



**Belfast  
City Council**

**Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact  
Assessment**

**Q4 - January to March 2020**

## Introduction

### Legislation – An Overview

#### Section 75 Statutory Equality Duties

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Council, when carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between nine categories of persons, namely:

- 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.

Without prejudice to its obligations above, the council must also have regards to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Council's Revised Equality Scheme was formally approved by the Equality Commission in March 2015. The revised Scheme outlines how we propose to fulfil our statutory duties under Section 75. Within the Scheme, the council gave a commitment to apply the screening methodology below to all new and revised policies and where necessary and appropriate to subject new policies to further equality impact assessment.

- What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?
- Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?
- To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

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

In keeping with the Council's commitments in its Equality Scheme, the Council has applied the above screening criteria to new policies and proposals. Screening identifies policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Screening identifies the impact of the policy/proposal as major, minor or none.

- If major – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out.
- If minor – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.
- If none – screen out and give reasons.
- Ongoing screening – for strategies/policies that are to be put in place through a series of stages – screen at various stages during implementation.

The council also committed within its Revised Equality Scheme to prepare and publish for information regular reports on its screening exercises. This is screening report providing details on all screenings undertaken from the period January to December 2020.

### **Rural Needs Impact Assessments**

The Council also has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (Northern Ireland) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions. The Council must therefore engage with rural stakeholders in relation to policy development when it is relevant and appropriate. The Equality and Diversity Unit is responsible for reporting to the Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee and for ensuring that annual reporting returns are submitted to DAERA.

To further promote openness and transparency, there is a link to each completed screening and rural needs impact assessment template on the Council's website.

[www.belfastcity.gov.uk](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk)

The templates detail all policies screened over this period and includes decisions reached.

## **Consultation**

The development of new policies and proposals will be supported by effective engagement processes to ensure that staff, service users and all interested parties are fully involved.

Planning for, and delivering safe and cost effective services requires close collaboration at many levels.

If you have any queries about this document, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in other languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact:

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## **Screening Outcome**

The screening outcomes are outlined in the table below. Three possible outcomes are recorded:

If **Major** – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out. **EQIA** - subject to further scrutiny under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to determine the impact upon those directly affected, which in turn will require informal and formal consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

If **Minor** – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.

If **None** – screen out and give reasons.

### Screening Outcome Options

Major= In

Minor= Out with mitigation

None= Out without mitigation

### Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs)

We have also added for notation purposes details of those EQIAs which are currently being undertaken by the Council.

### Rural Needs Impact Assessment Options

Does the policy, plan, strategy or service design/delivery impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

### Belfast City Council Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

This report includes published screenings and Rural Needs Impact Assessments for the period July to September 2019. Copies can be found at:

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/eqia.aspx>

Description of Policy/Proposal	Rural Needs Impact Assessment	ECNI Screening Decision and Contact
A City Reimaging – Cultural Strategy for Belfast 2020-2030	This is an overarching strategy and it will have no impact on residents in rural areas	Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA – EQIA complete Contact: Erika Clark ext 5460
Future City Centre Programme	This programme is specific to Belfast City Centre and will have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Catherine McKeown ext 3560
City for Investment Service	This service will be delivered Citywide and will have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Jelena Buick ext 3229

<b>Description of Policy/Proposal</b>	<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment</b>	<b>ECNI Screening Decision and Contact</b>
Request for a permanent plaque to commemorate World War I nurses	This decision is specific to Belfast City Hall and will have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Lisa McKee ext 6310
Reservoir Safety Programme	This Programme will have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Breige Coyle ext 3671
Final Developer Contributions Framework	This Framework will be used to aid planning assessments to ensure that new development is appropriately mitigated and managed. Therefore the impact will apply across the Council's area regardless of whether the proposed development is in a rural or urban area.	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Ed Baker ext 2303
Final Blue and Green Infrastructure Plan	This Plan can be used to aid planning and investment decision making, including encouraging consideration of potential opportunities to enhance and expand the blue and green infrastructure network through development. Therefore the impact will apply across the Council's area regardless of whether proposed development is in an urban or rural area	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Mark Whittaker ext 2321
Belfast Zoo Annual Scale of Charges 2020-2021	These charges will not have a different impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out –Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Ashleigh Fox email <a href="mailto:ashleighfox@belfastcity.gov.uk">ashleighfox@belfastcity.gov.uk</a>
Start a Business Activity	This Programme will be delivered Citywide and will have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out –Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Jelena Buick ext 3229
City for Investment Service	This Programme will be delivered Citywide and will	Screened Out –Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)

	have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Contact: Jelena Buick ext 3229
Employability and Skills Programme	This Programme will be delivered Citywide and will have no impact on residents living in rural areas	Screened Out –Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Jelena Buick ext 3229