

Screening Form

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Is this a | Plan |
| 2. Name of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service | ANDBC Performance Improvement Plan 2026/27 |
| 3. Reference | 425 |
| 4. Category of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service | New |

5. Please provide a description of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service

Council has a statutory duty under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 to publish a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) each year, by 30 June, that sets out at least one of the main short-term issues (improvement objectives) it wants to improve for people living and working in the Borough during the year ahead.

6. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The annual PIP is a mechanism to help deliver the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028 and therefore it is being proposed that the objectives within the annual PIP for 2026/27 continue to align with the priorities/outcomes set out in the new Corporate Plan and that the performance measures would continue to be grouped under each of the 17 Strategic Actions.

It is proposed that the 4 high level Improvement Objectives in 2025/26 remain the same for 2026/27 as follows:

1. We will increase economic growth by attracting more jobs and businesses
2. We will reduce carbon emissions as we transition to net zero
3. We will improve wellbeing through social inclusion and reduced inequality
4. We will be a high-performing organisation

The measures under each of the high level objectives have been reviewed and updated detailing what improvements Services will undertake in 2026/27. The selection of the improvement objectives and measures for inclusion in the 2026/27 Improvement Plan were informed by:

- Priorities/outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan 2024-28, which was based on input and feedback from Elected Members, officers, residents and stakeholders and in line with the Big Plan for Ards and North Down (2017-2032); and
- Improvement initiatives identified during the Budget and Service Planning process and Resident Survey.

The objectives have been developed within the context of the Council's PERFORM framework ensuring:

- There are clear links to The Big Plan for Ards and North Down 2017-2032, Corporate Plan 2024-28 and Annual Service Plans;
- They are based on evidence provided by the residents of the Borough; and
- They are aligned to at least one of the seven aspects of improvement.

A number of measures are carried forward from 2025/26 under each of the objectives which aligns to feedback from NIAO regarding continuity and the ability to track performance on our objectives.

The public will now be consulted on the proposed draft objectives - Consultation will open on 27/03/2026

for a six week period.

7. Who initiated or wrote the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?

Transformation Team in consultation with HoST and CLT

8. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?

Corporate Leadership Team

9. Is this policy affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities?

Yes

Equality

1. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

Yes

1a. If Yes, which Section 75 categories are expected to benefit?

All

1b. How are they expected to benefit?

This plan is about improvement of services to all stakeholders, through the improvement of service delivery and measuring of impacts.

If adverse impact or targeted service improvement is identified for specific section 75 dimensions this will be supported by appropriate quantitative and qualitative data.

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

Yes

2a. If yes, are they:

Financial - is it dependent on financial support of Council or another named Body or Organisation?

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

Staff, Service Users, Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions, Potential Visitors

4. Is this policy associated with any other Council Policy (or Policies)?

Yes

4a. If yes, please state the related Policy (or Policies)

ANDBC Big Plan
ANDBC Corporate Plan 2024-2028
Performance Management Policy

5. Does this policy affect Internal or External users?

Both

Evidence to help inform the Section 75 screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

6. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy?

Religious belief, Political opinion, Racial group, Age, Men and women generally, Disability

Religious belief evidence

Public consultation (via online survey) on draft Performance Improvement Objectives will open 27/03/2026 and close 08/05/2026 - 6 weeks consultation period. Public consultation will be advertised via Press (Spectator and Chronicle), Council social media and via statutory partners. All members of the public will have an opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives.

In addition, 4 Focus groups will be conducted by external consultants using the following proposed profile:
- 32 participants across the 4 groups (8 per group) and recruited by telephone.
- Split by demographic factors to reflect Borough population profile (male, 14: female, 14), age (16-34, 10:

- 35-59, 12: 60+, 10).
- ABC1, 16: C2DE, 16.
- Bangor, Newtownards and two other areas.

Monitoring information will be collected as part of the public consultation.

Above process is in line with last year's process.

Political opinion evidence

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Racial group evidence

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Age evidence

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 - ABC1, 16: C2DE, 16.
 - Bangor, Newtownards and two other areas.

Monitoring information will be collected as part of the public consultation.

Above process is in line with last year's process.

Men and women generally evidence

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- 32 participants across the 4 groups (8 per group) and recruited by telephone.
- Split by demographic factors to reflect Borough population profile (male, 14; female, 14), age (16-34, 10; 35-59, 12; 60+, 10).
- ABC1, 16; C2DE, 16.
- Bangor, Newtownards and two other areas.

Monitoring information will be collected as part of the public consultation.

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Disability evidence

Public consultation (via online survey) on draft Performance Improvement Objectives will open 27/03/2026 and close 08/05/2026 - 6 weeks consultation period. Public consultation will be advertised via Press (Spectator and Chronicle), Council social media and via statutory partners. All members of the public will have an opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives.

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- ABC1, 16; C2DE, 16.
- Bangor, Newtownards and two other areas.

Monitoring information will be collected as part of the public consultation.

Above process is in line with last year's process.

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

7. Please provide details of different needs, experiences and priorities for each of the categories

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough.

8. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Religious belief?

None

9. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Political opinion?

None

10. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Racial group?

None

11. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Age?

None

12. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Marital status?

None

13. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Sexual orientation?

None

14. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Men and women generally?

None

15. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Disability?

None

16. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Dependants?

None

17. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? If Yes, provide details. If No, provide reasons.

Religious belief

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Political opinion

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Racial group

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Age

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Marital Status

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Sexual orientation

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Men and women generally

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Disability

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

Dependants

This policy is about service improvement and will address equality of opportunity where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services within the Borough

18. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and/or racial group?

Minor

18a. Please describe the details of the policy impact on good relations

This policy will improve good relations through continuous improvement of service provision.

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

No

19a. Please provide your reasons below

This policy will improve good relations in general through continuous improvement of service provision.

Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006

20. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability?

Yes

20a. Provide details of opportunities identified

Through service improvement the needs of those with a disability will be considered and addressed and all service improvements will have a tangible effect on all those engaging with the Council.

21. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would encourage the participation of people with a disability in public life?

Yes

21a. Provide details of opportunities identified

Through service improvement the needs of those with a disability will be considered and addressed and all service improvements will have a tangible effect on all those engaging with the Council.

Additional Considerations

22. Are there any potential impacts of the policy / decision (positive or negative) on people with multiple identities?

Yes

22a. Where appropriate, provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned

This plan improves service delivery across the Council and will therefore engage a broad range of individuals each with their unique multiple identity.

Monitoring Arrangements

23. Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor the impact of this policy /

decision on equality, good relations and disability duties

Key Performance Indicators by service units and directorates will include Section 75 monitoring data.

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

Screened Out - No negative impacts

26. Monitoring Recommendations

Key Performance Indicators by service units and directorates will include Section 75 monitoring data.

Conclusion

Following closure of consultation on proposed Performance Improvement objectives and prior to final 2026/27 Performance Improvement Plan being presented to Corporate Committee in June 2026, an update on this screening will be provided if required.

Draft objectives which are being consulted on are attached.

Please upload any supporting documents for review



Appendix 1 202627 Draft Performan... .docx

Email

siobhan.watson@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Screening Panel Comments

Reference Documents



Appendix 1 202627 Draft Performan... .docx

Appendix - Religious Belief

Religious belief (Internal)

* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

| | Catholic | Protestant & other Christian | Other religions | Total |
|--------------------|----------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Males F/T | 33 | 388 | 34 | 425 |
| | 8% | 84% | 8% | 100% |
| Males P/T | * | * | * | 8 |
| | 25% | 63% | 13% | 100% |
| Females F/T | 58 | 223 | 6 | 287 |
| | 20% | 78% | 2% | 100% |
| Females P/T | 12 | 20 | 5 | 35 |
| | 32% | 54% | 14% | 100% |
| Total | 105 | 606 | 46 | 757 |
| | 14% | 80% | 6% | 100% |

Religious belief (External)

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 a 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 Reglions | None |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| Ards and North Down | 163,659 | 22,912 | 111,288 | 1,636 | 27,822 |
| Northern Ireland | 1,903,178 | 875,461 | 818,366 | 19,031 | 171,286 |

| | Ards and North Down | 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 | 228,381 |
| Methodist | 6,546 | 38,063 |
| Other Chrtistian Religions | 16,365 | 133,222 |
| Other Religions | 1,636 | 19,031 |
| No Religion/Not stated | 52,370 | 361,603 |

Appendix - Political Opinion

Political opinion (External)

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 | Registered Voters | Turnout |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 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 |

| 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 Fèin | 0 | 144 | 0 | 27 |
| TUV | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| UUP | 8 | 54 | 2 | 9 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Appendix - Racial Group

Racial group (Internal)

* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

| Racial Group | Total | Percentage |
|------------------------|-------|------------|
| White | 682 | 78.66% |
| Black | * | * |
| Chinese | * | * |
| Other | * | * |
| Did not want to answer | * | * |
| Left Black | 176 | 20.30% |

Racial group (External)

On Census Day 2021, 3.4% of the population, 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 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Black Other | 135 |
| Mixed | 1,236 |
| Other ethnicities | 266 |

| Main Language | Ards and North Down | Northern Ireland |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| English | 160,385 | 1,808,019 |
| Other | 3,279 | 95,158 |

| Passports Held | Ards and North Down | Northern Ireland |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| All Usual Residents | 163,659 | 1,903,178 |
| UK only | 109,651 | 894,493 |
| Ireland Only | 13,092 | 513,858 |
| Uk and Ireland | 13,098 | 95,158 |
| Other Passport(s) | 4,909 | 95,158 |
| No Passport | 21,275 | 304,508 |

Appendix - Age

Age (Internal)

| Age Profile | Female | Female % | Male | Male % |
|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 16 to 29 | 20 | 6% | 26 | 65% |
| 30 to 39 | 75 | 23% | 83 | 19% |
| 40 to 49 | 105 | 33% | 121 | 27% |
| 50 to 59 | 80 | 25% | 176 | 39% |
| 65+ | 42 | 13% | 41 | 9% |
| Total | 322 | 100% | 447 | 100% |

Age (External)

On Census Day 2021 Ards and North down 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.

| Age Profile | Northern Ireland | Ards and North Down |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 0 to 14 | 361,602 | 27,822 |
| 15 to 39 | 589,983 | 44,187 |
| 40 to 64 | 609,015 | 55,644 |
| 65+ | 323,539 | 36,226 |
| Total | 1,903,173 | 163,659 |

Appendix - Marital Status

Marital Status (Internal)

* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

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

Marital Status (External)

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 in Northern Ireland is given below:

- civil partnership for opposite-sex couples became legal in late 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 the 'single' population and the fall in the 'married' population here is in line with results from recent censuses 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 & North Down LGD, which has the oldest demographic profile of all 11 LGDs, has the highest percentage of adults who were widowed, at 8%.

| Marital Status | Northern Ireland | Ards and North Down |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |

Appendix - Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation

Statistics show that 2.1% (31,600) of NI population aged 16 and over identified as 'lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)' and 90.0% (1,363,900) identified as 'straight or heterosexual'. More urban LGDs have a higher percentage of people who identified as LGB+. Almost 8% of our 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 stated' in these statistics.

8.8% percent of people who identified as LGB+ in Northern Ireland live in the Ards and North Down Borough, Statistics also show that 800 Households in the Borough are living in a same sex couple relationship.

| Living in households by relationship | Northern Ireland | Ards and North Down |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Living in a Same Sex Couple | 9,600 | 800 |
| Not Living as a Couple | 694,600 | 53,500 |
| | Northern Ireland | Ards and North Down |
| All usual Residents (over 16) | 1,515,700 | 134,000 |
| Straight or Hetrosexual | 1,364,130 | 121,940 |
| Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or other Sexual orientation | 30,314 | 2,680 |
| No sexual orientation stated | 121,256 | 9,380 |

Appendix - Men and Women Generally

Men and women generally (Internal)

| Male | Female | Total |
|--------|--------|-------|
| 511 | 356 | 867 |
| 58.94% | 41.06% | 100% |

Men and women generally (External)

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 & 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 Borough there were 94.9 males.

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 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 owns their own property, this has decreased by 2% from 2011 where 13% are Social rented and increase of 2% increase in 2011.

| LGD | Male | Female |
|-----|------|--------|
| | | |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Northern Ireland | 932,554 | 970,618 |
| Ards and North Down | 80,192 | 83,466 |

Appendix - Disability

Disability (External)

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 (NIRSA) 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 & North Down experienced an increase of 31.4% from 2011. These changes are in part a reflection of the Boroughs ageing population.

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

The figures show that 7.2 per cent 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 statics 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 Downs Syndrome. 1.6% have Autism or Asperger syndrome, 49% are between 0-14 years whilst 40% are aged 15- 39 year. 8.1 % have an emotional, psychological or mental health condition, includes depression and schizophrenia, this is highest in the age ranges 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 aging population and health and disability issues as well as recognition for those that provide unpaid care throughout the Borough.

| LGD | All usual residents | Activites Not Limited | Limited a little | Limited a lot |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Northern Ireland | 1,903,178 | 1,446,415 | 247,413 | 209,349 |
| Ards and North Down | 163,659 | 122,744 | 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 |
| | | | | |
| Disability Breakdown Age range (0 - 65+) | Ards and North Down | | Northern Ireland | |
| Deafness or Partial Hearing loss | 11,802 | | 109,457 | |
| Blindness or Partial Sightloss | 3,214 | | 33,961 | |

| | | | | |
|---|---------|--|---------|--|
| Mobility or dexterity difficulty that required the use of a wheelchair | 2,641 | | 28,138 | |
| Intellectual or learning disability include dyslexia and Downs Syndrome | 1,469 | | 16,923 | |
| Autism or Asperger Syndrome | 2,628 | | 35,367 | |
| Emotional, psychological or mental health condition inc depression and schizophrenia | 13,275 | | 165,127 | |
| Frequent periods of confusion or memory loss inc Dementia | 3,432 | | 37,789 | |
| Other conditions E.g Cancer, Heart Disease or Diabetes | 167,752 | | 16,636 | |

Appendix - Dependants

Dependants (External)

For the Purposes of S75 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 the care of a dependant older person.

In Census 2021 one person in eight of NI 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 & North Down LGD 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

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 in use.

| | Dependent children in household: | Dependent children in household: | Dependent children in household: | Dependent children in household: |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | None | one | Two | Three |
| Northern Ireland | 71% | 11% | 11% | 6% |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Ards and North Down | 74% | 11% | 11% | 4% |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|

24. Does this policy require an Equality Impact Assessment?

No

1. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. E.g

Council has a statutory duty under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 to publish a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) each year, by 30 June, that sets out at least one of the main short-term issues (improvement objectives) it wants to improve for people living and working in the Borough during the year ahead.

2. What definition of 'rural' is the Plan using in respect of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable

2c. Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

This plan is about improvement of services to all stakeholders across the Borough, through the improvement of service delivery and measuring of impacts.

Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

3. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes

3a. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

This plan is about improvement of services to all stakeholders across the Borough, through the improvement of service delivery and measuring of impacts.

3b. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

n/a - This plan is about improvement of services to all stakeholders across the Borough (both urban and rural), through the improvement of service delivery and measuring of impacts.

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service? Deprivation levels can be found at Home Page | NI Area Statistics | NISRA

Yes

4a. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders

Surveys or Questionnaires

4b. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Public consultation (via online survey) on draft Performance Improvement Objectives will open 27/03/2026 and close 08/05/2026 - 6 weeks consultation period. Public consultation will be advertised via Press (Spectator and Chronicle), Council social media and via statutory partners. All members of the public will have an opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives.

In addition, 4 Focus groups will be conducted by external consultants using the following proposed profile:

- 32 participants across the 4 groups (8 per group) and recruited by telephone.
- Split by demographic factors to reflect Borough population profile (male, 14: female, 14), age (16-34, 10: 35-59, 12: 60+, 10).
- ABC1, 16: C2DE, 16.
- Bangor, Newtownards and two other areas.

Monitoring information will be collected as part of the public consultation.

Above process is in line with last year's process.

4c. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

Public consultation (via online survey) on draft Performance Improvement Objectives will open 27/03/2026 and close 08/05/2026 - 6 weeks consultation period. Public consultation will be advertised via Press (Spectator and Chronicle), Council social media and via statutory partners. All members of the public will have an opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft Performance Improvement Objectives.

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- ABC1, 16: C2DE, 16.
- Bangor, Newtownards and two other areas.

Monitoring information will be collected as part of the public consultation.

Above process is in line with last year's process.

Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

5. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the Social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

This Plan is about service improvement and will address identified need where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services across the Borough.

Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

6. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

6a. Please explain how the development, adopting, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service been influenced by the rural needs identified.

This Plan is about service improvement and will address identified need where adverse impact exists that affects the quality of services across the Borough.

Documenting and Recording

7. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information complied.

Sustainability is a holistic approach that considers ecological, social and economic dimensions, recognising that all must be considered together to find lasting prosperity.

Sustainable development is all about meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Depending on your answer your answer may be a 'positive' impact or a 'negative' impact. Specific guidance at each question.

There may be 'no impact'.

If you are not sure complete as 'don't know'

1. What impact will the proposal have on the local community including the ability of people to meet their essential needs?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Transport - Is the activity accessible to everyone via public transport or active travel, in a safe and sustainable way? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive. | No Impact |

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Public Placemaking, Community & Culture - Is the activity impacting on people's sense of place and community by being included and connected to the area?</p> <p>Is the activity impacting on our cultural offering, helping citizens, visitors and young people become acquainted with art and culture?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> | No Impact |

2. What impact will the proposals have on local, sustainable food supply chains?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Food - If this activity involves either the direct or indirect purchase of food or catering services will there be a negative impact on a sustainable food system?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Food systems currently account for 21-37% of total global greenhouse gases and are a primary cause of environmental degradation and significantly contribute to socio-economic and health inequalities. This can be mitigated by specifying sustainable food and catering services, fresh seasonal food of a high nutritional value produced through low environmental impact farming methods and high standards of animal welfare.</p> | Positive |

3. What impact will the proposals have on diversity and equality of opportunity?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Equal opportunity - Does the activity have a positive or negative impact on inclusivity and discrimination?</p> | Positive |

4. What impact will the proposals have on prosperity, social value and fair trade?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Decent jobs and income - Are local employment opportunities being created removed 'or removed'? Will there be any volunteering opportunities?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> | Positive |
| <p>Will the financial benefits help raise local income levels and tackle poverty and derivations of poverty such as food and fuel poverty?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> | Positive |
| <p>Social Value - Will the activity lead to the creation of works or services? Are there opportunities to support apprenticeships or training opportunities to combat social exclusion? Are there any opportunities to work with organisations with an environmental or social mission (e.g., from the VCSE sector)?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> | Positive |
| <p>Human and labour rights - Will there be provisions to ensure workers up the supply chain have their human and labour rights respected?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Products at high risk of the use of child labour and contravention of human and labour rights include electronic equipment, textiles, agricultural commodities and construction materials.</p> | No Impact |

5. What impact will the proposals have on greenhouse gas emissions, including energy and transport?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Greenhouse Gas Emmissions - Will this activity have a positive or negative impact on greenhouse gases (most commonly caused by fossil fuel burning or deforestation)?</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Greenhouse gases include CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs or SF6.</p> <p>The most common sources include consumption of brown (non-renewable) electricity, burning of coal, oil, petrol, diesel, natural gas, emissions from landfill sites, and the destruction of natural carbon sinks such as peat bogs, woodlands, forests, grasslands, freshwater lakes, and wetlands.</p> | <p>Positive</p> |
| <p>Energy - Will the activity reduce energy demand through energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Will energy come from renewable energy sources e.g., solar, wind etc.?</p> <p>Will buildings be designed and constructed to high energy and environmental standards?</p> | <p>Positive</p> |
| <p>Transport - Will the activity be accessible to everyone via active travel (Bike/walking) or public transport? Does the proposal help to reduce non-essential travel and individual car use?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> | <p>Don't know</p> |
| <p>Embodied carbon - Will the activity use materials from 'heavy industries' such as cement, concrete, iron and steel, or require international transportation of materials using aviation or shipping?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> | <p>Don't know</p> |

6. What impact will the proposals have on waste generation or how waste is managed?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Waste generation - Will this activity lead to the production of waste?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Have you considered how to reduce waste through demand management and re-use strategies which support the circular economy?</p> | Positive |
| <p>Waste Management - Is waste going to be managed in a responsible, sustainable way?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Will waste be monitored? What recycling provisions are there? Will any waste be sent to landfill?</p> | Positive |

7. What impact will the proposals have on the direct consumption of natural resources, including materials, minerals and fresh water?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Materials - Will this activity lead to the consumption of raw materials? (Raw materials include steel, oil, corn, grain, gasoline, wood / forest resources, plastic, natural gas, and coal).</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Can materials be swapped or reduced, to minimize pressure on natural resources and reduce environmental impact?</p> | Don't know |
| <p>Will lifecycle costing exercises be used in procurement (e.g., if purchasing vehicles, energy-intensive equipment or major capital projects) in order to minimise the consumption of natural resources and achieve value for money</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive</p> | Positive |

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Fresh water - Will this activity increase pressure on freshwater resources through direct water consumption?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> | Don't know |
| <p>Will the activity impact on the public's ability to access a clean and safe water supply?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Unsustainable water consumption includes use of mains water or other freshwater supplied without water efficiency or recycling measures.</p> | Positive |

8. What impact will the proposals have on local resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and severe weather events, including drought, landslips, flooding and sites designated as being at risk of flooding or sea level rise?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Adverse Weather and Climate Impacts - Will buildings, infrastructure, or natural assets be at risk to the adverse effects of climate change and extreme weather?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>For Northern Ireland, climate change is causing hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters with more extreme weather and rising sea levels.</p> <p>A precautionary approach is advised for all planning and construction decisions, taking into account the latest UK Climate Change Projections and making sure that development is not permitted on flood plains and / or land at risk of flooding under future climate scenarios.</p> <p>Avoid activities that may be vulnerable to overheating or flood risk. New assets (e.g. landscaping, buildings etc.) should be future proofed, ensuring all investments are resilient to current and future climate conditions.</p> | Don't know |

9. What impact will the proposals have on the local environment (e.g., air/water/soil pollution, land conversion, visual impacts, traffic, noise, vibration, odour, dust, particulates, smoke), heritage (including designated heritage, archaeology sites or listed buildings) and wildlife (including protected sites and species)?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Air pollution - Will the activity produce air pollutants?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Air pollutants include: Particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5); Ozone (O3) Nitrogen dioxide (NO2); Carbon Monoxide (CO); Sulphur Dioxide (SO2).</p> <p>The most common causes of air pollution are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel combustion from motor vehicles (e.g. cars and heavy-duty vehicles) • Heat and power generation (e.g. oil and coal power plants and boilers) • Industrial facilities (e.g. manufacturing factories, mines, and oil refineries) • Municipal and agricultural waste sites and waste incineration/burning. | <p>Don't know</p> |
| <p>Ozone layer depletion - Will this activity produce ozone depleting substances (fluorinated gases)?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Fluorinated greenhouse gases (F gases) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) • perfluorocarbons (PFCs) • sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) <p>For example through the use of refrigeration and air conditioning units.</p> | <p>No Impact</p> |

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Water/soil pollution - Will this activity involve any construction work, street works or road deliveries of construction materials or other goods?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Soil and water pollution is caused from damaging rainwater run-off arising from road surface treatments, tyre abrasion, fuels and lubricants.</p> <p>Procurement and contractual mechanisms can be used to ensure that building and civil engineering contractors adhere take steps to ensure pollution is prevented from occurring or from dispersing to other areas. Contractors can minimise the use of all substances that could cause pollution and failing that, implement and communicate procedures to ensure the correct disposal (or release) of substances that could cause pollution.</p> | <p>Don't know</p> |
| <p>Chemical pollution - Will there be any use of toxic chemicals including pesticides, paint or cleaning products?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> | <p>Don't know</p> |
| <p>Will there be any excess fertiliser use that could result in nitrogen or phosphorus runoff?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> | <p>Don't know</p> |
| <p>Noise pollution - Is the activity likely to create a noise nuisance?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Noise pollution can have detrimental effects on human health, amenity, productivity and the natural environment.</p> <p>Eliminating or reducing excessive noise is a legal responsibility and helps to limit the disturbance of residents and businesses, caused by activities and operations.</p> | <p>Don't know</p> |

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Land conversion - Will this activity result in the reduction in the area of forested land, directly or indirectly?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Deforestation usually arises from the clearing of land for development, agriculture, or logging for paper, wood, or minerals.</p> | Positive |
| <p>Built Heritage - Will this activity impact on designated heritage sites such as a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Archaeology Site, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site or Registered Park and Garden?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> | Positive |
| <p>Natural Heritage and Biodiversity - Will this activity result in any displacement or loss of biodiversity, overfishing or affect protected or designated sites (e.g. ASSIs, SPAs etc).</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Changes in land use exert the most significant effect on biodiversity. These changes include the conversion of natural ecosystems into agriculture or into urban areas; changes in frequency, duration or magnitude of wildfires and similar disturbances; and the introduction of new species into land and freshwater environments.</p> | Positive |

10 What impact will the proposals have on ensuring peace, justice, public participation and partnership working for sustainable development?

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Peace - Will this activity have a negative or positive impact on community safety, crime or anti-social behaviour?</p> | Positive |
| <p>Justice - Are there safeguards in place to prevent against bribery and corruption?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive</p> <p>Decision making should be open and transparent with clear governance and accountability arrangements.</p> | Positive |

| | What is the impact of the activity? |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Political voice - Are citizens involved and do they have a role in deciding what happens and how it gets implemented? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive | Positive |
| Partnerships - Will this activity involve working with others either locally or at a national level to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive | Positive |

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

Screened Out - No negative impacts

1. Is Data Protection relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes

2. Is the introduction or change of this policy or processing activity likely to result in a high risk to individuals' interests, including physical, material or non-material damage?

No

3. Explain broadly what the policy/strategy/plan or public service aims to achieve and what type of processing it involves.

Public Consultation and 4 focus groups will be completed to inform final Performance Improvement Plan for 2026/27.

Collection of KPI data by Services in order to monitor improvements.

4. Describe the nature of the processing

Public Consultation will be completed and managed by the Transformation team. Data will be shared with external consultant to analyse and complete a Survey Report via a Data Sharing Agreement.

4 focus groups completed by external consultant.

External consultant will provide a Report on findings from Consultation and Focus groups in order for Council to develop final Performance Improvement Plan.

Collection of KPI data by Services in order to monitor improvements.

5. Describe the context of the processing

No names will be shared.

Public Consultation completed and managed by Transformation team. Data will be shared with external consultant to analyse and complete a Survey Report (via a Data Sharing Agreement).

4 focus groups completed by external consultant.

External consultant will provide a Report on findings from Consultation and Focus groups in order for Council to develop final Performance Improvement Plan.

Collection of KPI data by Services in order to monitor improvement.

6. Describe the purposes of the processing.

Data received from public consultation and focus groups will allow Council to agree the Performance Improvement Objectives for 2026/27 and to finalise the Performance Improvement Plan.

7. Consultation

Public Consultation completed and managed by Transformation team. Data will be shared with external consultant to analyse and complete a Survey Report.

4 focus groups will be completed by external consultant.

8. Necessity and Proportionality

Data received from public consultation and focus groups will allow Council to agree the Performance Improvement Objectives for 2026/27 and to finalise the Plan.

9. Identify and assess risk

| | Describe the source of risk and nature of potential impact on individuals. Include associated compliance and corporate risks as necessary. | Likelihood of harm | Severity of harm | Overall risk |
|----------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Details | None | | | |

10. Identify measures to reduce risk

| | Risk | Options to reduce to eliminate risk | Effect on risk | Residual risk | Measure approved |
|----------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Details | N/A | | | | |

Data Protection Officer Comments