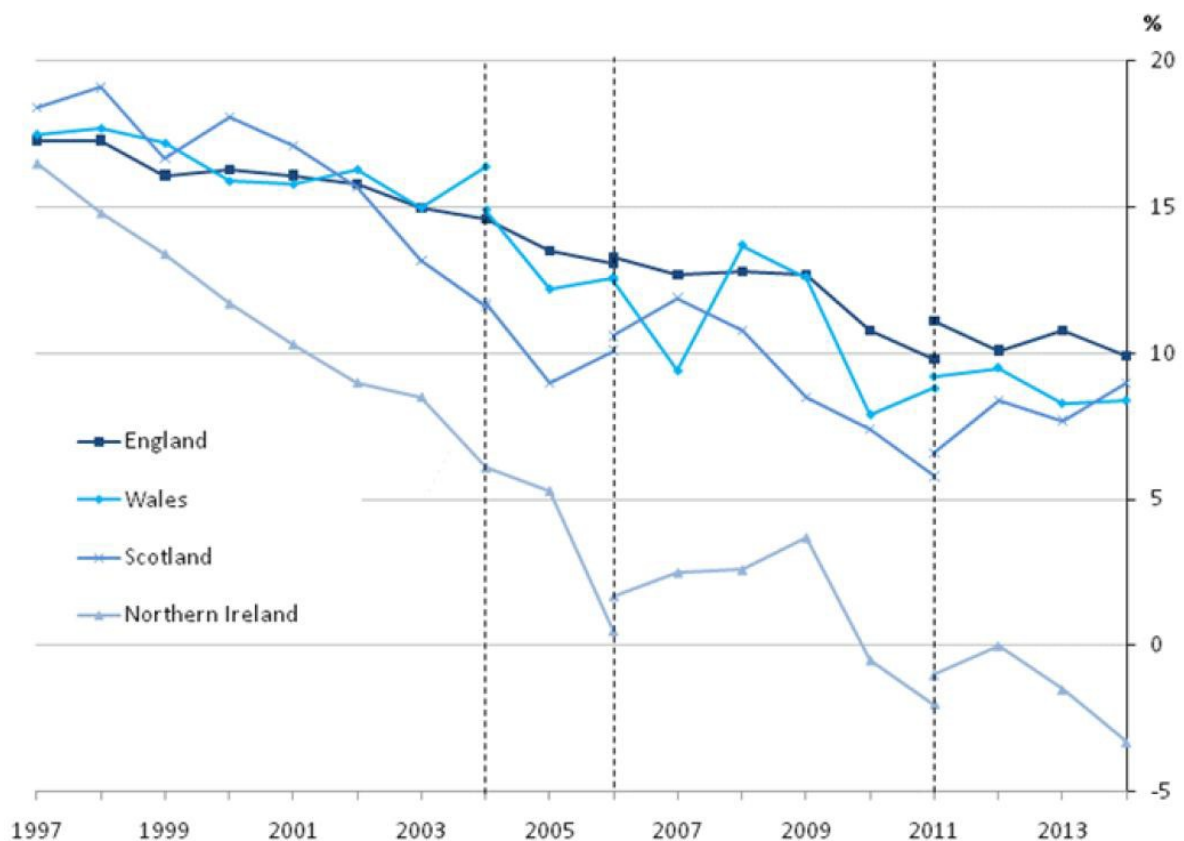
³ Married – This includes people who were remarried; those who are separated but still legally married; and those in a same-sex civil partnership.

⁴ Widowed includes surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership.

4.16 The role for planning is to adequately provide for appropriate housing to meet the needs of the population. There will need to be units provided for single people. It is reasonable to assume that many single wage earners will not have the same purchase power of a double income household. Single people also have different social needs to those who are married and have families. Young, single people are key to the economy of any town centres, providing a significant part of the market for pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, this can mask the feeling of social exclusion experienced by many single people, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents. Single parents remain one of the most disadvantaged groups with over half falling within low income groups and over half of lone parent families not having access to a car (Poverty site, 2010).

4.17 There are key differences between the sexes in that women tend to take on the role of carer whether it be for children or aging relatives. The traditional gender pay gap (i.e. the difference between men's and women's earnings as a percentage of men's earnings) based on median gross hourly earnings (excluding overtime) for full-time employees has reversed in Northern Ireland as women are now higher earners than men are. This is, in part, due to a higher proportion of public sector jobs here than in the rest of the UK. There are more women employed in this sector than men and these jobs tend to be higher paid, in general, than in the private sector (Op Cit).

Figure 14: Gender Pay Gap 1997-2014



Source: Office of National Statistics 2014

4.18 This figure is based on full time work. It therefore masks the fact that in NI there are more women in part-time work (167,000 women compared with 64,000 men). DETI's 2014

Annual Survey of Hours and Earning by contrast shows that the median gross annual pay for women is almost 2/3 of what men are paid (£14,871 compared with £22,327). This is exacerbated by a decrease in the median figure for females of 0.9% when male median wages increased by 2.4%.

Figure 15: Gross Annual Pay (£) for all Employees (who had been in the same job for 1+ years), NI/UK 2014

Description	Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Median (£s)	Annual percentage change 2013-14	Median (£s)	Annual percentage change 2013-14
All	18,764	1.6	22,044	0.9
Male	22,327	2.4	27,162	0.0
Female	14,871	-0.9	17,103	0.8
Full-time	24,020	0.3	27,195	0.7
Part-time	8,624	4.7	9,000	1.6
Public Sector All	23,105	2.1	24,302	1.2
Private Sector All	16,375	3.5	21,259	0.9
Public Sector Full-time	29,658	3.6	29,785	1.0
Private Sector Full-time	21,345	3.7	26,000	0.8

a Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, ONS

(D) Households with or without dependent children

- 4.19** A “dependent child” is defined as 0-15 or aged 16-18 who is a full-time student and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s) (Census 2011). In both Northern Ireland and Belfast, the proportion of households (including lone parent households) with dependent children has declined since 1981.

Figure 16: Percentage of Households with Dependent Children– 1981 & 2011

Households	N. Ireland	Belfast
% with dependent children 1981	45.98%	37.30%
% with dependent children 2011	33.85%	29.74%

Source: Census 1981, 2011

- 4.20** A closer examination of the Super Output Areas within each district reveals that many have much higher proportions of households with children than the district level including Whiterock 1, Glencolin 1, Cliftonville 1, Upper Springfield 2 and Legoneil 1. At the opposite end of the scale, other SOAs around Queen’s University (Botanic 1, 2, 3 & 4 and Windsor 2, 3 & 4) are those with the lowest proportion of households with dependent children as all are less than one in eight households.

(E) Racial Group and Ethnicity

- 4.21** The 2011 census data showed that 96.69% of the population of the new Belfast Council Area are white. Whilst this represents the vast majority of the population, Belfast is also the

most ethnically diverse council in Northern Ireland. The main minority ethnic groups in Belfast are Chinese (0.71%), Indian (0.70%), Other Asian (0.61%), Mixed (0.48%), Black African (0.32%), Irish Travellers (0.08%) and Pakistani (0.08%).

4.22 In the new Belfast City Council Area (from Census 2011), 5.97% of the resident population were born either in the European Union (EU) (2.58% - 0.67% pre-2004 accession states and 1.91% post-2004 accession states) or outside the EU (3.39%). It is unlikely that the Local Development Plan will have a particular impact on these groups; however, it is important to monitor changes over time as this may have implications particularly in relation to equality of access to homes and jobs. The housing needs assessment undertaken by the NIHE addresses the distinct needs in terms of Irish Travellers.

(F) Sexual Orientation

4.23 Sexual orientation is the only equality strand on which the UK census does not collect information⁵. However, several UK and NI based studies have attempted to quantify the number of people who identify as LGB. Estimates for LGB population range from 0.3-10% using different sources. A commonly used estimate of LGB people in the UK, accepted by Stonewall UK, is approximately 5-7% of the population.⁶

4.24 A growing body of research indicates that LGB young people are more likely than their heterosexual peers to experience bullying, exclusion and intimidation in the educational institution. This can lead to higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation, self-harm and other risk-taking behaviours amongst LGB&T young people⁷. Young LGB people are 5 times more likely to be medicated for depression, 2.5 times more likely to self-harm and 3 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual counterparts. Further to this 28.6% of young same sex attracted men showed signs of a mental health problem compared to 10.2% of those who were attracted to the opposite sex.⁸

4.25 One of the key issues for LGB people is the promotion of community safety across the city to reduce both homophobic hate crime incidents and fear of crime. Research by the Rainbow Project in 2009 found that 21% of gay and bisexual males and 18% of LGB females had been victim of one or more homophobic hate crimes or incidents in the previous three years and 30% of these incidents resulted in physical injury. In addition, 13% of LGB people felt that harassment/attacks on people because of their sexual orientation in their neighbourhood was a problem.⁹

4.26 The PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police" shows that in 2014/ 15 there 126 incidents with a homophobic motivation recorded in Belfast, an increase of 11 incidents (9.6% increase) from the previous year. This

⁵ <http://www.ark.ac.uk/pdfs/policybriefs/pbso.pdf>

⁶ *Through Our Eyes, The Housing and Homeless Experience of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people in Northern Ireland, NIHE, 2015*

⁷ *OUTstanding in your field: Exploring the needs of LGB&T people in rural Northern Ireland, The Rainbow Project, 2016*

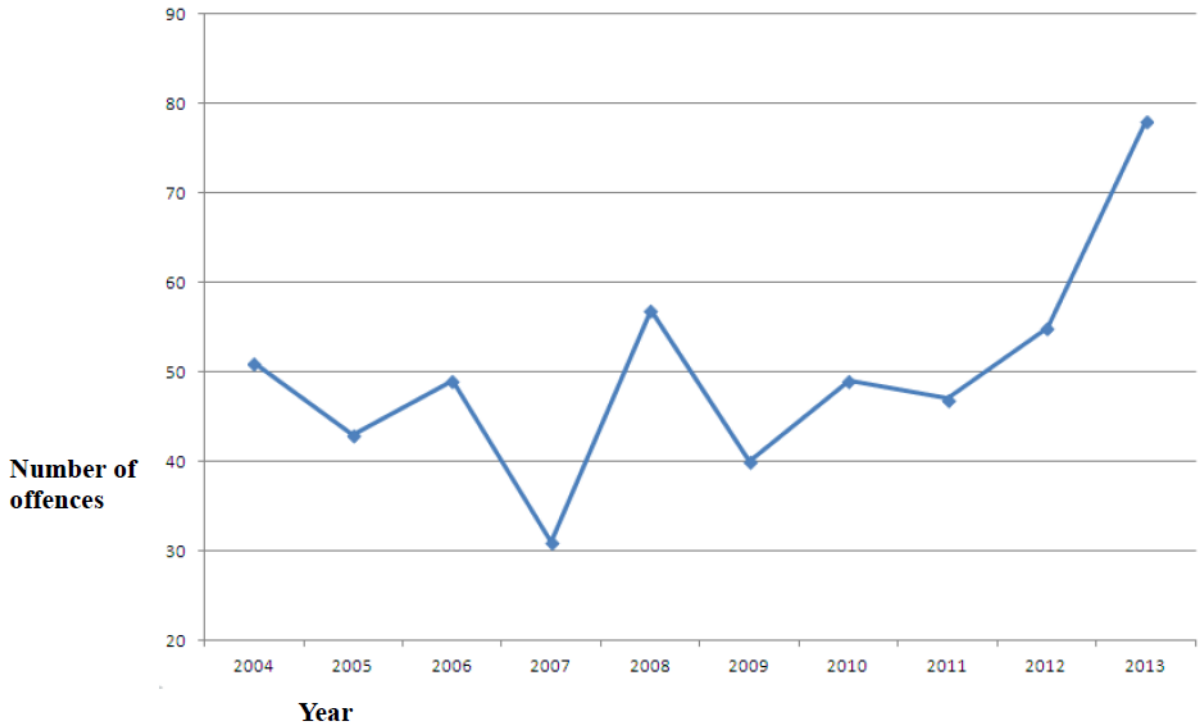
⁸ *Inequalities in Health: A Strategy for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, The Rainbow Project, 2010*

⁹ *Through Our Eyes: Perceptions and Experiences of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People towards Homophobic Hate Crime and Policing in Northern Ireland, The Rainbow Project, 2009*

represents 37.7% of all incidents with a homophobic motivation recorded in N Ireland in 2014/ 15 (334). The Bulletin also reports that there were 82 recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation in Belfast, an increase of 9 recorded crimes (or 12%) from the previous year. This represents 39.2% of all recorded crimes with a homophobic motivation across N Ireland in 2014/ 15 (209 recorded crimes in NI with a homophobic motivation).¹⁰

4.27

Figure 17: Hate Crimes Offences Recorded with a Homophobic Motivation



Source: NISRA

4.28 Whilst the plan is unlikely to bring forward specific proposals and policies for this group, it is anticipated that many of the measures in a Local Development Plan aimed at providing a range of house types, creating employment and accessible services as well as improving safety and security will benefit this group.

(G) Disability and Health

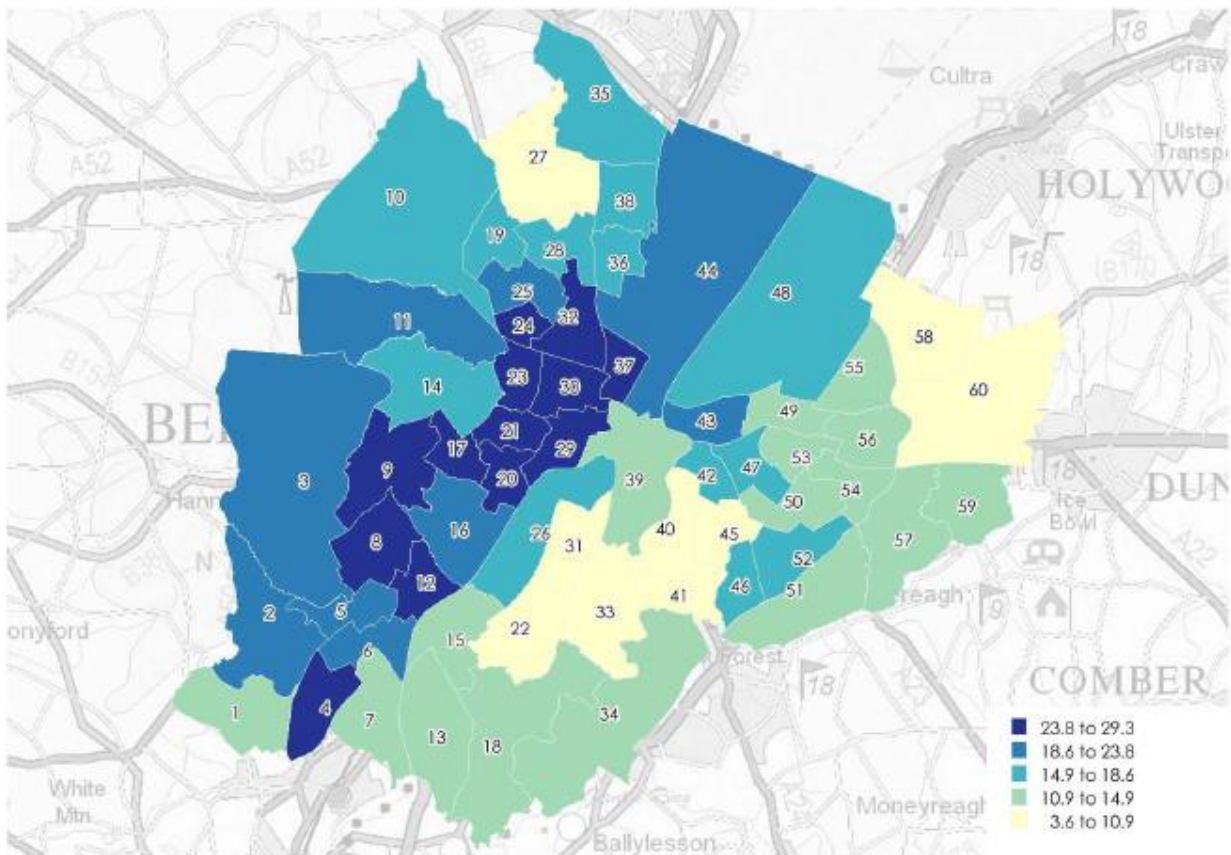
4.29 In February 2014, there were 55,480 people, or 16.6% of all residents, in receipt of at least one disability-related benefit in Belfast. Belfast had the second highest proportion of disability-related benefit recipients (Belfast Profile 2015).



¹⁰ PSNI Annual Bulletin "Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the PSNI", August 2015

Belfast's disability-related benefit claimant level is above the Northern Ireland average of 13.9%. The highest concentrations of disability related benefits claimants are located in areas of North and West Belfast. This is to be contrasted with some areas in the South and East, which have some of the lowest levels of disability related benefits in Northern Ireland (see map overleaf).

Figure 18: Proportion of People in Receipt of at Least on Disability-related Benefit at Ward Level, February 2014



1	Lagmore	23	Woodvale	45	Ravenhill
2	Poleglass	24	Ardoyne	46	Cregagh
3	Collin Glen	25	Cliftonville	47	Beersbridge
4	Twinbrook	26	Blackstaff	48	Sydenham
5	Stewartstown	27	Cavehill	49	Connswater
6	Ladybrook	28	Chichester Park	50	Orangefield
7	Dunmurry	29	Falls	51	Hillfoot
8	Shaw's Road	30	Shankill	52	Merok
9	Turf Lodge	31	Windsor	53	Bloomfield
10	Legoniel	32	Water Works	54	Sandown
11	Forth River	33	Stranmillis	55	Belmont
12	Andersonstown	34	Belvoir	56	Knock
13	Finaghy	35	Bellevue	57	Shandon
14	Ballygomartin	36	Fortwilliam	58	Garnerville
15	Musgrave	37	New Lodge	59	Gilnahirk
16	Falls Park	38	Innisfayle	60	Stormont
17	Ballymurphy	39	Central		
18	Upper Malone	40	Ormeau		
19	Ballysillan	41	Rosetta		
20	Beechmount	42	Woodstock		
21	Clonard	43	Ballymacarrett		
22	Malone	44	Duncairn		

4.30 In 2012/2013, 12.05% of all usual residents in the old Belfast council area provided some unpaid care to friends, families and others. The proportion of unpaid carers varies between Belfast Wards from the low proportions found in the South Belfast Wards of Botanic, Windsor, Ballynafeigh and Stranmillis (all less than 10%) to the highest proportions in the West Belfast Wards of Andersonstown, Ladybrook, Finaghy and Falls Park (all over 14.5%). The differentials within the city are not particularly pronounced.

4.31 The link between health and wealth is well rehearsed, as is the relationship between mobility and health. Therefore, as with other groups planning has a role in accommodating accessible housing, employment and services. Planning also has a role in helping to improve the health and well-being of people by avoiding development which would result in a deterioration in air or water quality; safeguarding and facilitating open space, sport and outdoor recreation; managing the adverse impacts of noise and nuisance by influencing the location, layout and design of new development. Planning also has a role in recognising and facilitating development to meet the needs of carers, by facilitating houses for those with special circumstances or extension of homes to include “grannyannexes”.

(H) Religious Belief

4.32 The designation of settlements and provision of development opportunities needs to be carefully considered against the needs and spatial distribution of people of different religion or political opinion to prevent prejudice of any religious or political group and thus meet the requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act.

4.33 The 2011 census detailed that 48.8% of the Belfast population belong to or were brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; 42.5% belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religions; 1.6% belong to or were brought up in other religions; and 7.1% belong to or were brought up in no religion.

Figure 19: Percentage of people & Religion belonging to or Religion in which they were brought up- 2011

	Roman Catholic (%)	Protestant / Other Christian (%)	Other Religions / Philosophies (%)	No religion / None Stated (%)
N. Ireland	45.14	48.36	0.92	5.59
Belfast (LGD 2014)	48.82	42.47	1.57	7.14

Source: NISRA Census 2011

4.34 Since the 2001 Census the proportion of the Belfast population that belong to or were brought up in:

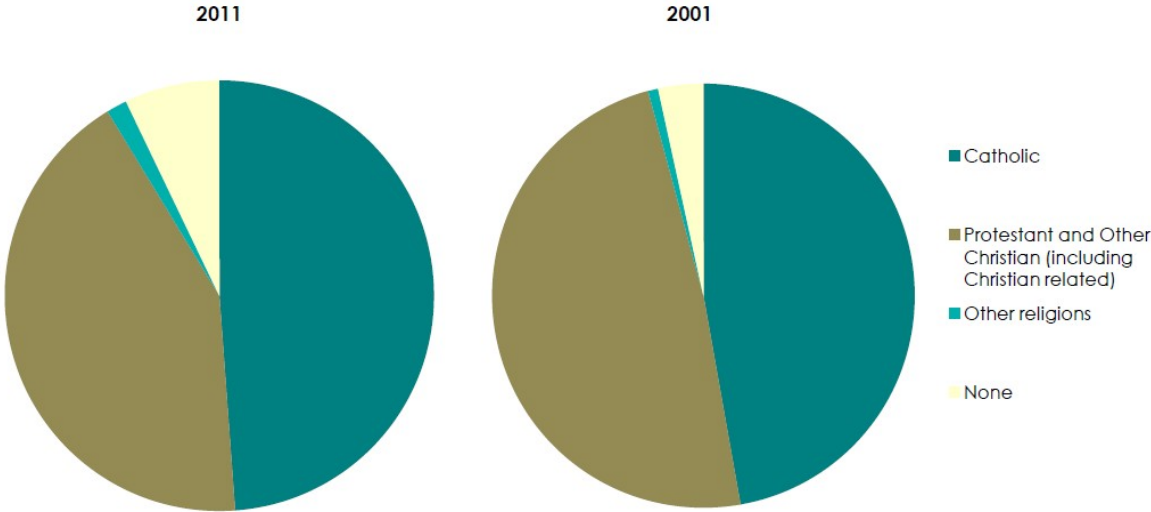
- No religion has more than doubled with an increase of 3.7 percentage points from 3.4%;
- The Roman Catholic has increased by 1.6 percentage points from 47.2%;
- Protestant and Other Christian have decreased by 6.1 percentage points from 48.6%; and

Appendix 3

- Other religions have doubled, growing by 0.8 percentage points from 0.8%.

4.35 Research by Queen’s University Belfast on changing levels of segregation as indicated by 2011 census states the following: “Northern Ireland, as a whole, has experienced a fall in residential segregation between 2001 and 2011. It is likely that Belfast has shared in this trend with the rest of Northern Ireland. However, it is likely that the decrease between 2001 and 2011 is a result of the demographic balance of some areas being changed by immigration, by changes in the way in which people describe their religion in the Census, to local differences in births and deaths between Catholics and Protestants, and to genuine mixing in some areas.”

Figure 20: Religion or religion brought up Belfast (LGD 2014) – 2011



Source: NISRA Census 2011

4.36 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement recognises that the planning process has an important role to play in the delivery of good quality housing that supports the creation of more balanced communities. Balanced communities can contribute positively to the creation and enhancement of shared spaces and vice-versa.

(I) Political Opinion

4.37 In May 2014, 60 councillors were elected to represent the people of Belfast in the expanded city. The council is divided between the predominant political groupings found in Northern Ireland, with 26 Nationalist councillors (Sinn Fein and the SDLP) and 24 Unionist councillors (DUP, UUP, PUP and TUV). This leaves the balance of power with the non- designated councillors from the Alliance Party, Green Party and People before Profit.

Figure 21: Number of Political Party Representatives on Belfast City Council

Sinn Fein	SDLP	Alliance	Green	People Before Profit	DUP	UUP	PUP	TUV
19	7	8	1	1	13	7	3	1