



Local Development Plan 2030

# Draft Equality (Section 75) Screening Report of the Draft Plan Strategy

September 2019

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**Mid & East  
Antrim**  
Borough Council

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## Have your say

This Equality Impact Screening Report is issued for consultation purposes alongside the Mid and East Antrim Draft Plan Strategy 2030 for an eight week period commencing 16 October 2019 and closing at 5pm on 11 December 2019.

## Pre-Consultation

To allow everyone time to read and digest the draft Plan Strategy and all its supporting documents, Council is publishing all documentation in advance of the formal eight week period of public consultation. This period of pre-consultation will run from 17 September 2019 to 15 October 2019.

**Please note that no representations should be made during this period, as they will not be considered outside of the formal consultation period.**

During this pre-consultation period, Council's Local Development Plan team will facilitate a series of public engagement events. Arrangements for these events will be published on Council's website and in local newspapers in the week commencing 16 September 2019.

The aims of these events are to:

- Promote understanding of the draft Plan Strategy;
- Explain how it will be tested at Independent Examination; and
- Provide guidance on the submission of representations to the public consultation.

## Formal Consultation

We welcome comments on the content of this Equality Screening Report from everyone with an interest in Mid and East Antrim and its continuing development over the plan period to 2030. All formal representations received will be given due consideration and may assist further drafting or amendment of policies prior to an Independent Examination.

The document will be open for formal public consultation for a period of eight weeks, **commencing on 16 October 2019 and closing at 5pm on 11 December 2019.**

**Please note that representations received after the closing date on 11 December 2019 will not be considered.**

## Availability of the Draft Equality (Section 75) Screening Report

A copy of this document and the draft Plan Strategy, are available on the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council website: **[www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/LDP](http://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/LDP)**

Or it can be made available for viewing in the Council Planning Office, at the address below, for those who do not have online access.

Should you require a copy of this document in an alternative format it can be made available, on request in large print, audio format or Braille. It may also be made available in other languages to meet the needs of those for who English is not their first language.

## How to Respond

Representations should be submitted to the Local Development Plan Team via the following options:

**Online Consultation Portal:** [consult.midandeastantrim.gov.uk](http://consult.midandeastantrim.gov.uk)  
**By email:** [planning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:planning@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)  
**By post:** Local Development Plan Team  
Planning Office  
County Hall  
182 Galgorm Road  
BT42 1QF

### How will the Council deal with your comments?

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council will use this information to fulfil our policy development and statutory obligations. We will keep your information secure, accurate, and for no longer than is necessary in accordance with data protection laws. If you wish to find out more about how we control and process your personal data please see the Local Development Plan Privacy Notice.

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This draft Equality Screening Impact Report has been prepared alongside Mid and East Antrim Borough's draft Plan Strategy, published on 17 September 2019. The draft Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents, which together will comprise the Local Development Plan (LDP). This report should be read in conjunction with the draft Plan Strategy document along with all other accompanying reports and with our evidence base which is set out in a suite of Technical Supplements. Both the draft Equality Screening Impact Report and the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to an eight week period of formal public consultation, although both documents will be publicly available for four weeks in advance.

1.2 The Council has a statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions, relating to Northern Ireland, 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.

Functions include the "powers and duties" of a public authority.

1.3 Without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.

1.4 In addition, the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

### Background

1.5 The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) transferred the responsibility for the preparation of Local Development Plans from the Department of the Environment (DOE) (now the Department for Infrastructure (DfI)) to Councils and established a plan-led system which gives primacy to the LDP in the determination of planning applications.

1.6 The main purpose of the LDP is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, service providers, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the RDS and the LDP objectives and guide decisions on planning applications for development in Mid and East Antrim until 2030.

1.7 The LDP will aim to provide sufficient land to meet anticipated needs for housing, employment, and services; all supported by adequate infrastructure, over the plan period to 2030. It will also seek to ensure that all new development is of high quality and located in suitable places - which themselves should be enhanced by the development. A 'suitable place' will generally be a location where the development proposal can help meet economic and social needs without compromising the quality of the environment. This is often referred to as 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "*meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*".

1.8 In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the LDP will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2025 and other central government policies. It will also take account of Council's Community Plan by helping to deliver on these strategies priorities and actions that can be influenced through the planning system.

## 2.0 Equality Screening

### Equality Screening of Preferred Options Paper

- 2.1 In bringing forward the LDP, the Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of Section 75 groups are considered. Therefore, we will carry out an Equality Screening Assessment at each of the three main stages in the process to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required.
- 2.2 The publication of our Preferred Options Paper (POP) was the first stage in this process and that document was accompanied by an Equality Impact Interim Screening Progress Report. Prior to the publication of the Preferred Options Paper (POP) the Council sought early engagement with Section 75 groups in order to allow for the timely identification of any specific needs. Targeted letters were sent to over 100 organisations who represent the interests of Section 75 groups asking them to identify any particular issues or needs which they consider the LDP should address.
- 2.3 The POP as a preliminary consultation document did not set out defined policies but rather suggested policy approaches to take forward in the Plan Strategy. A second round of targeted written consultation with Section 75 groups was also undertaken in order to gauge their views on the impact of the proposed approaches on Section 75 interests. The purpose of the Screening Report at POP stage was to consider the potential equality and good relations impact of alternative options associated with 36 Key Issues. The screening did not identify any adverse impacts on the equality of opportunity for any of the Section 75 groups neither did it identify any adverse impact on the on the promotion of good relations. In fact, this early assessment did identify that there was the potential for some policies to have positive impacts in relation to both interests. However, the screening report also recognised that due to the nature of the POP as a strategic and consultative document, the assessment of impacts was difficult or could not be clearly ascertained at that stage and that further assessment would be required at draft Plan Strategy stage.

### Equality Screening of draft Plan Strategy

- 2.4 The LDP is currently at draft Plan Strategy stage. In line with our statutory obligations in relation to Section 75 groups and disabled people this document presents the Equality Screening for the draft Plan Strategy and its associated strategic policies and proposals. The screening has been carried out using the Section 75 screening template and has taken account of the guidance published by the Equality Commission Northern Ireland. The purpose of the screening is to identify if any of the policies are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and to ensure that this is taken into account in the policy making process.
- 2.5 In this report an assessment has been made of the likely impact of the proposed strategic policies and proposals on the equality of opportunity of each of the Section 75 groups. Given the quantum of strategies and proposals included within the draft Plan Strategy, a summary of these likely impacts has been included in the Section 75 Policy Screening Form (pg. 7). Appendix A provides a more detailed assessment of the screening assessment of the policies and proposals within the draft Plan Strategy. Whilst all policies have been considered in the screening, for ease of reference and presentation purposes, the policies have been grouped based on their overall aims and purpose.
- 2.6 We will continue to screen our policies and proposals and carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment, if required, at Local Policies Plan Stage in order to ensure the impact on Section 75 groups is continually assessed.



### 3.0 Section 75 Policy Screening Form

**Part 1. Policy scoping** – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

**Part 2. Screening questions** – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.

**Part 3. Screening decision** – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**Part 4. Monitoring** – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

**Part 5. Approval and authorisation** – verifies the public authority's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

#### Part 1: Policy Scoping- Information about the policy

<b>Name of policy</b>	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2030 - draft Plan Strategy
<b>Is this an existing, revised or new policy?</b>	<p>New Policy</p> <p>The Plan Strategy (PS) is the first of two development plan documents, which together will comprise the LDP.</p> <p>At present the planning policy context is mainly provided by an existing suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) that apply across NI and some residual provisions within 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' (PSRNI). These will be superseded upon adoption of the Plan Strategy. Whilst the new LDP policies will carry forward the thrust of the PPSs, some of the policies have been adjusted to take account of local circumstances in Mid and East Antrim. The strategic policies of the LDP will also take precedence over the strategic policies in the 3 extant Area Plans covering the legacy council areas in Mid and East Antrim. Local spatial designations and associated local policies and key site requirements in these Area Plans will remain in place until superseded by the adopted Local Policies Plan (the second stage of the LDP).</p>
<b>What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)</b>	<p>The main aim of the draft Plan Strategy is to meet the development needs of Mid and East Antrim over the plan period (2015-2030) in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Accordingly, the LDP seeks to deliver 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "<i>meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs</i>". In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the LDP will serve to implement the regional</p>

	<p>direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and other central government initiatives. In line with the vision of the LDP it will also help to improve the quality of life for citizens and those who visit the Borough for employment or leisure purposes.</p> <p>A further outcome will be to provide certainty by informing the general public, statutory authorities, service providers, developers and other interested parties of the planning policy framework and the land use proposals that will guide decisions for development in Mid and East Antrim until 2030.</p>
<b>Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit for the intended policy? How?</b>	<p>The vision of the LDP is a spatial reflection of the Community Plan vision to improve the quality of life for everyone therefore it is expected that all Section 75 groups have the potential to benefit as result of the plan.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a number of the policies and proposals will be of benefit to particular Section 75 groups (mainly housing policies e.g. policies in relation to housing design, affordable housing, and also some open space policies).</p>
<b>Who initiated or wrote the policy?</b>	<p>The Local Development Plan (LDP) is being prepared by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council under the provisions of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015.</p> <p>The Planning Act requires the LDP to be produced in two stages – the first being the Plan Strategy, followed upon adoption, by the Local Policies Plan.</p> <p>This report relates to the draft Plan Strategy and to the strategic proposals and policies contained therein.</p>
<b>Policy Lead Officer</b>	Michael Francey acting on behalf of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.
<b>Who owns/implements the policy?</b>	The policy is owned and implemented by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and will largely be implemented by Council through the determination of planning applications that will be assessed against the policies and proposals in the LDP.



### Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?  
If yes, are they

X	Financial –There is potential that any future budgetary constraints could influence the intended aim/outcome of the various policies. This is unknown at this stage.
X	Legislative – As noted above the Draft Plan Strategy has been prepared under the provisions of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015 (thereafter referred to as the LDP Regulations). Any future changes to planning legislation or the legislation controlling the activities of service providers may have a bearing on the LDP and the intended aim/outcome of the various policies.
X	Other, please specify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Appeals Commission decisions</li> <li>• Departmental Planning Decisions</li> <li>• Judicial Reviews</li> <li>• Review of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Statutory Consultees</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Objectors</li> <li>• Planning Committee</li> <li>• Government Departments</li> <li>• Government Finance</li> <li>• Unauthorised development</li> <li>• Political Instability</li> </ul>

### Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

- All members of the public living, working in or visiting Mid and East Antrim.
- Developers
- Service Providers
- Business and Economic Development Enterprises/Sectors
- Voluntary/Community Groups
- Environmental Groups
- NI Government Departments and Agencies
- Adjoining Councils
- Power Suppliers
- NI Water
- Registered Housing Associations
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Translink
- Staff

This list should not be considered to be exhaustive.

### Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?
- who owns them?

As specifically required by the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 in preparing the draft Plan Strategy the Council has taken account of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 which sets out the government's overarching spatial strategy for Northern Ireland up to 2035, as well as the Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015 (DfI) which provides the regional planning policy framework. In addition, The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 sets out a statutory link between the Community Plan and the LDP. The strategic priorities of our Community Plan 'Putting People First' 2017-2030 have therefore been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy.

The draft Plan Strategy has also taken account of a wide ranging list of other policies and guidance issued by DfI and other government departments. Regard has also been had to various Council plans and strategies operating at the local level. A list of these documents is provided below, however, it should be noted that this list is not exhaustive. Where relevant, additional regional or local policies and/or guidance, are referred to within the draft Plan Strategy and its associated Technical Supplements.

- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Corporate Plan - 2019-2023
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Integrated Economic Development Strategy - Amplify - 2018-2030
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Tourism Strategy (Pending)
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Play Strategy (Pending)
- Mid and East Antrim Pitches Strategy (Pending)
- Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 (NI Executive)
- The Sustainable Development Strategy - Everyone's Involved - 2010 (NI Executive)
- Suite of existing Planning Policy Statements, Supplementary Planning Guidance, Design Guides and Development Control Advice Notes (DfI)
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland - 1993 (DfI)
- Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland - 2015-2040 (DfI)
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation - 2011 (DfI)
- Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy - 2015 (DAERA)
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - 2018 (DAERA)
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (May 2011)
- The Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 (DAERA)
- Lifetime Opportunities - Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland - 2006 (DfC)
- Thinking Rural - The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing - 2015 (DAERA)
- Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (DAERA)
- Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment - 2015 (DAERA)
- Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment - 2014 (DAERA)
- Exercise - Explore - Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways - 2016 (DfI)
- Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland - 2015 (DfI)
- Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001 (DfI)
- Larne Area Plan - 2010 (DfI)
- Carrickfergus Area Plan - 2001 (DfI)
- Draft BMAP 2015 in combination with the Planning Appeals Commission Inquiry report.
- Neighbouring Council Context – Plans and Strategies from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Causeway Coast and Glen Borough Council.

### Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

**What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.**

As noted above the draft Plan Strategy has been prepared with regard to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015. The strategic priorities of our Community Plan have also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy. As work on the LDP progresses, we will seek to deliver on any community planning outcomes where there is an identified spatial land use or local planning policy solution. Please see above list of other policies that have informed the preparation and content of the draft Plan Strategy.

The preparation of the draft Plan Strategy has been informed by a robust evidence base which has involved detailed engagement with statutory consultees and including neighbouring Councils. This evidence base is set out in the accompanying suite of Position Papers and Technical Supplements which can be accessed on the Council's website.

Paper 1: Population and Growth, in particular, sets out specific evidence in relation to each of the Section 75 groups. This information has been summarised in the table below and updated where relevant. The information provided is predominately derived from the 2011 Census, however other sources have been used including the results of a resident survey of a sample of 775 residents undertaken in Autumn 2018. Where relevant the individual topic and technical papers set out any particular issues that may be relevant to Section 75 groups.

In addition, the draft Plan Strategy has been informed by representations received in response to the consultation on our Preferred Options Paper (POP). In relation to Section 75 groups specifically, engagement took place prior to the publication of the POP with key identified overarching bodies who represent the nine identified Section 75 groups. Over 100 groups were contacted, in writing, offering them the opportunity to identify any particular issues or needs which they consider the LDP should address. These groups were consulted again on the publication of the POP.

#### General Profile of the Borough

- Mid and East Antrim Borough extends to 104,570 hectares (1,046km<sup>2</sup>).
- It is bounded by the Irish Sea to the east and the Lower River Bann to the west.
- The Antrim Coast and Glens AONB covers some 370sq km in the eastern part of the Borough and extends beyond the Council boundary to the north.

#### Population

- At the time of the 2011 Census the population of Mid and East Antrim Borough was 135,338, this was a 6.5% increase from 2001 total of 127,101. The rate of growth in the former Ballymena Borough was highest (9.3%) which was above the NI average of 7.5%. In both the former Carrickfergus and Larne Boroughs it was below the NI average at 3.9% and 4.4% respectively.
- In 2011 almost half of Mid and East Antrim's population was located within the former Ballymena Borough - 64,044 (47.3%), followed by 39,144 within the former Carrickfergus Borough (28.9%) and 32,180 within the former Larne Borough (23.8%).
- The 2016 based population projections estimate the 2019 population of the Borough to be 139,070 and this is projected to increase by 2.2% by 2030 to 142,114.
- Overall these figures indicate a slowing down of population growth from previous rates and is lower than the overall growth rate for NI.

- Mid and East Antrim Borough accounted for 7.5% of the total NI population in 2011. Based on 2016 estimates this has now reduced to 7.4% of the total NI population.
- Within the Borough, the birth rate is lower than NI figure and death rate is higher.
- The population density of Mid and East Antrim at the time of the 2011 Census was 1.29 usual residents per hectare, just below the NI average of 1.34.

### Population Distribution

- In Mid and East Antrim just over half of our population (56.2% as shown in the table below) is located within the three main towns of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne, with the remainder split between the lower tier settlements and the open countryside.
- Table below indicates the population split at the time of the 2001 and 2011 Census. It illustrates a slight decrease in the percentage of population in the main towns between 2001 and 2011. Conversely villages, small settlements and the open countryside experienced a slight increase in the proportion of the Borough's population living within them.

#### Population Split by Settlement Type in Mid and East Antrim 2001 & 2011

	% Population	
	2001	2011
Main towns	57.7	56.2
Small towns	6.8	6.8
Villages	12.8	13.9
Small settlements	1.35	1.5
Open Countryside	21.4	21.6

Source: NISRA Census 2001 and 2011, Key Statistics for Settlements Tables: KS01, STU500 & KS21

The distribution of population is further reflected in the household distribution figures shown in the table below.

#### Population and Household Distribution in Mid and East Antrim - 2011

	Former Ballymena Borough (%)		Former Larne Borough (%)		Former Carrickfergus Borough (%)		Mid and East Antrim (%)	
	Population	Households	Population	Households	Population	Households	Population	Households
Main towns	46.0%	48.8%	58.1%	61.3%	71.3%	71.2%	56.2%	58.5%
Small towns	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.7%	24.4%	6.8%	7.3%
Villages	20.1%	21.2%	18.3%	17.5%	n/a	n/a	13.9%	14.0%
Small settlements	1.3%	1.2%	3.4%*	3.2%*	0.3%	0.4%	1.5%	1.4%
Total settlements	67.4%	71.2%	79.8%*	82.0%*	95.4%	96.0%	78.4%	81.2%
Open Countryside	32.6%	28.8%	20.2%	18.0%	4.6%	4.0%	21.6%	18.8%
District Total	64,044	24,817	32,180	13,297	39,114	16,200	135,338	54,314

Source: NISRA 2011 Census Headcount and Household Estimates for Settlements Published 26/03/2015. Based on Settlement hierarchy in existing Area Plans. \*Excludes 11 small settlements in Larne where the population and household totals were below the following thresholds: 20 or more households and 50 or more usual residents. The figures for these 11 have been included in Open Countryside totals.

- Between 2001 and 2011 the number of households increased by 10.6% due to a trend towards smaller household sizes with the average household size decreasing between 2001 to 2011 from 2.56 to 2.47, this is expected to fall further still in 2030 to 2.37 (as per 2016 projections).

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information																																																																																																																													
Religious belief	<p>In 2011, the population within Mid and East Antrim consisted predominately, of a Protestant and other Christian background at 72.88% (above NI average) with 19.34% from a Catholic background (below NI average). The proportion of people who were brought up in a different religion or with no religion was 7.77% (above NI average) (Source: NISRA, 2011 Census, Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI, statistical and admin geographies). The table below shows the religious breakdown across the main towns, small towns and villages.</p> <p><i>Religion or Religion Brought Up In Mid and East Antrim Settlements - 2011</i></p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Religion or religion brought up in: Catholic (%)</th><th>Religion or religion brought up in: Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) (%)</th><th>Religion or religion brought up in: Other religions (%)</th><th>Religion or religion brought up in: None (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Northern Ireland</td><td>45.14</td><td>48.36</td><td>0.92</td><td>5.59</td></tr><tr><td>Mid and East Antrim</td><td>19.34</td><td>72.88</td><td>0.8</td><td>6.97</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Main Towns</td></tr><tr><td>Ballymena</td><td>26.71</td><td>65.76</td><td>1.03</td><td>6.5</td></tr><tr><td>Carrickfergus</td><td>8.35</td><td>80.7</td><td>0.86</td><td>10.09</td></tr><tr><td>Larne</td><td>25.97</td><td>67.03</td><td>0.57</td><td>6.44</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Small Towns</td></tr><tr><td>Ahoghill</td><td>3.78</td><td>90.81</td><td>0.73</td><td>4.68</td></tr><tr><td>Broughshane</td><td>4.52</td><td>89.65</td><td>0.42</td><td>5.42</td></tr><tr><td>Cullybackey</td><td>4.01</td><td>88.43</td><td>1.23</td><td>6.32</td></tr><tr><td>Greenisland</td><td>11.12</td><td>77.58</td><td>1.04</td><td>10.26</td></tr><tr><td>Whitehead</td><td>17.46</td><td>69.17</td><td>1.21</td><td>12.15</td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">Villages</td></tr><tr><td>Ballycarry</td><td>4.73</td><td>86.47</td><td>1.02</td><td>7.78</td></tr><tr><td>Ballygalley</td><td>26.31</td><td>69.18</td><td>0.24</td><td>4.26</td></tr><tr><td>Ballystrudder</td><td>5.25</td><td>81.92</td><td>1.31</td><td>11.52</td></tr><tr><td>Cargan</td><td>91.16</td><td>6.46</td><td>0.85</td><td>1.53</td></tr><tr><td>Carnlough</td><td>83.86</td><td>14.22</td><td>0.07</td><td>1.85</td></tr><tr><td>Clough*</td><td>9.07</td><td>87.55</td><td>0.42</td><td>2.95</td></tr><tr><td>Glenarm</td><td>43.13</td><td>53.35</td><td>0.53</td><td>2.99</td></tr><tr><td>Glynn</td><td>4.94</td><td>88.06</td><td>0.64</td><td>6.37</td></tr><tr><td>Kells/Connor</td><td>4.39</td><td>89.29</td><td>0.53</td><td>5.79</td></tr><tr><td>Martinstown*</td><td>87.5</td><td>8.13</td><td>0.42</td><td>3.96</td></tr><tr><td>Portglenone</td><td>46.81</td><td>50.64</td><td>0.34</td><td>2.21</td></tr></table> <p>*Information not available at settlement level only at small area level. Source: NISRA 2011 Census, Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI (Settlement 2015)</p>		Religion or religion brought up in: Catholic (%)	Religion or religion brought up in: Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) (%)	Religion or religion brought up in: Other religions (%)	Religion or religion brought up in: None (%)	Northern Ireland	45.14	48.36	0.92	5.59	Mid and East Antrim	19.34	72.88	0.8	6.97	Main Towns					Ballymena	26.71	65.76	1.03	6.5	Carrickfergus	8.35	80.7	0.86	10.09	Larne	25.97	67.03	0.57	6.44	Small Towns					Ahoghill	3.78	90.81	0.73	4.68	Broughshane	4.52	89.65	0.42	5.42	Cullybackey	4.01	88.43	1.23	6.32	Greenisland	11.12	77.58	1.04	10.26	Whitehead	17.46	69.17	1.21	12.15	Villages					Ballycarry	4.73	86.47	1.02	7.78	Ballygalley	26.31	69.18	0.24	4.26	Ballystrudder	5.25	81.92	1.31	11.52	Cargan	91.16	6.46	0.85	1.53	Carnlough	83.86	14.22	0.07	1.85	Clough*	9.07	87.55	0.42	2.95	Glenarm	43.13	53.35	0.53	2.99	Glynn	4.94	88.06	0.64	6.37	Kells/Connor	4.39	89.29	0.53	5.79	Martinstown*	87.5	8.13	0.42	3.96	Portglenone	46.81	50.64	0.34	2.21
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The table below identifies the approximate religious breakdown of small settlements which have been de-designated in the draft Plan Strategy (does not include Trooperslane which will be subsumed into Carrickfergus). Information is not available for small settlements therefore the information provided is for the Small Area within which the small settlement is predominately located as this is the most detailed information available.

*Religious Breakdown of Small Areas within which De-Designated Settlements are predominately located.*

Settlements Predominately Within Small Area	Religion or Religion brought up in Catholic (%)	Religion or Religion brought up in Protestant/Other Christian (%)	Religion or Religion brought up in Other (%)	No Religion (%)
Browns Bay	4.68	81.29	1.08	12.95
Ferris Bay				
Mill Bay	6.28	84.06	0.97	8.7
Drumcrow	24.38	72.04	0.67	2.91
Deerpark				
Carnageer	56.04	39.84	0.27	3.85
Garron Point	59.94	37.58	0	2.48
Straidkilly	65	34.12	0.29	0.59
Feystown	56.04	39.84	0.27	3.85
Kilwaughter	12.03	84.21	0.5	3.26
Knocknagulliagh	15.34	72.16	1.7	10.8

Source: NISRA 2011 Census, Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI (statistical geographies)

The table below shows the religious profile of the newly designated settlements.

*Religious Breakdown of Small Areas within which Newly Designated Settlements are predominately located.*

Settlements Predominately Within Small Area	Religion or Religion brought up in Catholic %	Religion or Religion brought up in Protestant/Other Christian %	Religion or Religion brought up in Other %	No Religion %
Buckna	13.71	78.06	0.84	7.38
Craigwarren	9.95	83.67	1.53	4.85
Glarryford	31.24	67.55	0.2	1.01
Milltown	78.72	19.09	0	2.19
Moorfields	5.33	92.39	0.76	1.52
Newtowncrommelin	78.57	20.97	0.23	0.23
Slaght	1.33	92.03	0.33	6.31
Woodgreen	7.47	88	1.07	3.47

Source: NISRA 2011 Census, Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI (statistical geographies)

*Community Background and Religious Denomination of Mid and East Antrim Residents*

	Community Background			Religious Denomination	
	Protestant	Catholic	Neither	Christian	No Religion
% of 775 Residents surveyed	77.9%	8.6%	13.6%	75.8%	24.2%

Source: Mid and East Antrim Resident Survey, 2018

#### Political opinion

Mid and East Antrim Local Government Election Results 2014 vote share was as follows: DUP: 33.01% UUP: 18.7% TUV: 15.01% Alliance: 9.35% Sinn Féin: 6.82% Independent: 6.03% SDLP: 4.07% PUP: 2.95% Other: 3.96% (Source: The Electoral Office for NI).



*Mid and East Antrim Local Government Election Results (1<sup>st</sup> Preference Votes) - May 2019*

District Electoral Ward	Unionist		Nationalist		Other	
Ballymena	3,577	51.6%	1,369	19.7%	1,990	28.7%
Braid	6,989	79.1%	631	7.1%	1,220	13.8%
Bannside	6,352	78.7%	971	12%	750	9.3%
Larne Lough	3,954	66.1%	0	0	2,032	33.9%
Coast Road	3,066	54.5%	873	15.5%	1,677	30%
Carrick Castle	3,503	62%	0	0	2,150	38%
Knockagh	3,732	65.4%	0	0	1,971	34.6%

Source: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, 2019

*Number of seats per Political Party - May 2019*

	No. of Seats
Alliance	7
DUP	15
Independent	3
SDLP	1
Sinn Féin	2
TUV	5
UUP	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

Source: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, 2019

At the time of the 2011 Census, 71.36% of the usual resident population indicated that they had a British national identity, 9.19% indicated an Irish national identity and 29.43% indicated a Northern Irish national identity.

*Political Affiliation of Mid and East Antrim Residents - 2018*

	% of 775 residents surveyed
British	79%
Irish	4.5%
Northern Irish	14.8%
English	0.1%
Scottish	0.1%
Other	1.4%

Source: Mid and East Antrim Resident Survey, 2018

Racial group

The 2011 Census figures indicate that 98.97% of the population in Mid and East Antrim are White, 0.35% Asian, 0.33% mixed/other, 0.2% Chinese, 0.08% Black and 0.07% Irish Traveller.

Mid and East Antrim has one of lowest proportion of residents from an ethnic background in NI (ranking eight of the 11 local authorities). The table below indicates that the number of people within the Borough who were born in other countries is below the NI average (with the exception of Scotland).

	<p>Country of Birth Mid and East Antrim - 2011</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Country of birth: Northern Ireland (%)</th><th>Country of birth: England (%)</th><th>Country of birth: Scotland (%)</th><th>Country of birth: Wales (%)</th><th>Country of birth: Republic of Ireland (%)</th><th>Country of birth: Other EU: Member countries prior to 2004 expansion (%)</th><th>Country of birth: Other EU: Accession countries 2004 onwards (%)</th><th>Country of birth: Other (%)</th></tr><tr><td>N. Ireland</td><td>88.84</td><td>3.57</td><td>0.85</td><td>0.14</td><td>2.09</td><td>0.54</td><td>1.97</td><td>1.99</td></tr><tr><td>Mid and East Antrim</td><td>90.88</td><td>3.45</td><td>1.16</td><td>0.14</td><td>0.81</td><td>0.45</td><td>1.74</td><td>1.37</td></tr></table> <p>Source: NISRA 2011 Census, Country of Birth: KS204NI (administrative geographies)</p>		Country of birth: Northern Ireland (%)	Country of birth: England (%)	Country of birth: Scotland (%)	Country of birth: Wales (%)	Country of birth: Republic of Ireland (%)	Country of birth: Other EU: Member countries prior to 2004 expansion (%)	Country of birth: Other EU: Accession countries 2004 onwards (%)	Country of birth: Other (%)	N. Ireland	88.84	3.57	0.85	0.14	2.09	0.54	1.97	1.99	Mid and East Antrim	90.88	3.45	1.16	0.14	0.81	0.45	1.74	1.37
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Age	<p>Age Breakdown of Residents in Mid and East Antrim Borough - 2018</p> <table><tr><th>Age</th><th>% of Population</th></tr><tr><td>0-15 years</td><td>19.3%</td></tr><tr><td>16-64 years</td><td>61.9%</td></tr><tr><td>65+</td><td>18.8%</td></tr></table> <p>Source: NISRA Population &amp; Migration, Mid-Year Population estimates 2018 (LGD)</p> <p>Since 2001, the proportion of pensioners has been above the NI average and population projections to 2030 indicate that this trend will continue to be the case. By the end of the plan period in 2030, it is forecast that 24% of the population of Mid and East Antrim will be aged 65 years and over (Source: NISRA 2016 based population projections for areas within NI LGDs).</p> <p>At the time of the 2011 Census the Median Age of the Borough was 40, this is the second oldest out of all 11 local authorities.</p> <p>21.9% of respondents to the Mid and East Antrim Council Resident Survey Oct 2018 (775 Residents) were aged 65+.</p>	Age	% of Population	0-15 years	19.3%	16-64 years	61.9%	65+	18.8%																			
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Marital status	<p>Since 2001, there has been an increase in the number of single people and as well as an increase in those that have divorced. There has also been a decrease in the number of married people in the Borough. The proportion of those that are married remains above the NI average and the proportion of those that are single remains below the NI average.</p> <p>Marital status in Mid and East and NI - 2001 and 2011</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>2001</th><th>2011</th></tr><tr><td>Single</td><td>28.57%</td><td>31.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Married</td><td>55.13%</td><td>51.56%</td></tr><tr><td>Divorced</td><td>4.65%</td><td>5.92%</td></tr><tr><td>Widowed</td><td>7.97%</td><td>7.16%</td></tr><tr><td>Separated</td><td>3.67%</td><td>3.88%</td></tr><tr><td>Civil Partnership</td><td>N/A</td><td>0.08%</td></tr></table> <p>Source: NISRA 2001 and 2011 Census, Marital and Civil Partnership Status, KS103NI (admin geographies)</p> <p>In 2011, single people were more likely to be male (34.53%) than female (28.48%). By contrast women are considerably more likely to be widowed (10.68%) than men (3.37%). The relatively higher life expectancy for women accounts for this finding.</p>		2001	2011	Single	28.57%	31.4%	Married	55.13%	51.56%	Divorced	4.65%	5.92%	Widowed	7.97%	7.16%	Separated	3.67%	3.88%	Civil Partnership	N/A	0.08%						
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	<p><i>Marital and Civil Partnership Status by Sex - 2011</i></p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Men</td><td>Women</td></tr><tr><td>Single</td><td>34.53%</td><td>28.48%</td></tr><tr><td>Married</td><td>53.42%</td><td>49.82%</td></tr><tr><td>Divorced</td><td>5.18%</td><td>6.62%</td></tr><tr><td>Widowed</td><td>3.37%</td><td>10.68%</td></tr><tr><td>Separated</td><td>3.40%</td><td>4.33%</td></tr><tr><td>Civil Partnership</td><td>0.10%</td><td>0.07%</td></tr></table> <p>Source: NISRA 2011 Census, Marital and Civil Partnership Status by Sex: DC1103NI (admin geographies)</p>		Men	Women	Single	34.53%	28.48%	Married	53.42%	49.82%	Divorced	5.18%	6.62%	Widowed	3.37%	10.68%	Separated	3.40%	4.33%	Civil Partnership	0.10%	0.07%
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Sexual orientation	<p>There is limited information available for this category. The Continuous Household Survey 2017/2018 (NISRA) found that 97.8% of all NI adult respondents identified themselves as heterosexual/straight with the remaining adults identifying as either gay/lesbian, bisexual, don't know or not providing an answer.</p> <p>Local government statistics indicated that 65 civil partnerships took place in Mid and East Antrim between 2008-2017 out of an NI total of 963 (ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in NI).</p> <p>At the time of the 2011 Census 0.08% of the population were in a civil partnership.</p> <p><i>Sexual Orientation of Mid and East Antrim Residents - 2018</i></p> <table><tr><td></td><td>% out of 775 residents</td></tr><tr><td>Same Sex</td><td>0.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Different</td><td>98.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Both</td><td>0.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Prefer not to say</td><td>0.4%</td></tr></table> <p>Source: Mid and East Antrim Resident Survey, 2018</p>		% out of 775 residents	Same Sex	0.6%	Different	98.8%	Both	0.1%	Prefer not to say	0.4%											
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Men and women generally	<p>At the time of the 2011 Census the gender balance was broadly a 50/50 split with slightly more females, this is reflective of NI as a whole. Recent population estimates indicate this trend is set to continue.</p> <p><i>Gender Balance of Mid and East Antrim Population - 2011</i></p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Males %</td><td>Females %</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Ireland</td><td>49</td><td>51</td></tr><tr><td>Mid and East Antrim</td><td>48.7</td><td>51.30</td></tr></table> <p>Source: NISRA Census 2011, Sex: QS105NI (admin geographies)</p> <p>This balance was supported in the results of the Mid and East Antrim Council Resident Survey 2018 where out of 775 residents surveyed 50.5% were female and 49.5% were male.</p> <p><b>Life Expectancy</b></p> <p>The life expectancy of females is greater than that of males which is consistent with NI as a whole. Over the decade 2001-2003 to 2011-2013 the increase in life expectancy at birth among females was greater than that of males.</p> <p><i>Change in life expectancy at birth for Mid and East Antrim in 2001-2003 and 2011-2013</i></p> <table><tr><td></td><td>2001-2003</td><td>2011-2013</td></tr><tr><td>Males</td><td>76.3</td><td>78.4</td></tr><tr><td>Females</td><td>80.4</td><td>82.9</td></tr></table> <p>Source: NISRA Life Expectancy for areas within Northern Ireland 2011-2013, Oct 2015.</p>		Males %	Females %	Northern Ireland	49	51	Mid and East Antrim	48.7	51.30		2001-2003	2011-2013	Males	76.3	78.4	Females	80.4	82.9			
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Disability	<p>The 2011 Census indicates that 20.01% of Mid and East Antrim residents have a long term health problem or disability that limited their day to day activities. 11% of people suffered a mobility or dexterity difficulty. 8% of the population received Disability Living Allowance which is 2.5% below the NI average and 13% received Multiple Disability Benefit.</p> <p>The 2011 Census indicated that just over 10% of homes in the Borough have been adapted to suit the needs of someone with a disability, the majority of which are for wheelchair usage (5.46%).</p> <p><i>% of Households within Mid and East Antrim with Adaptations</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Adapted Accommodation Type</th><th>% of households</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wheelchair Usage</td><td>5.46</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other physical or mobility issues</td><td>6.01</td></tr> <tr> <td>Visual Difficulties</td><td>0.26</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hearing Difficulties</td><td>0.5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adapted for other</td><td>0.24</td></tr> <tr> <td>No adaptation</td><td>89.26</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>All Households</b></td><td><b>54,314</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: NISRA Census 2011, Adaptation of Accommodation: KS406NI (admin geographies)</i></p> <p><i>Residents within Mid and East Antrim with disability - 2018</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>% of 775 residents surveyed</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Disability yes, limited a lot</td><td>6.6%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Disability yes, limited a little</td><td>12.9%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Disability, No</td><td>80.5%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Mid and East Antrim Resident Survey, 2018</i></p>	Adapted Accommodation Type	% of households	Wheelchair Usage	5.46	Other physical or mobility issues	6.01	Visual Difficulties	0.26	Hearing Difficulties	0.5	Adapted for other	0.24	No adaptation	89.26	<b>All Households</b>	<b>54,314</b>		% of 775 residents surveyed	Disability yes, limited a lot	6.6%	Disability yes, limited a little	12.9%	Disability, No	80.5%
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Disability yes, limited a little	12.9%																								
Disability, No	80.5%																								
Dependants	<p><b>Households with dependent children</b></p> <p>The proportion of households with dependent children in Mid and East Antrim has decreased since 1981 falling from 46.86% to 32.14% in 2011. This decline is reflected in the decline of the average household size with one or two person households accounting for 59.9% of all households in 2011 compared to 43.06% in 1981.</p> <p>The 2011 Census indicated that 8.26% of households were lone parent with dependent children. Mid and East Antrim is in the top quartile in NI in relation to dependent children in household between the ages of 0-4 years.</p> <p><b>Carers</b></p> <p>The 2011 Census found that 11.91% of all usual residents are providing unpaid care. This figure has increased from 10.58% in 2001. There were 4,510 Carers Allowance Claims made in 2018, a 2.7% increase on 2017.</p> <p>Mid and East Antrim Council Resident Survey Oct 2018 (775 Residents)</p> <p>Caring Responsibilities</p> <p>Yes - 44%</p> <p>No - 56%</p>																								

### Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

It is likely that the LDP will accommodate the specific needs of a wide range of identities linked to the various Section 75 groups, either singly or in combination. Generally, the needs, experiences and priorities listed below are considered to be of importance to all Section 75 groupings. The table further draws out those which are of particular importance to the various Section 75 groupings. All the identified needs, experiences and priorities will be afforded due consideration, as far as practical, in implementing the LDP.

1. Good quality safe places to live
2. Access to healthcare
3. Improved health and wellbeing
4. Access to community facilities
5. Access to sport recreation and play facilities
6. Shared and safe environments
7. Access to employment
8. Access to education and training facilities
9. Access to business and retail
10. Access to public transport and an active travel network

(Note that access as detailed above refers to physical access and not to meeting any access requirements on the part of the service provider to access the service).

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	The Borough has a predominately Protestant/other Christian population, with those of Catholic belief, other belief or no religion in a minority. It is recognised that the needs and priorities indicated above are relevant irrespective of religious belief. Good quality safe places to live along with access to shared and safe environments including community facilities are identified as key priorities for those of different religious belief.
Political opinion	The Borough has a predominately Unionist population. It is recognised that the needs and priorities indicated above are relevant irrespective of political opinion. Good quality safe places to live along with access to shared and safe environments including community facilities are identified as key priorities for those of different political opinion.
Racial group	2011 Census data indicates that the Borough has a low representation from people of different ethnic backgrounds. However, it is recognised that this figure has likely increased since 2011. Ethnic minorities within the Borough are predominately located within and/or around the three main towns. It is recognised that that the priorities of such groups centre around good quality safe places to live, access to shared and safe environments as well as access to employment, services and facilities. Access to community facilities may also be important for ethnic minorities in order to ward against marginalisation and to aid community integration.
Age	The population of the Borough is ageing which raises particular priorities in relation to appropriate and safe housing provision. Other identified priorities for older people include access to healthcare, opportunities for improving health and wellbeing which may also include access to recreation and community facilities. The provision of shared and safe

	<p>environments, access to public transport and an active travel network as well as access to retail are also identified as important to those older people who may be marginalised or for those who have mobility issues.</p> <p>At present the majority of our population are of working age, the main priorities for this group are identified as access to good quality and safe places to live, access to employment, education and training facilities and access to business and retail.</p> <p>Just under a fifth of our population are below the age of 16. The main priorities for this group are identified as access to sport recreation and play facilities, as well as access to education and training facilities or indeed employment.</p>
Marital status	<p>Just over half of the Borough's residents are married or in a civil partnership with remainder either single, divorced or widowed. No specific priorities of one group over another is identified, however it is recognised that those of different marital status have different needs in terms of housing.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>There is limited information available with regards the sexual orientation of residents within our Borough, figures indicate that the majority of the population are straight/heterosexual. It is recognised that this data is limited and that there is likely a greater diversity within the Borough. It is recognised that members of the LGBT can often be marginalised or have concerns regarding safety therefore good quality safe places to live, access to shared and safe environments which may include access to community facilities are identified as key priorities.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>The Borough has an almost 50/50 split in terms of gender. Access to employment, education and training facilities are identified as key priorities for men and women generally, but perhaps more so women who are under-represented in the labour market or for those returning to work.</p>
Disability	<p>The 2011 Census indicates that 20.01% of Mid and East Antrim residents have a long term health problem or disability. Key priorities for those living with disabilities therefore are identified as good quality safe places to live, appropriate housing, access to healthcare, improved health and wellbeing, shared and safe environments and access to community facilities. For those with mobility issues, in particular, access to public transport and an active travel network are identified as key needs. Those living with disabilities tend to be underrepresented in the labour market therefore access to education, training and employment is also important.</p>
Dependants	<p>There is a decreasing number of households within the Borough with dependant children, however they still account for a third of the Borough's households. This decline in household size raises particular priorities in terms of appropriate (type and size) housing provision. It is also recognised within our Borough that a significant proportion of the population provide care. Particular priorities for both these groups are identified as the need for good quality safe places to live, access to community facilities, access to health facilities, improved health and wellbeing, access to sport recreation and play facilities, access to public transport and an active travel network, as well as access to retail. For those with dependants, often underrepresented in the labour market or seeking to return to work access to education, training and employment is a key priority.</p>



## Part 2: Screening Questions

### Introduction

The information provided in Part 1 of the Screening is used to inform the likely impact of the draft Plan Strategy on equality of opportunity and good relations for each of the Section 75 groups. In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact statement, the Council should consider the answers to the 4 questions below and indicate the level of impact on each category i.e. major, minor or none.

### Consideration of Level of Impact

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

If the conclusion is major in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure. If the conclusion is minor in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

## Screening Questions

The detailed assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity for the Section 75 categories is included in Appendix A. A summary of the likely impact in relation to each of the categories is provided below.

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious Belief	<p>It is considered that the main potential for differential impact on equality of opportunity for this group is most likely to arise from:</p> <p>(a) The spatial implications of the LDP Spatial Growth Strategy (SGS) and associated sectorial strategies of a spatial nature (such as Strategic Housing Allocation) which seeks to direct growth between settlements and also between settlements and the countryside, in accordance with regional guidelines set out in the RDS, and taking account of our evidence base as it relates to varying capacity of settlements to support further growth.</p> <p>The Spatial Growth Strategy directs most growth (housing, economic development land, retail etc.) to the larger tier settlements, i.e. the three main towns and to a lesser extent the five small towns. All of these towns have majority Protestant populations (varying between 67% for the main town of Larne and 90.8% for the small town of Ahoghill). The impact here is deemed to be 'minor' because the proposal is not unlawfully discriminating and to a large extent the religious split within these settlements reflects that for the Borough as a whole (which is 72.9% Protestant). Further, the SGS whilst not seeking to direct growth to the smaller tier settlements, does not actually preclude development that is appropriate to the scale and character of the individual settlement. The focus of major population and economic growth in the three main towns aligns with the regional direction of the RDS and will maximise benefits for all citizens because of the ready availability of a wide range of services and employment. This is considered to outweigh any differential impacts for smaller tier settlements irrespective of their religious composition.</p> <p>(b) The spatial implications of the LDP Countryside Strategy (CS) and associated strategic designations which seek to restrict development (or certain types of development) in areas of high landscape/environmental quality and sensitivity.</p> <p>The Countryside Strategy in protecting certain areas of the countryside from development (or certain types of development) raises potential for differential impact within the Section 75 groups. However, the most spatially extensive of these designations restrict specific types of development, mainly mineral development and high structures such as wind turbines, electricity pylons and telecommunications masts. Such restrictions will have little bearing in</p>	Minor negative

	<p>terms of likely impact on equality of opportunity within section 75 groupings. The CS also identifies four Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) where most forms of development will be prevented or restricted. These designations are relatively small and tightly defined and coincide with areas of sparse population. Any marginal differential impacts on the grounds of religious belief are outweighed by the positive net benefits that will be realised by protecting the exceptional landscape character and unique amenity value of these areas, particularly in consideration of the overarching aim of achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>Overall, the CS is deemed to have no adverse impact on equality of opportunity within the section 75 groups.</p>	
Political opinion	As above	Minor negative
Racial group	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to this category as a whole.</p> <p>Appendix A indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for those within this group. Ethnic minorities within our Borough are predominately located within or near to our main town centres. Policies in relation to Retail and Economic Development, for example, are likely to be of benefit as they direct the provision of services and employment largely to these locations. Policies for Housing in Settlements are also anticipated to be of benefit as they seek to provide safe residential environments. The policies in relation to Retail and Open Space also have potential to provide positive impacts through facilitating the creation of shared spaces, thereby assisting integration with the wider community.</p> <p>NIHE have not identified any need in relation to Traveller Accommodation in the Borough at this time, however should the need arise over the plan period Policy HOU8 will support and facilitate the provision of a suitable accommodation.</p>	Minor positive
Age	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to all age groups.</p> <p>Appendix A, indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for older people. Retail policies, for example, seek to focus such development in the most accessible locations. Open Space policies seek to deliver accessible opportunities for active lifestyles. In addition, the General Policy for all Development will be of benefit as it seeks to enhance accessibility. The draft Plan Strategy approach to both Housing in Settlements, Policy HOU 7 in particular, and Housing in the Countryside aim to allow opportunities for older people to stay</p>	Minor positive

	<p>in their homes for longer. Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where there is a need and in accessible locations also has the potential to have positive impacts for this group. This is also the case for infrastructure policies in relation to Transportation and Telecommunications and Overhead Lines by supporting improvements in accessibility and connectivity.</p> <p>As indicated in Appendix A, it is anticipated that those of working age will benefit from the approaches to Retail and the Economic Development Strategy and the Strategic Allocation of Land for Economic Development Land as they encourage a range of employment opportunities in the most sustainable and accessible locations.</p> <p>Positive impacts for younger people are also anticipated through the Open Space policies such as Policy OSL 4: New Open Space in Residential Developments which seeks to provide safe and accessible places to play. Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities in accessible locations and where there is a need also has the potential to have positive impacts for this group.</p>	
Marital status	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim of the draft Plan Strategy and strategic approach will be of benefit to people of different marital status.</p> <p>Appendix A indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for this group. The policies in relation to Housing in Settlements seek to provide a range of tenures, house types and sizes, therefore which will help to address the housing needs of those of different marital status.</p>	Minor positive
Sexual orientation	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to those within this category, irrespective of sexual orientation.</p> <p>Appendix A indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for the LGBT community. The General Policy for all Development and policies in relation to Housing in Settlements, for example, strive to create safer public spaces and residential environments that have been designed to deter crime.</p>	Minor positive
Men and women generally	<p>It is the aim of the plan to benefit both men and women generally. The screening assessment has not identified anything inherent in the draft Plan Strategy that will benefit one gender over another. However, it is acknowledged that there are indirect gender impacts in relation to issues such as housing, employment, access to services and leisure.</p>	None

Disability	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will generally benefit those living with and without disability.</p> <p>Appendix A indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy, have the potential to have positive impacts for those living with disability. Retail and Economic Development policies, for example, could benefit those with disabilities by directing such development to the most accessible locations. The Open Space policies which protect and provide for accessible open space will bring both physical and mental health benefits. In addition, the General Policy for all Development will be of benefit as it seeks to enhance accessibility and takes account of the particular needs of people with mobility difficulties. The draft Plan Strategy approach to both Housing in Settlements, policy HOU 7 in particular, and Housing in the Countryside aims to allow opportunities for housing that will support people living with disability to stay in their homes for longer. Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where there is a need and in accessible locations also has the potential to have positive impacts. Infrastructure related policies such as Transportation are also anticipated to be of benefit in seeking to ensure development takes account of the mobility needs of all.</p>	Minor positive
Dependants	<p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the plan will be of benefit generally to both those with and without dependants.</p> <p>Appendix 1 indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for those with dependants. Retail policies, for example, could benefit those with dependants by focusing such development in the most accessible locations. Policies in relation to Economic Development are also anticipated to benefit by providing a generous supply of economic land to meet employment needs in the most accessible locations, where the majority of our population are located. The Open Space policies seek to provide safe and accessible open space and play parks thereby benefitting families with dependant children. Policies in relation to Housing in Settlements and Housing in the Countryside aim to provide for a range of house types, sizes and tenures to meet all housing needs. Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where there is a need and in accessible locations also has the potential to have positive impacts for those with dependants. This is also the case for infrastructure policies in relation to Transportation and Telecommunications and Overhead Lines by supporting improvements in accessibility and connectivity.</p>	Minor positive

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide reasons
Religious belief		<p>It is the aspiration of the draft Plan Strategy to improve the quality of life for all, no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity are apparent at this stage.</p> <p>However, any Section 75 issues raised during consultation or further down the line will be considered in a proportionate way.</p>
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		



3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	<p>The draft Plan Strategy is likely to have a positive impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group. The strategic objectives of the draft Plan Strategy, particularly our social objectives, should assist in the creation and enhancement of shared spaces. The draft Plan recognises the importance of providing quality shared spaces that are accessible and valued by everyone. This is reflected in our General Policy for all Development and throughout many other policies within the draft Plan Strategy. The draft Plan Strategy specifically safeguards against the loss of valued neighbourhood services and supports infrastructure such as public open space and greenways, which play an important role in social interaction and community cohesion. It is anticipated that the proposals and policies in relation to design and place making, retailing and economic development, open space, housing and tourism will impact positively upon good relations between people of different religious belief.</p> <p>Further assessment of the likely impact on good relations will be undertaken at Local Policies Plan stage when land for purposes such as housing, economic use and opportunity sites in town centres and various forms of open space will be zoned or otherwise identified and protected.</p> <p>In addition, the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to a statutory consultation process and any further issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups during the process will be taken into account.</p>	Minor Positive at this stage. Further assessment at LPP stage.
Political opinion	As above	
Racial group	As above	

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , provide reasons
Religious belief		<p>It is the aspiration of the draft Plan Strategy to improve the quality of life for all and therefore offer potential to promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposals and policies in relation to design and place making, retailing and economic development, open space, housing and tourism will all assist in the delivery of opportunities for social and cross community interaction, thereby enhancing prospects for promoting good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.</p> <p>Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation or further down the line will be considered in a proportionate way.</p>
Political opinion		
Racial group		

#### Additional considerations

##### Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? *(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).*

The draft Plan Strategy recognises that people may fall in to more than one Section 75 category. The vision of the LDP is to improve the quality of life for everyone, and the overall outworking of the strategic policies and proposals is likely to promote equality of opportunity for people with multiple identities.

No negative differential impacts have been identified at this stage. However, as the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to consultation process any further issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups during the consultation process will be taken into account.

**Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

None identified. However, as the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to a public consultation process any further issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups during the consultation process will be taken into account.

## Disability

The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

**Does the policy promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage participation of disabled people in public life?**

The draft Plan Strategy aims to focus major growth and opportunities for development within our three main towns, whilst providing for sustainable growth in smaller settlements and in the countryside. By focusing housing and economic growth in areas where there is the greatest access to services and facilities as well as better public transport links it is considered that this will encourage and help facilitate participation of disabled people in public life.

Several of the LDP Strategic Objectives seek to improve connectivity and accessibility as well as improving the health and wellbeing of our citizens. One of the key delivery mechanisms is our General Policy, that will apply to all development and which seeks to ensure that accessibility and ease of access for people with disabilities is taken into consideration in the design of development and in the consideration of movement patterns, with particular regard for the pedestrian environment.

Appendix A identified a number of policies within the draft Plan Strategy that are expected to have positive impacts for people living with disabilities. This includes policies that seek to protect and facilitate quality and accessible public open space due to the physical and mental health benefits that all forms of open space can provide. It is the intention that a number of our housing policies such as Policy HOU7: Adaptable and Accessible Accommodation, Policy HOU6: Housing Mix (Unit Types and Sizes), will allow people with disabilities to stay in their own homes and communities for longer. The draft Plan Strategy specifically safeguards against the loss of valued neighbourhood services and facilitates additional provision where necessary, thereby allowing people with disabilities to participate as fully as possible in public life.

It is anticipated that the draft Plan Strategy will promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as it seeks to ensure that proposals take into account the needs of people with disabilities in the design of development proposals.

### Part 3. Screening decision

**If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.**

At this stage no significant adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified on Section 75 groups. It is anticipated the Draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to our citizens including Section 75 groups as it seeks to improve the quality of life for all as set out in our vision. At this stage it has been identified that many of the policies within the draft Plan Strategy will, in fact, be of particular benefit to a number of the Section 75 groups.

It is recognised that the LDP Spatial Growth Strategy has spatial implications that may have some potential for differential impacts on the grounds of Religious Belief/Political Opinion. However, the Spatial Growth Strategy is aligned with the regional direction and to significantly depart from this would likely render the LDP unsound. Overall, the Spatial Growth Strategy will be of benefit to everyone.

This is a draft Screening Report and the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to public consultation. Any issues raised through this process will be considered prior to the publication of the final Plan Strategy.

**If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.**

No mitigation is considered necessary at this stage. Any issues raised during the consultation process will be considered prior to the publication of the final Plan Strategy.

**If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.**

### Mitigation

**When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.**

**Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? No**

**If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.**

At this stage the LDP Plan Strategy presents overall positive impacts for equality of opportunity and good relations. It is acknowledged that there may be potential for 'minor' impacts arising within the religious belief and political opinion groupings as a result of the Spatial Growth Strategy/Settlement Hierarchy. However, taking account of all the evidence, the Council does not consider mitigation to be appropriate at this stage.

## Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been 'screened in' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	N/A
Social need	N/A
Effect on people's daily lives	N/A
Relevance to a public authority's functions	N/A

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

If yes, please provide details

#### **Part 4. Monitoring**

**Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission’s Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).**

**The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).**

**Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.**

The draft Plan Strategy will be subject to consultation with the public and will include specific consultation with a variety of Section 75 groups.

Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered prior to finalising the Plan Strategy. The LDP will also be subject to further equality screening at Local Policies Plan stage.

Monitoring and review of the LDP is an integral part of the plan making process. The draft Plan Strategy includes a Monitoring and Review Framework (see Technical Supplement 1) which highlights that a five year review of the LDP will be carried out subsequent to adoption to ensure the policies and proposals are achieving their objectives. There will be further scope for any impacts on Section 75 groups to be considered through this review.



## Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Michael Francey	Principal Planning Officer	16/09/2019
Approved by:		
Paul Duffy	Planning Manager	16/09/2019

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

## Appendix A Assessment of Impact on Equality of Opportunity of Section 75 Groups

Topic	Detailed Policies	Purpose of Policy	Comments on likely impact on equality of opportunity
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Please note policies will be applied uniformly across all S75 categories.

<b>Spatial Growth Strategy</b>	SGS1 Spatial Growth Strategy	<p>The purpose of the strategy is to set out the broad locations in the Borough where growth should be directed in terms of housing, employment and commercial development over the plan period. The Spatial Growth Strategy provides the framework for the range of strategic policies which together will work towards realising the vision and objectives of the LDP.</p>	<p>The Spatial Growth Strategy (SGS) has been prepared in accordance with the RDS Spatial Framework Guidance. A hierarchy has been established which aims to focus major population growth and economic development in the three main towns whilst facilitating appropriate growth in small towns and sustaining villages and small settlements. In the open countryside, the emphasis is on facilitating sustainable development opportunities taking into account the need to protect rural character and the environment, while sustaining a strong and vibrant rural community. The overarching aim of the Spatial Growth Strategy is to manage growth to secure sustainable patterns of development across Mid and East Antrim.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed strategy will have a minor impact on people of different religious Belief and political opinions as the proposed Strategy directs most growth (housing, economic development land, retail etc) to the larger tier settlements, i.e. the three main towns and to a lesser extent the five small towns. All of these towns have majority Protestant populations (varying between 67% for the main town of Larne and 90.8% for the small town of Ahoghill). The impact here is deemed to be 'minor' because the proposal is not unlawfully discriminating and to a large extent the religious split within these settlements reflects that for the Borough as a whole (which is 72.9% Protestant). Further, the SGS whilst not seeking to direct growth to the smaller tier settlements, does not actually preclude development that is appropriate to the scale and character of the individual settlement. The focus of major population and economic growth in the three main towns aligns with the regional direction of the RDS and will maximise benefits for all citizens because of the ready availability of a wide range of services and employment. This is considered to outweigh any differential impacts for smaller tier settlements irrespective of their religious composition</p> <p>The strategy is likely to benefit the community as a whole as it provides sustainable growth opportunities across the Borough by meeting current and future needs of residents through the provision of new jobs and homes. The strategy encourages more sustainable transport modes and greater access to health, education, employment, housing and other</p>
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			<p>services and facilities. This will be of particular benefit to people living with disabilities, racial groups, those with dependants and both younger and older age groups.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Settlement Hierarchy</b>	SGS2 Settlement Hierarchy	<p>The purpose of this strategic policy is to designate the settlements within the plan area. This strategic policy sets out the new settlement hierarchy for the Borough which provides the spatial framework for the delivery of the Spatial Growth Strategy.</p>	<p>Settlements have been designated and classified as the result of a detailed settlement evaluation process based on their population, role, facilities and services along with their potential to accommodate further development.</p> <p>Our three main towns have been retained, based on their regional status set out in the RDS, five new small towns have been designated retaining Greenisland and Whitehead plus the former villages of Ahoghill, Broughshane and Cullybackey. 11 villages have been designated including the former small settlement of Martinstown, 12 existing small settlements have been de-designated and eight new small settlements have been designated.</p> <p>The proposed re-classification, designation and de-designation of certain settlements may impact on religious belief and political opinion categories due to their spatial distribution. However analysis of wider geographical areas indicates that the spread of religious belief across the relevant settlements is largely reflective of the Borough as a whole.</p> <p>The Settlement Hierarchy has been defined by taking account of the regional direction, population distribution and the capacity of individual settlements to support further growth. To depart from this rational could undermine the 'soundness' of the LDP.</p> <p>The Settlement Hierarchy is likely to provide general benefit as it provides sustainable growth opportunities across the Borough in line with the existing population distribution, infrastructure and service provision. The Settlement Hierarchy will facilitate development in appropriate and sustainable locations to ensure improved access to services, employment and community facilities for everyone.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Housing Allocation Strategy</b>	SGS3 Strategic Allocation of Housing to Settlements	<p>The purpose of the strategy is to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development and to ensure an appropriate supply of land is available to</p>	<p>The Housing Allocation Strategy is based on a detailed Housing Evaluation Framework and aligns with our Spatial Growth Strategy and our Settlement Hierarchy. The strategy indicates the amount of housing to be allocated to each of our settlements and the open countryside during the</p>

	SGS4 Protection of Zoned Housing Land	accommodate the new homes required to meet the full range of housing needs.	<p>plan period. The quantum of housing allocated is proportionate to a settlement's role and position within the hierarchy and to its existing level of services and facilities. The Housing Allocation Strategy ensures that the majority of housing is located within the most sustainable and accessible locations.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the broad location of housing land and the identified quantum will cater for all Section 75 groups. Housing will be allocated across the settlement tiers and countryside in broad alignment with the Spatial Growth Strategy, similar Section 75 implications may apply. However, it is important to note previous comments in regard to the regional direction and the regional split for the Borough as a whole. Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage to ensure the Housing Allocation Strategy has no differential impact on these groups.</p> <p>It is considered that the Housing Allocation Strategy is likely to have a positive effect generally as it seeks to provide housing to meet the needs of all in the most accessible locations and where the majority of our population are located. This will be of particular benefit to different age and racial groups and those living with disabilities and dependants.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</b></p>
	SGS5 Management of Housing Supply		
<b>Economic Development Strategy</b>	SGS6 Strategic Allocation of Land for Economic Development	The purpose of the strategy is to allocate an appropriate amount of economic development land to meet economic development needs within the Borough, offering a range and choice in terms of quality.	<p>The Strategy allocates a quantum of economic land within the three main towns in accordance with the Spatial Growth Strategy which seeks to focus employment in these locations. Whilst land will not be zoned in small towns, villages and small settlements appropriate opportunities for business growth will still be facilitated within these areas and within the countryside.</p> <p>In terms of religious belief and political opinion the composition of the three main towns are reflective of the Borough. It is also where the majority of our racial groups are located. As a whole therefore no impact on equality of opportunity is predicted at this stage on these groups by allocating economic zonings in these areas. Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage to ensure the location of economic zonings has no differential impact on these groups.</p> <p>It is considered that the Economic Development Strategy is likely to have a positive effect generally as it seeks to provide a range of economic land to meet varying needs in the most accessible locations and where the majority of our population are located. This will be of particular benefit to</p>

			<p>those of working age, different racial groups, and those living with disability and those with dependants.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Retail Strategy</b>	<p>SGS7 Retail Hierarchy</p> <p>RET1 Retail in Town Centres</p> <p>RET2 Retail Impact Assessment</p> <p>RET3 Retail in Villages, Small Settlements and Local Centres</p> <p>RET4 Rural Shops and Roadside Service Facilities</p>	<p>The purpose of this strategy and associated operational subject policies is to define the network and hierarchy of centres (a retail hierarchy) appropriate for Mid and East Antrim and to identify the broad type and scale of retail development considered appropriate for each tier of the retail hierarchy. They seek to promote our town centres as the first choice location for future retailing and other main town centre uses. In addition, it aims to meet local day-to-day needs in villages and small settlements appropriate to their role and function and to prevent inappropriate retail development in the countryside.</p>	<p>The Retail Hierarchy seeks to ensure that the nature and scale of new retail development is appropriate to the role and character of the settlement.</p> <p>It is anticipated that by protecting and sustaining the vitality and viability of our town centres there will be benefits for the community as a whole. The approach will help these areas to perform at their maximum potential in meeting the needs of citizens and visitors and contributing to the economy of Mid and East Antrim.</p> <p>In addition town centres are important safe and shared spaces within our settlements and by protecting and enhancing them the retail hierarchy has a potential positive impact for and between those of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group. The Retail Hierarchy can promote good relations by providing opportunities for social interaction in general.</p> <p>By focusing retail and complementary uses within the larger centres of population travel demand is reduced as these functions are in the most accessible locations with a greater potential for the use of public transport. The approach ensures that retail and other town centre uses will be more accessible for everyone particularly the elderly, people living with a disability and those with dependants.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Tourism</b>	<p>SGS8 Tourism Strategy</p> <p>TOU1 Safeguarding of Tourism Assets</p> <p>TOU2 Tourism Development in Settlements and Tourism Opportunity Zones</p> <p>TOU3 All Tourism Development in the Countryside</p>	<p>The purpose of the Tourism Strategy is to ensure that planning can contribute to the economy of Mid and East Antrim by facilitating sustainable tourism growth. The strategy and associated operational subject policies seek to safeguard our tourism assets and to accommodate future tourism demand in appropriate locations. It provides for sustainable tourism opportunities across the Borough including in the countryside and within identified tourism opportunity zones.</p>	<p>The strategy in conjunction with the operational subject policies set out the circumstances in which different types of future tourism demand will be considered appropriate subject to high quality design and environmental considerations.</p> <p>The strategy sets out that tourism development will be restricted within a number of vulnerable areas in the countryside (for example sites of nature conservation importance). This may have the potential to have an impact in terms of religious belief and political opinion (see Countryside Strategy below). In the context of the Borough however these areas are limited and are often not highly populated. No adverse impact is anticipated as</p>

	<p>TOU4 Tourist Amenities in the Countryside</p> <p>TOU5 Hotels, Guest Houses and Tourist Hostels in the Countryside</p> <p>TOU6 Self Catering Accommodation in the Countryside</p> <p>TOU7 New and Extended Holiday Parks in the Countryside</p> <p>TOU8 Major Tourism Development in the Countryside – Exceptional Circumstances</p>		<p>the Tourism Strategy provides opportunities for development in nearby settlements as well as in the wider countryside.</p> <p>It is considered that the approach to tourism development will have positive impacts generally. The policies protect our quality landscapes and our tourism assets which will provide environmental, economic and physical and mental health benefits. Tourism assets and facilities are often safe and shared social meeting spaces therefore supporting their provision, protection and enhancement will be of benefit to all Section 75 groups.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Transport Strategy</b>	Dfl Transport Study to support LDP and associated operational policies.	The purpose of the Transport Strategy is to provide clarity on the transport measures that Dfl expect to deliver during the Plan period in MEA and to ensure that the transport network and transport needs of the Borough are taken into account in planning for its future development.	<p>The Transport Strategy is represented by the draft Local Transport Study for Mid and East Antrim (LTS), prepared by Dfl.</p> <p>The strategy in conjunction with the operational subject policies will benefit all sections of the community through improved accessibility, connectivity and road safety. The emphasis on more sustainable active travel will have positive impacts for the health and wellbeing of all.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Open Space</b>	<p>SGS9 Open Space Strategy</p> <p>OSL1 Protection of Open Space</p> <p>OSL2 Greenways</p> <p>OSL3 New Open Space Provision</p> <p>OSL4 Public Open Space in New Residential Development</p> <p>OSL5 Sport and Outdoor Recreation Facilities</p> <p>OSL6 Community Growing Spaces and Allotments</p> <p>OSL7 Cemeteries and Burial Space</p>	The purpose of the Open Space Strategy and the associated operational subject policies is to protect existing open space and to provide for appropriate new and accessible open space and recreation facilities to meet a range of community needs.	<p>The proposed strategy and associated policies provide for and support increased opportunities for leisure and recreation in our Borough and therefore have the potential to benefit the community as a whole, both urban and rural, by reason of their multiple benefits for amenity, recreation, health and wellbeing and the environment.</p> <p>In particular the policies have the potential to positively impact on religious belief, political opinion and racial groups as open space provides opportunities for social and cross community interaction which will help aid good relations and community cohesion.</p> <p>The policies also have the potential to bring physical and mental health benefits to young people and dependants through the provision of safe and accessible open space and play parks in residential areas especially, as well as generally through the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities in the most accessible locations.</p>

			<p>It is also anticipated that safe and accessible open spaces such as allotments and open space within residential developments in particular, will provide enhanced opportunities for our elderly population to pursue active lifestyles.</p> <p>In addition, well located and designed open spaces and facilities including greenways will provide benefits to people living with disabilities by ensuring enhanced ease of access for those with mobility issues. In general all types of open space are considered to offer substantial mental health benefits.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Countryside Strategy</b>	<p>CS1 Sustainable Development in the Countryside</p> <p>CS2 Special Countryside Areas</p> <p>CS3 Areas of Constraint on High Structures</p> <p>CS4 Rural Landscape Wedges</p> <p>CS5 Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <p>CS6 Developed Coast (Belfast Lough Shore)</p> <p>CS7 Local Landscape Policy Areas</p> <p>CS8 Protection of Main River Corridors</p> <p>CS9 Development at Risk from Land Instability or Coastal Erosion</p>	<p>The purpose of the Countryside Strategy and associated strategic proposals and policies is to facilitate development which support and sustain rural communities in Mid and East Antrim, whilst protecting, conserving and where possible enhancing the rural landscape, seascape, natural environment, and historical and cultural heritage assets associated with the countryside.</p>	<p>The Countryside Strategy includes a number of spatial designations and associated policies which seek to protect sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development. The proposed Countryside Strategy has the potential to have a differential impact on religious belief and political opinion due to the spatial distribution of these areas.</p> <p>The Countryside Strategy identifies four Special Countryside Areas (SCAs), where most forms of development will be prevented or restricted. The designation of these areas has been informed by a comprehensive Landscape Character Assessment and determined on the basis of their exceptional landscape quality and unique amenity value. As these are relatively small and tightly defined entities in areas of sparse population there are likely to be few implications for equality of opportunity. Any differential impacts on the grounds of religious belief/political opinion is balanced against the positive net benefits that will be realised by protecting such areas particularly in consideration of the overarching aim of achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>The Countryside Strategy also restricts specific types of development in more extensive designations in the rural area. However, this applies mainly to mineral development and high structures such as wind turbines, electricity pylons and telecommunications masts. These structures will have little bearing in terms of likely impact on equality of opportunity within section 75 groupings. Considering this in conjunction with the benefits of protecting the landscape of these areas, no adverse differential impacts are anticipated at this stage.</p> <p>Within the other countryside designations development is permitted within their extent subject to meeting criteria that will ensure landscape</p>



			<p>quality is protected. No adverse impact on the basis of religious belief or political opinion is anticipated.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Countryside Strategy overall will benefit the community as a whole as it seeks to protect our exceptional landscapes and environmental assets. This in turn will deliver numerous environmental, social and economic benefits. Where development is permitted the strategy will enhance access to these areas for the enjoyment of all, therefore bringing health and wellbeing benefits. In addition the strategy seeks to ensure development is prevented in areas where there are known risks to safety.</p> <p><b>No adverse impact on equality of opportunity are anticipated at this stage.</b></p>
<b>General Policy for all Development</b>	GP1 General Policy for all Development	The purpose of the policy is to ensure that key planning principles embodied in overarching government strategies such as the RDS, SPPS and SDS, filter through to development on the ground via the operation of the development management process in the context of the new Plan-led system.	<p>The General Policy for all Development sets out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing all development proposals with the exception of minor proposals. The policy seeks to ensure that all development has regard to design, integration and character, safeguarding of amenity, access/movement and car parking and safety and safeguarding of human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>As an overarching policy that will be applicable to the majority of developments it is anticipated that it will benefit the community as a whole as it seeks to contribute to the creation of a quality environment and the provision of shared spaces through the promotion of good design and place making. This in combination with criteria that encourage active travel have positive implications for health and wellbeing and good relations.</p> <p>The policy will have positive benefits in particular for those living with disabilities, younger and older residents as well as those with dependants by reason of the criteria set out in relation to Access, Movement and Carparking. The policy requires that the design of new development must take account of the specific needs of people with disabilities and others whose mobility is impaired including incorporating facilities to aid accessibility. The policy also requires development to be designed to deter crime and promote personal safety which has positive benefits all Section 75 groups and in particular for those within the racial group and sexual orientation categories</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>

<b>Economic Development</b>	<p>ECD1 Economic Development in Settlements</p> <p>ECD2 Retention of Economic Development Land</p> <p>ECD3 Development incompatible with Economic Development Uses</p> <p>ECD4 Economic Development in the Countryside</p>	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies are to facilitate the economic development needs of the Borough in ways consistent with protection of the environment and the principles of sustainable development. The policies safeguard land required for economic development use and support the re-use of previously developed economic development sites and buildings for economic development use. The policies seek to protect economic development uses from incompatible development.</p>	<p>The proposed policies set out the main considerations the Planning Authority will take into account when assessing applications for economic development.</p> <p>As it is the intention of the LDP to focus economic development on the three main towns where the religious and political makeup is generally reflective of the Borough as a whole, no adverse impacts on these groups are anticipated. As specific sites have not been designated at this stage, this will be reassessed at Local Policies Plan stage to ensure no adverse impact and to ensure opportunities for all are maximised.</p> <p>It is anticipated that these policies will be of benefit to the community as a whole.</p> <p>Policy ECD4 may also offer particular positive benefits for those with dependants as it offers opportunities for employment in the countryside at existing farms and businesses etc. and closer to where people may live.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Minerals Development</b>	<p>MIN1 Mineral Development – Extraction and Processing of Hard Rock and Aggregates</p> <p>MIN2 Valuable Minerals</p> <p>MIN3 Hydrocarbons</p> <p>MIN4 Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development</p> <p>MIN5 Area of Salt Reserve, Carrickfergus</p> <p>MIN6 Development at Risk of Subsidence due to past or present underground mineral extraction</p> <p>MIN7 Peat Extraction</p> <p>MIN8 Restoration and Management of Mineral Sites</p>	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to secure a balanced and sustainable approach to minerals development that takes account of the need for minerals to support development and provide employment, and the need to protect landscape quality and other environmental assets. They seek to minimise the impacts of minerals development on landscape quality and the natural environment, water environment and historic environment – particularly in areas designated for their importance in regard to one or more of these qualities as well as the impact on local communities. They seek to prevent development that could prejudice the exploitation of important mineral reserves, particularly those which are scarce or of particular value to the Northern Ireland economy. Lastly the policies will secure the appropriate restoration, re-use and management of redundant minerals sites.</p>	<p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations the Council will take in account when assessing applications for mineral development.</p> <p>Minerals can only be exploited where they occur and whilst this may have a differential impact on Religious and Political belief, the location of these resources cannot be influenced by the policies. The intention of the policies however is to ensure that the approach to mineral development is sustainable with minimum impact on the environment and communities.</p> <p>The plan identifies a number of areas where there is a presumption against mineral development due to the sensitive nature of the landscape. There is the potential for this to have a differential impact on the grounds of religious belief/political opinion due to the location of these designations in primarily Catholic areas. However, it is considered that on balance taking into account the environmental benefits the impact is not adverse. In addition, the proposed restrictions in these areas could provide benefits to those living there in relation to protecting and minimising impact on their amenity and the quality of their local environment.</p> <p>Limited restriction on development within the Area of Salt Reserve and Areas at risk of Subsidence also have the potential to have differential</p>

			<p>impact on Section 75 groups. However, it is considered that this is outweighed by the overriding responsibility to protect and safeguard public safety.</p> <p>Overall the sustainable exploitation of minerals resources has the potential to benefit all sections of the community due to the important role it plays in our economy, through maintaining a diverse range of jobs, supply of construction materials and meeting a resource need.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Housing in Settlements</b>	<p>HOU1 Quality in New Residential Development in Settlements</p> <p>HOU2 The Conversion or Change of Use of Existing Buildings to Flats or Apartments</p> <p>HOU3 Residential Extensions and Alterations</p> <p>HOU4 Protected Town Centre Housing Areas</p> <p>HOU5 Affordable Housing in Settlements</p> <p>HOU6 Housing Mix (Unit Types and Sizes)</p> <p>HOU7 Adaptable and Accessible Homes</p> <p>HOU8 Travellers Accommodation</p>	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to promote sustainable residential development in our settlements that meets a range of needs. They seek to secure good design and increased housing density without town cramming as well as nurturing the development of balanced communities.</p>	<p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing proposals for residential development in settlements.</p> <p>As it is the intention of the LDP to direct the majority of housing to the three main towns where the religious and political makeup is generally reflective of the Borough as a whole, no adverse impacts on these groups are anticipated. As specific sites have not been designated at this stage this will be reassessed at Local Policies Plan stage to ensure no adverse impact and to ensure opportunities to promote good relations are maximised.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the policies will be of benefit to all sections of the community as they seek to deliver good quality housing with a range and mix of house types and tenures in our settlements to meet the specific needs of our residents. This includes taking account of our ageing population, the reduction in household size as well as affordable housing need. The proposed policies will contribute to enhancing good relations by building sustainable communities.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed policies will bring positive benefits for a number of groups in particular including those with multiple identities eg single parents. Policies which encourage a mix of house types and tenures will help build mixed communities and aid good relations between those of differing religious belief, political opinion and racial group. The provision of mixed house types and tenures along with the introduction of Adaptable and Accessible homes will also have positive benefits for the elderly, those of different marital status, and those living with disabilities and dependants. By seeking to ensure all housing environments are designed to be safe and deter crime the policies are also particularly beneficial to certain groups such as Sexual Orientation, the Elderly and those of different Racial Groups.</p>

			<p>Policy HOU8 will have positive impacts for racial group and in particular Travellers. Travellers have specific needs which are assessed as part of the Housing Needs Assessment undertaken by the NIHE. At present there is no identified need for Traveller accommodation. However, should a need arise over the plan period this policy will support and facilitate the provision of a suitable facility.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Housing in the Countryside</b>	<p>HOU9 Replacement Dwelling</p> <p>HOU10 Dwelling on a Farm Business</p> <p>HOU11 Dwelling for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprise</p> <p>HOU12 New Dwelling in Existing Clusters</p> <p>HOU13 Ribbon/Infill Development</p> <p>HOU14 Personal and Domestic Circumstances</p> <p>HOU15 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes</p> <p>HOU16 Affordable Housing in the Countryside</p>	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to manage residential development in the countryside in order to secure a sustainable balance between protecting the environment from inappropriate development while supporting and sustaining rural communities.</p>	<p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the circumstances in which residential development in the countryside will be considered appropriate subject to meeting the General Policy in regard to development in the countryside. The proposed policies are necessary to ensure that housing growth in the countryside is commensurate with our spatial growth strategy and to ensure the necessary housing needs of our rural communities are met.</p> <p>The religious and political makeup of the countryside reflects that of the Borough as a whole therefore no adverse differential impact is anticipated on either of these two groups. It is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impact on those within the racial group as in our Borough they are concentrated primarily within or adjacent to our main settlements where the majority of opportunities for housing are afforded.</p> <p>The proposed policies respond positively to a range of different needs, issues and priorities experienced by people within certain Section 75 groups. All the opportunities for housing will benefit both young and old, as they aim to help people to stay connected with their communities for longer, therefore aiding social cohesion.</p> <p>Policy HOU 4 specifically provides for a new dwelling where there are compelling personal and domestic circumstances and this is likely to positively impact on those of different age groups, those living with disabilities and with dependants. Provision for affordable housing in the countryside also has the potential to impact positively on these categories.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>

<b>Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities</b>	COM1 Education, Health, Community and Cultural Facilities	<p>The purpose of this operational subject policy is to meet the anticipated needs of the community, in terms of health, education and other public services.</p>	<p>This operational subject policy allows sites to be reserved for such facilities where a need is identified by the relevant agencies or service providers. It also protects these facilities from redevelopment for alternative uses and supports the provision of new facilities in appropriate locations within settlements.</p> <p>The draft Plan Strategy has not designated land at this stage and any future development will be based on need, as dictated largely by the relevant government departments. No adverse impacts on religious belief/political opinion are anticipated at this stage. Further assessment will be carried out at Local Policies Plan to ensure impacts are minimised and opportunities for good relations are enhanced.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the policy will benefit the community as a whole as it makes provision for Education, Health Community and Cultural Facilities where a need is identified particularly in settlements where the majority of our population are located. This has positive impacts for health and wellbeing. Enabling the provision of community and cultural facilities supports inclusive shared spaces which contribute to establishing good relations. The policy seeks to ensure they are located in appropriate and accessible locations within settlements which will be of particular benefit to ethnic minorities, those living with a disability, young and old and those within dependants. As the majority of the population is located within our settlements supporting the provisions of such facilities in these locations will be beneficial to all.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Transportation</b>	TR1 Access to Public Roads TR2 Access to Protected Routes TR3 New Transport Schemes TR4 Disused Transport Routes TR5 Active Travel TR6 Parking and Servicing TR7 Provision of Car Parks	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to deliver sustainable patterns of development which reduce the need for the private car and promote the use of public transport and active travel modes. In addition they facilitate safe and efficient access, movement and parking. They also protect land required for new transport schemes and the re-use of disused transport routes.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that these operational subject policies will benefit all sections of the community through improved accessibility, connectivity and road safety. The focus on more sustainable active travel will have positive impacts for the health and wellbeing of all. The policies will be of particular benefit to the elderly, those living with disabilities and those with dependants.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>

<b>Flood Risk and Drainage</b>	FRD1 Development within Floodplains  FRD2 Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure  FRD3 Management of Development in regard to Surface Water Flood Risk  FRD4 Sustainable Drainage (SuDS)  FRD5 Artificial Modification of Watercourses  FRD6 Development in Proximity to Controlled Reservoirs	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to manage development that may be at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. In addition they seek to protect flood defence and drainage infrastructure as well as promoting sustainable drainage solutions to improve water quality.</p>	<p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will consider to ensure that development proposals take full account of flood risk.</p> <p>The proposed policies are largely technical in nature and are not anticipated to impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Some elements of these policies relate to restricting development in areas of flood risk for bespoke accommodation for vulnerable groups, such as schools, residential/nursing homes, sheltered housing, and children's playgrounds. Therefore there is potential impact on those within the age, disability and dependents categories. However, as this policy is intended to safeguard such groups from flooding, any minor differential impact is not considered to be adverse or to require mitigation.</p> <p>Ultimately these policies seek to benefit all sections of society by safeguarding people and buildings from the impacts of flooding.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	RE1 Renewable Energy Development	<p>The purpose of this operational subject policy is to facilitate renewable energy development in appropriate locations within our Borough, whilst balancing the recognised benefits against any potential environmental or social impacts.</p>	<p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will consider in the assessment of applications for renewable energy development.</p> <p>Outside of the designated Areas of Constraint on High Structures, the policy aims to support renewable energy development due to the economic and environmental benefits in mitigating against climate change and improving air quality. The approach to balancing these benefits against any potential social or environmental impacts will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of society as a whole.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Telecommunications and Overhead Cables</b>	TOC1 Telecommunications and Overhead Cables	<p>The purpose of this operational subject policy is to facilitate the development of telecommunications and utilities infrastructure in appropriate locations to support sustainable economic growth; and to minimise the environmental impact of telecommunications and utilities infrastructure.</p>	<p>This operational subject policy sets out the main considerations that the Council will consider in the assessment of applications for overhead Lines or Telecommunications Development.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed policy will benefit the community as a whole as it will facilitate the expansion of telecommunications to improve digital connectivity and facilitate investing in our electricity infrastructure which has social and economic benefits for all. Facilitating increased connectivity may have particular benefits in terms of reducing isolation for perhaps the elderly, people living with disabilities or racial groups. The</p>

			<p>policy aims to minimise the environmental impact of such developments which will have health and wellbeing benefits for all.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Water and Sewerage Infrastructure</b>	WW1 Development Relying on Non-Mains Wastewater Infrastructure	The purpose of this operational subject policy is to ensure new development is adequately served by water and wastewater infrastructure, so as to avoid creating or adding to a pollution problem or to threaten environmental quality.	<p>This operational subject policy is largely technical in nature and therefore is not expected to impact on equality of opportunity. The policy will however be subject to public consultation and any Section 75 issues raised will be considered.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Waste Management</b>	<p>WMT1 Environmental Impact of a Waste Management Facility</p> <p>WMT2 Waste Collection and Treatment Facilities</p> <p>WMT3 Waste Disposal Sites</p> <p>WMT4 Development in the vicinity of a Waste Management Facility</p> <p>WMT5 Land Improvement</p>	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to facilitate the development of new waste management facilities in appropriate locations and to minimise the environmental impact of waste management facilities.</p> <p>In addition, they control development in proximity to existing waste management or WwTW facilities and make provision for waste proposals intended to improve land quality.</p>	<p>These operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will take into account in the assessment of proposals for waste management facilities.</p> <p>It is the intention of the policies that facilities which are for shared public use should be situated in appropriate locations and therefore accessible for all members of our community irrespective of religious belief or political opinion. At this stage there are no anticipated adverse impacts on these groups. The policies seek to ensure that facilities such as civic amenity sites are conveniently located in terms of access to a neighbourhood or settlement. This should have positive benefits for those who may have limited access such as the elderly or those with mobility issues.</p> <p>The main thrust of the policies is to ensure the sustainable management of waste in order to reduce the adverse impact on our environment which is essential for the health and wellbeing of all in our society.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Historic Environment</b>	<p>HE1 Archaeological Remains and their Settings</p> <p>HE2 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes</p> <p>HE3 Listed Buildings - Change of Use or Extension/Alteration or Conversion of a Listed Building</p>	<p>The purpose of these operational subject policies is to protect, conserve, and where possible enhance the historic character and assets of the Borough.</p> <p>They promote new high quality and innovative architecture and built forms which are sympathetic to the historic character and which respond to locally distinctive patterns of development, townscape and landscape. They seek to safeguard and protect archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings and any additional newly discovered</p>	<p>These operational subject policies sets out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing applications that have the potential to impact on our historic environment. This can include archaeological remains, listed and vernacular buildings and other areas such as Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>In terms of religious belief/political opinion it is not anticipated that the approach to conserving, protecting and or enhancing our built and archaeological assets and Conservation Areas will result in any significant</p>



	<p>HE4 Listed Buildings - Demolition of a Listed Building</p> <p>HE5 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building</p> <p>HE6 Conservation Areas</p> <p>HE7 Areas of Townscape Character</p> <p>HE8 Non-listed Locally Important Building or Vernacular Building</p> <p>HE9 Enabling Development for the Conservation of Heritage Assets</p>	<p>archaeological remains. They aim to exploit the tourism and educational value of Mid and East Antrim's unique heritage and historic environment, in a sensitive and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>differential impact on these groups given the wide geographical spread of these features across the Borough.</p> <p>Any designation or policy that seeks to protect built heritage and archaeological heritage assets, including Conservation Areas, are intended to provide benefits for all sections of society, irrespective of section 75 group identity. In addition, the policies promote good design and positive place making and as such are expected to yield positive benefits in regard to the creation and enhancement of shared spaces.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Advertisements</b>	AD1 The Control of Advertisements	<p>The purpose of this operational subject policy is to ensure that that advertisements do not detract from the place where it is to be displayed or its surroundings and to ensure that all outdoor advertisements respect amenity and do not prejudice public safety, including road safety. It seeks to prevent clutter, and adequately control signs involving illumination and digital advertising screens. In addition it protects our historic environment and heritage assets from the potential adverse effects of advertising and seeks to ensure that advertisements do not detract from the character and amenity of our countryside.</p>	<p>This operational subject policy sets out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing applications for Advertisement Consent. The consideration of advertisements under this policy relates only to issues of public safety and amenity, the subject matter or content of an advertisement is not a matter for consideration.</p> <p>The appropriate management of outdoor advertising has the potential to benefit society as a whole due to the positive contribution it can make to a vibrant and competitive economy and to the functional appeal of our shopping areas. In addition, well designed advertising which respects the building or location where it is displayed contributes to the creation of quality shared spaces particularly within our town centres.</p> <p>The policy will have positive benefits for the elderly, those with mobility issues and those with dependants as advertisements which impede pedestrian access or flow will not be acceptable.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>

<b>Place-Making</b>	SFA1 Strategic Focus Areas	The purpose of this operational subject policy is to promote the principles of successful place-making and good design in order to achieve a coherent and sustainable approach to development within strategically important urban areas.	<p>The location of Strategic Focus Areas have not been identified in the draft Plan Strategy, these areas will be designated at Local Policies Plan Stage.</p> <p>No negative impact on religious belief, political opinion or racial groups is anticipated at this stage however this will be reassessed once areas are defined in the Local Policies Plan.</p> <p>The promotion of good design and place-making particularly at strategically important locations in urban areas is expected to have benefits for the community as a whole through the creation and enhancement of shared spaces in the most accessible locations.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>
<b>Natural Heritage</b>	<p>NAT1 European and Ramsar Sites – International</p> <p>NAT2 Species Protected by Law</p> <p>NAT3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – National</p> <p>NAT4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – Local</p> <p>NAT5 Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance</p>	The purpose of these operational subject policies is to protect, conserve, enhance and restore the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of our Borough’s natural heritage. They give appropriate protection to our Borough’s designated nature conservation or scientific sites and also habitats, species or features of natural heritage importance. They ensure that the precautionary principle applies when considering the potential impacts of development on important nature conservation sites.	<p>These operational subject policies set out the considerations that the Council will take into account in assessing proposals which have the potential to impact on our natural environment. The policies are required to assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity interests.</p> <p>The protection of natural heritage assets has positive impacts that will benefit all as it will contribute to meeting society’s needs for open space and recreation and to maintaining or enhancing air and water quality. Overall the policies contribute to a better environment therefore bringing health and wellbeing benefits for all in our society.</p> <p><b>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</b></p>



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