

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E 230
2.	Policy Name	ERDF Digital Project Application Proposal to aid COVID-19 Recovery
3.	Existing / Revised / New Policy	New policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
5.	Description of policy to be screened	<p>In July 2020 Council representatives were informed that Invest NI (INI) has received approval to use unused ERDF funds to support an 11-Council C-19 Recovery Programme.</p> <p>The budget would be approximately £1.1m and match funding would be required by each Council. The indicated funding split is similar to current ERDF (EU Regional Development Fund) programmes: ERDF 60%, INI 20%, Council match funding 20%.</p> <p>Councils were informed that the current criteria can be relaxed, which means that previously ineligible sectors can now be included e.g. Tourism and Retail and, the cost per job requirement will no longer be a consideration. However, the proposed programme cannot be an extension of current programmes. INI have also outlined that Council's will have to go through an application process for approval.</p> <p>The programme has three broad aims:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To drive 'digital inclination' amongst the target market aligned to an innovation roadmap (for each SME/micro-business). 2. To 'demystify' various advanced digital technologies / tools through high quality ideation support, exposure to and sharing of good practice, and active experimentation. 3. To put in place a digital acceleration plan for each, to route participating businesses onto more

		<p>intensive supports in the ‘digital innovation ecosystem’ (e.g. via Digital Catapult, impending digital offers in various City/Growth Deals, Invest NI supports etc).</p> <p>In order to deliver such a programme within the funding time limits of ERDF, it is envisaged that the programme will commence in April 2021 (subject to approval times for the bid) and run to September 2022, prior to the expected approval/ mobilisation of the offers within the digital pillars of the various City/Growth deals.</p>
	<p>Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?</p>	<p>Proposed Programme Aims</p> <p>Following research on options and areas of potential demand within local businesses the programme proposes to focus on Digital Transformation to assist economic recovery. It is based on a collaborative approach and will operate across all 11 Council areas in Northern Ireland. The target market is small and micro-businesses (SMBs), across all sectors, including but not limited to, manufacturing and tradeable services, retail, tourism, hospitality and the construction sectors.</p> <p>The emphasis of the programme will be on enabling business transformation and not ‘digitisation’ of existing business models / operations which other existing programmes support. In this context, by way of examples, the programme will not offer support in the following areas - website and e-commerce development; social media strategies; mobile marketing, paid advertising, blogging and content creation; search engine optimisation, customer relationship management, 3-D printing/ additive manufacturing and ‘the cloud’/ cloud computing.</p> <p>This programme proposal is positioned as an ‘action-learning’ pilot initiative that can particularly target this ‘segment’ of market demand. The engagements for the development of this joint funding bid all suggest that there is demand from small and micro-businesses for a programme pitched at this level, which should be further tested.</p> <p>This programme widens the business sectors applicable to include sectors which have previously been excluded and therefore, should enable more business sectors to be eligible to apply as well as complement and provide additionality to the existing digital and business support programmes which are currently delivered by Council</p>

6.	Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.	All Section 75 dimensions are expected to benefit as the programme targets businesses and thus employees from all Section 75 dimensions.
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7.	Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented	If the programme cannot be delivered due to financial constraints or difficulty in identifying eligible businesses.
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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	All Councils within Northern Ireland, Ards and North Down Borough Council, EU Regional Development Fund, Invest NI, SMB's in the Borough across all sectors. Elected members of Council and employees of Council.
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9.	Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.	
	E 14 Sustainability and Environmental Policy E 28 Corporate Complaints policy and procedure E 116 Declaration of Interests Policy for Employees E 130 Integrated Tourism, Regeneration and Development Strategy E 133 Local Economic Development Application E 157 Economic Development Social Entrepreneurship Programme E 196 Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024 E 223 Ards and North Down Innovation Hub Outline Business Case	Ards and North Down Borough Council

10.	Available evidence (quantitative and qualitative) considered as important to encourage completion in relation to :
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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)						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>All usual residents</td> <td>Catholic</td> <td>Protestant and Other</td> <td>Other Religions</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>		All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and Other	Other Religions	None
	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and Other	Other Religions	None		

				Christian (including Christian related)		
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%)	

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: The needs of all businesses is to be more competitive using the most appropriate up to date technology including the use of digital ncil 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	CCLA
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	1					
Bangor East and Donagha dee (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						
Hollywood and Clandeboye (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>										
		All usual residents	White	Chinese	Indian	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	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%)	12,710 (0%)	6,014 (0%)	3,654 (0%)
Ards and North Down Borough	156,672	154,365 (99%)	406 (0%)	283 (0%)	177 (0%)	415	139	132	556	199	

Council	(100%))	(0 %)	(0 %)	(0 %)	(0 %)	(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%)	11 (0%)	9 (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	2 (0%)	11 (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 Clandeboye	18,382 (100%)	20,061 (98%)	65 (0%)	31 (0%)	23 (0%)	81 (0%)	81 (0%)	56 (0%)	1 (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.</p> <p>ANDBC has the highest % population of older people in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>See table below</p> <p>Data:</p> <p>Age Groups (Numbers with % in brackets)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>0-15</th> <th>16-39</th> <th>40-64</th> <th>65+</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>385,200 (21%)</td> <td>583,116 (31%)</td> <td>591,481 (32%)</td> <td>291,824 (16%)</td> <td>1,851,621 (100%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down Borough Council</td> <td>29,801 (19%)</td> <td>43,239 (27%)</td> <td>54,094 (34%)</td> <td>31,663 (20%)</td> <td>158,797 (100%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Sources: Demography and Methodology Branch, NISRA World Health Organization</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%)
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Marital Status	<p>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.</p>																		

	<p>See table below</p> <p>Data:</p> <p>Marital Status (All aged 16+) (Numbers with % in brackets)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>All usual residents</th> <th>Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)</th> <th>Married</th> <th>In a registered same-sex civil partnership</th> <th>legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)</th> <th>Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</th> <th>Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>1,431,540 (100%)</td> <td>517,393 (36%)</td> <td>680,831 (48%)</td> <td>1,243 (0%)</td> <td>56,911 (4%)</td> <td>78,074 (5%)</td> <td>97,088 (7%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down Borough Council</td> <td>126,945 (100%)</td> <td>36,730 (29%)</td> <td>67,866 (53%)</td> <td>123 (0%)</td> <td>4,328 (3%)</td> <td>8,548 (7%)</td> <td>9,350 (7%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status</p>		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%)
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Sexual orientation	<p>Summary:</p> <p>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%).</p> <p>Source: Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status ONS 2015 Sexual Identity</p>																								
Men & Women generally	<p>According to census (NISRA) almost half of the population of Northern Ireland 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"> <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> </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%)												
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Disability	The 2011 Census (NISRA) showed that 20% of the population in Ards and North																								

	<p>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"> <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 Clondeboye</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 Clondeboye	1,180	n/a	Newtownards	2,840	n/a
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Dependents	<p>Summary: 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). 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). Sources: Continuous Household Survey</p>																														

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 needs of all business is to ensure they are competitive.

Political Opinion	This is irrespective of the Section 75 dimensions of their workforce. The Council has a responsibility to support local SMB's achieve this and do so by ensuring they communicate with them in a manner that is suitable for those who have responsibility for a programme such as this. The needs are irrespective of any of the employees or employers Section 75 dimensions as the need is to comply with the programme criteria.
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	This programme and its delivery will be to comply with the criteria and the Council will ensure any specific needs particularly in relation to age, disability, availability due to dependents responsibility and race in relation to understanding of the English language will be met in a manner that meets the applicants needs.	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	No as this programme of funding is available to all businesses who meet the criteria irrespective of any employee or employers Section 75 dimensions.	
	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	None as this programme of funding is available to all businesses who meet the criteria irrespective of any employee or employers religious belief, political opinion	
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		

	or racial group.
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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 this funding is available to all SMB's that meet the criteria as set for the programme.	
	Political Opinion		
Racial Group			

Additional Considerations

Multiple Identity Considerations	Details of Impact or potential impact (Positive/Negative)
<p>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.</p>	<p>This grant will be made available to any business that will apply and meets the criteria and is therefore awarded to a range of individuals that own, manage and/or work in the sectors that are granted the funding.</p>

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 information on the programme will be made available in a range of formats as requested to meet any identified needs.</p> <p>A range of media will be used to make potential applicants aware of the programme to ensure as many people as possible are made aware of its availability.</p>

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.

Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor	Complaints and comments made in relation to the programme, its application process or the manner in
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the impact of this policy / decision on <u>equality, good relations and disability duties</u>	which the council managed any part of the process.
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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: Alison Stobie
 Title:
 Date: 25 January 2021
 Signature: *Alison Stobie*

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: Clare McGill
 Title:
 Date: 25 January 2021
 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	
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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:		25 January 2021
Approved by:		25 January 2021