

Local Development Plan 2032
Equality (Section 75) Screening Report of
the Draft Plan Strategy

Equality (Section 75) Screening Report



**Ards and
North Down**
Borough Council

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Draft Equality (Section 75)

Screening Report

Have your say

This Equality Impact Screening Report is issued for consultation purposes alongside the Ards and North Down Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy for an eight-week period commencing 17 October 2025.

Pre-Consultation

To allow everyone time to read and digest the draft Plan Strategy and all its supporting documents, the Council is publishing all documentation in advance of the formal eight week*¹ period of public consultation. This period of pre-consultation will run from 18th September 2025.

Please note that no representations should be made during this period, as they will not be considered outside of the formal consultation period.

During this pre-consultation period, the Council's Local Development Plan team will facilitate a series of public engagement events. Arrangements for these events will be published on the Council's website and in local newspapers.

The aims of these events are to:

- Promote understanding of the draft Plan Strategy;
- Explain how it will be tested at Independent Examination; and
- Provide guidance on the submission of representations to the public consultation.

Formal Consultation

We welcome comments on the content of this Equality Screening Report from everyone with an interest in Ards and North Down and its continuing development over the Plan period to 2032. All formal representations received will be given due

¹ Legislative time period - 8 weeks for LDP consultation.

consideration and may assist further drafting or amendment of policies prior to an Independent Examination.

The document will be open for formal public consultation for a period of eight weeks, commencing on 17 October 2025 and closing at 4.30 on 15 December 2025.

Please note that representations received after the closing date on 15 December 2025 will not be considered.

Availability of the Equality (Section 75) Screening Report

A copy of this document, and the draft Plan Strategy, is available on the Ards and North Down Borough Council website: www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Or it can be made available for viewing in the Council's Planning Office, at the address below, for those who do not have online access.

Should you require a copy of this document in an alternative format it can be made available - please contact the Council offices for assistance.

TEL: 028 9182 4006

How to Respond

Representations should be submitted to the Local Development Plan Team via the following options:

Online Consultation Portal:

Via e-mail: planning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

By post: Planning Service
 Ards and North Down Borough Council
 2 Church Street
 Newtownards
 BT23 4PN

How will the Council deal with your comments?

Ards and North Down Borough Council will use this information to fulfil our policy development and statutory obligations. We will keep your information secure, accurate, and for no longer than is necessary in accordance with data protection laws. If you wish to find out more about how we control and process your personal data, please see the Local Development Plan Privacy Notice.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Equality Screening Impact Report has been prepared alongside Ards and North Down Borough's draft Plan Strategy. The draft Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents, which together will comprise the Local Development Plan (LDP). This report should be read in conjunction with the draft Plan Strategy document, along with all other accompanying reports and with our evidence base which is set out in a suite of Technical Supplements. Both the draft Equality Screening Impact Report and the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to an eight-week period of formal public consultation, although both documents will be publicly available for four weeks in advance.
- 1.2 The Council has a statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority in carrying out its functions, relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:
- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - Between men and women generally;
 - Between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - Between persons with dependants and persons without.
- Functions include the "powers and duties" of a public authority.
- 1.3 Without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.
- 1.4 In addition, the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
 - Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

Background

- 1.5 The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Planning Act) transferred the responsibility for the preparation of Local Development Plans from the Department of the Environment (DOE) (now the Department for Infrastructure (DfI)) to Councils and established a plan-led system which gives primacy to the Local Development Plan (LDP) in the determination of planning applications.
- 1.6 The main purpose of the LDP is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, service providers, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the LDP objectives and guide decisions on planning applications for development in Ards and North Down until 2032.
- 1.7 The LDP will aim to provide sufficient land to meet anticipated needs for housing, employment, and services, over the Plan period to 2032. It will also seek to ensure that all new development is of high quality and in the most suitable locations - which themselves should be enhanced by the development. A 'suitable location' will generally be a where the development proposal can help meet economic and social needs without compromising the quality of the environment. This is referred to as 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".
- 1.8 In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the LDP will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and other central government policies. It will also take account of the Council's Community Plan by helping to deliver on these strategies, priorities and actions that can be influenced through the planning system.

2.0 Equality Screening

- 2.1 In bringing forward the LDP, the Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of Section 75 category groups are considered. Prior to the publication of the Preferred Options Paper (POP) the Council sought engagement with the Council's consultative panel group.
- 2.3 The POP, as a preliminary consultation document did not set out defined policies, but rather suggested policy approaches to take forward in the Plan Strategy. Due to the nature of the POP as a strategic and consultative document, the assessment of impacts was difficult or could not be clearly ascertained at that stage and it was recognised that further assessment would be required at draft Plan Strategy stage.

Equality Screening of draft Plan Strategy

- 2.4 The LDP is currently at draft Plan Strategy stage. In line with our statutory obligations in relation to Section 75 category groups and disabled people this document presents the Equality Screening for the draft Plan Strategy and its associated strategic policies and proposals. The screening has been carried out using the Section 75 screening template² and has taken account of the guidance published by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. The purpose of the screening is to identify if any of the draft Plan Strategy policies are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity, and to ensure that this is taken into account in the policy-making process.
- 2.5 In this report an assessment has been made of the likely impact of the proposed strategic policies and proposals on the equality of opportunity of each of the Section 75 category groups. Given the volume of strategies and proposals included within the draft Plan Strategy, a summary of these likely impacts has been included in the Section 75 Policy Screening Form.
- 2.6 Appendix A provides a more detailed assessment of the screening assessment of the policies and proposals within the draft Plan Strategy. Whilst all policies have been considered in the screening, for ease of reference and presentation purposes, the policies have been grouped based on their overall aims and purpose, and reflect the layout of the draft Plan Strategy document.

² Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for public authorities April 2010 (Appendix 1) [ECNI - Screening for Public Authorities - Equality Commission NI](#))

- 2.7 We will continue to screen our policies and proposals, review as the Plan progresses. The Council, following any modifications shall undertake a review of the screening as appropriate, and shall carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment, if required, at Local Policies Plan Stage in order to ensure the impact on Section 75 category groups is continually assessed.

3.0 Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1. Policy scoping – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence they have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

Part 2. Screening questions – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.

Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Part 4. Monitoring – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Part 5. Approval and authorisation – verifies the public authority's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Part 1: Policy Scoping- Information about the policy

Name of policy

Ards and North Down Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) 2032 - draft Plan Strategy.

Is this an existing, revised or new policy?

New Policy

The Plan Strategy (PS) is the first of two development plan documents, which together will comprise the LDP.

At present the planning policy context is mainly provided by an existing suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) that apply across NI and some residual provisions within 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' (APSRNI). These will be superseded upon adoption of the Plan Strategy.

For the draft Plan Strategy, it is considered that the new policies will carry forward the thrust of the PPSs, however some of the policies have been updated to take account of local circumstances in the Borough.

The strategic policies of the LDP will also take precedence over the strategic policies in the extant Area Plans covering the legacy council areas in Ards and North Down. Local spatial designations and associated local policies and key site requirements in these Area Plans will remain in place until superseded by the adopted Local Policies Plan (the second stage of the LDP).

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

The main aim of the draft Plan Strategy is to meet the development needs of Ards and North Down over the Plan period (2017-2032) in a sustainable manner.

Accordingly, the LDP seeks to deliver 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs³". In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the LDP will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and other central government initiatives. In line with the vision of

³ Brundtland, G.H. (1987) Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Geneva,

the LDP it will also help to improve the quality of life for residents and those who travel to the Borough for employment or visit for leisure purposes.

A further outcome will be to provide certainty by informing the general public, statutory authorities, service providers, developers and other interested parties of the planning policy framework and the land use proposals that will guide decisions for development in the Ards and North Down Borough area until 2032.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit for the intended policy? How?

The vision of the LDP is a spatial reflection of the Community Plan's vision to improve the quality of life for everyone, in that:

'Ards and North Down is a vibrant, connected, healthy safe and prosperous place to live'

Therefore, it is expected that all Section 75 category groups have the potential to benefit as result of the Plan. It is anticipated that a number of the policies and proposals will be of benefit to particular Section 75 groups (e.g. housing policies in relation to housing design – including accessible and adaptable homes, affordable housing, and also some open space policies).

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Local Development Plan (LDP) is being prepared by Ards and North Down Borough Council under the provisions of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015 ('the LDP Regulations').

The Planning Act requires the LDP to be produced in two stages – the first being the Plan Strategy, followed upon adoption, by the Local Policies Plan.

This report relates to the draft Plan Strategy and to the strategic proposals and policies contained therein.

Policy Lead Officer

Leona Maginn, acting on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Who owns/implements the policy?

The policy is owned and implemented by Ards and North Down Borough Council and will largely be implemented by the Council through the determination of planning applications that will be assessed against the policies and proposals in the LDP.

Other decision takers who may also implement the LDP's policy are the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC), as the independent planning appellate body, and the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) in determining regionally significant or 'called-in' planning applications.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

Yes

If yes, are they:

X Financial

There is potential that any future budgetary constraints could influence the intended aim/outcome of the various policies. This is unknown at this stage.

X Legislative

As noted above the draft Plan Strategy has been prepared under the provisions of the Planning Act and the LDP Regulations. Any future changes to planning legislation or the legislation controlling the activities of service providers may have a bearing on the LDP and the intended aim/outcome of the various policies.

X Other, please specify

- Planning Appeals Commission decisions
- Planning decisions issued by the Department for Infrastructure
- Judicial Review decisions by the Courts
- Review of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) including revised policy or introduction of new regional strategic planning policy
- Statutory Consultees
- Developers
- Objectors
- Planning Committee
- Government Departments
- Government Finance
- Unauthorised development
- Political Instability

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

- All members of the public living, working in or visiting Ards and North Down
- Developers
- Service Providers
- Business and Economic Development Enterprises/Sectors
- Voluntary/Community Groups
- Registered Housing Associations
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
- Environmental Groups
- NI Government Departments and Agencies
- Adjoining Councils
- Power Suppliers
- NI Water
- Translink
- Staff

This list should not be considered to be exhaustive.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- **what are they?**
- **who owns them?**

As required by the Planning Act, in preparing the draft Plan Strategy the Council has taken account of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 which sets out the government's overarching spatial strategy for Northern Ireland up to 2035, as well as the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 2015 (SPPS) which provides the regional planning policy framework. In addition, The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 sets out a statutory link between a council's Community Plan and the LDP. Ards and North Down's Community Plan 'The Big Plan' 2017-2032 has therefore been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy.

The draft Plan Strategy has also taken account of a wide-ranging list of other policies and guidance issued by DfI and other government departments. Regard has also been had to various Council plans and strategies operating at the local level. A list of these documents is provided below; however, it should be noted that this list is not exhaustive. Where relevant, additional regional or local policies and/or guidance are referred to within the draft Plan Strategy and its associated Technical Supplements.

- Ards and North Down Borough Council Corporate Plan 2024-2028
- Ards and North Down Borough Council Integrated Tourism Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy – 2018-2030
- Ards and North Down Borough Council Play Strategy 2021-2032
- Ards and North Down Sports Facility Strategy 2021-2032
- Ards and North Down Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027
- Ards and North Down Borough Council – Roadmap to Sustainability and Climate Adaptation
- Ards and North Down Borough Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2022-2032
- Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 (NI Executive), New Decade New Approach and subsequent Draft Programme for Government
- The Sustainable Development Strategy - Everyone's Involved - 2010 (NI Executive)
- Suite of existing Planning Policy Statements, Supplementary Planning Guidance, Design Guides and Development Control Advice Notes (DfI)
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland - 1993 (DfI)
- Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2040 (DfI)
- Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation - 2011 (DfI)
- Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy - 2015 (DAERA)
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland - 2018 (DAERA)
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (May 2011)
- The Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 (DAERA)

- Lifetime Opportunities - Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland - 2006 (DfC)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' (DAERA) Rural Needs Act (NI) guidance and template (March 2018)
- Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (DAERA)
- Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment - 2015 (DAERA)
- Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment - 2014 (DAERA)
- Exercise - Explore - Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways - 2016 (DfI)
- Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland - 2015 (DfI)
- Ards and Down Area Plan 2015
- Draft BMAP 2015 in combination with the Planning Appeals Commission Inquiry report for legacy North Down
- Bangor Town Centre Plan 2001
-
- North Down and Ards Area Plan 1984 – 1995
-
- Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001
- Neighbouring Council Context – LDP Plans and Strategies from Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

The draft Plan Strategy has been prepared taking account of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 2015. The vision and the strategic priorities of our Community Plan have also been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy. As work on the LDP progresses, we will seek to deliver on any community planning outcomes where there is an identified spatial land use or local planning policy solution. Please see above list of other plans and policies that have informed the preparation and content of the draft Plan Strategy.

The preparation of the draft Plan Strategy has been informed by an evidence base which has involved engagement with statutory consultees and including neighbouring councils. This evidence base is set out in the accompanying suite of Position Papers and Technical Supplements which can be accessed on the Council's website.

In addition, the draft Plan Strategy has been informed by representations received in response to the consultation on our Preferred Options Paper (POP), published in 2019. Engagement took place prior to the publication of the POP with the Council's consultative groups.

General Profile of the Borough

Ards and North Down Borough has a geographical area of 228 miles with approximately 115 miles of coastline along two loughs and the Irish Sea. The area is known for its rich diversity of scenic countryside and extends from Holywood on the shores of Belfast Lough to Portaferry on the southern tip of the Ards Peninsula and Ballygowan to the west.

Strangford Lough, which is of global environmental importance, forms the central geographical and landscape feature of the area. This island studded Lough is part of the Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and was the first Marine Nature Reserve in Northern Ireland. It is also an Area of Special Scientific Interest and a Ramsar site due to it being a wetland of international importance. The largest population centres are Bangor and Newtownards.

Demography- Age and Sex (household)

- The Ards and North Down (AND) usual population increased by 4.5% (6,992) from 2011 to 2021.
- AND shares 8.6% of the total NI population.
- The population density in AND is 3.6 higher compared to NI average of 1.4.
- Population increase was greatest in the older group - those being people aged 65 and over. This rose from 27,692 (17.7%) in 2011 to 36,226 (22.1%) in 2021.
- Children (defined as those aged 0 to 14) make up 17.0% of the AND population, which had fallen 0.8% from 2011.
- Of all usual residents in AND, the vast majority (98.9% or 161,900 people) live in 70,445 households. The remaining 1.1% of the population (1,748 people) live in communal establishments (for example, Nursing Homes, Halls of Residence, etc.).
- Since 2011, the number of households in AND increased by 9%, from 64,600 to 70,400.
- The average household size in AND is 2.3, lower than NI average (2.44).

Statistics show that 54% of the Borough are employed, 2% are unemployed and 43% are economically inactive. Of those employed, 37% were in the public administration, education and health Industry and 2% were in the Agriculture, energy and water industry. 62% of employed people travelled to work in a car or van and 34% travelled 5km-20km to their place of work.

There were 70,445 households recorded in Ards and North Down of which 4,400, (5.9%) were unoccupied at the time of the survey.

The average household size in sits at 2.30 (2.44 in NI). 31% are single occupancy and 6% had more than 6 people living in the property.

72% of the Borough's residents owns their own property, this has decreased by 2% from 2011 where 13% are social rented and increase of 2% increase in 2011.

Section 75 Category- Religious belief

Details of evidence/information

In 2011, the population within Ards and North Down consisted predominately of a Protestant and other Christian background at 75% (above NI average) with 13%

from a Catholic background (below NI average). The proportion of people who were brought up in a different religion or with no religion was 11% (above NI average) (Source: NISRA, 2011 Census, Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI, statistical and admin geographies).

The Northern Ireland Census 2021 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area show the religious group the person belongs to, or for people with no current religion their religious group of upbringing. People with no current religion and no religion of upbringing are labelled 'None'.

On Census Day 2021 in Northern Ireland just under one person in five (19.0%) either had 'no religion' (17.4%) or 'religion not stated' (1.6%).

Nearly one person in three in Ards and North Down (32.1%) had 'no religion' or 'religion not stated'

On Census day 2021, bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 45.7% of the population were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic, while 43.5% were recorded as 'Protestant and other Christian (including Christian related)'. Again, bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 1.5% of the population are classified as 'other religions' and 9.3% of the population identified that they neither belonged to, nor were brought up in, a religion. This points to the increasingly secular nature of the population ('None').

| | All usual residents | Catholic | Protestant and other Christian Religions | Other Religions | None |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|-------------|
| AND | 163,659 | 22,912 | 111,288 | 1,636 | 27,822 |
| Northern Ireland | 1,903,178 | 875,461 | 818,366 | 19,031 | 171,286 |

| | AND | Northern Ireland |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| All usual Residents | 163,659 | 1,903,178 |
| Catholic | 18,003 | 799,334 |
| Presbyterian | 47,461 | 323,540 |
| Church of Ireland | 22,912 | 222,381 |
| Methodist | 6,546 | 38,063 |
| Other Christian Religions | 16,365 | 133,222 |
| Other Religions | 1,636 | 19,031 |
| No Religion/Not stated | 52,370 | 361,603 |

Key Points from NISRA Census 2021 report prepared by Data Analyst from Council:

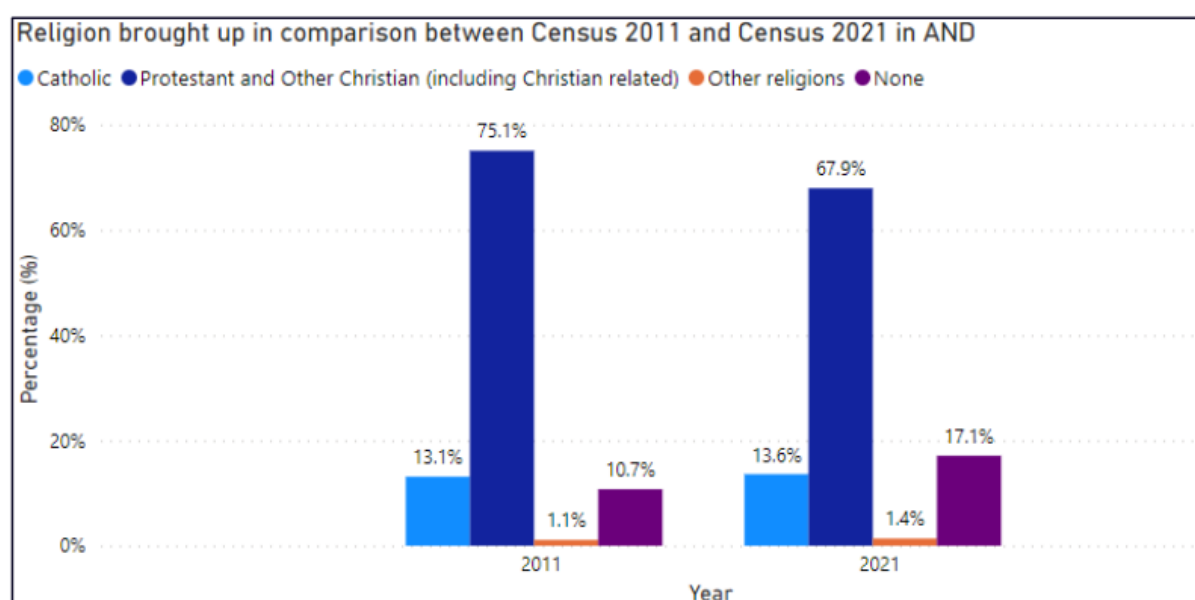
In 2021, the main current religions for AND residents were: Presbyterian (28.5%), Church of Ireland (13.6%) and Catholic (11.3%). In contrast, the main current

religions for NI residents were: Catholic (42.3%), Presbyterian (16.6%) and Church of Ireland (11.6%).

1.2% of AND population belongs to a non-Christian religion.

In addition, 30.6% of AND population had 'no religion' - this is higher than NI average of 17.4% and highest among all NI councils. This is also marked increase in AND in 2011 when 11% had 'no religion'.

Combining current religion and religion of upbringings gives 68% of AND population who were 'Protestant, other Christian or Christian related'. This was substantially different compared to NI average of 45.7% of population who were 'Catholic' and 43.5% who were 'Protestant, other Christian or Christian related'.



Section 75 Category- Political opinion

Details of evidence/information

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections (2023) and Northern Ireland Assembly elections (2022) detail the political representation on Ards and North Down. Data also shows the turnout to vote. This tends to be lower than the rest of Northern Ireland, suggesting less strong political opinions, however the results show a preference in Ards and North Down for Unionist Parties.

| Constituency | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----|
| North Down | 70,176 | 60% |
| Strangford | 70,755 | 68% |
| Northern Ireland | 1,373,731 | 63% |

| District Electoral Area | Eligible Electorate | Votes Polled |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| Overall turnout (2023) Ards and North Down Borough Council Area | 123,736 | 57,677 |
| Overall Turnout (2023) Northern Ireland | 1,380,372 | 745,400 |

Ards and North Down Local Government Election Results (Electoral Office data from Local Government Elections 2023 and NI Assembly Elections 2022)

Vote share:

| Party | Local Government Seats Held | Local Government Seats Held | NI Assembly Elections seats held | NI Assembly Elections seats held |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| | ANDBC | Northern Ireland | North Down and Strangford | Northern Ireland |
| Alliance | 12 | 67 | 4 | 17 |
| Aontù | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DUP | 14 | 122 | 3 | 25 |
| Green | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Independants | 3 | 19 | 1 | 2 |
| People before Profit | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| SDLP | 1 | 39 | 0 | 8 |
| Sinn Féin | 0 | 144 | 0 | 27 |
| TUV | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| UUP | 8 | 54 | 2 | 9 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Number of seats per Political Party - Ards and North Down Borough Council, 2019

Section 75 Category- Racial group

Details of evidence/information

On Census Day 2021, 3.4% of the population of AND, or 65,600 people, belonged to minority ethnic groups. This is around double the 2011 figure (1.8% - 32,400 people)

and four times the 2001 figure (0.8% - 14,300 people). Taken together, the bulletin reports and tables released today show an increasing diversity from 2011 to 2021 in Northern Ireland's population across statistics on ethnic group, main language, country of birth and passports held. This increasing diversity is evident to a greater or lesser degree across all 11 Local Government Districts.

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| All Usual Residents | 163,660 |
| White | 159,892 |
| Irish traveller | 24 |
| Roma | 19 |
| Indian | 388 |
| Chinese | 500 |
| Filipino | 308 |
| Pakistani | 87 |
| Arab | 28 |
| Other Asian | 468 |
| Black African | 309 |
| Mixed | 1236 |
| Other Ethnicities | 266 |

Note: In the following analysis the label 'minority ethnic group' is used. This relates to all persons who have an ethnicity classification other than the 'White' option.

In 2021, the number of people in AND with a white ethnic group was 159,892 (97.7% of the population). Conversely, the total number of people in AND with a minority ethnic group stood at 3,768 people (2.3% of the population). Within this classification, the largest groups were mixed ethnicities (1,236 people) and Chinese (500 people).

The percentage of the population with a minority ethnic group in AND increased between 2011 and 2021 from 1.5% to 2.3%.

Section 75 Category – Age

Details of evidence/information

Ards and North Down has a larger proportion of older people aged 65 and over than any other Local Government District. The median age is 44.

Population projections show that the proportion of those aged 85 and over are expected to more than double within the next 25 years.

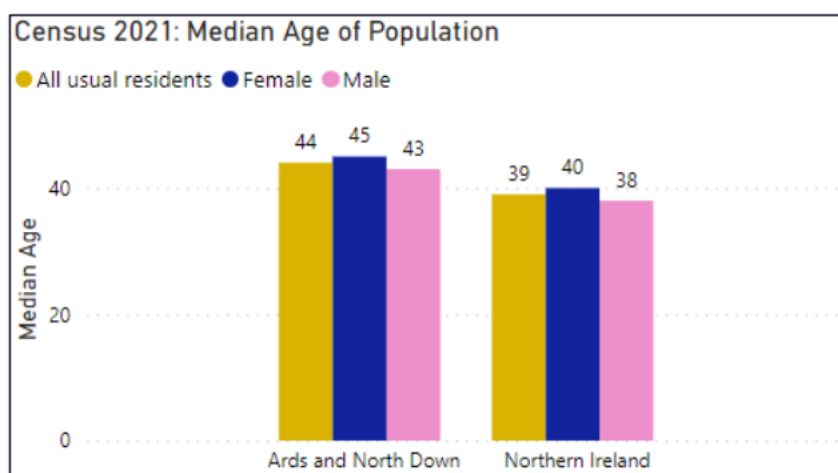
| Age yrs | 0–14 | 15–39 | 40–64 | 65+ |
|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| NI | 365,213 (19%) | 594,361 (31%) | 617,125 (32%) | 326,475 (17%) |
| AND | 27,763 (17%) | 44,206 (27%) | 55,466 (34%) | 36,225 (22%) |

Age Breakdown of Residents in Ards and North Down Borough – Census 2021

Since 2001, the proportion of pensioners in AND has been above the NI average and population projections to 2032 indicate that this trend will continue to be the case.

Population increase was greatest in the older group. On census day 2021, AND had the largest increase in the number of people aged 65 and over. This rose from 27,692 (17.7%) in 2011 to 36,226 (22.1%) in 2021, demonstrating the scale of population change due to ageing.

At the time of the 2021 Census the Median Age of the Borough was 44.



Section 75 Category- Marital status

Details of evidence/information

Statistics classifies people aged 16 and over according to their legal marital or civil partnership status on Census Day 21 March 2021. The law in relation to marriage

and civil partnership changed in the ten years to 2021. A summary of the changes is given below:

- Civil partnership for opposite sex couples became legal in 2019;
- Marriage for same sex couples became legal in 2020; and
- In late 2020 a couple in a civil partnership could convert their status from civil partnership to marriage.

The rise in 'single' population and the fall in 'married' population here is in line with census results in England and Wales. These figures mirror changes in society and specifically in personal relationships that has been witnessed over the last 50 years. Ards and North Down has the oldest demographic profile of all the 11 Local Government Districts and has the highest percentage of adults who were widowed at 8%.

In 2011, single people were more likely to be male (34.53%) than female (28.48%). By contrast women are considerably more likely to be widowed (10.68%) than men (3.37%). The relatively higher life expectancy for women accounts for this finding.

| Marital Status | Northern Ireland | AND |
|---|-------------------------|------------|
| Single | 575,966 | 41,540 |
| Married or in Civil Partnership | 682,065 | 68,340 |
| Separated, Divorced or Formally in a Civil Partnership | 151,570 | 13,400 |
| Widowed or Surviving partner from a Civil Partnership | 97,004 | 10,720 |

Marital and Civil Partnership Status NISRA Census 2021

Section 75 Category- Sexual orientation

Details of evidence/information

Statistics from the 2021 Census show that 2.1% (31,600) of NI population identified as 'lesbian, gay, bisexual or other' (LGBT+) and 90% (1,363,900) identified as 'straight or heterosexual'. More urban Local Government Districts have a higher percentage of people who identified as LGBT+. Almost 8% of our total population aged 16 and over (119,300) either ticked 'prefer not to say or chose not to answer

the question. Taken together, these are labelled ‘no sexual orientation staged’ in these statistics.

8.8% of people who identify as LGBT+ in Northern Ireland live in Ards and North Down Borough. Statistics show that 800 households in the Borough are living in a same sex couple relationship.

| Living in households by relationship | Northern Ireland | AND |
|---|-------------------------|------------|
| Living in a same sex couple | 9600 | 800 |
| Not living as a couple | 694,600 | 53,500 |

| | Northern Ireland | AND |
|--|-------------------------|------------|
| All usual residents (over 16) | 1,515,700 | 134,000 |
| Straight or Hetrosexul | 1,364,130 | 121,940 |
| Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or other orientation | 30,314 | 2,680 |
| No sexual orientation | 121,256 | 9,380 |

Section 75 Category- Men and women generally

Details of evidence/information

The Northern Ireland usually resident population increased by 5.1% (92,300) from 2011 to 2021. The Census 2021 population is recorded at 1,903,175 people, up from 1,810,863 people in 2011. Ards and North Down had an increase of population from 2011 of 7,000, which is 4.5%. The Census Day population comprised of 967,000 females and 936,100 males. Statistics show that for every 100 females in Ards and North Down there were 94.9 males.

At 51%, women make up a slightly larger proportion of the population of both NI and Ards and North Down than men (49%).

| | Males | Females |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| NI | 936,132 (49%) | 967,043 (51%) |
| AND | 79,705 (49%) | 83,951 (51%) |

Section 75 Category- Disability

Details of evidence/information

For Census purposes, Disability is a self-assessment of whether a person has a long-term health problem or disability that limits daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. It includes problems that are due to old age.

The 2021 Census (NISRA) demonstrates an increase of 15% or more in the percentage of people who reported a long-term health problem or disability which limited day-to-day activities. 41,300 or 25.3% of people in Ards and North Down had a limiting long-term health problem or disability. Ards and North Down experienced an increase of 31.4% from 2011. These changes are in part a reflection of the Borough's ageing population.

The following statistics show a breakdown in residents in Northern Ireland and Ards and North Down with a Disability that is expected to last 12 months or more.

The figures show that 7.2% of the Borough have deafness or partial hearing loss, 68% being over the age of 65.

2% have blindness or partial sight loss, 11% of those people are aged 0-39 years.

1.6% have mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair. In comparison to Northern Ireland statistics this means that 9.3% of all those who have mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair reside in the Borough.

0.8% have an intellectual or learning disability including dyslexia and Down's Syndrome. 1.6% have autism or Asperger's Syndrome, 49% are between 0-14 years whilst 40% are aged between 15-39 years.

8.1% have an emotional, psychological or mental health condition (including depression and schizophrenia), this is highest in the age range of –40-64 years (47%).

2% have frequent periods of confusion or memory loss (including Dementia), this is most prevalent with ages 65+.

10% of residents have another condition, for example Cancer, Heart Disease or Diabetes. Again, this is most prevalent in age 65+.

Taken together, these results show that policy making must consider Ards and North Down's ageing population and health and disability issues as well as recognition for those that provide unpaid care throughout the Borough.

| | All usual residents | Activities Not Limited | Limited a Little | Limited a Lot |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Northern Ireland | 1,903,178 | 144,641 | 247,413 | 209,349 |
| Ards and North Down | 163,659 | 12,274 | 22,912 | 18,002 |
| | | | | |
| Long term health conditions | None | 1 | 2 | 3 or more |
| Northern Ireland | 1,237,065 | 342,572 | 152,254 | 171,286 |
| Ards and North Down | 101,468 | 32,731 | 14,729 | 14,729 |

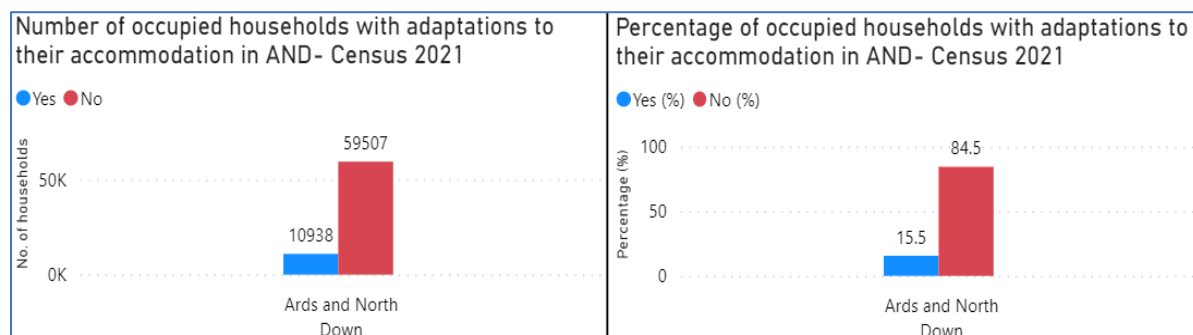
Adaptation of accommodation for occupied household in AND

The majority of occupied households have no reported adaptations (84.5% of all households). In contrast, 15.5% of all households have reported one or more types of adaptation.

Around 14% of households had two or more adaptations (9,890 households).

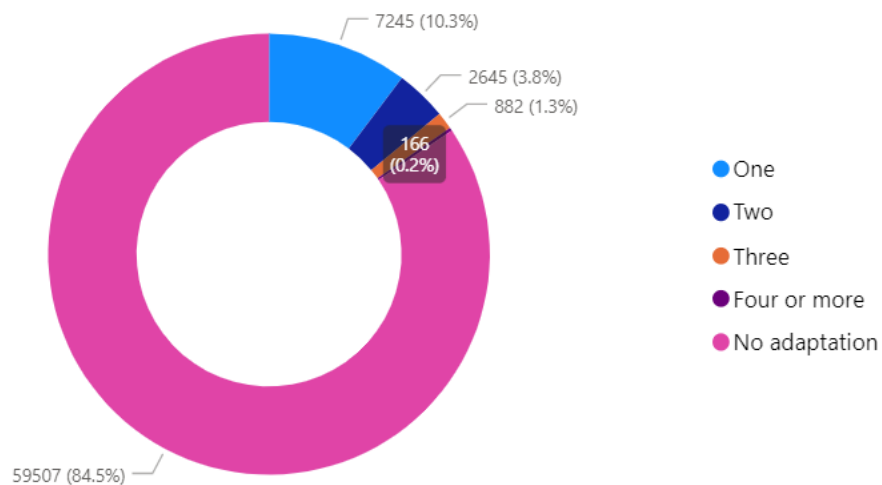
The figures show that the number of households with an adaptation has increased by 60.1%, from 6,832 households in 2011 to 10,938 households in 2021.

'Internal wheelchair use' is the most prevalent type of adaptation of all occupied households, at 8.1% of all households (5,699). In addition, there were 5,117 adaptations made for other physical and mobility difficulties and 4,204 adaptations made for external wheelchair access.



Source: NISRA Census 2021

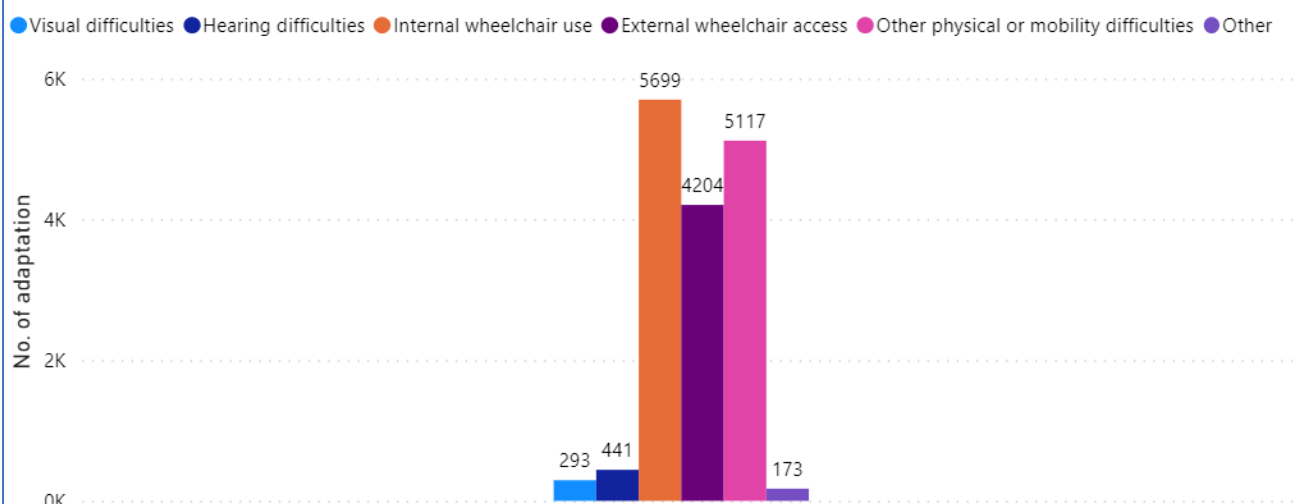
Occupied households by number of adaptations in AND- Census 2021



Number and percentage of households with an adaptation in AND
(Census 2011 and 2021)

| Adaptation made | Census 2011 | | Census 2021 | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| | Number of Households | % | Number of Households | % |
| No adaptation | 57,773 | 89.4 | 59,507 | 84.5 |
| Some adaptation (one or more) | 6,832 | 10.6 | 10,938 | 15.5 |

Occupied households by type of adaptation of accommodation in AND- Census 2021



Section 75 Category- Dependants

Details of evidence/information

For the purposes of Section 75 a dependant can be classed as persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; for the care of a person with a disability; or for the care of a dependant older person.

Carers

On Census Day 2021 one person in eight of NI's population aged 5 or more (or 222,200 people) noted that they provided unpaid care. One important point to note in Policy making is that 2,600 children aged 5 to 14 in Northern Ireland provide unpaid care.

Ards and North Down had the highest percentage of people who provide unpaid care throughout Northern Ireland - 13.7%, estimated at 30,414 residents. 'Unpaid care' covers looking after, giving help or support to anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age.

Households with dependent children

A dependent child is a person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s). 'No dependent children' includes households with no children and households where all children are non-dependent.

In Ards and North Down there were 27,822 children (defined as those aged 0 to 14). Children make up 19.2% of the Northern Ireland population. This percentage varies across the Local Government Districts and is lowest in Ards and North Down where the proportion is 17.0%.

According to Birth statistics on NISRA Ards and North Down recorded 2,854 births between 2020 and 2022, giving an indication of the numbers using buggies or prams.

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

It is likely that the LDP will accommodate the specific needs of a wide range of identities linked to the various Section 75 category groups, either singly or in combination. Generally, the needs, experiences and priorities listed below are considered to be of importance to all Section 75 category groupings. All the identified needs, experiences and priorities will be afforded due consideration, as far as practical, in implementing the LDP.

- Have opportunity for housing needs to be met and feel safe and secure where they reside.
- Enjoy good health and wellbeing with access to vibrant town centres and opportunities to adopt active lifestyles through access to open space and facilities.
- Access to health, education, community and cultural facilities
- Access to employment opportunities, economic development opportunities and training facilities.
- Access to a well-managed sustainable natural and historic environment
- An approach which allows for a well-managed environment responding to the challenges of climate change
- Planning for connectivity through infrastructure

The draft Plan Strategy has a number of Strategic Objectives to deliver for these needs.

Strategic Objectives

Spatial and Cross-cutting Objectives

- Promote sustainable growth in the right places and at the appropriate level, to meet the needs of all those who live, work, visit and invest in the Borough.

- To create sustainable places throughout the Borough through design, layout and mix of uses that enhance the character and identity of settlements and landscape; create attractive, safe and accessible places to live, work and visit; and promote prosperity, and well-being of citizens.
- To support sustainably located and designed development that supports mitigation and adaptation to climate change and increases local environmental resilience. This includes carbon reduction through the use of renewable energy development and incorporation of sustainable design principles and features.

Social

- To provide a sufficient supply of land for new housing to support the Council's growth ambition and facilitate delivery to meet diverse housing needs up to 2032.
- To create sustainable residential environments which are designed to a high standard, well connected and inclusive of all potential residents.
- To support rural communities by providing appropriate and sustainable opportunities for development in the countryside.
- To build sustainable resilient communities where people have good access to housing, employment, shops, public transport, active travel, healthcare, community and cultural facilities.
- To improve health and wellbeing - by facilitating health, education, community and cultural facilities in accessible locations and creating places that encourage a healthy lifestyle through the provision of high-quality open space and sporting facilities, informal leisure spaces and increase opportunities to walk, cycle or ride.

Economic

- To support a thriving, well-connected, diverse economy to enable and encourage business growth and attract inward investment and businesses in appropriate growth sectors.
- To support the Council's ambition of employment growth through the provision of accessible land for employment, including for start-ups and grow-on spaces in a choice of sites at a range of locations.
- To sustain and enhance vibrant and attractive town centres, serving the needs of residents, visitors, tourists and businesses.
- To support sustainable tourism in the Borough by creating and identifying opportunities for sustainable tourism development and by safeguarding key tourism assets from inappropriate development.
- To facilitate sustainable mineral development through balancing specific need along with the need to protect and conserve the environment.

Infrastructure

- To promote and facilitate investment in physical and digital infrastructure and facilities for power, water, waste-water and waste management
- To support more sustainable movement patterns by promoting a mix of land use allocations in accessible locations alongside improved digital connectivity, whilst providing opportunities for active travel and integrated sustainable transport above use of the private car.
- To facilitate development of renewable energy infrastructure whilst minimising impact on visual amenity and the environment

- To promote across the Borough the efficient use of natural resources, including providing increased opportunities for water efficiency, energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction.

Environmental

- To protect, enhance and manage the natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems and the connectivity between them, while at the same time generating benefits for the economy, tourism, health and well-being. This includes the Borough's protected sites, protected species and other biodiversity, and its high quality and distinctive landscapes and seascapes.
- To conserve, enhance and protect the historic environment and cultural heritage of Ards and North Down for the future while realising benefits for the economy, tourism and social well-being.
- To ensure that new development in the Borough takes account of the risk of flooding, both existing and in the future, including the need to avoid inappropriate development in areas that are at risk from flooding, or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, and the need to design development, including the use of natural flood management measures and sustainable drainage, to appropriately manage flood risk and surface water run-off.
- To protect the undeveloped coast from inappropriate, excessive or obtrusive development that would cause harm to its visual amenity and natural and historic assets, whilst accommodating appropriate sustainable development to sensitively enhance the developed coast.
- To identify and develop a network of green and blue infrastructure to encourage nature recovery and biodiversity whilst supporting resilient ecosystems and good health and wellbeing.

| Section 75 Category | Details of needs, experiences and priorities |
|----------------------------|--|
| Religious Belief | The Borough has a predominately Protestant/other Christian population, with those of Catholic belief and other belief are in a minority. Those of no religion increased since the 2011 census to that in 2021. It is recognised that the needs and priorities are relevant irrespective of religious belief. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| | <p>Key priorities for those of different, or, indeed, no religious belief include safe places to live with a quality environment along with access to health, education, community and cultural facilities.</p> |
| Political Opinion | <p>The Borough has a predominately Unionist population. Irrespective of political opinion it is recognised that the needs and priorities of the Borough's residents are relevant.</p> <p>Good quality, safe places to live along with access to shared and safe environments including community facilities are identified as key priorities for those of different political opinion.</p> |
| Racial Group | <p>2021 Census data indicates that the Borough has a low representation of people of different ethnic backgrounds. It is recognised that the priorities of such group categories centre around good quality, safe places to live, access to shared and safe environments as well as access to employment, services and facilities.</p> <p>Access to health, education, community and cultural facilities may also be important for ethnic minorities in order to assist against isolation and to aid community integration.</p> |
| Age | <p>The population of the Borough is ageing. There are particular priorities in relation to appropriate housing provision including the need for accessible and adaptable homes. Other identified priorities for older people include access to healthcare provision, opportunities for improving health and wellbeing which may also include access to outdoor open space and places to live a healthy and active lifestyle.</p> <p>The provision of shared and safe environments, access to public transport and an active travel network, as well as access to retail and retail services are also identified as important to those older people who may have mobility issues and experience feelings of isolation.</p> <p>For the Borough's working age population, the main priorities are identified as access to good quality, safe places to live, access to employment opportunities, education and training facilities and access to business and retail.</p> <p>For our population under the age of 16 - the main priorities are identified as access to education and training facilities or indeed employment. Priorities also include access to open space, sport and outdoor recreation and play facilities.</p> |
| Marital Status | <p>Just over half of the Borough's residents are married or in a civil partnership, with the remainder either single, divorced or widowed. No specific priorities of one group over another is identified, however it is recognised that those of different marital status may have different needs in terms of housing.</p> |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Sexual Orientation | It is recognised that members of the LGBT+ community can often be marginalised or experience feelings of isolation. The community may have concerns regarding safety, therefore good quality, safe places to live, access to shared and safe environments which may include access to community facilities are identified as key priorities. |
| Men and Women Generally | The Borough has a slightly higher number of women than men. Access to employment, education and training facilities are identified as key priorities for men and women generally, but perhaps more so women who are under-represented in the labour market or for those returning to work. |
| Disability | <p>The 2021 Census indicates that 25.3% of Ards and North Down residents have a long-term health problem or disability which limits daily activities. This represented an increase of 31% from 2011, in part reflecting the Borough's ageing population.</p> <p>Key priorities for those living with disabilities therefore are identified as good quality, safe places to live, appropriate housing, access to healthcare, improved health and wellbeing, shared and safe environments and access to community facilities. For those with mobility issues, in particular, access to public transport infrastructure is identified as a key need. Those living with disabilities tend to be underrepresented in the labour market therefore access to education, training and employment is also important.</p> |
| Dependents | <p>There is a decreasing number of households within the Borough with dependant children. The percentage varies across local government districts, but it is lowest in Ards and North Down at 17%. This decline in household size raises particular priorities in terms of appropriate (type and size) housing provision. It is also recognised within our Borough that a significant proportion of the population provide care.</p> <p>Particular priorities for both these groups are identified as the need for good quality, safe places to live, access to community facilities, access to health facilities, improved health and wellbeing, access to sport recreation and play facilities, access to public transport and an active travel network, as well as access to retail. For those with dependants, often underrepresented in the labour market or seeking to return to work access to education, training and employment is a key priority.</p> |

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4 which are given on pages 66-68 of this Guide.

If the public authority's conclusion is none in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority's conclusion is major in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority's conclusion is minor in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;

- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening Questions

A summary of likely impact on equality of opportunity

Screening Questions

The detailed assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity for the Section 75 categories is included in Appendix 1. A summary of the likely impact in relation to each of the categories is provided below.

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none

Section 75 category

Details of policy impact

Level of impact? minor/major/none

Religious Belief

It is considered that the main potential for differential impact on equality of opportunity for this group is most likely to arise from:

(a) The spatial implications of the LDP Spatial Growth Strategy (SGS) and associated sectorial strategies of a spatial nature (such as Strategic Housing Allocation) which seeks to direct growth between settlements and also between settlements and the countryside, in accordance with regional guidelines set out in the RDS, and taking account of our evidence base as it relates to varying capacity of settlements to support further growth.

The Spatial Growth Strategy directs most growth (housing, economic development land, retail etc.) to the Principal Settlements and to a lesser extent the small towns. All of these towns have majority Protestant populations, however the Growth Strategy SGS2 – Settlement Hierarchy includes a reclassification of Portaferry to a town. Portaferry has a majority Catholic population – there may be some positive benefits. The impact here is overall deemed to be ‘minor’ because the proposal is not unlawfully discriminating and to a large extent the religious split within settlements, apart from Portaferry, reflects that for the Borough as a whole. The SGS, whilst not seeking to direct growth to smaller tier settlements, does not actually preclude development that is appropriate to the scale and character of the individual settlement. The focus of major population and economic growth in the Principal Settlements aligns with the regional direction of the RDS and will maximise benefits for all citizens because of the ready availability of a wide range of services and

employment. This is considered to outweigh any differential impacts for smaller tier settlements irrespective of their religious composition.

(b) The spatial implications of the LDP Countryside Strategy (CS) and the proposed Strategic designation of the Undeveloped Coastal Zone and associated policy which seek to restrict development (or certain types of development). The Countryside Strategy, in protecting certain areas of the countryside from development (or certain types of development), raises potential for differential impact within the Section 75 groups. Such restrictions will have little bearing in terms of likely impact on equality of opportunity within Section 75 groupings.

The designation e.g. Undeveloped Coastal Zone is relatively small and tightly defined and coincide with areas of sparse population. Any marginal differential impacts will be balanced with positive net benefits that will be realised by protecting the exceptional landscape character and unique amenity value of these areas, particularly in consideration of the overarching aim of achieving sustainable development.

Overall, the CS and the spatial designation of an Undeveloped Coastal Zone is deemed to have no adverse impact on equality of opportunity within the Section 75 groups.

No adverse impact.

Political opinion

As above

Racial group

No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to this category as a whole.

Appendix A indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for those within this group. Ethnic minorities within our Borough are predominately located within or near to our main city and town centres. Policies in relation to Economic Development, Town Centres and Retailing, for example, are likely to be of benefit as they direct the provision of services and employment largely to these locations. Policies for Housing in Settlements are also anticipated to be of benefit as they seek to provide safe residential environments. The policies in relation to Town centres and Retailing and Open Space also have potential to provide positive impacts through facilitating

the creation of shared spaces, thereby assisting integration with the wider community.

NIHE has not identified any need in relation to Traveller Accommodation in the Borough at this time; however, should the need arise over the Plan period Policy HOU5 will support and facilitate the provision of a suitable accommodation.

Minor positive

Age

No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall vision, objectives, strategies and policies of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to all age groups.

Appendix 1 indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for older people. The General Principles Policy applicable for all Development will be of benefit as it seeks to enhance accessibility. Town Centre and Retail policies, for example, seek to focus such development in the most accessible locations. Open Space policies seek to deliver accessible opportunities for active lifestyles. The draft Plan Strategy approach to both Housing in Settlements, (Policy HOU 4 in particular providing for Accessible and Adaptable Homes), and Housing in the Countryside aim to allow opportunities for older people to stay in their homes for longer.

Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where there is a need and in accessible locations also has the potential to have positive impacts for this group. This is also the case for Infrastructure policies in relation to Transportation and Telecommunications and Overhead Lines by supporting improvements in accessibility and connectivity.

As indicated in Appendix 1, it is anticipated that those of working age will benefit from the Economic Development Strategy and the Strategic Allocation of Land for Economic Development Land as they encourage a range of employment opportunities in the most sustainable and accessible locations. The Retail Strategy and associated policies could also be considered benefit those of working age.

Positive impacts for younger people are also anticipated through the Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation policies such as Policy OS 4: New Open Space in Residential Developments which seeks to provide safe and accessible places to play.

Again, supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities in accessible locations and where there is a need also has the potential to have positive impacts for this group.

Minor positive

Marital status -

No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim of the draft Plan Strategy and strategic approach will be of benefit to people of different marital status.

Appendix 1 indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy (including housing policies) have the potential to have positive impacts for this group

Minor positive

Sexual orientation

No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to those within this category, irrespective of sexual orientation.

Appendix 1 indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for the LGBT+ community. The General Principles Policy for all Development and policies in relation to Housing in Settlements, HOU2 for example, strive to create safer public spaces and residential environments that have been designed to deter crime.

Minor positive

Men and women generally

It is the aim of the Plan to benefit both men and women generally. The screening assessment has not identified anything inherent in the draft Plan Strategy that will benefit one gender over another.

However, it is acknowledged that there are indirect gender impacts in relation to issues such as housing, employment, access to services and leisure.

None

Disability

No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the draft Plan Strategy will generally benefit those living with and without disability.

Appendix 1 indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy, have the potential to have positive impacts for those living with disability.

Retail and Economic Development policies, for example, could benefit those with disabilities by directing such development to the most accessible locations.

The Open Space policies which protect and provide for accessible open space will bring both physical and mental health benefits.

In addition, the General Policy for all Development will be of benefit as it seeks to enhance accessibility and takes account of the particular needs of people with mobility difficulties.

The draft Plan Strategy approach to both Housing in Settlements, Policy HOU 7 in particular, and Housing in the Countryside aims to allow opportunities for housing that will support people living with disability to stay in their homes for longer.

Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where there is a need and in accessible locations also has the potential to have positive impacts.

Infrastructure related policies such as Transportation are also anticipated to be of benefit in seeking to ensure development takes account of the mobility needs of all.

Minor positive

Dependants

No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. It is anticipated that the overall aim and strategic approach of the plan will be of benefit generally to both those with and without dependants.

Appendix 1 indicates that a number of policies and approaches included within the draft Plan Strategy have the potential to have positive impacts for those with dependants.

Retail policies, for example, could benefit those with dependants by focusing such development in the most accessible locations.

Policies in relation to Economic Development are also anticipated to benefit by providing a generous supply of economic land to meet employment needs in the most accessible locations, where the majority of our population are located giving a sustainable approach in line with existing population distribution, infrastructure and service provision. The Open Space policies seek to provide safe and accessible

open space and play parks thereby benefitting families with dependant children. Policies in relation to Housing in Settlements and Housing in the Countryside aim to provide for a range of house types, sizes and tenures to meet all housing needs. Supporting the provision of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where there is a need and in accessible locations also has the potential to have positive impacts for those with dependants. This is also the case for Infrastructure policies in relation to Transportation and Telecommunications and Overhead Lines by supporting improvements in accessibility and connectivity.

Minor positive

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? Yes/No

| Section 75 category | If Yes, provide details | If No, provide reasons |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Religious belief | | <p>The draft Plan Strategy seeks to improve the quality of life for all, no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity are apparent at this stage.</p> <p>However, any Section 75 issues raised during consultation or further in the LDP process will be considered in a proportionate way.</p> |
| Political opinion | | |
| Racial group | | |
| Age | | |
| Marital status | | |
| Sexual orientation | | |
| Men and women generally | | |
| Disability | | |
| Dependants | | |

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none

Details of likely policy impact and Level of impact minor/major/none

Religious belief Political opinion Racial group

The draft Plan Strategy is likely to have a positive impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

The strategic objectives of the draft Plan Strategy, particularly our social objectives, should assist in the creation and enhancement of shared spaces.

The draft Plan Strategy recognises the importance of providing quality shared spaces that are accessible and valued by everyone.

This is reflected in our General Principles Policy for all Development and throughout many other policies within the draft Plan Strategy.

The draft Plan Strategy specifically safeguards against the loss of valued neighbourhood services and supports infrastructure such as public open space and greenways, which play an important role in social interaction and community cohesion.

It is anticipated that the proposals and policies in relation to town centres and retailing, economic development, open space, housing and tourism will impact positively upon good relations between people of different religious belief.

Further assessment of the likely impact on good relations will be undertaken at Local Policies Plan (LPP) stage when, for example, land for purposes such as housing, economic use and various forms of open space will be zoned or otherwise identified and protected.

In addition, the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to a statutory consultation process and any further issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups during the process will be taken into account.

Minor Positive at this stage. Further assessment at LPP stage.

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Section 75 category - Religious belief Political opinion Racial group

If Yes, provide details

If No, provide reasons

No, the draft Plan Strategy seeks to improve the quality of life for all and therefore offers potential to promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

It is anticipated that the proposals and policies in relation to, retailing and economic development, open space, housing and tourism will all assist in the delivery of opportunities for social and cross community interaction, thereby enhancing prospects for promoting good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation or further down the line will be considered in a proportionate way.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The draft Plan Strategy has been prepared with recognition that people may fall in to more than one Section 75 category.

The vision of the LDP is to improve the quality of life for everyone, and the overall outworking of the strategies and policies is likely to promote equality of opportunity for people with multiple identities.

No negative differential impacts have been identified at this stage. However, as the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to consultation process, any further issues raised in relation to Section 75 groups during the consultation process will be taken into account.

Disability

The Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their function relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- Encourage participation of disabled people in public life.

Does the policy promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage participation of disabled people in public life?

The draft Plan Strategy aims to focus major growth and opportunities for development within our Principal Settlements, whilst providing for sustainable growth in towns, villages and smaller settlements and in the countryside. By focusing housing and economic growth in areas where there is the greatest access to services and facilities as well as better public transport links it is considered that this will encourage and help facilitate participation of disabled people in public life.

The draft Plan Strategy seeks to improve connectivity and accessibility as well as improving the health and wellbeing of all our citizens.

The General Principles Policy seeks to ensure that accessibility and ease of access for people with disabilities is taken into consideration in the design of development and in the consideration of movement patterns.

Appendix 1 references a number of policies within the draft Plan Strategy that are expected to have positive impacts for people living with disabilities. These include policies that seek to protect and facilitate quality and accessible public open space due to the physical and mental health benefits that all forms of open space can provide.

It is the intention that housing policies such as Policy HOU4: Accessible and Adaptable Homes, will allow people with disabilities to stay in their own homes and communities for longer.

It is anticipated that the draft Plan Strategy will promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as it seeks to ensure that proposals take into account the needs of people with disabilities in the design of development proposals.

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

At this stage no significant adverse impacts on equality of opportunity have been identified on Section 75 groups.

It is anticipated the draft Plan Strategy will be of benefit to our citizens including Section 75 groups as it seeks to improve the quality of life for all as set out in our vision. At this stage it has been identified that many of the policies within the draft Plan Strategy will, in fact, be of particular benefit to a number of the Section 75 groups. It is recognised that the LDP Spatial Growth Strategy has spatial implications that may have some potential for differential impacts on the grounds of Religious Belief/Political Opinion. However, the Spatial Growth Strategy is aligned with the regional direction and to significantly depart from this would likely render the LDP unsound. Overall, the Spatial Growth Strategy will be of benefit to everyone.

This is a draft Screening Report, and the draft Plan Strategy will be subject to public consultation. Any issues raised through this process will be considered prior to the publication of the final Plan Strategy.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated, or an alternative policy be introduced.

No mitigation is considered necessary at this stage. Any issues raised during the consultation process will be considered prior to the publication of the final Plan Strategy.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

N/A

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? No

If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

At this stage the draft Plan Strategy presents overall positive impacts for equality of opportunity and good relations. It is acknowledged that there may be potential for ‘minor’ impacts arising within the religious belief and political opinion groupings as a result of the Spatial Growth Strategy/Settlement Hierarchy. However, taking account of all the evidence, the Council does not consider mitigation to be required at this stage.

Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been ‘screened in’ for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

| Priority criterion | Rating (1-3) |
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| Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations | N/A |
| Social need | N/A |
| Effect on people’s daily lives | N/A |
| Relevance to a public authority’s functions | N/A |

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling.

Details of the Public Authority's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

NO

If yes, please provide details

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

The draft Plan Strategy will be subject to consultation with the public and will include specific consultation with a variety of Section 75 groups.

Any Section 75 Category issues raised during consultation will be considered prior to finalising the Plan Strategy. The LDP will also be subject to further equality screening at Local Policies Plan stage.

Monitoring and review of the LDP is an integral part of the plan making process. The draft Plan Strategy includes a Monitoring and Review Framework which highlights that a five-year review of the LDP will be carried out subsequent to adoption to ensure the policies and proposals are achieving their objectives. There will also be further scope for any impacts on Section 75 groups to be considered through this review.

Part 5- Approval and authorisation

Screened by: Position/Job Title Date

Leona Maginn Principal Planner 15 April 2025

Approved by: Position/Job Title Date

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Appendix 1 Assessment of Impact on Equality of Opportunity of Section 75 Groups

Please note policies will be applied uniformly across all S75 categories.

| Please Note – Policies are applied uniformly across all S75 categories | | | |
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| Topic | Policies | Purpose of Policy | Comments on likely impact on equality of opportunity |
| Spatial Growth Strategy | SGS1 Spatial Growth Strategy | The purpose of the strategy is to set out locations in the Borough where growth should be directed in terms of housing, employment and commercial development over the plan period. The Spatial Growth Strategy provides the framework for the range of strategic policies which together will work towards realising the vision and objectives of the LDP. | <p>The Spatial Growth Strategy (SGS) has been prepared in accordance with the RDS Spatial Framework Guidance. A hierarchy has been established which aims to focus major population growth and economic development in the principal settlements (Bangor and Newtownards) while consolidating the role and function in the towns on the lower tiers. The SGS seeks to sustain and maintain villages and small settlements. In the open countryside, the emphasis is on facilitating sustainable development opportunities taking into account the need to protect rural character and the environment, while sustaining a strong and vibrant rural community.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Spatial Growth Strategy is to manage growth to secure sustainable patterns of development across Ards and North Down.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed strategy will have a minor impact on people of different religious belief and political opinions as the proposed Strategy directs most growth (housing, economic development land, retail etc) to the larger tier settlements, i.e. the principal settlements of Bangor City and Newtownards and to a lesser extent the small towns. All of these towns have majority Protestant populations with the exception of Portaferry. The impact here is deemed to be 'minor' because the</p> |

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| | | | <p>proposal is not unlawfully discriminating and to a large extent the religious split within these settlements reflects that for the Borough as a whole (which is % Protestant). There may be minor positives in the SGS for the category of Religion.</p> <p>The SGS whilst not seeking to direct growth to the smaller tier settlements, does not actually preclude development that is appropriate to the scale and character of the individual settlement. The focus of major population and economic growth in the Principal Settlements aligns with the regional direction of the RDS and will maximise benefits for all citizens because of the ready availability of a wide range of services and employment. This is considered to outweigh any differential impacts for smaller tier settlements irrespective of their religious composition</p> |
| Spatial Growth Strategy SGS2 | Settlement Hierarchy | The purpose of this is to provide the spatial framework for delivery of the SGS. | <p>Settlements have been designated and classified as the result of a detailed settlement evaluation process based on their population, role, facilities and services along with their potential to accommodate further development. A total of 42 settlements within the Plan area have been designated and split into four tiers based on consideration of regional status and the settlement evaluation of their role, facilities and services available and their potential for accommodating development in accordance with the RDS Spatial Framework Guidance.</p> |

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| | | | <p>Portaferry has been re-classified as a town and Lisbane as a village. Whiterock has been reclassified as a small settlement</p> <p>The proposed re-classification, designation and de-designation of certain settlements may impact on religious belief and political opinion categories due to their spatial distribution.</p> <p>The Settlement Hierarchy has been defined by taking account of the regional direction, population distribution and the capacity of individual settlements to support further growth. To depart from this rationale could undermine the 'soundness' of the LDP.</p> <p>The Settlement Hierarchy is likely to provide general benefit as it provides sustainable growth opportunities the Borough in line with population, infrastructure and service provision. The Settlement Hierarchy will facilitate development in appropriate and sustainable locations to ensure improved access to services, employment and community facilities for everyone. No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Spatial Growth Strategy SGS3 | Strategic Allocation of Economic and Industrial Development Land | A fundamental role for the LDP is to ensure there is an adequate supply of available land to meet economic needs within the plan area. | <p>The Strategy allocates for a minimum of economic land within the focussed on the Principal Settlements of Bangor and Newtownards in accordance with the Spatial Growth Strategy which seeks to focus employment in these locations. Whilst land will not be zoned in small</p> |

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| | | | <p>towns, villages and small settlements, appropriate opportunities for business growth will still be facilitated within these areas and opportunities within the countryside.</p> <p>In terms of religious belief and political opinion the composition of the Principal Settlements- are reflective of the Borough. It is also where the majority of our racial groups are located. As a whole therefore no impact on equality of opportunity is predicted at this stage on these groups by allocating economic zonings in these areas. Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage to ensure the location of economic zonings has no differential impact on these groups.</p> <p>It is considered that the approach to Economic Development is likely to have a positive effect generally as it seeks to provide a range of economic land to meet varying needs in the most accessible locations and where the majority of our population are located. It is considered that this will be of particular benefit to those of working age, different racial groups, and those living with disability and those with dependants.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage</p> |
| Spatial Growth Strategy SGS4 & 5 | Strategic Housing Allocation Strategic Housing Allocation across Settlements | The proposed Strategic Housing Allocation sets out the Councils position on the overall housing requirement in the Borough to manage growth, achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. | The Housing Allocation Strategy is based on a detailed Housing Evaluation Framework and aligns with our Spatial Growth Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy. The strategy indicates the amount of housing to be |

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| | | | <p>allocated to each tier and the open countryside during the plan period. The quantum of housing allocated is proportionate to a settlement's role and position within the hierarchy and to its existing level of services and facilities. The Housing Allocation Strategy ensures that the majority of housing is located within the most sustainable and accessible locations.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the broad location of housing land and the identified quantum will cater for all Section 75 groups. Housing will be allocated across the settlement tiers and countryside in broad alignment with the Spatial Growth Strategy, similar Section 75 implications may apply.</p> <p>However, it is important to note previous comments in regard to the regional direction and the regional split for the Borough as a whole.</p> <p>Further assessment will be undertaken at LPP stage to ensure the Housing Allocation Strategy has no differential impact on these groups.</p> <p>It is considered that the Housing Allocation Strategy is likely to have a positive effect generally as it seeks to provide housing to meet the needs of all in the most accessible locations and where the majority of our population are located. This will be of particular benefit to different age and racial groups and those living with disabilities and dependants.</p> |
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| SGS 6 | Management of Housing Land Release | | No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage. |
| Part B | | | |
| Chapter 3 Countryside | CS 1 Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Countryside CS 2 Rural Landscape Wedges CS 3 Local Landscape Policy Areas CS 4 Area of High Value Landscape RURAL DESIGN POLICY CS 5 Integration and Design of Buildings in the Countryside CS 6 Rural Character CS 7 The Setting of Settlements | | <p>The Countryside Strategy includes a number of spatial designations and associated policies which seek to protect sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development.</p> <p>The Countryside Strategy restricts specific types of development in some designations in the rural area e.g. AoHSV – minerals and waste disposal. Considering this in conjunction with the benefits of protecting the landscape of these areas, no adverse differential impacts are anticipated at this stage.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Countryside Strategy overall will benefit the community as a whole as it seeks to protect our exceptional landscapes and environmental assets. This in turn will deliver numerous environmental, social and economic benefits. Where development is permitted the strategy will enhance access to these areas for the enjoyment of all, therefore bringing health and wellbeing benefits. No adverse impact on equality of opportunity is anticipated at this stage.</p> |
| Chapter4 Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation | CC1 | Support sustainable development that seeks to mitigate and adapt to climate change and increase local environmental resilience. | The draft Plan Strategy sets out an approach sign posting policy which shall have little bearing in terms of likely impact within section 75 groups. |

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| PART C | | | |
| Chapter 5 General Principles Policy | GP1 | <p>The policy will ensure that key planning principles embodied in overarching government strategies such as the RDS and the SPPS and the Marine plan are applied to planning applications via the operation of the Development Management process in the context of the Plan-Led system.</p> | <p>The General Principles sets out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing all development proposals.</p> <p>The policy seeks to ensure that all development has regard to design, integration and character, safeguarding of amenity, access/movement and car parking and safety and safeguarding of human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>GP1 is overarching policy that will be applicable to all development proposals, and it is anticipated that it will benefit the community as a whole as it seeks to contribute to the creation of a quality environment and add value to all the spaces communities share through the promotion of good design and place making.</p> <p>This in combination with criteria in the Transportation policies (AT1) that encourage active travel have positive implications for health and wellbeing and good relations.</p> <p>It is considered that the policy will have positive benefits in particular for those living with disabilities, younger and older residents as well as those with dependants by reason of the criteria set out in relation to Access, Movement and Parking.</p> <p>The policy requires that the design of new development at the outset must take account of the specific needs of people with disabilities and others whose mobility is impaired. The policy also requires development to be designed to reduce social exclusion, the risk of crime</p> |

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| | | | and promote personal safety which has positive benefits all Section 75 groups and in particular for those within the racial group and sexual orientation categories. |
| Chapter 6 Planning Agreements | PA1 Planning Agreements | <p>Planning agreements are used to secure a planning obligation where it is not possible or desirable to do so via a planning condition.</p> <p>Contributions may be required towards such matters including necessary infrastructure to support a development or a means to further investigation e.g. archaeological investigations</p> | <p>It is not possible to identify all circumstances in which an application may require a planning agreement to be in place prior to the grant of permission. Examples include necessary education or community facilities and/or their improvement.</p> <p>It is intended to issue further guidance on this.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| SOCIAL CHAPTER | | | |
| Housing | <p>Housing Strategy</p> <p>HOU 1 - Housing Development in Settlements</p> <p>HOU 2 - Design of New Residential Development</p> <p>HOU 3 - Affordable Housing</p> <p>HOU 4 - Accessible and Adaptable Homes</p> <p>HOU 5 - Traveller Accommodation</p> <p>HOU 6 - Residential Extensions and Alterations</p> <p>HOU 7 - Protected Housing Areas in Town Centres</p> <p>HOU 8 - Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO)</p> <p>HOU 9 - New Dwellings in Existing Clusters</p> | <p>The purpose of these policies is to promote sustainable residential development in our settlements and countryside that meet a range of needs. They seek to secure good design, increased housing density and sustain balanced communities. For our housing in the countryside policies, these seek to manage residential development in the countryside in order to support and sustain rural communities whilst protecting the environment from inappropriate development.</p> | <p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing proposals for residential development in settlements.</p> <p>As it is the intention of the LDP to direct the majority of housing to the Principal Settlement tier (Bangor and Newtownards) where the religious and political makeup is generally reflective of the Borough as a whole, no adverse impacts on these groups are anticipated. As specific sites have not been designated at this stage this will be reassessed at Local Policies Plan stage to ensure no adverse impact and to</p> |

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| | <p>HOU 10 - Replacement Dwellings</p> <p>HOU 11 - Conversion and Reuse of Existing Buildings</p> <p>HOU 12 - Affordable Housing in the Countryside</p> <p>HOU 13 - Personal and Domestic Circumstances</p> <p>HOU 14 - Dwellings for Non-Agricultural Business Enterprises</p> <p>HOU 15 - Ribbon Development</p> <p>HOU 16 - Residential Caravans and</p> <p>HOU 17 - Dwellings on Farms</p> | | <p>ensure opportunities to promote good relations are maximised.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the policies will be of benefit to all sections of the community as they seek to deliver good quality housing with a range and mix of house types and tenures in our settlements to meet the specific needs of our residents. This includes taking account of our ageing population within the Borough, the reduction in household size as well as affordable housing need. The proposed policies will contribute towards enhancing good relations by building sustainable communities.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed policies will bring positive benefits for a number of groups in particular including those with multiple identities e.g. single parents.</p> <p>Policies which encourage a mix of house types and tenures will help build mixed communities and could have potential to aid good relations between those of differing religious belief, political opinion and racial group.</p> <p>The provision of mixed house types and tenures along with the introduction of HOU 4 - Adaptable and Accessible Homes will also have positive benefits for the elderly, those of different marital status, and those living with disabilities and dependants.</p> <p>By seeking to ensure all housing environments are designed to be safe and deter crime the policies are also particularly beneficial to certain category groups such as Sexual Orientation, the</p> |
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| | | | <p>Elderly and those of different Racial Groups.</p> <p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the circumstances in which residential development in the countryside will be considered appropriate subject to meeting the General Policy. The proposed policies are necessary to ensure that housing growth in the countryside is commensurate with our spatial growth strategy and to ensure the necessary housing needs of our rural communities are met.</p> <p>The religious and political makeup of the countryside reflects that of the Borough as a whole therefore no adverse differential impact is anticipated on either of these two groups. It is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impact on those within the racial group as in our Borough they are concentrated primarily within or adjacent to our principal settlements where the majority of opportunities for housing are afforded.</p> <p>The proposed policies respond positively to a range of different needs, issues and priorities experienced by people within certain Section 75 groups. All the opportunities for housing will benefit both young and old, as they aim to help people to stay connected with their communities for longer, therefore aiding social cohesion.</p> |
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| | | | <p>Policy HOU 13 specifically provides for a new dwelling where there are compelling personal and domestic circumstances and this is likely to positively impact on those of different age groups, those living with disabilities and with dependants. Provision for affordable housing in the countryside (HOU12) also has the potential to impact positively on these categories.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Open Space | <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>OS 1 - Protection of Open Space</p> <p>OS 2 - Public Open Space in New Residential Development</p> <p>OS 3 - New Open Space Provision in Settlements</p> <p>OS 4 - Greenways, Blueways and Community Greenways</p> <p>OS 5 - Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside</p> <p>OS 6 -Intensive Sports Facilities</p> <p>OS 7 - Noise Generating Sports and Outdoor Recreational Activities</p> <p>OS 8 - Development of Facilities Ancillary to Water Sports</p> <p>OS 9 - Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities</p> | <p>The Open Space Strategy and policies seek to protect and enhance open space, support provision of new high quality open spaces close to where people live that meets the needs of all.</p> <p>The strategy and policies also seek to facilitate green and blue infrastructure through new provision and promotion of linkages between existing and planned open spaces, including community</p> | <p>The proposed strategy and associated policies provide for and support increased opportunities for leisure and recreation in our Borough and therefore have the potential to benefit the community as a whole, both urban and rural, by reason of their multiple benefits for improving health and wellbeing, The policies will assist to deliver for places to participate in sport, areas to socialise, relax, exercise and play.</p> <p>The policies have the potential to positively impact on religious belief, political opinion and racial category groups as open space provides opportunities for cross community and social interaction which will help aid good relations and community cohesion in the Borough.</p> <p>The policies also have the potential to bring physical and mental health benefits to young people and dependants through the provision of safe and accessible open space and play parks in residential areas (OS2 and 3) especially,</p> |

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| | | | <p>as well as generally through the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities in the most accessible locations. It is also anticipated that safe and accessible open spaces e.g. within residential developments in particular, will provide enhanced opportunities for our elderly population to pursue active lifestyles.</p> <p>In addition, well located and designed open spaces and facilities including greenways will provide benefits to people living with disabilities by ensuring enhanced ease of access for those with mobility issues. In general, all types of open space are considered to offer substantial mental health benefits.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| | <p>Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities Strategy HECC 1 - Protection of land for Health, Education, Community and Cultural uses HECC 2 - Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities</p> | <p>The Strategy aim is to facilitate the provision of health, education community and cultural uses to meet the needs of the community. This will be achieved through identifying land at the Local Policies Plan stage</p> | <p>This operational subject policy allows sites to be reserved for such facilities where a need is identified by the relevant agencies or service providers. It also protects these facilities from redevelopment for alternative uses and supports the provision of new facilities in appropriate locations within settlements. The draft Plan Strategy has not designated land at this stage and any future development will be based on need, as identified largely by government departments and service providers. No adverse impacts on religious belief/political opinion are anticipated at this stage. Further assessment will be carried out at Local Policies Plan to ensure impacts are</p> |

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| | | | <p>minimised and opportunities for good relations are enhanced.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the policy will benefit the community as a whole as it makes provision for, Health, Education, Community and Cultural Facilities where a need is identified particularly in settlements where the majority of our population are located. This has positive impacts for health and wellbeing. Enabling land for the provision of community and cultural facilities supports inclusive shared spaces which contribute to establishing good relations. to ethnic minorities, those living with a disability, young and old and those within dependants. As the majority of the population is located within our settlements supporting the provision of land for such facilities in these locations will be beneficial to all.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| ECONOMIC CHAPTER | | | |
| | <p>Economic Development</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy</p> <p>ED 1 - Principal Settlements – Sites Zoned as Strategic Employment Locations (SELs)</p> <p>ED 2 - Principal Settlements – Other Zoned Sites</p> <p>ED 3 - Retention of Zoned Land and Economic Development Uses</p> <p>ED 4 - Major Economic Development in the Countryside</p> <p>ED 5 - Expansion of an Established Economic</p> | | <p>The proposed policies set out the main considerations that shall be taken into account when assessing proposals for economic development.</p> <p>As it is the intention of the LDP to focus economic development in Strategic Employment locations and towns where the religious and political makeup is generally reflective of the Borough as a whole, no adverse impacts on these groups are anticipated.</p> <p>The plan retains existing lands designated in the extant plans at this stage, this will be reassessed at Local</p> |

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| | <p>Development Use in the Countryside</p> <p>ED 6 - Redevelopment of an Established Economic Development Use in the Countryside</p> <p>ED 7 - Small Rural Projects</p> <p>ED 8 - Agricultural and Forestry Development</p> <p>ED 9 - Farm and Forestry Diversification</p> <p>ED 10 - Development Incompatible with Economic Development Uses</p> | | <p>Policies Plan stage to ensure no adverse impact and to ensure opportunities for all are maximised.</p> <p>It is anticipated that these policies will be of benefit to the community as a whole.</p> <p>Policies ed4-9 may also offer particular positive benefits for those with dependants as it offers opportunities for employment in the countryside at existing farms and businesses etc. and closer to where people may live.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Town Centres and Retailing | <p>Town Centres and Retailing Retail Strategy</p> <p>SP RET 1 - Retail Centre Hierarchy</p> <p>RET 1 - Retailing and main town centre uses</p> <p>RET 2 - District Centres</p> <p>RET 3 - Local Centres</p> <p>RET 4 - Villages and Small Settlements</p> <p>RET 5 - Retailing in the Countryside</p> <p>RET 6 - Out of Centre Development</p> | <p>The purpose of this strategy and associated operational planning policies is to define the network and hierarchy of centres (a retail hierarchy) appropriate for the Borough and to identify the broad type and scale of retail development considered appropriate for each tier of the retail hierarchy.</p> <p>The policy thrust is to promote our City and town centres as the first-choice location for future retailing and other main town centre uses. In addition, it aims to meet local day-to-day needs in villages and small settlements appropriate to their role and function and to prevent inappropriate retail development in the countryside.</p> | <p>It is anticipated that by protecting and sustaining the vitality and viability of our town centres there will be benefits for the community as a whole.</p> <p>The approach will help these areas to perform at their maximum potential in meeting the needs of citizens and visitors and contributing to the economy of the Borough.</p> <p>It is recognised that town centres are important safe and shared spaces within our settlements and by protecting and enhancing them the retail hierarchy has a potential positive impact for and between those of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group. The Retail Hierarchy can assist towards promoting good relations by providing</p> |

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| | | | <p>opportunities for social interaction in general.</p> <p>By focusing retail and complementary uses within the larger centres of population travel demand is reduced as these functions are in the most accessible locations with a greater potential for the use of public transport. The approach ensures that retail and other town centre uses will be more accessible for everyone particularly the elderly, people living with a disability and those with dependants.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity of any Section 75 group are identified at this stage.</p> |
| TOURISM | <p>Tourism Strategy</p> <p>TSM 1 - Tourism Development in Settlements</p> <p>TSM 2 - Tourist Amenities in the Countryside</p> <p>TSM 3 - Hotels, Guest Houses and Tourist Hostels in the Countryside</p> <p>TSM 4 - Major Tourism Development in the Countryside – Exceptional Circumstances</p> <p>TSM 5 - Self-Catering accommodation in the Countryside</p> <p>TSM 6 - New and Extended Holiday Parks and Glamping accommodation</p> <p>TSM 7 - Safeguarding of Tourism Assets</p> | <p>The purpose of the Tourism Strategy is to promote sustainable tourism across Ards and North Down allowing areas to respond to demand and safeguard assets upon which the tourism draw depends.</p> <p>The strategy and associated operational subject policies seek to safeguard our tourism assets and to accommodate future tourism demand in appropriate locations. It provides for sustainable tourism opportunities across the Borough including in the countryside.</p> | <p>A hierarchy approach exists to deliver a spatial direction of priority areas and indicate the sensitive and the protected areas.</p> <p>It is considered that the approach to tourism development will have positive impacts generally. The policies protect our quality landscapes and our tourism assets which will provide environmental, economic and physical and mental health benefits. Tourism assets and facilities are often safe and shared social meeting spaces therefore supporting their provision, protection and enhancement will be of benefit to all Section 75 groups.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Mineral Development | <p>Mineral Development Strategy</p> <p>MIN 1 - Environmental Impact</p> | <p>The purpose of the strategy and operational subject policies is to secure a balanced and sustainable approach to minerals development</p> | <p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations the Council will take in account when</p> |

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| | <p>MIN 2 - Areas of Constraint on Mineral Developments (ACMD)</p> <p>MIN 3 - Valuable Minerals</p> <p>MIN 4 - Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA)s</p> <p>MIN 5 - Safety and Amenity</p> <p>MIN 6 - Traffic</p> <p>MIN 7 - Restoration</p> <p>MIN 8 - Water Resources and Flood Risk</p> <p>MIN 9 - Historic Building Stone</p> | <p>that takes account of the need for minerals to support development and provide employment, and the need to protect landscape quality and other environmental assets.</p> <p>They seek to minimise the impacts of minerals development on landscape quality and the natural environment, water environment and historic environment – particularly in areas designated for their importance in regard to one or more of these qualities as well as the impact on local communities.</p> <p>They seek to prevent development that could prejudice the exploitation of important mineral reserves, particularly those which are scarce or of particular value to the Northern Ireland economy.</p> <p>The proposed policies will also secure the appropriate restoration, re-use and management of redundant minerals sites.</p> | <p>assessing applications for mineral development.</p> <p>Minerals can only be exploited where they occur the location of these resources cannot be influenced by the policies.</p> <p>The intention of the policies however is to ensure that the approach to mineral development is sustainable with minimum impact on the environment and communities.</p> <p>The plan articulates that mineral development proposed within or in close proximity to an area designated or proposed to be designated to be prohibited.</p> <p>The dPS refers that at Local Policies Plan stage Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development shall be identified.</p> <p>It is considered that on balance taking into account the environmental benefits the impact is not adverse. In addition, the proposed restrictions in these areas could provide benefits to those living there in relation to protecting and minimising impact on their amenity and the quality of their local environment.</p> |
| ENVIRONMENTAL CHAPTER | | | |
| Natural Environment | <p>Natural Environment Strategy</p> <p>NE 1 - International Designations</p> <p>NE 2 - Species Protected by Law</p> <p>NE 3 - Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - National Designations</p> | <p>The purpose of the strategy and operational subject policies is to, conserve, protect and where possible enhance the natural environment, landscape and biodiversity of Ards and North Down.</p> <p>The policy provisions seek to give appropriate protection to our</p> | <p>The strategy and operational subject policies set out the considerations that the Council will take into account in assessing proposals which have the potential to impact on our natural environment. The policies are required to assist in meeting extensive international (including European), national and local</p> |

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| | <p>NE 4 - Sites of Nature Conservation Importance - Local Designations</p> <p>NE 5 - Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance</p> <p>NE 6 - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> | <p>Borough's designated nature conservation or scientific sites and also habitats, species or features of natural heritage importance.</p> | <p>responsibilities and obligations in the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity interests.</p> <p>Various studies show the positive effect that spending time in nature has on people's physical and mental health. The protection of natural heritage assets has positive impacts that will benefit all as it will contribute to meeting society's needs for open space and recreation and to maintaining or enhancing air and water quality.</p> <p>The natural environment creates a unique sense of place and contributes to the character of places in the Borough for all to enjoy. Overall, the policies contribute to a well-managed environment therefore bringing health and wellbeing benefits for all in our society.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Historic Environment | <p>Historic Environment Strategy Designation NM 1 - Nendrum Area of Significant Archaeological Interest</p> <p>HE 1 - Statements of Significance (SoSs)</p> <p>HE 2 - The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings</p> | <p>The purpose of the strategy and operational subject policies is to protect, conserve, and where appropriate enhance the historic environment of our Borough and to support proposals that deliver economic and community benefits through the sustainable reuse of heritage assets whilst safeguarding their historic significance.</p> | <p>The operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing proposals that have the potential to impact on our historic environment. This can include archaeological remains, listed and vernacular buildings and other areas such as Conservation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>In terms of religious belief/political opinion it is not anticipated that the</p> |

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| | <p>HE 3 - The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings</p> <p>HE 4 - Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation</p> <p>HE 5 - Archaeological Mitigation</p> <p>HE 6 - Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes</p> <p>HE 7 - Change of Use or Extension/Alteration or Conversion of a Listed Building</p> <p>HE 8 - The Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building</p> <p>HE 9 - The Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building</p> <p>HE 10 - Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building</p> <p>HE 11 - Conservation Areas (CAs)</p> <p>HE 12 - Areas of Townscape/Village Character</p> <p>HE 13 - Non-Designated Heritage Assets</p> <p>HE 14 - Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Place</p> | <p>They seek to protect archaeological sites, monuments, objects and their settings and any additional newly discovered</p> <p>The policies promote highest quality of design</p> | <p>approach to conserving, protecting and or enhancing our built and archaeological assets and Conservation Areas will result in any significant impact on these groups given the wide geographical spread of these features across the Borough.</p> <p>Various studies by heritage authorities have shown a positive correlation between positive wellbeing indicators for people who have visited or volunteered at heritage sites,</p> <p>Any designation or policy that seeks to protect built heritage and archaeological heritage assets, including Conservation Areas,</p> <p>In addition, the policies promote good design and positive place making and as such are expected to yield positive benefits in regard to the creation and enhancement of shared spaces.</p> |
| Coastal Management | <p>Coastal Management Strategy</p> <p>Designation UCZ 1 - Ards and North Down Undeveloped Zone</p> <p>CO 1 - The Undeveloped Coast</p> <p>CO 2 - Urban Waterfronts in the Developed Coast</p> <p>CO 3 - Coastal change</p> | | <p>The policies are intended to provide benefits for all sections of society, irrespective of section 75 group identity.</p> <p>The seascape of the undeveloped Coastal Zone contributes to the character of Borough for all to enjoy It provides for habitat for a range of species and has a limited population</p> |

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| | | | <p>Overall, the policies contribute to a well-managed environment therefore bringing health and wellbeing benefits for all in our society.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Flooding and Drainage | <p>Flooding and Drainage Strategy</p> <p>FLD 1 - Development in Fluvial and Coastal Flood Plains</p> <p>FLD 2 - Protection of Flood Defence and Drainage Infrastructure</p> <p>FLD 3 - Development and Surface Flood Risk outside of Flood Plains</p> <p>FLD 4 - Artificial Modification of Watercourses</p> <p>FLD 5 - Development in Proximity to Reservoirs</p> <p>FLD 6 - Sustainable Drainage</p> | <p>The Strategy and operational subject policies seek to manage development that may be at risk from flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. In addition, they seek to protect flood defences and drainage infrastructure as well as promoting sustainable drainage solutions to improve water quality.</p> | <p>The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will consider to ensure that development proposals take full account of flood risk.</p> <p>The proposed policies are largely technical in nature and are not anticipated to impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Some elements of these policies (FLD1) relate to restricting development in areas of flood risk for development associated with vulnerable groups such as young, old and those who are disabled. There is potential impact on those within the age, disability and dependents categories. However, as this policy is intended to safeguard such groups from flooding, any minor differential impact is not considered to be adverse or to require mitigation.</p> <p>The Borough faces complex challenges and opportunities in addressing flood risk. Ensuring new developments are not unnecessarily exposed to flooding these policies seek to benefit all sections of society by safeguarding people and buildings from the impacts of flooding.</p> |

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| | | | No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage. |
| Outdoor Advertisements | Outdoor Advertisements Strategy AD 1 - Outdoor Advertisements | <p>The purpose of the strategy and operational subject policy is to ensure that that advertisements do not detract from the character and amenity of where it is displayed, to ensure that advertisements do not prejudice public safety and to control illuminated or digital signage.</p> <p>The policy seeks to prevent clutter and adequately control signs involving illumination and digital advertising screens. In addition, it protects our historic environment and heritage assets from the potential adverse effects of advertising and seeks to ensure that advertisements do not detract from the character and amenity of our countryside.</p> | <p>The operational planning policy sets out the main considerations that the Council will take into account when assessing proposals for Advertisement Consent. The consideration of advertisements under this policy relates to issues of public safety and amenity, the subject matter or content of an advertisement is not a matter for consideration.</p> <p>The appropriate management of outdoor advertising has the potential to benefit society as a whole due to the positive contribution it can make to a vibrant and competitive economy and to the functional appeal of our shopping areas. Some advertisements can positively contribute to public safety for example by directing drivers and others to their destination.</p> <p>In addition, well designed advertising which respects the building or location where it is displayed contributes to the creation of quality shared spaces particularly within our town centres.</p> <p>The policy will have positive benefits for the elderly, those with mobility issues and those with dependants as advertisements which impede pedestrian access or flow will not be acceptable. No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Hazardous Substances, | Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) | The Council is required to protect the environment and residents from | Ultimately the policy seeks to benefit all sections of society. |

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| | COM 1 - Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) | hazardous substances, comply with relevant legislation and ensure that any COMAH site is taken into account in the LDP. | No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage. |
| Contaminated and Unstable Land | Contaminated and Unstable Land CU 1 - Contaminated or Unstable land | The Council is required to protect the environment and residents from potential contamination whilst enabling sites that require remediation to be brought safely back into use. Land that is subject to instability must be properly assessed and remediated. | Ultimately these policies seek to benefit all sections of society No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage. |
| INFRASTRUCTURE CHAPTER | | | |
| Renewable Energy | Renewable Energy Strategy RE 1 - Renewable and Low/Zero Carbon Energy Development RE 2 - Reduced Energy Consumption and Use of Low/Zero Carbon Energy | Ards and North Down Borough Council passed Northern Ireland's first Climate Emergency Strategy and operational subject policies is to positively facilitate the Borough's full potential for renewable energy and low carbon energy development. in appropriate locations within our Borough, whilst balancing the recognised benefits against any potential environmental or social impacts. | The proposed operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will consider in the assessment of applications for renewable energy development. Aligned with CC1, the renewable and low carbon policies aim to support renewable energy development due to the economic and environmental benefits in mitigating against climate change and improving air quality. The approach to balancing these benefits against any potential social or environmental impacts will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of society as a whole. No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage |
| Transportation | Transportation Strategy AT 1 - Supporting Active Travel and Sustainable Transport | The purpose of the Strategy and operational subject policies is to encourage better integration of sustainable transport and land use. | It is anticipated that the strategy and operational subject policies will benefit all sections of the community through |

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| | <p>TRAN 1 - Creating an Accessible Environment</p> <p>TRAN 2 - Access to Public Roads</p> <p>TRAN 3 - Access to Protected Routes</p> <p>TRAN 4 - Protection for New Transport Schemes</p> <p>TRAN 5 - Disused Transport Routes</p> <p>TRAN 6 - Transport Assessment</p> <p>TRAN 7 - Parking and Servicing Arrangements</p> <p>TRAN 8 - Design of Parking</p> <p>TRAN 9 - Provision of Public, Private and Temporary Car Parks</p> | <p>Bridge gaps in active travel through working with statutory partners and other stakeholders.</p> <p>In addition, they facilitate safe and efficient access, movement and parking. They also protect land required for new transport schemes and the reuse of disused transport routes.</p> | <p>improved accessibility, connectivity and road safety.</p> <p>The focus on more sustainable active travel will have positive impacts for the health and wellbeing of all. The policies will be of particular benefit to the elderly, those living with disabilities and those with dependants.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Public Utilities, Infrastructure and Connectivity | <p>Telecommunications and Utilities Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>EI 1 - Electricity and Energy Infrastructure</p> <p>TEL 1 - Control of Telecommunication and Infrastructure Development</p> | | <p>These operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will consider in the assessment of applications for Electricity and Energy Infrastructure or Telecommunications Development.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed policies will benefit the community as a whole as it will facilitate the expansion of telecommunications to improve digital connectivity and facilitate investing in our electricity infrastructure which has social and economic benefits for all. Facilitating increased connectivity may have particular benefits in terms of reducing</p> |

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| | | | isolation for perhaps the elderly, people living with disabilities or racial groups. The policy aims to minimise the environmental impact of such developments which will have health and wellbeing benefits for all. No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage. |
| Cemetery and Burial Space | Cemetery and Burial Space Strategy CEM 1 - Cemeteries and Burial Space | The strategy for centuries and burial space is to safeguard existing centuries and facilitate new or extended centuries or burial spaces to meet the needs of the Borough over the Plan period. | It is anticipated that there will be a need for additional Council burial space over the plan period. The policy requires that for provision of new or extended cemetery/burial space an accessible location via active travel networks and public transport. Ultimately these policies seek to benefit all sections of society. No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage. |
| Waste Management | Waste Management Strategy WM 1 - Environmental Impact of a Waste Management Facility WM 2 - Waste Collection and Treatment Facilities WM 3 - Waste Disposal WM 4 - Development in the vicinity of Waste Management Facilities WM 5 - Land Improvement | The purpose of strategy and operational subject policies is to Promote waste reduction, promote development of waste management facilities in appropriate locations and ensure potential detrimental effects are avoided and minimised. | These operational subject policies set out the main considerations that the Council will take into account in the assessment of proposals for waste management facilities. The main thrust of the policies is to ensure the sustainable management of waste in order to reduce the adverse impact on our environment which is essential for the health and wellbeing of all in our society. Waste management and associated infrastructure are an essential element of everyday life and are inextricably linked with social and economic wellbeing. It is the intention of the policies that facilities which are for shared public use should be situated in appropriate |

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| | | | <p>locations and therefore accessible for all members of the community irrespective of religious belief or political opinion.</p> <p>At this stage there are no anticipated adverse impacts on these groups. The policies seek to ensure that facilities such as civic amenity sites are conveniently located in terms of access to a neighbourhood or settlement. This should have positive benefits for those who may have limited access such as the elderly or those with mobility issues. No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |
| Non-Mains Wastewater Infrastructure | Non-Mains Wastewater Infrastructure Strategy NMW 1 - Non-Mains Wastewater Infrastructure | The purpose of this strategy and operational subject policy is to promote development in appropriate locations and to ensure that the potential detrimental effects of development that relies on non mains wastewater infrastructure on people, the environment and local amenity are avoided or minimised | <p>The operational planning policy is largely technical in nature therefore is not expected to impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>The policy along with all those comprising the LDP draft Plan Strategy shall be subject to public consultation and any Section 75 category issues raised will be considered.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on equality of opportunity are identified at this stage.</p> |