

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E248
2.	Policy Name	ANDBC TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY 2021–2032
3.	Existing / Revised / New Policy	New policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Director of Community and Wellbeing
5.	Description of policy to be screened	This Tree & Woodland Strategy recognises the importance of trees, the many benefits they afford us and the increasingly important role they can play in mitigating the effects of climate change. This strategy is required to ensure the Council's limited budget is focused on positive planting programmes and managing tree care and risks
	Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?	Trees play a significant role in improving environmental conditions and people's quality of life. Trees can make it a healthier, attractive and more comfortable place to live and work. The strategy breaks up the aims into three categories Community Engagement, Tree Planting and Managing trees. The overall aim of the strategy is to provide a wide range of benefits to all visitors and residents to the borough through tree planting, maintenance and care.
6.	Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.	The project/strategy will benefit all groups within the equality categories by enhancing the physical environment. The Strategy recognises the importance of trees, the many benefits they afford all categories and the increasingly important role they can play in mitigating the effects of climate change.
7.	Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented	If the strategy is not implemented as intended, if some partners do not engage as anticipated or if the strategy does not meet the needs as identified.

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, Elected members, employees across the Council both existing and potential, ratepayers, residents of and visitors to the Borough and businesses within the Borough.
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9.	Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Corporate Plan (2020 – 2024) • The Big Plan (Community Plan) (2017 – 2032) • The new Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2021 - 2031) • Local Development Plan Draft (2021 -2024) • Roadmap to sustainability 	Ards and North Down Borough Council	

10. Available evidence (quantitative and qualitative) considered as important to encourage completion in relation to:

Religious Belief	<p>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</p> <p>Data: Religion or Religion Brought up in (Numbers with % in brackets)</p>					
		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%)

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

The ANDBC employee profile shows that

Males	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Total
Full Time	358 (84%)	33(8%)	34(8%)	425 (100%)
Part Time	*(63%)	*(25%)	*(13%)	*8 (100%)
Totals	363(84%)	35(8%)	35(8%)	433(100%)

Females	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Other	Total
Full Time	223(78%)	58(20%)	6(2%)	287(100%)
Part Time	20(54%)	12(32%)	5(14%)	37(100%)
Totals	243(75%)	70(22%)	11(3%)	324(100%)

Total Emp	606(80%)	105(14%)	46(6%)	757(100%)
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[*Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable](#)

[Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**](#)

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:

			Elected Candidate		
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		Eligible Electorate	Votes Polled (% Turnout)	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</p>
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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

Data:

Ethnic Group (Numbers with % in brackets)

	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%)	1271 (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%)	11 (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%)	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 Clondeboye	18,382 (100%)	20,061 (98%)	65 (0%)	31 (0%)	23 (0%)	81 (0%)	81 (0%)	56 (0%)	10 (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](#)

The ANDBC employee profile shows that:

Ethnic Group	Total	Percentage
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White	682	78.66%
Black	*	*
Chinese	*	*
Other	*	*
Did not want to answer	*	*
Left Blank	176	20.3%

* [Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable](#)

Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**

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> <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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The council has an older age profile of employees as only a small number of new recruitment exercises have been carried out from 2014. The younger population may not identify with such an event as the older population would.

In relation to the profile of employees the following identifies them in age bands and gender:

Female		
	16 - 29	Total 20(6%)
	30 - 39	Total 75(23%)
	40 - 49	Total 105 (33%)
	50 - 59	Total 80 (25%)
	60 – 70+	Total 42 (13%)
		322 (100%)
Male		
	16 - 29	Total 26 (6%)
	30 - 39	Total 83(19%)
	40 - 49	Total 121(27%)
	50 - 59	Total 176 (39%)
	60 – 70+	Total 41 (9%)
		447 (100%)

Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**

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	126,945 (100%)	36,730 (29%)	67,86	123	4,328 (3%)	8,548 (7%)	9,350 (7%)

Down Borough Council			6 (53 %)	(0 %)			
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Source: [Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status](#)

The ANDBC employee profile shows that:

Marital Status	Total	Percentage
Single	180	20.76%
Married	405	46.71%
Divorced	35	4.04%
Co Habiting	14	1.61%
Separated	25	2.88%
Civil Partnership	*	*
Left Blank	207	23.88%

[*Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable](#)

Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**

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 & Women generally

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

Data:

	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%)

Source: [Age Structure, Census 2011, NISRA](#)
[Review of statistical classification and delineation of settlements, NISRA](#)

The ANDBC employment Profile shows that:

Gender	Total	Percentage
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Male	511	58.94%
Female	356	41.06%

Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**

Disability

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%.)

Disability Living Allowances, 2015

	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

[Northern Ireland Census 2011 Long-term health problem or disability by long-term problem or disability](#)

The ANDBC employment Profile shows:

Disabled	Total	Percentage
Yes	35	4.04%
No	832	95.96%

		Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**																					
	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> <p>The ANDBC employment Profile shows that:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Family Status</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Child or Children</td> <td>270</td> <td>31.14%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dependant Elderly Person</td> <td>19</td> <td>2.19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical/ Mental/ Ill Health/Disability</td> <td>5</td> <td>0.58%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>5</td> <td>0.58%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>203</td> <td>23.41%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Left Blank</td> <td>365</td> <td>42.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data on agency employees is held by the recruitment agency.**</p>	Family Status	Total	Percentage	Child or Children	270	31.14%	Dependant Elderly Person	19	2.19%	Physical/ Mental/ Ill Health/Disability	5	0.58%	Other	5	0.58%	None	203	23.41%	Left Blank	365	42.1%
Family Status	Total	Percentage																					
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Physical/ Mental/ Ill Health/Disability	5	0.58%																					
Other	5	0.58%																					
None	203	23.41%																					
Left Blank	365	42.1%																					

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	All Section 75 categories and irrespective of any individual Section 75 dimensions they will experience the same needs and benefits.
	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	Some individuals will experience and contribute differently to this strategy. This is in relation to practices ensuring the strategy is achieved in a manner suitable to their needs and understanding of the overall aim.	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 - The strategy explains clearly what the goals and aims are. Where needs are identified to explain or change how some of the aims will achieve the implementation of the strategy these will be met through consultation and reasonable adjustments being put in place having held appropriate consultation with the individuals/groups.	
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 – The strategy will not negatively or positively impact on religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group, The strategy will provide a shared facility for all users and potential users the strategy will not restrict any user or potential user.	
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 needs of all users and the Councils responsibilities will be considered throughout the development and delivery process.	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

Additional Considerations

Multiple Identity Considerations	Details of Impact or potential impact (Positive/Negative)
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<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>The strategy will provide access for disabled people and carers to areas where there will be walks and trails and other activities in a safe manner based on comments from all consultations. By creating a scheme that is accessible for all within the constraints of DDA compliance it will allow disabled people to feel inclusive of the project.</p>
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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 		<p>The strategy and all the actions will be explained where necessary and the strategy will be shared widely on all media forums and meetings appropriate to all enquirers will be arranged to ensure all residents, ratepayers and visitors to and in the Borough and all on whom this impacts will be included in its delivery.</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.

<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>When considering the three aims of the strategy the first consideration will be the impact on the community. Effective monitoring will help the Council identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy as well as help with future planning and policy development, therefore Council will monitor comments and complaints received before, during and after this strategy is implemented.</p>
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I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has 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) No impacts identified Council will monitor comments and complaints received before, during and after this strategy is implemented
	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)
	Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
	Please detail actions to be taken:

Screening assessment completed by: -

Name: Sian McConnell-Porter
 Title: Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding)
 Date: 3/12/2021
 Signature: Sian McConnell-Porter

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: Graeme Bannister
 Title: Director of Community and Wellbeing
 Date: 3rd December 2021
 Signature: (Will be added prior to creating a PDF copy)

Note: S75 impacts were considered by the authors of the Strategy when it was being drafted for Council approval prior to March 2021, an the strategy was considered as S75 compliant across all groups. It is now being documented for recording purposes.

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:	Unknown	
	Approved by:		