

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E 132
2.	Policy Name	Policy on dealing with alleged and asserted Public Rights of Way
3.	Existing / Revised / New Policy	New policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Director of Organisational Development and Administration
5.	Description of policy to be screened	Under Article 3 of the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 the Council has a duty following investigation to assert public rights of way, compile and preserve maps and keep open and free from obstruction. Priority may be given to those routes which offer most benefit to users, or those which may be within a network of paths or long distance route. Shared use will also be considered offering access routes for people with disabilities. There are three different types of Public Rights of Way, footpath, bridleway and carriageway.
	Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?	Public Rights of Way are paths which connect two public places which any members of the public may use as a right and not a privilege granted by the landowner. The Council can establish and make known to farmers, landowners what public rights of way exist, where they run and how they can legally be used. They may support landowners in correctly asking trespassers to leave their property. The council will also help members of the public know where they may lawfully walk, ride and cycle.
6.	Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.	All Section 75 categories should benefit from the policy
7.	Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented	If the policy is not applied equitably to all users and potential users.

8.	The main stakeholders on whom the policy will impact. For example, Employees, Potential Service Users and Community Groups Consider the internal and external impacts (either actual or potential) and comment, or list, information where appropriate	Council, Elected Members, employees of the Council, farmers, landowners, members of the public, residents of the Borough, visitors to the Borough, potential visitors to the Borough, business owners, NI Environment Agency, legislatures, solicitors, barristers, NIHE, Statutory bodies, NI Tourist Board, Outdoor NI and local sport and recreation clubs.
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9.	Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.	
Policies: E 10 Dog Control Policy and Procedures E 14 Sustainability and Environmental Policy E 27 Lands and Property Policy E 100 Feasibility to provide Greenways in three locations within the Borough	Owned by : Ards and North Down Borough Council	

10.	Available evidence (quantitative and qualitative) considered as important to encourage completion in relation to :	
Religious Belief	The NISRA and NINIS statistics provide the profile for the Borough for a range of Section 75 categories. These are detailed in relation to each Electoral Ward. The public rights of way throughout the Borough are in random locations based on historical use which is how they become established. They are not provided but identified following significant use over a long period. Usage of some rights of way is known but limited data is available in relation to the users or potential users.	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		
Sexual orientation		
Men & Women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

11.	Based on data previously provided what are the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the following categories, in relation to this policy/decision?	
Religious Belief	The users and potential users profile is seldom known as these are free use areas and not monitored regularly. They are most frequently used by those who live, work or visit the area. However, there is no restriction on their use. No criteria is available for their use. The location is not selected as they are identified after a significant period of time and through compliance with relevant legislation.	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		
Sexual orientation		
Men & Women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

Does this Policy require an Equality Impact Assessment?

1.	What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for each of the Section 75 categories?		
		Detail of Impact	Level of Impact Minor/Major/None
	Religious Belief		None
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		
	Age	Some areas may not be suitable for older and younger persons to use due to the surfaces, locations, access, etc	Minor
	Marital Status		None
	Sexual orientation		
	Men & Women generally		
	Disability	Some areas may not be suitable for persons with a disability to use due to the surfaces, locations, access, etc	Minor
	Dependents	Some areas may not be suitable for older persons, those with a disability or those with caring responsibilities to use due to the surfaces, locations, access, etc	Minor

2.	Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?		
		If "Yes", provide details	If "No", provide details
	Religious Belief	<p>No</p> <p>The council's responsibility is to keep open and to keep all public rights of ways free from obstruction.</p> <p>Where access to maps and other information is required alternative formats will be made available where possible or officers will meet to discuss concerns and queries.</p>	
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		
	Age		
	Marital Status		
	Sexual orientation		
	Men & Women generally		
	Disability		
	Dependents		

3.	To what extent is the Policy likely to impact on Good Relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
		Details of Impact	Level of Impact Minor/Major/None
	Religious Belief	<p>None, as all areas will be kept accessible and aim to be kept free from any forms of graffiti or visual impact that may discourage use, where possible.</p>	
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		

4.	Are there opportunities to better promote Good Relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
		If "Yes" provide details	If "No" provide details
	Religious Belief	No, as the areas are not selected by the council and council will ensure they will encourage a broad range of users.	
	Political Opinion		
Racial Group			

Additional Considerations

	Multiple Identity Considerations	Details of Impact or potential impact (Positive/Negative)
	Are there any potential impacts of the policy decision on people with multiple identities? (e.g. disabled minority ethnic persons)	This policy will ensure all users are accommodated where possible based on location, access and topography of each site.
	Where appropriate provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.	

Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006

	Does this proposed policy provide an opportunity to:	Yes / No	Explain your reasoning:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>better promote positive attitudes</u> towards disabled people - <u>increase participation</u> by disabled people in public life 	Yes	<p>The council will encourage use of as many rights of way as is possible based on the topography, location and access to each.</p> <p>The council will ensure information on each right of way is promoted to include access and difficulties that may be encountered.</p>

Monitoring Arrangements

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

	Outline what data you could collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on <u>equality, good relations and disability duties</u>	Comments and complaints from users and potential users.
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I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision have been screened for:-

x	Equality of opportunity and good relations
x	Disabilities duties

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is:-

x	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
	Please detail actions to be taken:

Screening assessment completed by:-

Name: Amanda Martin
 Title: Head of Administration
 Date: 18 October 2017
 Signature:

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: Wendy Monson
 Title: Director of Organisational Development and Administration
 Date: 18 October 2017
 Signature:

If an Equality Impact Assessment is required

	Priority Rating for Timetabling an Equality Impact Assessment. (1-3)	Priority Criterion	Rating
		Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
		Social need	
		Effect on people's daily lives	
		Relevance to a public authority's functions	

	Is this Policy Affected by Timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities?	
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	Monitoring Recommendation	
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	Approval and Authorisation		
	Screened by :	Position/Job Title: Head of Administration	Date: 18 October 2017
	Approved by:	Director of Organisational Development and Administration	18 October 2017