

Preferred Options Paper  
Equality Statement –  
Section 75 Screening



Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council

## **Equality Screening Assessment**

As part of the formulation of the Council's LDP we will carry out a Section 75 Screening Assessment at each of the three stages in the LDP preparation process to establish if an Equality Impact Assessment is required. As previously noted, the POP is the first stage in this process and the options presented in it are not defined policies, but rather they are suggested policy approaches to take forward to the next stage in the production of the LDP - the Plan Strategy. The purpose of this Screening Report is to consider the potential equality and good relations impact of the POP at a strategic level. The issues identified in this screening will act as a guide for subsequent assessment, report and consultations.

## ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E 172
2.	Policy Name	Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper
3.	Existing / Revised / New Policy	New policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
5.	Description of policy to be screened	<p>The Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper (POP) is written to identify key issues specific to Ards and North Down Borough Council primarily in relation to growth within the Borough boundary.</p> <p>The POP is the first public consultation document to be issued through the Local Development Plan. It identifies a range of strategic planning issues in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area. Generally, these issues have either emerged from the baseline position papers or from prior informal consultation with a range of statutory consultees, council officials and Elected Members. In some instances, strategic issues have been identified through planning casework in dealing with planning applications. The priorities identified in the Corporate and Community Plans have also helped to define some of these issues.</p>
	Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?	<p>The aim is to provide the basis of positive consultation with a broad representation of the population of the Ards and North Down Borough Council area and all other interested individuals and parties. This will be on matters that may have a direct impact or effect on the Plan area. The Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper will also ensure there is meaningful engagement at an early opportunity.</p>

		<p>Whilst the focus is on strategic planning matters which apply across the Borough, there will be opportunity at a later stage in the Plan process to engage on matters of a more specific nature.</p>
6.	<p>Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.</p>	<p>All Section 75 dimensions are expected to have potential benefits as a result of the LDP.</p> <p>As the vision of the LDP is to have a vibrant, connected, healthy, safe and prosperous place to live for everyone, it is expected that all Section 75 groups have the potential to benefit as a result of the plan.</p> <p>The POP will be subject to a 12 week period of public consultation and stakeholder engagement and any representations or views received as a consequence of its publication will be considered in formulating the Draft Plan Strategy.</p>
7.	<p>Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented</p>	<p>If the Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper and subsequent consultations are not managed and implemented as described and the commitments are not delivered upon.</p>
8.	<p>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</p>	<p>The Council, Council employees, residents, ratepayers and visitors to the Borough. Schools, Further Education Colleges, Community, Statutory and Voluntary groups, employment bodies and employees. Retailers, transport providers and suppliers to all services within the Borough.</p>
9.	<p>Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan</li> <li>• Ards and North Down Borough Council Community Plan</li> <li>• Ards and North Down Borough Council Integrated Tourism, Regeneration and Development Strategy</li> <li>• Ards and Down Borough Council</li> </ul>	<p>Ards and North Down Borough Council</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Programme for Government (NI Executive)</li> <li>• The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (DfI)</li> <li>• The Sustainable Development Strategy (NI Executive)</li> <li>• The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (DfI)</li> <li>• Suite of extant Planning Policy Statements (DfI)</li> <li>• A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland</li> <li>• Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040) (DfI)</li> <li>• Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation (DfI)</li> <li>• Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy (DAERA)</li> <li>• Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (DfI)</li> <li>• Bangor Town Centre Plan 1995 (DfI)</li> <li>• Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (DfI)</li> <li>• North Down &amp; Ards Area Plan 1984-1995 (DOE)</li> <li>• Neighbouring Council Context – plans and strategies</li> </ul>	
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10.	Available evidence (quantitative and qualitative) considered as important to encourage completion in relation to :																
Religious Belief	<p><b>Summary:</b> 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><b>Data:</b> <b>Religion or Religion Brought up in</b> (Numbers with % in brackets)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">All usual residents</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Catholic</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Other Religions</th> <th style="width: 15%;">None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,810,863 (100%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">817,385 (45%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">875,717 (48%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">16,592 (1%)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">101,169 (6%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						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%)
	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%)
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**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 (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015) showed:

	Eligible Electorate	Votes Polled (% Turnout)	Elected Candidate							
			DUP	Sinn Féin	UUP	SDLP	Alliance	Independent	TUV	Green
Northern Ireland	1,243,649	638,332 (51.3%)	130	105	88	66	32	15	13	4
Ards and North Down Borough Council	112,077	47,161 (42.1%)	17		9	1	7	2	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		2		1			1

Bangor East and Donaghadee (DEA)	16,956	6,915 (40.8%)	3	1	1	1		
Bangor West (DEA)	13,479	5,448 (40.4%)	2	1	1			1
Comber (DEA)	13,681	6,272 (45.8%)	2	1	1		1	
Hollywood and Clondeboye (DEA)	14,158	6,229 (44.0%)	2	1	1			1
Newtownards (DEA)	19,953	8,250 (41.4%)	3	2	1	1		

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

Since the election in 2014 for local Councillors changes to the political make-up of the Council have taken place. The current makeup of the Council as at December 2017 was:

18 DUP, 8 UUP, 3 Independents, 2 Greens with 7 Alliance, 1 SDLP and 1 TUV.

Racial Group

**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

**Data:**

**Ethnic Group** (Numbers with % in brackets)

	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%)	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	156,672 (100%)	23,367 (99%)	26 (0%)	19 (0%)	5 (0%)	19 (0%)	6 (0%)	2 (0%)	51 (0%)	29 (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 Clondeboye	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 has 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  <b>Data:</b>  <b>Age Groups</b> (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%)	<b>1,851,621 (100%)</b>
	Ards and North Down Borough Council	29,801 (19%)	43,239 (27%)	54,094 (34%)	31,663 (20%)	<b>158,797 (100%)</b>
<p><b>Sources:</b> <a href="#">Demography and Methodology Branch, NISRA</a>  <a href="#">World Health Organization</a></p>						

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.  See table below  <b>Data:</b>  <b>Marital Status (All aged 16+)</b> (Numbers with % in brackets)</p>
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	All usual residents	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	Separately (not still 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	<p><b>Summary:</b> It should be noted that no reliable data is available on sexual orientation-NISRA is 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><b>Source:</b> <a href="#">Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status</a> <a href="#">ONS 2015 Sexual Identity</a></p>
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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><b>Data:</b></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>		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%)
	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](#)

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><b>Disability Living Allowances, 2015</b></p>
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		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
	Holywood and Clandeboye	1,180	n/a
	Newtownards	2,840	n/a
	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Census 2011 Long-term health problem or disability by long-term problem or disability</a>		
Dependents	<p><b>Summary:</b> 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).</p> <p><b>Sources:</b> 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	There are no specific requirements identified in relation to any individual's religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation or gender when developing the Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper. Any requirements that will be identified during the consultations
	Political Opinion	
	Racial Group	
	Age	
	Marital Status	

Sexual orientation	will be addressed as appropriate. The needs of those with a disability and those who have dependents may require additional support to live within the community. This will be addressed within the Local Development Plan and through the consultation process. It should be noted that the POP identifies the issue of the provision of 'lifetime homes'.
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	The Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper outlines key issues specific to Ards and North Down Borough Council in relation to growth within the Borough boundary. It considers the needs of all whom the Plan will impact upon in the geographical areas and the specific needs of individuals. It offers a breadth of consultation methods to ensure a meaningful and positive engagement that will identify and positively address all potential requirements of the current and future populations by addressing the identified needs by Section 75 dimensions	Minor - positive
	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 the opportunity to promote equality of opportunity has been addressed in the Preferred Options Paper. If any issues or concerns are identified during consultation these will be addressed as appropriate and realistic.	
	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		
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	religious belief, political opinion or racial group?	
	Details of Impact	Level of Impact Minor/Major/None
Religious Belief	This is difficult to assess at this early stage as no policies have yet been developed in the LDP. An overarching principle in the POP is in relation to creating and enhancing shared space. Depending on the outcome of the public consultation, it could be expected that the POP, in setting this direction, could have some positive impact on good relations between people included in this group. Positive Minor impact as the Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper ensures the needs of these identities are incorporated to provide for shared living, working and an open environment.	
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 - specific opportunities to better promote good relations within and between the various Section 75 groupings have been identified at this stage. Any Section 75 issues raised during the consultation period of the POP will be fully considered; However, any concerns identified will be addressed through the consultation process.	
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.	The Local Development Plan – Preferred Options Paper identifies options for addressing the future needs of the population living in the Borough and servicing the Borough. It also looks at future planning and as such considers all multiple identities of individuals now and in the future living, working and visiting in the Borough.

#### **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"> <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	<p>The Local Development Plan POP addresses the needs of those with a disability to ensure they may participate and experience positive attitudes by the development of lifetime homes, access being a priority through design of access routes, the provision of well-located and designed open space will enable those with mobility difficulties to use such areas to enjoy a generally safer environment where there is less conflict with traffic.</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 from consultation forums and all comments received at each stage of the development of the Plan.</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	<p>Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)          In the absence of policy detail or specific spatial proposals there is no evidence at this time that the Preferred Options Paper concerning the policy approaches that may be progressed to the next stage will cause differential adverse impact within or between various Section 75 categories. This will be subject to continuous review as the LDP develops and informed through all public consultations.</p>
<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: Any Section 75 issues raised during the consultation period of the POP will be fully considered.

Screening assessment completed by:-

Name: Leona Maginn  
 Title: Principal Planner  
 Date: 3 January 2019  
 Signature:

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: Ann McCullough  
 Title: Head of Planning  
 Date: 3 January 2019  
 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:		
Approved by:		

