

Local Development Plan 2030

Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report on Preferred Options Paper

January 2017



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Contents

Have your say	4
Equality Screening Assessment- Interim Progress Statement for Preferred Options Paper.....	6
Table 1: A preliminary identification of key Local Development Plan policy areas and an assessment of potential impact on Section 75 Groups.....	8
Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)	10
Appendix 1: Community Involvement Form.....	20
Appendix 2: Section 75 Policy Screening Form	21

Have your say

You are invited to give your comments on our Preferred Options Paper Consultation including our Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report.

Responses can be made online at www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Council/Planning/Local-Development-Plan

The period of consultation is 12 weeks beginning on 18th January 2017 and closing on 4.30 pm 12th April 2017.

Alternatively, if you wish to make a response in writing please contact the Forward Plan Team at the address below and we will issue you with hard copy questionnaire for your response.

How to contact us:-

By e-mail to: planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

By post to: Planning Section,
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council,
Mossley Mill,
Newtownabbey,
BT36 5QA

By phone: Forward Planning Team **by telephone** on: 0300 23 6677 or **by text phone** on: 18001 0289034 0000.

Planning events

In addition to seeking your views on our Preferred Options Paper Consultation including Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report, we will also be carrying out a number of engagement events in association with our draft Community Plan which will further refine our understanding of the potential impact on Section 75 groups. Full details are available on our web site or by contacting the Forward Plan Team. Our draft Community Plan is also subject to public consultation and further details are available on our web site.

Keeping the Community Involved

The Council wishes to encourage the ongoing involvement of the local community in the planning process, in particular with the formulation of the new Local Development Plan. Any individual or organisation wishing to be included in this process is invited to complete the Community Involvement Form at Appendix 2 of this document. This form is also available on our website or from Mossley Mill or Antrim Civic Centre. The completed form should be sent to the Planning Section at the above address.

Alternative Formats

Should you require a copy of this consultation document in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, audio format, DAISY or Braille. It can also be made available in an alternative language to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language.

Only the submitted comments regarding the Council's Preferred Options Paper and associated documents may be published by the Council and no personal details will be disclosed unless your permission is given. The Council will comply with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Equality Screening Assessment- Interim Progress Statement for Preferred Options Paper

1. This Interim Screening Progress Statement has been prepared alongside Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Preferred Options Consultation Paper published on 18 January 2017.
2. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of Opportunity places a statutory requirement on each public authority to:
 - Carry out their functions with 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.
 - Without prejudice to its obligation under subsection 1, a public authority shall, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
3. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is working in accordance to the Development Plan Practice Note (DOE, 2015) whereby it is stated that all councils must ensure that their Local Development Plan is prepared in accordance with the Section 75 statutory obligation.
4. Section 75 groups have been engaged with throughout the plan process. All Section 75 groups were consulted in relation to our Statement of Community Involvement and also in relation to the preparation of our Local Development Plan. It is the intention of the Council to involve Section 75 groups throughout the Local Development Plan Process.
5. The Local Development Plan will comprise of two development plan documents;
 - The Plan Strategy
 - The Local Policies Plan
6. These policies will follow the publication of the Preferred Options Paper and will both be screened and an Equality Impact Assessment undertaken where relevant.
7. The Preferred Options Paper (POP) identifies the keys issues within the plan area and proceeds to formulate a number of options for addressing these issues. The options presented in the POP are not defined policies, rather are suggested policy approaches.

8. The POP provides the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders. It aims to stimulate the public's comments and aid the involvement of interested parties at this early stage of the plan preparation.
9. To inform the Preferred Options Paper a number of evidence papers have been prepared, Meeting the Needs of Society, Shaping our Environment and Facilitating Economic Development. The Meeting the Needs of Society paper provides an evidence based context for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's population in respect of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability and dependants. Our evidence base will continue to be updated at each stage of our Local Development Plan.
10. At this early stage of the plan making process we have carried out an initial equality screening assessment of our preferred options by identifying the key planning matters that our new Local Development Plan is likely to take forward and assessing how our preferred options will impact upon them. As our plan progresses we will continue to screen our proposals and carry out a full EQIA if required to ensure that we continually assess the impact of our proposals on Section 75 groups.
11. The purpose of screening is to identify any planning issues relating to our Local Development Plan that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations. Screening will enable us to ensure that we consider Section 75 equality and good relations duties in our plan as it develops.
12. In relation to our Interim Progress Report we have carried out a preliminary identification of the key local planning policy likely to be contained within our Local Development Plan when published. We have carried out an initial assessment of those Section 75 groups who have the *likely potential* to be impacted upon by the planning policy identified. This is set out in **Table 1**.
13. **Table 2** sets out an initial assessment of the preferred options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 groups indicated in Table 1.
14. The Council's policy is to formally screen each policy document, a copy of the formal screening is attached in Appendix 2 of this document for further information.
15. In conclusion it is anticipated that the Preferred Options Paper will have no adverse impact with regards to equality. It is therefore the view of the Council that the Preferred Options Paper has been screened out and does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Table 1: A preliminary identification of key Local Development Plan policy areas and an assessment of potential impact on Section 75 Groups

	Policy Topic Area	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments
1.	Settlements	√	√		√				√	√	Reclassification and designation of settlements may impact on the highlighted Section 75 groups due to the spatial distribution of these groups. The identification of development opportunities may also impact upon these groups when these are brought forward in the Local Policies Plan.
2.	Housing and Urban Capacity	√	√	√	√				√	√	The quantum of housing land together with its distribution may impact upon the highlighted Section 75 groups. Accessibility, location (Urban/Rural) and tenure (social/private) will be the main factors influencing impacts. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
3.	Economic Development, Industry, Commerce	√	√	√	√			√	√	√	The quantum and distribution of employment locations/land could result in varied access to employment opportunities and may impact on the highlighted Section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
4.	Town Centres and Retailing (Including cultural and community facilities, retail, leisure entertainment and business)	√	√	√	√				√	√	The hierarchy of centres along with the policies that will apply to them may impact upon the accessibility to retailing and other uses specified in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement may impact upon the highlighted Section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
5.	Open Space and Recreation	√	√	√	√				√	√	The quantum and distribution of open space and other recreational facilities can impact upon accessibility levels particularly for the highlighted Section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
7.	Environment	√	√								The location of protected heritage or landscape areas could have potential impact upon the highlighted Section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.

	Policy Topic Area	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency	Comments
8.	Transportation	√	√		√			√	√		Access to all services can differ depending on location, quality of infrastructure and levels of public transport services provided and may impact upon the selected Section 75 groups. The location of housing is related to transport and also has an impact on section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
9.	Countryside and Coast	√	√		√			√	√	√	The location of policy areas along with any restrictions and protections put in place could impact on the highlighted Section 75 groups. In addition, policy for housing in these areas could have an impact. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
10.	Minerals	√	√								Areas that are protected/constrained for mineral development could impact upon the highlighted Section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
11.	Telecommunications and Public Services and Public Utilities	√	√		√				√	√	The location and accessibility of public services could have potential impact on the highlighted Section 75 groups. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
12.	Tourism	√	√								Location of areas protected for and containing tourism proposals could have differential impacts on section 75 groups highlighted. Planning Policy may also have an impact.
13.	Design				√			√	√	√	Design could have potential impact on the noted Section 75 groups. Design can have impact on the physical accessibility of places, spaces and buildings as well as having impact due to aesthetical appearance. It can also have an impact on mental and physical well-being. It promotes safety and can be a deterrent to crime.

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
1.	Settlement	<p>The POP recommends that the proposed Settlement Hierarchy involves a reclassification of settlements based on population and the level of services provided in each. The preferred option reclassifies Ballyclare as a Large town, while Crumlin and Randalstown remain as towns. Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim remain as the two top tiers. Dunadry is recognised as a village with Ballyeaston being listed as a hamlet.</p> <p>The POP also proposes Mallusk as a new village and a number of areas that may be identified as new hamlets.</p>	<p>Religious Belief The designation and status of settlements and identification of development opportunities and limits may impact on groups of religious belief / political opinion due to the spatial distribution of such groups.</p> <p>The Preferred Options paper sets out a proposed hierarchy of settlements based upon the size and role of the existing settlement. The potential for a number of new hamlets have also been identified.</p> <p>Given the geographical spread of settlements across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on this Section 75 group.</p> <p>The identification of sites for development and the assessment/identification of settlement limits will be carried out at a later stage of the plan process and therefore at this stage there are no firm proposals to assess likely impact on Section 75 groups.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the potential designation of new hamlets may have a positive impact on this group as it may facilitate development in the countryside and sustain local communities.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p> <p>Age It is anticipated that the potential designation of new hamlets may have a positive impact on this group as it may facilitate development in the countryside and sustain local communities. In terms of age this may include more housing for all age groups.</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
			<p>Disability It is anticipated that the potential designation of new hamlets may have a positive impact on this group as it may facilitate development in the countryside and sustain local communities including any disabled persons.</p> <p>Dependency It is anticipated that the potential designation of new hamlets may have a positive impact on this group as it may facilitate development in the countryside and sustain local communities including any persons with dependents.</p>
2.	<p>Housing and Urban Capacity</p>	<p>In terms of Housing Growth, the POP anticipates a growth rate of 13,000 dwellings. This figure is based upon 9,750 for the plan period with a five-year supply of 3,250.</p> <p>In terms of distribution of housing, the preferred option is based upon maintaining high levels of growth for Metropolitan Newtownabbey and for the Main Town/Main Hub of Antrim, alongside focussed higher growth in selected local towns and villages. It is considered that the villages of Ballynure, Templepatrick and Toome are able to accommodate a higher rate of growth. This option envisages only moderate or low growth in each of the remaining villages (Ballyrobert, Burnside, Doagh, Dunadry, Parkgate and Straid) which can be accommodated by existing land</p>	<p>Religious Belief This option allows for consolidated growth of the current population in Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim. Both areas are indicated in the 2011 Census as predominately Protestant (Protestant, Church of Ireland, Methodist) Antrim with 46.15% and Metropolitan Newtownabbey 52.3% Protestant makeup. It will maintain supply in the remaining towns and villages with a low to moderate growth and may lead to growth within Crumlin, Randalstown, Ballynure, Parkgate, Straid and Templepatrick.</p> <p>Given that the majority of remaining housing zonings are proposed to be retained and that there is potential for the new distribution of housing throughout the Borough whether through the uptake of existing zonings or through low to moderate growth in selected villages across the Borough. At this initial stage no adverse impact is identified. Further work will be undertaken to identify and confirm any potential new sites so this impact will be further assessed as the plan progresses.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
		<p>supply. This option may eventually lead to new land being identified for housing in the Local Policies Stage for Crumlin, Randalstown, Ballynure, Parkgate, Straid and Templepatrick. It is also proposed at this stage that no existing housing land be de-zoned.</p>	<p>Racial Group Specific Sites as identified by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for Traveller Accommodation will be considered in the Local Policies Stage of the Plan.</p> <p>Age The POP advocates for housing growth in areas that are seen to be well located along key transport routes, well serviced by public transport and that are not dependant on the use of the private car making them accessible locations for all age groups.</p> <p>The population aged 65+ has increased within the Borough. Through ensuring housing growth this helps facilitate this increase. New housing developments can be built and designed to suit the needs and requirements from different age groups.</p> <p>Disability The POP advocates for housing growth in areas that are seen to be well located along key transport routes, well serviced by public transport and that are not dependant on the use of the private car aiming to increase the accessibility to all persons with or without a disability.</p> <p>Dependency The POP advocates for housing growth in areas that are seen to be well located along key transport routes, well serviced by public transport and that are not dependant on the use of the private car making them accessible locations for persons with or without dependants.</p>
3.	<p>Economic Development Industry and Commerce</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan will have a key role in supporting economic development. It will do this through planning policy and ensuring an adequate supply of employment land.</p>	<p>Religious Belief The POP advocates for Strategic Employment Locations to be retained and new ones proposed to be in close vicinity to the largest settlements within our Borough as well as in the rural area (Belfast International Airport and Nutts Corner). They are located near to our most populated areas</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
		<p>The Preferred Option Paper proposes the identification of Strategic Employment Locations (SELs) throughout our Borough and also the development of new planning policy.</p> <p>This includes the retention of existing employment sites of over 10 hectares in our largest settlements (Metropolitan Newtownabbey, Antrim and Ballyclare) and the identification of future SELs situated in or near to our largest settlements (Metropolitan Newtownabbey, Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown) and in a favourable position in relation to key transport infrastructure, this is in line with Regional Guidance.</p> <p>Given there is already a large range of possible SELs in Metropolitan Newtownabbey, several of which remain to be developed, it is proposed therefore that the consideration of new SELs should be focussed on the settlements of Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown.</p> <p>It is also recommended that an SEL is considered at Belfast International and also a Rural SEL at Nutts Corner.</p>	<p>and proposed in accessible locations indicating that they will be more accessible to Section 75 groups in general.</p> <p>The development of new planning policy in relation to employment is likely to support Section 75 groups in general by ensuring all areas have appropriate employment opportunities.</p> <p>The identification of specific sites for employment and the development of new planning policy will be carried out at a later stage of the plan and further consideration to the impact on Section 75 groups will be undertaken at this stage.</p> <p>However, given the intended spread of employment land across the Borough and the development of new planning policy to support appropriate employment/business uses is anticipated to have a neutral/positive impact on this group.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p> <p>Racial Group There is no evidence at present to confirm what the differential impact may be on the Travelling Community. However, it is anticipated that the impact on racial groups in general should be neutral or positive.</p> <p>Age As set out above in religious belief</p> <p>Gender As set out above in religious belief</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
		<p>Our Local Development Plan will contain new planning policy taking into account the direction of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS). It is also the preferred option that we will develop succinct and up to date tailored policies to meet the needs of the Borough in relation to employment uses.</p>	<p>Disability As set out above in religious belief</p> <p>Dependency As set out above in religious belief</p>
4.	<p>Town Centres and Retailing (Including cultural and community facilities, retail, leisure entertainment and business)</p>	<p>It is the preferred option to retain and reclassify our current centres based upon new classifications with Glengormley and Northcott as separate centres. The POP sees the opportunity to consider the identification of new villages and neighbourhood centres.</p> <p>It is also recommended that Mallusk a possible new Local Centre and Mossley West as a possible new District Centre, as well as raising the potential for new village centres and new neighbourhood centres.</p> <p>Our Local Development Plan will contain new planning policy taking into account the direction of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS). It is the preferred option that we will review our town centre boundaries and also develop succinct and up to date tailored policies to meet the needs of the Borough in relation to supporting town centres and</p>	<p>Religious Belief The POP recognises the importance of adopting a town centre first approach for retail and other uses as directed by the SPPS. The POP also seeks to protect our current centres and identifies a hierarchy of centres including classification. It also offers potential for identifying a number of new centres including village or neighbourhood centres.</p> <p>The designation of new centres, revision of current centre boundaries and development of new planning policy will be undertaken in the preparation of our plan. Therefore, at this stage is not possible to fully assess the impact upon Section 75 groups, however, it is anticipated to be positive given that this option will help cater for the needs of the local community.</p> <p>Political Belief As above</p> <p>Racial Group As above</p> <p>Age As above</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
		<p>other uses such as retailing, cultural and community facilities etc. The SPPS indicates a town centre first approach for these uses.</p>	<p>Disability As above</p> <p>Dependency As above</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Open Space and Recreation</p>	<p>The POP has identified the preferred option of retaining the zoning of Carnmoney Hill. As per BMAP the remaining land would be transferred to the council and protected from alternative development.</p> <p>It has also indicated the preferred option of developing new policy in relation to Open Space and Recreation in line with the strategic provisions of the SPPS and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the relevant current operational policy is acceptable.</p>	<p>Religious Belief Open space zonings/designations and the development of new policy will be brought forward later in the plan process and further consideration of the impact on Section 75 groups will be undertaken at this stage. Therefore, there are there are no firm proposals, except for retaining the open space at Carnmoney Hill, to assess likely impact on Section 75 Groups. However, it is anticipated that the impact is likely to be positive due to the proposed continuation of policies to protect existing open space and to ensure open space is adequately provided for within new housing developments.</p> <p>In terms of recreational facilities, again the zoning of land and development of new policy will occur at the later stages of the plan and will be assessed in more detail at this stage in terms of section 75 groups. Again the impact is anticipated to be positive.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p> <p>Racial Group As above</p> <p>Age As above</p> <p>Disability As above</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
			<p>Dependency As above</p>
7.	Environment	<p>The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct, up to date tailored policies in relation to the built and natural environment taking account of the SPPS and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable. This also includes policy relating to the protection of our environment, for example, flooding.</p>	<p>Religious Belief Designations and new policy will be undertaken at later stages of the plan. Therefore, there are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any impact on this group and at this stage therefore there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p>
8.	Transportation	<p>The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct up to date tailored policies in relation to transportation taking account of the SPPS and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable.</p> <p>Options in relation to housing and employment in particular have been based upon using the most accessible locations and also areas where there is a large concentration of population, to promote more sustainable modes of transport and improve accessibility for all.</p>	<p>Religious Belief Designations, zonings, areas to be protected for future schemes and new policy will be undertaken at later stages of the plan. Further assessment will be undertaken in terms of future employment and housing sites. Therefore, at this stage there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p> <p>Age As above</p> <p>Gender As above</p> <p>Disability As above</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
9.	Countryside and Coast	<p>The options for the countryside include the location of a rural Strategic Employment Location which is addressed previously in Point 3.</p> <p>The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct up to date tailored polices in relation to the countryside including single houses in the countryside and other related policy areas for protection of natural and built heritage. The POP has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable with respect to these policies. New policy will take account of the direction of the SPPS.</p>	<p>Religious Belief Designations, zonings and new policy will be undertaken at later stages of the plan. Therefore, at this stage there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p>Political Belief As above</p> <p>Age As above</p> <p>Gender As above</p> <p>Disability As above</p> <p>Dependency As above</p>
10.	Minerals	<p>The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct up to date tailored polices in relation to the minerals and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable with respect to this. New policy will take account of the direction of the SPPS.</p>	<p>Religious Belief Retention/identification of areas of mineral constraint and associated operational policy, along with the development of general mineral policy will be undertaken at later stages of the plan. There are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any impact and at this stage therefore there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
11	Telecommunications and Public Services and Public Utilities	The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct, up to date tailored policies in relation to the telecommunications, public services and utilities and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable with respect to these policies. New policy will take account of the direction of the SPPS.	<p>Religious Belief The allocation of land to meet the requirement of public services such as health, education and other public facilities and public utilities will be carried out in the Local Policies Stage of the plan.</p> <p>Likewise the development of new planning policy will also take place at the later stages of the plan.</p> <p>As there are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any impact and therefore there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p>Political Belief As above</p> <p>Age As above</p> <p>Disability As above</p> <p>Dependants As above</p>
12	Tourism	The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct up to date tailored policies in relation to tourism and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable with respect to these policies. New policy will take account of the direction of the SPPS.	<p>Religious Belief The potential zoning of land for tourism facilities and the development of new policies to support tourism will take place at the next stage of the plan. As there are no firm proposals at present to fully assess any impact and at this stage therefore there are no predicted impacts on this equality group.</p> <p>Political Opinion As above</p>

Table 2: An initial assessment of the Preferred Options policies in relation to the highlighted Section 75 Groups (Indicated in Table 1)

	Policy Type	Preferred Option	Comments on likely Impact
13	Design	The POP has indicated the preferred option to bring forward new succinct up to date tailored polices in relation to design and has concluded that the broad thrust and direction of the current operational policy is generally acceptable with respect to these policies. New policy will take account of the direction of the SPPS.	<p>Age The development of new policy in relation to better design will take place at the next stage of the plan and also in the key site criteria requirements for newly zoned sites. It is anticipated that this policy will be positive in relation to this Section 75 group as the POP establishes the principle of good deign to be carried forward in our new plan. Good design has the potential to positively impact on all age groups.</p> <p>Gender As above</p> <p>Disability As above</p> <p>Dependency As above</p>

Appendix 1: Community Involvement Form

To have your say on the future development of the Borough and for latest news please visit our website www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk.

To keep informed about the progress of our new Local Development Plan please complete this form and either email a copy to planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk, or post to Planning Section, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, BT36 5QA.

By submitting this form you are consenting to the processing of your data – including sensitive personal data – by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for these purposes.

Full Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

E-mail: _____

Please select your preferred method of contact: Email Post

If you require assistance in the completion of this form, [telephone 0300 123 6677](tel:03001236677) or by [text phone 18001 028 9034 0000](tel:1800102890340000) for advice.

To have your say on the future development of the Borough and for latest news please visit our website www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk.

Appendix 2: Section 75 Policy Screening Form



SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING FORM

This form should be used for all new or amended policies. It has five parts.

Part 1 – Policy scoping – provide details about the policy being screened and the available evidence to help assess the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

Part 2 – Screening questions – look at the extent of the likely impact of the policy on each of the Section 75 categories.

Part 3 – Screening decision – the information provided in the previous sections is used to decide whether there is a need to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

Part 4 – Monitoring – sets how the effects of the policy will be monitored.

PART 1 – POLICY SCOPING

Set out the background, context, aims and objectives for the policy being screened. This will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and to work through the screening process on a step-by-step basis.

NB Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the Council), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, serviced by the Council).

Information about the policy

Policy name
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan : Preferred Options Paper
Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?
This is a new Council document which has been prepared following the transfer of planning powers to local authorities in April 2015.
What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)
The Preferred Options Paper (POP) identifies the keys issues within the plan area and proceeds to formulate a number of options for addressing these issues. The POP provides the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders and aims to stimulate the public's comments and aid the involvement of interested parties at this early stage of the plan preparation. The options set out in the paper and the

feedback from the public consultation will be used to shape the next stages of the Local Development Plan i.e. the Plan Strategy and Local Polices Plan.

The Local Development Plan is a spatial land use plan which is primarily about place. It will guide future development and use of land in our towns, villages and rural areas by addressing the spatial implication of social, economic and environmental change. It will include policies, proposals and zonings in relation to key areas such as housing, employment, transport, retailing, open space, town centres, and countryside.

It is intended that the Local Development Plan will provide a framework that will support the economic and social needs of our Borough, taking into account regional strategies and policies, whilst providing for the delivery of sustainable development; facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment that will encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well- being of our community; allocate sufficient land to meet the needs of the Borough; provide a plan led framework for rational and consistent decision making; help deliver the spatial aspects of our Community Plan and provide an opportunity for all stakeholders and in particular residents to have a say about where and how development within our Borough should take place.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.

In general, all Section 75 groups have the potential to benefit from the Local Development Plan as it is the spatial land use response to the identified needs of society within our Borough and will also take on board any spatial aspects identified in our Local Community Plan to address the priorities of our local community. The plan will also be subject to Sustainability Appraisal which assesses the Social, Environmental and Economic impacts of our proposals and will provide mitigation measures to address any potential identified negative impacts.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Planning Section

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Implementation factors

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

If yes, are they (please tick box)

x	financial
x	legislative
x	other, please specify

Main stakeholders affected

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

x	staff
x	service users
x	other public sector organisations
x	voluntary/community/trade unions
x	other, please specify Key stakeholders e.g. Members, all members of the public, MPs, MLAs, all NI Government Departments, all neighbouring councils, NI Water, NIHE, Civil Aviation Authority, any gas, electricity or telecommunications operator, licensed aerodromes, HSENI.

Other policies with a bearing on this policies

- What are they?
 - Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council- Corporate Plan and Emerging Community Development Plan (Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council);
 - Programme for Government;
 - The Regional Development Strategy (The Department for Regional Development);
 - The Sustainable Development Strategy (The Northern Ireland Executive);
 - The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (The Department for the Environment);
 - Other regionally important documents such as, Sustainable Water – A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040) and Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future – A New Approach to Regional Transportation;
 - Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001 (The Department for the Environment) ;
 - Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (The Department for the Environment);
 - and
 - Neighbouring Councils Context.
- Who owns them?
 - Indicated in brackets above

Available evidence

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

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	In 2011, the population within ANBC was predominantly from a Protestant background, just over 60% and approximately 30% from a Catholic background. The proportion of people who were brought up in a different religion or with no religion was 9.2%, which was higher than the Northern Ireland average of 6.5%.
Political opinion	In the local government elections held in 2014, unionist parties gathered more first preference votes than nationalist parties. The total was made up of 63% Unionist, Nationalist at 21%, and 16% of other.
Racial group	The 2011 census figures indicate that 97.90% of the population within the Borough are White, with 0.71% South Asian, 0.75% Chinese and other Asian, 0.18% Black and 0.45% Mixed and Other.
Age	<p>The majority of the population within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council fall within the Working Age Category (16-64 Years). This category makes up 63.1% of its total population. 21% of the population within the borough fall into the 'Children Category' (0-15 Years) and 15.9% into 'Older People (65+ Years).</p> <p>The age structure of the population within the district has changed over the past 40 years. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased from 8.1% in 1971 to 14.6% in 2011, mainly due to heightened life expectancy.</p>
Marital status	The 2011 census revealed that since 2001 there has been an increase in the number of divorced people, a decrease in the number of people married and an increase in the proportion of single people in Northern Ireland. 33.1% of ANBC's population are single, 54.7% are married, 5.6% divorced and 6.8% are widowed.
Sexual orientation	There is limited local data for this category. In 2015/16, the Continuous Household Survey undertaken by NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) found that 97.9% of adult respondents identified themselves as heterosexual/straight; with the remaining adults identifying as gay/lesbian, bisexual, 'don't know' or not providing an answer.
Men and women generally	In Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in 2015, the population was estimated at 68,123 males (48.5%) and 72,344 females (51.5%).
Disability	According to 2011 census data 19% of the Borough's total population have long term health problems or a disability. 9.6% of the population within Antrim and Newtownabbey are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.
Dependants	The proportion of households with dependent children in ANBC has significantly decreased since 1981 dropping from 50.8% of households in 1981 to 34.7% in 2011 (Census 1981, 2011). This

	decline in the number of households with dependent children is reflected in the decline in the size of the average household with 1 or 2 person households accounting for 59% of households in ANBC.
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Needs, experiences and priorities

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.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	Access to employment, education and training Access to housing Access to healthcare Access to commercial, retail and leisure facilities Feeling of safety and security in public environments
Political opinion	As above
Racial group	As above
Age	Access to housing Access to employment Access to play facilities/recreation and open space (for children) Access to open space, recreational facilities (that are accessible for all generations, including benches etc) Access to public transport Access to health/community/educational facilities
Marital status	None identified
Sexual orientation	None identified
Men and women generally	Access to housing Access to public transport Access to employment
Disability	Access to housing Access to public transport Access to healthcare/ community facilities Access to employment
Dependants	Access to housing Access public transport Access to healthcare/ community facilities Access to employment Access to educational facilities

PART 2 - SCREENING QUESTIONS

Taking into account the evidence from Part 1, consider and comment on the likely impact of the policy on equality of opportunity and good relations for each of the equality and good relations categories. Use the screening questions given below and indicate the level of impact on each category, i.e. minor, major or none.

Consideration of level of impact

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 marginalized 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.

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	See main document "Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report on Preferred Options Paper"	Minor/No impact anticipated
Political opinion	As above	As above
Racial Group	As above	As above
Age	As above	As above
Marital Status	As above	As above
Sexual orientation	As above	As above
Men and women generally	As above	As above
Disability	As above	As above
Dependants	As above	As above

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?		
Section 75 category	If YES, provide details	If NO, provide reasons
Religious Belief		<p>None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered.</p> <p>Enhanced community engagement / involvement in plan making will however result in a positive impact on equality of opportunity for all groups who engage in the local development plan process.</p>
Political opinion		As above

Racial Group		As above
Age		As above
Marital Status		As above
Sexual orientation		As above
Men and women generally		As above
Disability		As above
Dependants		As above

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

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious Belief		None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered.
Political opinion		As above
Racial Group		As above

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

Section 75 category	If YES, provide details	If NO, provide reasons
Religious Belief		No
Political opinion		As above
Racial Group		As above

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

People can fall into more than one Section 75 category. 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).

None Identified

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

N/A

Disability

Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), the Council is required when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life

Will the policy encourage disabled people to participate in public life or promote positive attitudes towards disabled people? **Yes/No**

Comments

Yes - It is anticipated that the Local Development Plan will contain policies for access for all thereby enabling participation in public life through access to facilities.

PART 3 - SCREENING DECISION

The responses to the screening questions in Part 2 should be considered in order to decide whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment.

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

If the 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 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.

(See section on mitigation which follows.)

Is an EQIA recommended? No

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

This Preferred Options Paper is a public consultation document that does not set out or define new policy, rather it puts forward a number of preferred options surrounding a number of strategic planning policy issues that will impact on future development of the Borough. The POP will be subject to a period of public consultation and engagement which will seek to stimulate a wide-ranging, yet focused, debate and encourage feedback from a wide variety of interests.

Any representations or views received as a consequence of its publication will be considered whilst formulating our new Local Development Plan.

All Section 75 groups will be contacted and advised of how to obtain a copy of the POP, as well as being invited to make comment within the specified consultation period. Enhanced community involvement is likely to lessen any potential negative impact of any future policy decisions.

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

N/A

Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in the Equality Commission publication "Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment".

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? **Yes/No**

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

N/A

Timetabling and prioritising of policies screened in for an EQIA

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

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

Priority Criterion	Rating (1 – 3)
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 will assist in timetabling. Details of the Council'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?
Yes/No

If yes, please provide details.

N/A

PART 4 - MONITORING

The Equality Commission recommends that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, public authorities should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (see the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities, July 2007, Page 9 – 10, paragraphs 2.13 – 2.20).

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

What data are required in future to ensure effective monitoring?

N/A

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