

# ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E 88
2.	Policy Name	The mass release of Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons on Council land
3.	<del>Existing / Revised</del> / New Policy	New policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Director of Community and Wellbeing
5.	Description of policy to be screened	<p>This policy is in response to an agreed notice of motion “that Council Officers bring back a report on the feasibility and issues around prohibiting the mass release of Chinese lanterns and balloons in the interests of both our environment and wildlife.”</p> <p>The release of Chinese lanterns and balloons is normally in response to a celebration, to publicise an event and/or organisation or as a charity scheme. Concerns relating to their release have been raised from a number of organisations including the RSPCA, RSPB, the NUF, the Marine and Coast Guard Agency and the National Air Traffic Control Service. They provide evidence that indicates releases can cause injury to wildlife and farmed animals, has led to crops being set alight, to mistaken reports of distress flares being reported to the Coastguard and concerns on the impact on flights, particularly around airports and airdromes.</p> <p>At present there is no legal prohibition on the release of lanterns and balloons. They are not be classed as litter. The prevention of their release from non-Council property would therefore be difficult or impossible to prohibit through enforcement action initiated by the Council.</p>
	Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?	<p>The Council have the powers to decide what activities are permitted and/or prohibited on its own property. The Council will ban the release of Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons where requests are made to use Council land.</p> <p>The ban would be consistent with the Council’s Animal Welfare Policy which includes “promoting improvements in animal welfare by taking account of animal welfare issues in the Council’s day to day operations, in its</p>

		decision making processes and through its influence in association with other authorities, voluntary welfare groups and government agencies”.
6.	Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.	All Section 75 categories should benefit from this policy.
7.	Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented	If this policy is not implemented as intended.
8.	The main stakeholders on which 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, volunteers, those requesting to use Council land, those agreeing to the terms and conditions to use Council land residents of the Borough and visitors to the Borough. Users of Newtownards air field and users of the coastline around the Borough.
9.	Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.	
	Policies: E 01 Banning of circuses with animals from Council property E 08 Regulatory Enforcement Policy E 14 Sustainability and Environmental Policy E 27 Lands and Property Policy	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	ANDBC data that is available for the Electoral Ward areas providing a profile of residents. Limited S75 profile data on visitors to the Borough for events and tourist attractions. Profile of the borough where council land is available for use by the public and for hire. Record of all events on council land. NISRA and NINIS Borough profile data on electoral ward areas and neighbouring electoral ward areas to ANDBC from where Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons may be released.
	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	All requests to release Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons on any Council land will be prohibited and thus all requests will be treated equitably.
	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	This policy is to prohibit the use of all Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons on any Council land.	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	
	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 policy is for the release of all Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons on Council land.	
	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	
	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)</p> <p>Where appropriate provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.</p>	This policy will impact on all individuals irrespective of their multiple identities.

	Does this proposed policy provide an opportunity to:	Yes / No	Explain your reasoning:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>better promote positive attitudes</u> towards disabled people</li> <li>- <u>increase participation</u> by disabled people in public life</li> </ul>	Yes	This policy is applied equitably to all users and potential users of Council land and the policy will be made available in alternative formats where a specific need is identified by council officers or service/potential service users.

### 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</u> , <u>good relations</u> and <u>disability duties</u>	S 75 data on those requesting to use council land, and those requests that included the release of Chinese lanterns/sky lanterns and balloons.
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### Consideration of Human Rights

The Human Rights Act 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK and, therefore, Northern Ireland. Indicate below any potential adverse impacts that the policy / decision may have in relation to human rights issues

Right to Life	Article 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibition to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	Article 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	Article 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to Liberty and Security	Article 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to a Fair and Public Trial	Article 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to no punishment without due legal process	Article 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Article 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Article 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of Expression	Article 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	Article 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to marry and found a family	Article 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
The prohibition on discrimination	Article 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	Protocol 1 Article 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to education	Protocol 1 Article 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to free and secret election	Protocol 1 Article 3	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified?	
Please indicate any ways in which you consider the policy positively promotes Human Rights	

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision have been screened for:-

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equality of opportunity and good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disabilities duties; and
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights issues

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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: Richard Britten

Title: Head of Building Control, Licensing and Neighbourhood Environment

Date: 19 October 2016

Signature:

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: David Lindsay

Title: Director of Environment

Date: 19 October 2016

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:	Date:
		Head of Building Control, Licensing and Neighbourhood Environment	19 October 2016
	Approved by:	Director of Environment	19 October 2016