

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E 210
2.	Policy Name	Proposed Portaferry Visitor Information Provision 2021 – Portaferry VIC lease expires 31 March 2021
3.	Existing / Revised / New Policy	New Policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
5.	Description of policy to be screened	<p>Portaferry Visitor Information Centre (VIC) is housed in The Stables, Castle Street, Portaferry – this building is owned and leased from Portaferry Regeneration Limited. The lease was for a 25yr period and expires 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Therefore, it is necessary to examine the long-term location in Portaferry from 2021, post-2020 season and examine the options where visitor servicing will be available in the town, whilst considering various factors including but not limited to service provision and associated costs. The potential to move into the Exploris Aquarium is being considered as a possibility.</p>
	Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?	<p>It is the aim of this exercise to explore the options whilst considering: the location, opening hours available, information that will be offered, and by which means (face to face or electronic) the overall service provision will be made whilst considering the cost implications.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure the future provision should not permit customer service standards to decline from the current provision and ensure that post end of lease in September 2020 a plan has been identified and agreed for the future provision of visitor information in Portaferry.</p>
6.	Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.	All Section 75 categories should benefit from this proposed relocation.
7.	Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended	This proposed relocation will provide service users and potential users with an extended service in relation to

	aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented	opening hours and availability of information as well as toilet facilities, refreshments, accessible and close parking for 364 days per year.
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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	The Council, visitors to the Borough, potential visitors to the Borough, employees of Exploris and management of Exploris. Elected Members, Tourism Section, visitors to Portaferry, potential visitors to Portaferry and local business.
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9.	Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.	
	<p>E 14 Sustainability and Environmental Policy</p> <p>E 28 Corporate Complaints policy and procedure</p> <p>E 61 ANDBC Tourism Event Plan 2016-2017</p> <p>E 63 ANDBC Corporate Health and Safety Management Systems Policy</p> <p>E 64 Business Continuity Policy</p> <p>E 65 Information, Communications and Technology Policy</p> <p>E 66 Safeguarding policy for children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable</p> <p>E 72 Performance Improvement Plan</p> <p>E95 ANDBC Tourism Event Plan 2016-2017</p> <p>E 130 Integrated Tourism, Regeneration and Development Strategy</p> <p>E 152 Tourism Events 2018 – 2019</p> <p>E 153 Customer Care Strategy</p> <p>E 174 ANDBC Events Support Review</p> <p>E 180 Review of Ards Crafts and Ards VIC</p> <p>E 181 Tourism Events 2019 - 2020</p> <p>E 182 Portaferry Public Realm Scheme</p> <p>E 189 ANDBC Borough Events Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>E 196 Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024</p> <p>E199 Final Borough Events Strategy</p>	Ards and North Down Borough Council

10.	Available evidence (quantitative and qualitative) considered as important to encourage completion in relation to :	
	Religious Belief	Summary: The Northern Ireland Census 2011 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area

showed that 75% are or have been brought up in Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religions. While this varied across the borough from 17% in Portaferry ward to 87% in Carrowdore ward this does not have any relation to this policy. These compared to 48% for Northern Ireland as a whole. See table below

Data:

Religion or Religion Brought up in (Numbers with % in brackets)

	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	Other Religions	None
Northern Ireland	1,810,863 (100%)	817,385 (45%)	875,717 (48%)	16,592 (1%)	101,169 (6%)
Ards and North Down Borough Council	156,672 (100%)	20,550 (13%)	117,589 (75%)	1,729 (1%)	16,804 (11%)
Portaferry Settlement	2,511 (100%)	2,113 (84%)	309 (12%)	9 (0%)	80 (3%)

Source: [Religion or religion brought up in. Census 2011, NISRA](#)

Political Opinion

Summary:

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections detail the political representation on Ards and North Down Council, The Stormont Executive for this electoral area and Westminster election. This data is an approximate measure of political opinion of the voting electorate within the Borough. Turnout to vote in North Down and Strangford constituencies tend to be lower than the rest of NI suggesting less strong political opinions. Of those who do turn out, the results show preferences for voting Unionist parties.

See table below

Data:

Council Election results

The most recent local council election (2nd May 2019) showed:

	Eligible Electorate	Votes Polled (% Turnout)	Elected Candidate										
			DUP	Sinn Féin	UUP	SDLP	Alliance	Independent	TUV	Green	PUP	Aontu	CCJA
Northern Ireland	1,305,553	687,733 (52.7%)	122	105	75	59	53	24	6	8	3	1	1

	Ards and North Down Borough Council	112,077	47,161 (42.1%)	14	8	1	10	3	1	3				
	Ards Peninsula (DEA)	16,656	7,369 (44.2%)	3	1	1	1							
	Bangor Central (DEA)	17,194	6,678 (38.8%)	2	1		1	1		1				
	Bangor East and Donaghadee (DEA)	16,956	6,915 (40.8%)	2	2			1	1					
	Bangor West (DEA)	13,479	5,448 (40.4%)	1	1			2			1			
	Comber (DEA)	13,681	6,272 (45.8%)	2	1			1		1				
	Holywood and Clondeboy (DEA)	14,158	6,229 (44.0%)	1	1			2			1			
	Newtownards (DEA)	19,953	8,250 (41.4%)	3	1			2	1					

Source: [The Electoral Office, NI](#)

Racial Group	<p>Summary: NISRA, NINIS and Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership data provide up to date data. The 2011 census showed that 32,000 (1.8%) of the usually resident population in Northern Ireland is from a minority ethnic background. Within the borough, the 2011 Census showed that 1.5% (2,300) were from a minority ethnic background. Across the borough this ranged from 5.2% in Loughview ward to 0.3% in Lisbane ward. See table below</p> <p>Data: Ethnic Group (Numbers with % in brackets)</p>
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	All usual residents	White	Chinese	Indian	Bangladeshi	Other	Black African	Black Other	Mixed	Other
Northern Ireland	1,810,863 (100%)	1,778,449 (98%)	6,303 (0%)	6,198 (0%)	540 (0%)	6,089 (0%)	2,345 (0%)	12,711 (0%)	6,014 (0%)	3,654 (0%)
Ards and North Down Borough Council	156,672 (100%)	154,365 (99%)	406 (0%)	283 (0%)	177 (0%)	415 (0%)	139 (0%)	132 (0%)	556 (0%)	199 (0%)
Ards Peninsula	22,797 (100%)	22,641 (99%)	29 (0%)	17 (0%)	5 (0%)	17 (0%)	6 (0%)	2 (0%)	54 (0%)	26 (0%)
Bangor Central	23,524 (100%)	24,469 (98%)	105 (0%)	43 (0%)	17 (0%)	43 (0%)	26 (0%)	32 (0%)	119 (0%)	38 (0%)
Bangor East and Donaghadee	24,892 (100%)	22,648 (99%)	56 (0%)	27 (0%)	10 (0%)	91 (0%)	11 (0%)	2 (0%)	82 (0%)	19 (0%)
Bangor West	22,946 (100%)	17,763 (98%)	19 (0%)	135 (0%)	2 (0%)	116 (0%)	3 (0%)	26 (0%)	73 (0%)	15 (0%)
Comber	18,152 (100%)	18,216 (99%)	30 (0%)	8 (0%)	9 (0%)	35 (0%)	4 (0%)	8 (0%)	55 (0%)	17 (0%)
Hollywood and Clondeboyne	18,382 (100%)	20,061 (98%)	65 (0%)	31 (0%)	23 (0%)	81 (0%)	81 (0%)	56 (0%)	101 (0%)	61 (0%)
Newtownards	20,560 (100%)	27,841 (99%)	105 (0%)	20 (0%)	111 (0%)	30 (0%)	8 (0%)	6 (0%)	75 (0%)	20 (0%)

Source: [Ethnic Group, Census 2011, NISRA](#)

Age	<p>NISRA have published population projections for the Borough which show that the proportion of those aged 85 and over are expected to more than double within the next 25 years. ANDBC has the highest % population of older people in Northern Ireland. See table below Data: Age Groups (Numbers with % in brackets)</p>					
		0-15	16-39	40-64	65+	Total
	Northern Ireland	385,200 (21%)	583,116 (31%)	591,481 (32%)	291,824 (16%)	1,851,621 (100%)

Ards and North Down Borough Council	29,801 (19%)	43,239 (27%)	54,094 (34%)	31,663 (20%)	158,797 (100%)
Portaferry Settlement	508 (20%)	973 (39%)	612 (24%)	418 (17%)	2,511 (100%)

Sources: [Demography and Methodology Branch, NISRA](#)
[World Health Organization](#)

Marital Status

The 2011 Northern Ireland Census showed that 48% of adults (those aged over 16 years of age) in Northern Ireland were either married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership. Within the borough, 54% of adults fell into this category. This varies across the borough from 36% in Central (Ards) ward to 64% in Lisbane ward.

See table below

Data:

Marital Status (All aged 16+) (Numbers with % in brackets)

	All usual residents	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership
Northern Ireland	1,431,540 (100%)	517,393 (36%)	680,831 (48%)	1,243 (0%)	56,911 (4%)	78,074 (5%)	97,088 (7%)
Ards and North Down Borough Council	126,945 (100%)	36,730 (29%)	67,866 (53%)	123 (0%)	4,328 (3%)	8,548 (7%)	9,350 (7%)

Source: [Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status](#)

Sexual orientation

Summary:

It should be noted that no reliable data is available on sexual orientation-NISRA are currently examining methodology on how to measure this. However, the 2011 census indicates that less than 1% of the Northern Ireland adult population (those aged 16 years and over) were in a registered same-sex civil partnership. This was similar to the borough as a whole. The Continuous Household Survey in Northern Ireland estimated this figure between 0.9% and 1.9% in 2015-2016. The Office for National Statistics estimates a similar range for the United Kingdom (1.7%).

Source: [Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status](#)
[ONS 2015 Sexual Identity](#)

Men &

According to census (NISRA) almost half of the population of Northern Ireland

Women generally	<p>were male (49%) and this was similar throughout Ards and North Down Borough Council (48%). See table below</p> <p>Data:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 302 1572 562"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Males</th> <th>Females</th> <th>All</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>887,323 (49%)</td> <td>923,540 (51%)</td> <td>1,810,863 (100%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down Borough Council</td> <td>75,920 (48%)</td> <td>80,752 (52%)</td> <td>156,672(100%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portaferry Settlement</td> <td>1,280 (51%)</td> <td>1,231 (49%)</td> <td>2,511 (100%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Age Structure, Census 2011, NISRA Review of statistical classification and delineation of settlements, NISRA</p>		Males	Females	All	Northern Ireland	887,323 (49%)	923,540 (51%)	1,810,863 (100%)	Ards and North Down Borough Council	75,920 (48%)	80,752 (52%)	156,672(100%)	Portaferry Settlement	1,280 (51%)	1,231 (49%)	2,511 (100%)														
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Disability	<p>The 2011 Census (NISRA) showed that 20% of the population in Ards and North Down area had a health issue or disability (including those related to old age) which has lasted or expected to last at least 12 months. (This was similar to the Northern Ireland figure of 21%.)</p> <p>Disability Living Allowances, 2015</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="467 821 1539 1776"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2015 (Disability Living Allowance Recipients)</th> <th>2015 (Multiple Disability Benefits) *MDB is aggregated data from Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data, and data for Employment and Support allowance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>209,280</td> <td>251,490</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down Borough Council</td> <td>13,840</td> <td>18,080</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards Peninsula</td> <td>2,920</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangor Central</td> <td>2,250</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangor East and Donaghadee</td> <td>1,740</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangor West</td> <td>1,650</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comber</td> <td>1,270</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hollywood and Clandeboye</td> <td>1,180</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newtownards</td> <td>2,840</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Northern Ireland Census 2011 Long-term health problem or disability by long-term problem or disability</p>		2015 (Disability Living Allowance Recipients)	2015 (Multiple Disability Benefits) *MDB is aggregated data from Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data, and data for Employment and Support allowance	Northern Ireland	209,280	251,490	Ards and North Down Borough Council	13,840	18,080	Ards Peninsula	2,920	n/a	Bangor Central	2,250	n/a	Bangor East and Donaghadee	1,740	n/a	Bangor West	1,650	n/a	Comber	1,270	n/a	Hollywood and Clandeboye	1,180	n/a	Newtownards	2,840	n/a
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Dependents	Summary:																														

		<p>In considering this dimension the following have been included: persons with responsibility for the care of a child, children, a person with a disability and or an older person. According to the Continuous Household Survey, 2013-2016, 37% of Ards and North Down claimed to have a dependent (This did not differentiate on the type of dependent).</p> <p>According to the 2011 Census, 7,474 households in Ards and North Down had a dependent child under the age of 4 (This might give an indication on the numbers who would have buggies or prams).</p> <p>Sources: Continuous Household Survey</p>
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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	Any individual wishing to access information will wish to receive it in person or by means of telephone or on-line.
	Political Opinion	
	Racial Group	Irrespective of an individual's S 75 category they will require similar information on places to visit, stay and local interests.
	Age	
	Marital Status	Access to the premises is important for those with mobility issues or younger children and some disabilities whilst the information on-line is important to a range of individuals and this is available in Browse Aloud and suitable for a range of assistive technologies.
	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	<p>Access to Exploris is suitable for all users and potential users as disability access has been considered throughout the facility. The facility is open 364 days per year and thus has staff available to give assistance and provide information.</p> <p>All systems will remain on-line for those choosing not to visit the centre.</p>	None
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		
	Age		
	Marital Status		
	Sexual orientation		
	Men & Women generally		
	Disability		
	Dependents		

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 as facility is staffed and access is suitable for users. The location provides a range of car parking facilities and has toilet facilities and a restaurant that those using the</p>	
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		

Age	VIC will be able to access without visiting the centre.
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	None as the centre and town are open and welcoming to a breadth of visitors.
	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 town of Portaferry has had a seasonal VIC for many years and all visitors are welcome.
	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). Where appropriate provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.	All who currently or who in the future may use the facilities of the VIC will have a breadth of multiple identities but the means to access the information is available and suitable for all potential users.

Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006

	Does this proposed policy provide an opportunity to:	Yes / No	Explain your reasoning:
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	<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 access to the information all year round will encourage those with a disability to access the facility and information.</p> <p>Access to the VIC, if it is relocated to Exploris Aquarium, will ensure all individuals can access the building and its related facilities should they be visiting for information.</p>
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Monitoring Arrangements

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

	<p>Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on <u>equality, good relations and disability duties</u></p>	<p>Comments and complaints received in relation to accessing information. Comments and complaints received in relation to accessing on-line information in a suitable format. Comments and complaints received in relation to accessing the premises and facilities.</p>
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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"/>	<p>Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA</p> <p>Please detail actions to be taken:</p>

Screening assessment completed by:-

Name: Alex Irvine

Title: Tourism Manager
 Date: 29 July 2020
 Signature:

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: Sharon Mahaffy
 Title: Head of Tourism
 Date: 29 July 2020
 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	Position/Job Title:	Date:
Screened by:	Tourism Manager	29 July 2020
Approved by:	Head of Tourism	29 July 2020