



Subject:	Equality and Diversity: Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report - Quarter 1
Date:	21 August 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Lisa McKee, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide members with a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for Quarter 1 - April to June 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> One of the main requirements of the Council's Equality Scheme is to carry out the screening of new and revised policies. This allows any impacts related to equality of opportunity and/or good relations to be identified and addressed.
3.2	The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland recommends that, once a policy has been screened and it has a major potential to impact on equality of opportunity and good

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>relations, then it should be subjected to an EQIA. An EQIA is a thorough and systematic analysis of a policy, whether that policy is formal or informal and, irrespective of the scope of that policy or the size of the public authority. The primary function of an EQIA is to determine the extent of any differential impact of a policy upon the section 75 categories and to determine if the differential impact is adverse. An EQIA can assist in decision-making and improve policy making by adding to the evidence base available.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions and is required to ensure that annual reporting returns are submitted to DAERA.</p> <p>An equality screening and rural needs impact assessment template is completed by the relevant officer, in collaboration with the Equality and Diversity Unit. On a regular basis, the Unit collates all completed templates into a screening outcome report and publishes onto the Council's website along with the relevant completed templates. The current screening outcome report for April to June 2020 is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>So that Members are aware, and as agreed at Gold on 29 July, the Equality & Diversity Team will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out an overarching strategic screening of our response to Covid 19 and the transition to recovery covering key areas including staff policies, changes to services, additional governance arrangements • Providing equality support to departments during the recovery programme where specific screenings are required; and arranging meetings of the Equality Consultative Forum and Disability Advisory Panel.
<p>3.5</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding the promotion of equality, good relations and rural needs.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 : Screening Outcome and Rural Needs Impact Assessment Report - Quarter 1 2020-21</p>