

## Screening Form - Equality

1. Is this a Policy
2. Name of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service Review of Provision of Kerbside Household Waste Collection Services
3. Reference 310
4. Category of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service Existing
5. Please provide a description of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service
- The Council has a statutory duty to provide a household waste collection service as defined in the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997.
- The policy sets out how the Council provides its kerbside waste collection services to homes, the conditions of use and, defines what types of waste the householder is permitted to place in each designated bin.
6. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.
- The objects of the Policy are :
- Promote sustainable waste resource management;
  - Promote compliance with statutory obligations, objectives and targets; and
  - Promote delivery of services in a fair and equitable manner across the Borough.
7. Who initiated or wrote the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service? Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
8. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service? Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
9. Is this policy affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities? No

# **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?**

The policy allows for household waste collection from every household in the Borough. This includes

- Residual waste
- Mixed dry recyclables
- Compostables (food/garden)
- Glass

The Council operates a kerbside/roadside collection service. Bins and glass boxes must be presented at the kerbside for collection on the designated collection day from 7.00am. After collection, the bin/box will be returned to the collection point and must be removed by the householder on the day of collection to avoid the potential of theft, damage or causing an obstruction.

An assisted collection service is available on request, for any person who has difficulty presenting their bin for collection on medical grounds. Council currently operate 1910 assisted lifts throughout the Borough

## **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:**

In the event that the collection crew cannot gain access to the street or road due to circumstances beyond their control such as blocked access due to parked cars, road works or a road traffic accident, the Council will provide an alternative collection on the next day. If a householder fails to present their bin for collection on the appropriate day, the Council is under no obligation to make alternative collection arrangements. Damaged, overloaded and/or grossly contaminated wheeled bins will not be collected by the Council.

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

Staff, Service Users

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

Yes

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

83 Commercial Waste Controls at Household Recycling Centres  
160 Commercial Waste Controls at Household Recycling Centres  
243 Management of Access to Household Recycling Centres  
279 Access and Use of Household Recycling Centres and Permit system for Householder Access to Household Recycling Centres using vans and large trailers etc.

## **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, Marital Status, Sexual orientation, Men and women generally, Disability, Dependants, All

<b>Religious belief evidence</b>	This policy has no bearing on Religious belief
<b>Political opinion evidence</b>	This policy has no bearing on Political opinion
<b>Racial group evidence</b>	The Northern Ireland Census 2021 shows that 98% of The borough speaks English with Other languages being 2%. Ethnic Group is made up White 98% Other ethnic groups 2%
<b>Age evidence</b>	<p>The 2021 census showed a breakdown in age as follows:</p> <p>0-14 years 17% 15-39 years 27% 40-64 years 34% 65+ years 22%</p> <p>Ards and North Down Bough have a significantly higher population of older people in comparison to Northern Ireland as a whole (NI 17%) 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.</p> <p>ANDBC statistics show that 1910 households are using the Councils assisted bin lift service</p>
<b>Marital status evidence</b>	This policy has no bearing on martial Status
<b>Sexual orientation evidence</b>	This policy has no bearing on Sexual Orientation
<b>Men and women generally evidence</b>	<p>The Northern Ireland Census 2021 shows Ards and North Down have 70,445 household below is a breakdown of Accommodation type and occupancy</p> <p>Detached 38% Semi-detached 32% Terraced 20% Flat, maisonette or apartment 11% Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure</p>
<b>Disability evidence</b>	<p>41,300 or 25.3% of people in Ards and North Down had a limiting long-term health problem or disability. Ards &amp; North Down experienced an increase of 31.4% from 2011. These changes are in part a reflection of the Boroughs ageing population.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>0.8% have an intellectual or learning disability including dyslexia and Downs Syndrome.</p> <p>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</p>

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

## Dependants evidence

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.

The Northern Ireland 2021 Census shows the Number of dependent children and 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. It does not include any activities as part of paid employment. All unpaid care statistics are restricted to persons aged 5 and over., The Census 2021 suggested 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.

No dependent children 74%  
One 11%  
Two 11%  
Three or more 4%

Provides no unpaid care 86%  
1-19 hours 7%  
20-49 hours 3%  
50+ hours 4%

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

Council has been made aware that Household Collection of Bins have been causing an obstruction to people walking along the pavements, especially but not exclusively for those that are wheelchair users and those with prams.

Councils policy states:

After collection, the bin/box will be returned to the collection point and must be removed by the householder on the day of collection to avoid the potential of theft, damage or causing an obstruction. It is therefore the responsibility of the household to ensure that the bin/box is not causing an obstruction to other footpath users, in certain circumstances where there is a narrow footpath this is unavoidable. In order to mitigate this issue Council currently operates 1910 assisted lifts through out the Borough. A further mitigation maybe that Council operates a communication campaign to raise awareness of how bins on pavements affects members of the public such as wheelchair users and also those with prams.

**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?**

Minor

#### **11a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Age**

ANDBC has an older population therefore it is possible that obstruction of pavements may cause safety issues. In order to mitigate Council operates an assisted collection service for any person who has difficulty presenting and returning their bin for collection on medical grounds.

**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?**

Minor

#### **14a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Men and women generally**

Statistics show that households in the Borough are made up of  
Terraced 20%  
Flat, maisonette or apartment 11%  
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure

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

Minor

#### **15a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Disability**

It has been suggested that ANDBC's Kerbside collection service has a disproportionate and negative impact on those with disabilities and causes considerable problems to those with a range of disabilities. However Council has not received any complaints (logged on TASCOMI) to date to suggest this is an issue, whereby a narrow footpath exists this may force those with a disability on the road, causing a health and safety hazard.

Potential equality issues have been identified in relation to individuals with a disability as follows:

- blind and partially sighted people who are unable to read standard information materials and to whom larger collection containers on footpaths may cause obstruction difficulties.
- physically disabled people who are unable to present bins or containers for collection
- people with disabilities may have an underlying medical condition that causes additional waste to be generated and may require more capacity than the standard provision.

We also recognise that people with learning disabilities may have problems accessing information materials or impact on their ability to fully sort materials for recycling.

Age NI, Guide Dogs NI and RNIB recently identified the following potential equality issues in relation to individuals with a disability:

- larger bins will block the pavements on collection days causing risk to people living with visual impairments
- collecting glass in the recycling bins will make them heavier and pose safety concerns for people living with sight loss
- larger bin may impact on the independence of older people

It is also recognised that there is potential for larger bins presented on pavements to raise concerns amongst those with a disability who use a wheelchair.

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

Minor

### **16a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Dependants**

Bins being left on the pavement may cause an obstacle for those using prams resulting in users having to walk along the road. This may be a health a safety hazard.

## **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.**

<b>Religious belief</b>	N/A
<b>Political opinion</b>	N/A
<b>Racial group</b>	N/A
<b>Age</b>	Better promotion of Assisted Bin lift to enable those that cannot retrieve their bins once emptied. This will result in fewer bins being left on the footpath/ street.
<b>Marital Status</b>	N/A
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	N/A
<b>Men and women generally</b>	<p>Awareness of bin collection points and how to mitigate blocking pavements.</p> <p>Council could consider operating an awareness campaign to show the dangers of obstructing footpaths. It should be noted that not every household can bring the bin in immediately after being emptied. Council may wish to issue a letter to those households that leave the bin out continually as a reminder.</p>
<b>Disability</b>	<p>Better promotion of Assisted Bin lifts and mitigation of blocking pavements.</p> <p>Council could consider operating an awareness campaign to show the dangers of obstructing footpaths. This could promote how to complain to Council if the bin is left out continually and causing an obstruction to those with a disability.</p>
<b>Dependants</b>	<p>Better promotion of Assisted Bin lifts and mitigation of blocking pavements.</p> <p>Council could consider operating an awareness campaign to show the dangers of obstructing footpaths. This could</p>



promote how to complain to Council if the bin is left out continually and causing an obstruction to those with dependants, pram users.

**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?**

None

**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 has no bearing on good relations through the Borough.

## **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**

The policy should be promoted throughout the Borough to enhance awareness of the dangers of obstructing pavements for all users.  
Promotion of Assisted Bin lifts will allow for those who cannot retrieve their own bin to avail of the Council service.

**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**

Unobstructed Footpaths will allow better and safer access of the footpath/ street for all users not just those with a disability however will benefit wheelchair users.

## **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**

People with multiple identities may be subject to minor disadvantage which should be mitigated by measures such as a consideration of an awareness campaign to show the dangers of obstructing footpaths. This could promote how to complain to Council if the bin is left out continually and causing an obstruction.

## **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**

Data could be collected on the number of households applying for assisted bins lifts. Data could be collected on complaints and comments in relation to obstructing of pavements/footpaths/streets due to bins.

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

Screened Out - Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)

### **25a. Mitigating Actions**

When the Council concludes that the likely impact is 'Minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the Council 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.

The household collection service has been operational for many years with no complaints logged on Councils TASCOMI system.

Council has been made aware that bins on streets are causing a disproportionate and negative impact on those with disabilities and causing considerable problems to those with a range of disabilities and those using a pram.

It would therefore be good practice for Council to consider and operate a communication campaign, aimed at all households in the Borough to raise awareness of how bins on pavements affects all members of the public using footpaths/pavements such as wheelchair users and also those with prams. Reminding them of their obligation to remove the bin from the pavement as early as is possible for the household and reminding them of Councils assisted lift service.

It may also be beneficial to remind those employees within Waste and Cleansing service to return the bin so as not to cause an obstruction to users, where possible.

Council may wish to add an addition to the current policy to state whereby those household that do not remove their bin from the pavements on a continuous basis and a complaint is raised that the household will receive a letter reminding them of their responsibilities and their impact on footpath users.

## **26. Monitoring Recommendations**

Once agreed by Council the process should be reviewed following public opinion on the campaign and any comments or complaint in relation to the obstructing of footpaths pavements by bins, this will give all individuals in the Borough the opportunity to highlight issues or improvement options.



## Conclusion

### Screening panel Comments -

I was agreed by the internal panel that there is more of an adverse impact on wheelchair users, those using Guide dogs and those with a Sight impairment. This was due to having to access the nearest dropped kerb to access the road.

Due to a lack of enforcement legislation for this issue it was agreed that Communications with householders should be used to request that bins are presented so as to minimise impact to users of public footpaths, this should be monitored and reviewed where necessary. This information will be presented to Policy developers.

### Email:

enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

## Screening Panel Comments

## 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 2011 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area showed that 75% are or have been brought up in Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religions. While this varied across the borough from 17% in Portaferry ward to 87% in Carrowdore ward this does not have any relation to this policy. These compared to 48% for Northern Ireland as a whole.

LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant & other Christian	Other religions	None
Northern Ireland	1,810,863	817,385	875,717	16,592	101,169
		-45.14%	-48.36%	-0.92%	-5.59%
Ards and North Down	156,672	20,550	117,589	1,729	16,804
		13%	75%	1%	11%

## Appendix - Political Opinion

### Political opinion (External)

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections detail the political representation on Ards and North Down Council, The Stormont Executive for this electoral area and Westminster election. This data is an approximate measure of political opinion of the voting electorate within the Borough. Turnout to vote in North Down and Strangford constituencies tend to be lower than the rest of NI suggesting less strong political opinions. Of those who do turn out, the results show preferences for voting Unionist parties.

Political Party	Seats Held
Alliance	10
DUP	14
Green	3
Independants	3
SDLP	1
Sinn Féin	0
TUV	1
UUP	8

## 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)

NISRA, NINIS and Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership data provide up to date data. The 2011 census showed that 32,000 (1.8%) of the usually resident population in Northern Ireland is from a minority ethnic background. Within the borough, the 2011 Census showed that 1.5% (2,300) were from a minority ethnic background. Across the borough this ranged from 5.2% in Loughview ward to 0.3% in Lisbane ward.

Total Usual Residents	156,672
White	154,365
Chinese	406
Irish Traveller	0
Indian	283
Pakistani	0
Bangladeshi	177
Other Asian	415
Black Caribbean	0
Black African	139
Black Other	132
Mixed	556
Other	199

## 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)

NISRA have published population projections for the Borough which show that the proportion of those aged 85 and over are expected to more than double within the next 25 years. ANDBC has the highest % population of older people in Northern Ireland.

Age Profile	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
0 to 15	385,200	29,801
16 to 39	583,116	43,239
40 to 64	591,481	54,094
65+	291,824	31,663
Total	1,851,621	158,797

## 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)

The 2011 Northern Ireland Census showed that 48% of adults (those aged over 16 years of age) in Northern Ireland were either married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership. Within the borough, 54% of adults fell into this category. This varies across the borough from 36% in Central (Ards) ward to 64% in Lisbane ward. See

Marital Status	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	<b>1,431,540</b>	<b>126,945</b>
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	<b>517,393</b>	<b>36,730</b>
	36.14%	29%
Married: Aged 16+ years	<b>680,831</b>	<b>67,866</b>
	47.56%	53%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	<b>1243</b>	<b>123</b>
	0.09%	0.09%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	<b>56,911</b>	<b>4,328</b>
	3.98%	3%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved:	<b>78,074</b>	<b>8,548</b>
	5.45%	7%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	<b>97,088</b>	<b>9,350</b>
	6.78%	7%

## Appendix - Sexual Orientation

### Sexual Orientation

It should be noted that no reliable data is available on sexual orientation-NISRA are currently examining methodology on how to measure this. However, the 2011 census indicates that less than 1% of the Northern Ireland adult population (those aged 16 years and over) were in a registered same-sex civil partnership. This was similar to the borough as a whole. The Continuous Household Survey in Northern Ireland estimated this figure between 0.9% and 1.9% in 2015-2016. The Office for National Statistics estimates a similar range for the United Kingdom (1.7%).



## 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)

According to census (NISRA) almost half of the population of Northern Ireland were male (49%) and this was similar throughout Ards and North Down Borough Council (48%).

LGD	Male	Female	Total
Northern Ireland	887,323	923,540	1,810,863
Ards and North Down	75,920	80,752	156,672

## Appendix - Disability

### Disability (External)

The 2011 Census (NISRA) showed that 20% of the population in Ards and North Down area had a health issue or disability (including those related to old age) which has lasted or expected to last at least 12 months. (This was similar to the Northern Ireland figure of 21%.)

LGD	All usual residents	Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little	Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited
Northern Ireland	1,810,863	215,232	159,414	1,436,217
Ards and North Down	156,672	16,696	14,808	187,141

## Appendix - Dependants

### Dependants (External)

In considering this dimension the following have been included: persons with responsibility for the care of a child, children, a person with a disability and or an older person. According to the Continuous Household Survey, 2013-2016, 37% of Ards and North Down claimed to have a dependent (This did not differentiate on the type of dependent).

According to the 2011 Census, 7,474 households in Ards and North Down had a dependent child under the age of 4 (This might give an indication on the numbers who would have buggies or prams).

	All households	Dependent children in household: All ages	Dependent children in household: Aged 0-4 years
Northern Ireland	703,275	238,904	96,030
Ards and North Down	156,672	19,520	7,474