



April 8th, 2026

Chairperson: Councillor T Mitchell

Vice-Chairperson: Councillor A Givan

Aldermen: A McIntyre and S Skillen

Councillors: T Beckett, R Carlin, J Craig, K Dickson, J Gallen, B Higginson, C Kemp, S Lowry, G McCleave, G Thompson and The Hon N Trimble

Ex Officio:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor: Alderman A Grehan

Deputy Mayor: Alderman H Legge

Notice Of Meeting

A meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee will be held on Tuesday, 14th April 2026 at 6:00 pm for the transaction of the undernoted Agenda.

For those Members attending this meeting remotely, the Zoom link and passcodes are contained within the Outlook invitation that has been issued.

A hot meal shall be available in **Lighters Restaurant** from 5.15 pm.

David Burns

Chief Executive

Agenda

1.0 APOLOGIES

2.0 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- (i) Conflict of Interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)
- (ii) Pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest (Member to complete the Disclosure of Interest form)

3.0 REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

3.1 DEA Investment Programme Update

For Decision

- 📄 *FINAL DEA Local Investment Plan_02.04.26.pdf* *Page 1*

- 📄 *Appendix 1 - Equality Screening DEA Local Investment Programme.pdf* *Page 6*

- 📄 *Appendix 2 - RNIA DEA Programme.pdf* *Page 20*

3.2 Community Investment Fund - Ballinderry War Memorial Hall

For Decision

- 📄 *2. FINAL Report CiF Awards - Ballinderry War Memorial Hall.pdf* *Page 29*

4.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

4.1 Community Services Strategy

For Decision

- 📄 *FINAL Report - Comm. Dev. & GR Framework 2026-2029_31.03.26.pdf* *Page 31*

- 📄 *FINAL Appendix 1 - CD&GR Framework_31.03.26.pdf* *Page 34*

- 📄 *Appendix 2 - Equality Screening_06.03.26.pdf* *Page 41*

- 📄 *Appendix 3 - RNIA_06.03.26.pdf* *Page 56*

4.2 Going Places Community Engagement Programme 2026

For Noting

- 📄 *4. Report - Going Places Community Engagement programme 2026.pdf* *Page 65*

5.0 REPORT OF HEAD OF PARKS & AMENITIES (ACTING)

5.1 Request to use Council Open Spaces

For Decision

- 📄 *FINAL Report - Request to Use Council Open Spaces_31.03.26.pdf* *Page 67*

- 📄 *Appendix 1 - Lisburn Feile Wallace Park Event Booking Form 2026_06.03.26.pdf* *Page 69*

- 📄 *Appendix 2 - City of Belfast Grand Black Chapters - Event Booking Form.pdf* *Page 75*

- 📄 *Appendix 3 - LCCC parks open spaces screening Jan 2025.pdf* *Page 79*

6 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS - DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITY WELLBEING

6.1 Communities: Tender Evaluation Criteria - Celebrating Us: Cultural Awareness

For Decision

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

- 📄 *FINAL PEACEPLUS Report - Regulated Tender Evaluation Criteria_31.03.26.pdf* *Not included*

- 📄 *Appendix 1 - Equality Screening PEACEPLUS Action Plan 2025_06.03.26.pdf* *Not included*

- 📄 *Appendix 2 - RNIA LCCC Peaceplus Action Plan 2022-2027_06.03.26.pdf* *Not included*

6.2 Parks & Amenities: Business Case - Lock & Unlock Facilities

For Decision

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

- 📄 *FINAL Report - Lock and Unlock_30.03.26.pdf* *Not included*

- 📄 *FINAL Business Case Lock and Unlock signed_01.04.26 KI.pdf* *Not included*

6.3 Parks & Amenities: Business Case - Static Attendants

For Decision

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

- 📄 *FINAL Report - Static Attendants_02.04.26.pdf* *Not included*

📄 *FINAL Business Case Provision of Static Attendants_01.04.26 KI.pdf*

Not included

6.4 Sports Services: Tender Evaluation - Cleaning Supplies

For Decision

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council holding that information.

📄 *FINAL Supply of Cleaning Materials Tender Evaluation Criteria_31.03.26.pdf*

Not included

6.5 Sports Services: Tender Evaluation - Confectionery

For Decision

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council holding that information.

📄 *FINAL Confectionery Tender Evaluation Criteria_31.03.26.pdf*

Not included

7.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Committee:	Communities & Wellbeing
Date:	14 April 2026
Report from:	Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	DEA Local Investment Plan

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	<p>To date the Council has funded the DEA Local Investment Plan for the last 5 years. The programme is borne out of the Investment Plan, Connect-Invest-Transform. Alongside the principles contained within the Investment Plan, it was agreed for the programme to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No land ownership issues ➤ Permitted development where possible or planning permission likely ➤ Minimal revenue tail desirable ➤ Balanced investment ➤ Supports partnership working.
1.2	<p>Furthermore, key drivers were identified to support prioritisation. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports community engagement/community capacity ➤ Proposal addresses local concerns ➤ Improves corporate effectiveness ➤ Addresses emerging needs ➤ Addresses poverty/social exclusion.
2.0	<u>Current Position</u>
2.1	<p>From 2021 there have been over 75 programmes delivered to include Community Facilities Fund, Sports Accelerator Fund and a mixture of small and medium community projects. This involved an investment of £3.405 million to date. Previous evaluations indicate that the programme has been very successful, providing critical funding for local sports clubs, community groups, voluntary groups and organisations which delivered positive benefits to all recipients.</p>
2.2	<p>The 2025/26 programme saw an investment of approximately £806,973 and this was to deliver against the funding streams outlined in Table 1, to strengthen our communities.</p>

2.3 **Table 1 –DEA Local Investment Programme for 2025/26**

Funding Stream	Total budget ringfenced	Total amount awarded
Community Facilities Fund	£540,000 (£100,000 was for pitches) (£40,000 from Technical fund)	£607,000 <i>£67,000 approved from DEA underspend</i>
Sports Fund	£100,000	£102,639
Bursary Scheme	£25,000 (plus £5,000 Communities revenue)	Rolling Fund Feb spend: £16,795
Community Conversation	£10,000	£10,000
DIY & Technical Fund	£50,000	£70,539 <i>£20,539 approved from DEA underspend</i>
TOTAL		£806,973

3.0 **DEA Investment Programme for 2026/27**

3.1 The DEA investment programme has supported communities to develop and grow, deepening community participation and inclusion. The narrative goes beyond the financial injection into communities as feedback to officers demonstrates the significant impact to individuals and groups. The overall grant aid evaluation will come before this committee and present key findings across all grant aid schemes delivered.

3.2 It is recommended that this programme continues but over two phases for the incoming year, to allow for greater strategic collaboration, resulting in maximising funds and impact.

3.3 **Phase 1**

The first phase which will see the continued delivery of the Sports Fund, DIY & Technical Fund, Community Conversations and Bursary Scheme along with a newly established anti-poverty and social inclusion fund. The later fund seeks to further address the poverty and social exclusion principle noted in item 1.2. This workstream will align with the principles of community planning, to maximise delivery and ensure there is no duplication of services.

3.4 It is also recommended that the Sports Fund will be weighted to those who can evidence a community planning approach coupled with strengthening inclusion and addressing poverty.

- 3.5 ***Addressing poverty and social exclusion***
A new fund is proposed for this year, to tackle poverty and social exclusion, to the value of £80,000. This fund will support communities to identify and address poverty and exclusion at a local level. The fund is not intended to duplicate the work of local foodbanks or advice services, already funded under the Community Support Programme.
- 3.6 This specific fund aims to support communities with clothing/uniform banks, school holiday activities/sustenance and inclusive spaces/activities. Part of this programme will link with community planning and the community support programme that encompasses the Social Supermarket and Integrated Advice Services. A report outlining the principles of this fund will be brought back to this Committee.
- 3.7 In addition to the above fund Members agreed, through the estimates process for 2026/27, to have a fund for an inclusive summer scheme and age friendly summer scheme which will take place over the summer months. This workstream will complement the above fund.

- 3.8 ***Phase 2***
Community Facilities Fund
It is recommended that Phase Two of the DEA Investment Programme is released in the Autumn, to focus on the Community Facilities Fund. The reason for this is to allow further strategic conversations with Central Government and key stakeholders to seek to maximise resources, through emerging/similar schemes. One such example is the Department for Communities Infrastructure scheme.

- 3.9 ***Terms and Conditions***
All funding streams, for both phases will have the relevant terms and conditions applied to include tenure, insurance, policies and governing documentation. This will be tested via a two stage application process. The DEA Investment Programme for 2026/27 is detailed in **Table 2**.

- 3.10 **Table 2 – Budget for Proposed DEA Local Investment Programme 2026/27**

Funding Stream	Detail	Total budget (ringfenced)
<i>Phase 1</i>		
Community Sports Fund	To support community participation in health and wellbeing activities	£105,000
Bursary Scheme	To support individuals with access to progression routes for sports, language, music classes etc	£15,000 (with an additional £5,000 from Communities budget)
Community Planning Conversations	Working with communities to identify and address key issues through Community Planning	£5,000 (with an additional £5,000 from Communities budget)
Addressing poverty and social exclusion	Local initiatives to address social exclusion and poverty	£80,000

DIY & Technical Fund	General improvements to community facilities or technical support	£70,000
Phase 2		
Community Facilities Fund	To improve existing facilities to increase community access and participation	£450,000
TOTAL		£725,000 from DEA programme

3.11 A Financial Resilience paper was agreed at the Corporate Services Committee on 11 March 2026 and outlined that the DEA Investment Programme for 2026/27 had secured a revenue contribution of £350,000 and the Committee on the night approved a further contribution of £225,000 from in year underspend and reserves.

3.12 The DEA Fund at the time of writing has a balance of £497,744, however at the time of writing there are still some items that will draw against this budget, up until year end. £150,000 will come from the current in year budget to support deliver of 2026/27 to a maximum of £725,000

4.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Members agree:

1. To the delivery of two phases of the DEA Local Investment Programme 2026/27 as outlined within the report.

5.0 **Finance and Resource Implications**

5.1 £350,000 plus £225,000 earmarked from revenue and financial reserves for 2026/27

5.2 Current balance DEA Investment Fund £497,744.

Source	Budget
Revenue Contribution and underspend	£575,000
Current DEA budget	£497,744 (-£150,000 for 26/27) £347,744
<i>Remaining rolling budget at time of writing</i>	£347,744
2026/27 Total Budget	£725,000

6.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
6.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p> <p>The programme has been reviewed and re-screened with continued mitigations in place to include support to those who require it regarding accessing financial assistance and also ensuring that applicants consider equality and diversity needs.</p>	Yes
6.2	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p> <p>A Rural Needs Assessment has been undertaken and identifies that whilst the programme will not impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, continued monitoring and evaluation will be in place to ensure there is equitable delivery of projects and programmes according to the need and demand identified in rural areas across the DEA's.</p>	Yes

Appendices:	<p>Appendix 1 - Equality and Good Relations Screening</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Rural Needs Assessment</p>
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Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened

This policy sets out investment plans across the seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) for 2026/2027, as part of a wider £3.4 million programme over five years. It includes funding for projects, such as the Community Bursary Scheme, Community Facilities Fund, Sports & Open Spaces Fund, community conversations and initiatives to address poverty and social exclusion. While some variation in funding will occur based on local needs, all elements of this programme will be delivered across each of the seven DEA's. This approach supports fairness, addresses local priorities, and promotes community engagement, particularly in response to ongoing social and economic challenges.

Name of the activity/policy/project

Local District Electoral Area (DEA) – Investment Plan 2026-2027

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

This is an existing one being the fifth year of the programme however the 2026-2027 programme contains new elements.

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

1 Address local concerns/needs
2 Address poverty and social exclusion
3 Support community engagement and further build capacity
4 Improve corporate effectiveness
5 Addresses emerging needs

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

While the programme is inclusive and open to all, certain elements are expected to have particular positive impacts for specific groups: rural residents and people with disabilities - the grant-aid components are intended to enhance connectivity, accessibility, and availability of services and high-quality facilities within local areas. This is likely to deliver greater benefits to rural communities and individuals with disabilities, who may face higher barriers to accessing services; People on low incomes and those living in deprived areas- the programme's focus on addressing poverty and

promoting social inclusion will provide more substantial advantages for residents experiencing financial hardship or living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Overall, although the programme is universal in scope, its targeted design means that vulnerable or marginalised groups are expected to benefit, helping to promote equality of opportunity across all Section 75 categories.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?

The policy is owned by LCCC and implemented through the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate however the delivery of the overall programme will cross-departmental approach.

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

Yes

If yes, give brief details of any significant factors.

Financial

The budgetary position of this programme has been agreed through the standard governance process. Due to particular elements being demand-led, there is a risk of over demand resulting in financial implications of delivery – similar to under-demand of programmes. For the grant-aid programmes, there will be an open call for organisations across the council area with key area’s targeted through workshops whereby uptake had been low in previous years.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon? Delete if not applicable

Residents - Potentially as beneficiaries of successful applicants

Other public sector organisations - Not quantifiable at this point

Other - Elected members & residents within the DEA areas involved.

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
1 Corporate Plan 2024-2028	LCCC Corporate plan and ambitions 2024/2028 - Lisburn & Castlereagh (lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)
2 Departmental Plans	LCCC Departments

3 Investment Plan	LCCC
4 Council's Equality Scheme	LCCC Equality Scheme - Lisburn & Castlereagh (lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)
5 Community Plan 2017-2032	LCCC Community Planning - Lisburn & Castlereagh (lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)

Available evidence

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032 has been given due consideration when developing this DEA Investment Programme along with engagement by the council's Senior Management Team with Heads of Service and Elected Members during September to December 2021 with updates during 2022 and the first part of 2023. This was with a view to the consideration of measures that would assist the continued recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and address issues as they emerge from the cost of living crisis. This also included, importantly, regular contact with and feedback from local communities.

The subsequent list of activities/projects that was compiled and updated by stakeholders across the DEAs ensured that each DEA would benefit from relevant activities/projects and that in the main these should be quick delivery, short-term projects of (relatively) low value. The necessity of this approach it was considered would deal with local concerns as well as continue to address the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic and the issues emerging from the ongoing cost of living crisis, as well as pro-actively support communities going forward.

Most up to date NISRA population data from Census 2021 (published 22/09/22)
[Lisburn and Castlereagh Census Data](#)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information		
Religious Belief	NI Census 2021	N. Ireland (%)	LCCC (%)
	Catholic	42.3	23.9
	Protestant and Other Christian	37.7	48.7
	Other	17.3	1.8
	No Religion	17.3	24.1
	Not Stated	1.6	1.4

<p>Political Opinion</p>	<p>The Local Government Election in May 2023 demonstrated the following weighting in the council area’s political opinion. Note: only 52% of those eligible submitted a vote.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 338 1315 609"> <thead> <tr> <th>DUP (%)</th> <th>Alliance (%)</th> <th>UUP (%)</th> <th>SF (%)</th> <th>SDLP (%)</th> <th>Ind (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>35</td> <td>32.5</td> <td>15</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>2.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			DUP (%)	Alliance (%)	UUP (%)	SF (%)	SDLP (%)	Ind (%)	35	32.5	15	10	5	2.5									
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<p>Racial Group</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="472 663 1401 810"> <thead> <tr> <th>NI Census 2021</th> <th>N. Ireland (%)</th> <th>LCCC (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>96.6</td> <td>96.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irish Traveller</td> <td>0.01</td> <td>0.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other/Not Recorded</td> <td>3,39</td> <td>3.86</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			NI Census 2021	N. Ireland (%)	LCCC (%)	White	96.6	96.07	Irish Traveller	0.01	0.07	Other/Not Recorded	3,39	3.86									
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<p>Age</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="472 871 1404 1178"> <thead> <tr> <th>NI Census 2021</th> <th>N. Ireland (%)</th> <th>LCCC (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-15</td> <td>19%</td> <td>20.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-39</td> <td>31%</td> <td>28.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-64</td> <td>32%</td> <td>33.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>17%</td> <td>17.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			NI Census 2021	N. Ireland (%)	LCCC (%)	0-15	19%	20.2%	16-39	31%	28.9%	40-64	32%	33.3%	65+	17%	17.6%						
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<p>Marital Status</p>	<p>For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships: 30.65% single; 53.78% married; 0.10% same sex partnership;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1267 1404 1536"> <thead> <tr> <th>NI Census 2021</th> <th>N. Ireland (%)</th> <th>LCCC (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single</td> <td>38</td> <td>33.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td>43</td> <td>51.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civil Partnership</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>0.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separated</td> <td>4</td> <td>3.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Divorced</td> <td>6</td> <td>5.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widowed</td> <td>6</td> <td>6.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>3.27% separated; 5.52% divorced; 6.68% widowed.</p>			NI Census 2021	N. Ireland (%)	LCCC (%)	Single	38	33.07	Married	43	51.4	Civil Partnership	0.3	0.19	Separated	4	3.1	Divorced	6	5.9	Widowed	6	6.2
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<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="472 1576 1430 1955"> <thead> <tr> <th>NI Census 2021</th> <th>N. Ireland (%)</th> <th>LCCC (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Straight or heterosexual</td> <td>90.04</td> <td>91.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gay or lesbian</td> <td>1.17</td> <td>1.21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			NI Census 2021	N. Ireland (%)	LCCC (%)	Straight or heterosexual	90.04	91.36	Gay or lesbian	1.17	1.21												
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	Bisexual	0.75	0.69
	Other sexual orientation	0.17	0.15
	Prefer not to Say	4.58	3,72
	Not Stated	3.30	2.87
Men & Women Generally	2021 Census Information - The population of the LCCC Council Area is 49% male and 51% female.		
Disability	<p>In the 2021 Census, 50,121 disabilities or residents with 1 or more long-term health conditions were reported within the 149,107 residents' population in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area that are over 16.</p> <p>66.84% of the council area reported they experienced no condition. In 2021, 3% of the eligible population in the council area were claiming Disability Living Allowance, 7% were claiming Personal Independent Payments and 3% were claiming Attendance Allowance.</p>		
People with and without Dependents	<p>2021 Census Information – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is just slightly above the mid – point Northern Ireland in relation to dependent children in household between ages of 0 - 4; 5 – 9; 10 – 14 but is in bottom position in relation to children & young adults aged 15 – 19 years.</p> <p>In 2021, of the 60,143 households in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City council area 14.4% (8,661) had dependent children; 10.98% of the population on average provide unpaid care, with 3.4% providing in excess of 50 hours per week.</p>		

Mid-Year Population Estimates 2019 & 2021 – District Electoral Areas

DEA	Population - Census 2019	% 2019	Population Census 2021	% 2021
Killultagh	21450	14.6	22,013	14.8
Downshire West	17110	11.6	17,190	11.5
Lisburn North	23050	15.7	23,449	15.7
Lisburn South	23610	16.0	24,321	16.3

Downshire East	16720	11.3	16,746	11.2
Castlereagh South	24010	16.3	23,488	15.8
Castlereagh East	20860	14.2	21,899	14.7
	146,810		149,106	100

Source: NISRA/NINIS

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	There is a need for all groups to have equal access to funding. No further differential needs identified that won't be covered in the programme.
Political Opinion	
Racial Group	There is a need for targeted promotion to different groups who may not be aware of funding opportunities and provide additional pre application advice and support. Information needs to be accessible, including information in languages other than English and access to translators if required.
Age	There is a need for older and younger people to have equal access to funding, a need for targeted promotion to different groups who may not be aware of funding opportunities and provide additional pre application advice and support. Information may need to be provided in alternative formats, such as hard copy rather than digital information.
Marital Status	No differential needs identified that won't be covered in the programme, there is a need for all groups to have equal access to funding
Sexual Orientation	
Men & Women Generally	
Disability	There is a need for disabled people to have equal access to funding and a need for targeted promotion to different groups who may not be aware of funding opportunities. Additional pre application advice and support should be available, including reasonable adjustments. Information

	may need to be provided in alternative formats, such as braille or easy read.
People with and without Dependants	There is a need for those with (and without) dependants to have equal access to funding and a need for targeted promotion to different groups who may not be aware of funding opportunities. Additional pre application advice and support may be required and there is a need to ensure this is offered in a manner which suits people with dependants (e.g. time of day / online options etc).

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	No differential impact identified	None
Political Opinion	No differential impact identified	None
Racial Group	Targeted promotion, additional pre application advice and support will hopefully enhance equality of opportunity.	Minor
Age		Minor
Marital Status	No differential impact identified	None
Sexual Orientation		None
Men & Women Generally		None
Disability	Targeted promotion, additional pre application advice and support will hopefully enhance equality of opportunity.	Minor
People with and without Dependants	Targeted promotion, additional pre application advice and support will hopefully enhance equality of opportunity.	Minor

* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) 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 details
Religious Belief		Successful applicants to the grant-aid programmes will be required to provide and comply with their organisations own Equal Opportunities Policy & procedures. This will be verified as part of the assessment process.
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		
Sexual Orientation		
Men & Women Generally		
Disability		
People with and without Dependents		

Equality Action Plan 2021-2025

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2021-2025? Yes/~~No~~ If yes, specify which action.

Theme 2: Access to Information

2.1 Some individuals/ groups may be disadvantaged by not having full access to information provided by us (Ensure information is accessible to all)

Theme 3: Our Community

3.3 Some groups may feel that they can't access available grants (Access to grants)

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

- to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?
- to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

Yes - If yes, give details/specify which action.

Promotion & Engagement

- 3.1 Identify relevant opportunities and encourage participation of disabled people through targeted promotion
- 3.2 Ensure disabled people and representative groups are targeted proactively in all council consultations and engagement events/ initiatives
- 3.3 Continue to work with disabled individuals and their representative groups.

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

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will impact positively on good relations, by supporting interaction and collaboration between people of different political opinions. Specific impacts will be further assessed through equality screening of individual projects. Impacts will continue to be monitored to ensure there is balanced and equitable investment across all DEAs	Moderate positive impact
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

*See Appendix 1 for details.

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

Good Relations Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	Consideration will be given to promoting equality of opportunity for people of different religious beliefs, political opinions, and	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

	<p>racial groups through the development of inclusive funding criteria and accessible promotional materials.</p>	
--	--	--

Multiple identity

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

The Council recognises that no individual sits exclusively within one Section 75 category and that people with multiple identities (for example, disabled older people or individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds with dependants) may experience compounded barriers. The DEA Investment Programme will address this through inclusive design, targeted support, and ongoing monitoring of uptake and outcomes to assess impact across multiple identities.

Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a **full equality impact assessment** on a proposed policy or project. There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no relevance to equality, no negative impacts identified or only very minor positive impacts for all groups. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor potential impacts or opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified, so mitigations appropriate. Much of our activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant and/or potentially negative impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment. [See Equality Commission guidance on justifying a screening decision.]

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]	
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation or some opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified [complete mitigation section below]	The policy aims noted above includes mitigation as set out below which, negate the need for full EQIA.
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) [If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below]	

Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.

The use of grant-aid and engagement initiatives is expected to benefit positively each DEA. The equitable and proportionate approach taken by this policy acknowledges that equality of opportunity is not “treating all equally” and by so doing will help ensure each DEA is supported as required to meet local concerns/needs.

Mitigation includes individual projects to be Equality Screened to identify any impacts on Section 75 groups.

Targeted promotion to Section 75 groups and monitoring of uptake.

Supporting Section 75 groups as outlined (including providing additional support and adjustments) based on targeted need. The DEA Investment Programme will be monitored monthly by the relevant Officers. This ongoing review and monitoring will address any significant negative equality considerations that may arise on a regular basis.

Timetabling and prioritising for full EQIA (only relevant to Option 3) Not applicable

If the activity/policy has been '**screened in**' for full equality impact assessment, give details of any factors to be considered and the next steps for progressing the EQIA, including a proposed timetable.

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? **No.** ~~If yes, please provide details.~~

Part 4. Monitoring

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

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

What will be monitored and how? What specific equality monitoring will be done? Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? Please give details:

The DEA Investment Programme will be monitored monthly through the allocated officers responsible for delivery.

This DEA Investment Programme is subject to ongoing evaluation to inform the proposed wider funding programme. It will be reviewed on an annual basis with final approval by Louise Moore, Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing (SRO).

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

	Position/Job Title	Date
Screened by: Alison Prentice	Acting Community Development & Resources Manager	19/03/2026
Reviewed by: Annie Wilson	Equality Officer	24/03/2026
Approved by: Victoria Jackson	Head of Communities	25/03/2026

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- approved and 'signed off' by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
- included with Committee reports, as appropriate
- sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees, internal reporting and publishing on the LCCC website
- shared with relevant colleagues
- made available to the public on request.

Evidence and documents referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

*Major impact:

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

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

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.

No impact (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.

Updated Template @ Oct 2022

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

1B. 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.

DEA Local Investment Plan 2026-27

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

DEA Local Investment Plan 2026-27

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

As part of the five-year DEA Local Investment Plan, the key drivers identified to support prioritization include

- Supports community engagement/community capacity
- Proposal addresses local concerns
- Improves corporate effectiveness
- Addresses emerging needs
- Addresses poverty/social exclusion

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).	<input type="checkbox"/>
A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.

n/a

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

n/a

Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

n/a

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The DEA Local Investment Plan is likely to have a positive and meaningful impact on people living in rural areas through its targeted workstreams, which include grant aid and localised initiatives designed to address specific community needs. Rural communities often experience greater challenges in accessing services, facilities, and opportunities due to factors such as limited public transport, reduced access to amenities, digital connectivity issues, and higher levels of social isolation.

Through the provision of grant aid and locally tailored interventions, the Plan supports the enhancement of community facilities, development of local infrastructure, and delivery of programmes that directly respond to identified rural needs. These investments will help strengthen the capacity of rural groups, improve access to local services, and create more opportunities for participation, connection, and community wellbeing. The focus on locally driven solutions also ensures that rural communities are empowered to shape services and activities that reflect their unique circumstances and priorities.

2C. 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.

The grant aid elements will be available for each DEA and whilst these strands will benefit all areas, it is envisaged that rural communities may gain more direct outputs from this scheme as it is widely known that rural communities lack more services and amenities in comparison to urban dwellers (lack of transport , health care, school, digital poverty to name a few)

In developing the programme, we have been mindful of the importance/significance of local community facilities to the lives of people living in rural area who may find it challenging to access services in urban area due to issues with transport, cost, time, poverty, age/disability.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

N/A

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. 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?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. 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.

Direct consultation and local knowledge from stakeholders within a rural setting including community leaders, voluntary organisations and statutory partners will be considered when adopting any programme for delivery on behalf of council. The council's Community Services works with internal council teams such as Community Planning and Economic Development to obtain relevant information regarding statistics. Furthermore, council strategies such as the Peace PLUS strategy and Good Relations audit have been considered.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

Rural communities tend to be more socially isolated on a number of platforms. Often characterised by lack of amenities such as school, shops, limited public transport, limited access to medical care, poor broadband or mobile coverage, and cohesion; More often there is a lack of confidence and many folk experience lower self -esteem and suffer from mental health and poverty.

Key issues include the need for local services such as those that can be provided by community groups, especially for groups such as young people, older people, disabled people, carers to reduce barriers to participation such as cost and transport.

LCCC has considered the impact of poverty and social isolation on vulnerable groups in rural areas and how living in a rural areas can exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation. In particular it has looked at effects that living in a rural area can have on financial poverty, accessing key services and social isolation and at potential measures for alleviating the effects. Council has also recognised a need for more new and innovative approaches to dealing with the issues in rural areas which take account of particular circumstances which people in rural areas face. This programme therefore offers the opportunity, to reduce inequality and broaden community engagement with the ultimate objective to provide better access to community needs whilst improving community links and networks.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

N/A

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

In considering the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, several key issues were examined. Rural dwellers often face distinct challenges compared with those living in urban locations. These include financial poverty, limited access to key services, reduced availability of public transport, and lower levels of digital connectivity. These factors can lead to increased social isolation, reduced opportunities for participation, and barriers to community engagement. The DEA Local Investment Plan has recognised that rural communities frequently have fewer accessible amenities—such as health services, shops, schools, and community facilities—which can disproportionately impact vulnerable groups including older people, young people, carers, and people with disabilities. Issues such as digital poverty and limited broadband/mobile coverage were also considered as they contribute to reduced access to information, services, and opportunities.

The Plan also took into account the importance of physical accessibility within local facilities and the need for investments that enable community groups to provide more inclusive services. Strengthening community infrastructure and capacity, improving access to local services, and addressing social isolation were identified as essential to supporting wellbeing and reducing inequalities faced by rural residents. These considerations have helped shape the focus of the workstreams, ensuring that the Plan responds effectively to the specific circumstances and barriers experienced by rural communities.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The development of the DEA Local Investment Plan has been directly influenced by the rural needs identified through consultation, local evidence and analysis of the challenges faced by rural communities. The Plan has been designed to ensure that rural dwellers—who often experience financial poverty, reduced access to services, limited transport options, and digital connectivity issues—are able to benefit fully from the workstreams and initiatives offered. The inclusion of grant aid and locally focused interventions reflects a recognition that rural communities require accessible, flexible and proportionate support to address deficits in local infrastructure, community facilities and service provision. The Plan therefore prioritises investment that enhances local facilities, strengthens community capacity and improves access to participation opportunities for those experiencing social isolation or barriers relating to cost, transport, disability or age.

During implementation, attention will be given to ensuring that rural groups are aware of funding opportunities and have appropriate support to engage with the programme. Monitoring arrangements will consider the balance of applications and outcomes across rural and urban areas, and any lower-than-expected uptake from rural communities will be reviewed to inform future design and delivery. This approach ensures that the Plan remains responsive to the specific needs of rural residents and continues to address inequalities experienced in rural areas.

If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. 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 compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Alison Prentice
Position/Grade:	Community Development & Resources Manager (Acting)
Division/Branch	Community Services
Signature:	Alison Prentice
Date:	15/03/2026
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Victoria Jackson
Position/Grade:	Head of Communities
Division/Branch:	Communities & Wellbeing
Signature:	Victoria Jackson
Date:	31/03/2026



Committee:	Community and Wellbeing
Date:	14 April 2026
Report from:	Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Community Investment Fund – Ballinderry War Memorial Hall

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	In May 2021, the Council approved the development of the Community Investment Fund (CIF) as a key priority within the Investment Plan. The Fund is intended to support capital projects that enhance community facilities across the Council area, contributing to local revitalisation and increased community participation.
1.2	Since the programme commenced, a total budget of £3,450,000 has been ringfenced. This funding has been distributed across four phases, supporting 11 successful projects, including the proposed refurbishment of Ballinderry War Memorial Hall.
2.0	<u>Letter of Offer</u>
2.1	Ballinderry War Memorial Hall has applied to regenerate and restore the facility to expand opportunities for local community use. The Council has agreed, in principle, to provide £350,000 from the Community Investment Fund to support this development. In line with CIF scheme requirements, an initial 'in principle' Letter of Offer was issued to enable the organisation to complete due diligence and secure match funding.
2.2	The organisation has now fulfilled all necessary conditions, including submitting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of secured match funding from the National Lottery Heritage Foundation • A detailed project delivery plan • A full business case • All necessary permissions.
2.3	All due diligence prerequisites have been met, enabling the project to proceed to the formal Letter of Offer stage.
3.0	<u>Recommendation</u>
	It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and approve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The issuing of a formal Letter of Offer to Ballinderry War Memorial Hall.

4.0	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>	
	£350,000 from Community Investment Fund as previously agreed.	
5.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
6.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out? Part of overall programme	Yes
6.2	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out	
6.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed? Part of overall programme	Yes
6.4	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.	



Committee:	Communities & Wellbeing
Date:	14 April 2025
Report from:	Head of Communities

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Community Development & Good Relations Framework 2026-2029

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>									
1.1	Central government requires councils to have robust frameworks in place to support both the Community Support Programme (Department for Communities) and the District Councils Good Relations Programme (The Executive Office) and to access the financial assistance as derived from these programmes.									
1.2	A total of £834,959.32 was received in 2025/26 across both funding streams, as shown in Table 1.									
1.3	<p><u>Table 1</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Central Government Funder</th> <th>Level of Funding (£)</th> <th>Qualifying Expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Department for Communities</td> <td>£646,759.53</td> <td>Salary support Programming Grant-aid Social Supermarket Advice Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Executive Office – District Council Good Relations Programme</td> <td>£188,199.79</td> <td>Salary support Programming</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Central Government Funder	Level of Funding (£)	Qualifying Expenditure	Department for Communities	£646,759.53	Salary support Programming Grant-aid Social Supermarket Advice Services	The Executive Office – District Council Good Relations Programme	£188,199.79	Salary support Programming
Central Government Funder	Level of Funding (£)	Qualifying Expenditure								
Department for Communities	£646,759.53	Salary support Programming Grant-aid Social Supermarket Advice Services								
The Executive Office – District Council Good Relations Programme	£188,199.79	Salary support Programming								
1.4	Historically, Community Development and Good Relations have been developed and delivered through separate workplans, resulting in siloed working practices and increasing the risk of gaps in delivery against the Council’s priorities and funding obligations									
1.5	By bringing both programmes under a single strategic framework, the Council can embed shared priorities across all service areas, minimise duplication, and ensure that resources, engagement activity and operational planning are coordinated more effectively. This unified approach strengthens governance, improves cross-departmental working, and creates a more streamlined system that supports more consistent delivery on the ground.									

- 1.6 Aligning this framework with the Community Plan - and embedding its principles within the wider community planning approach provides one clear structure for planning, delivery and monitoring. This enables the Council to respond more effectively to community needs and ensures that the work of Community Development and Good Relations directly contributes to the shared outcomes of the Community Plan. The integrated model is expected to enhance impact, improve collaboration and deliver better outcomes for communities across the Council area.
- 2.0 **Draft framework– Key Outcomes**
- 2.1 The draft framework (Appendix 1) has been informed by an extensive programme of community and stakeholder engagement. This included a review of the previous strategies, mapping of delivery to date, and comprehensive consultation through online surveys, focus groups and open community events.
- 2.2 Feedback from the consultation identified several key needs:
- More localised programme delivery tailored to the specific priorities of individual communities.
 - Increased opportunities for integration, enabling new and existing communities to connect and build positive relationships.
 - Capacity-building programmes to support volunteers and strengthen the sustainability of local groups.
 - Enhanced engagement and support for organisations managing community facilities.
- 2.3 Reflecting these findings, the draft framework outlines five strategic outcomes to be delivered through annual operational action plans, ensuring consistency and strategic alignment across the Council area:
1. Inclusive Communities
 2. Connected Communities
 3. Empowered Participation
 4. Safe & Shared Spaces
 5. Sustainable Communities.
- 2.4 The integrated framework creates new opportunities to enhance complementarity between Community Development and Good Relations activity. It strengthens cross-departmental working - particularly within the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Directorate - by aligning programme delivery, community engagement, and resource deployment.
- 2.5 This unified approach also provides enhanced flexibility to respond to emerging issues, supports better use of Council assets and community partnerships, and ensures a more strategic and impactful delivery model for the next three years.
- 3.0 **Recommendation**
- It is recommended that Members approve:
1. The Draft Community Development & Good Relations Framework 2026-2029.

4.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications in relation to the framework. All associated programming will be delivered through revenue.</p>	
5.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
5.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
5.2	<p>The aligned approach will enhance inclusion for all residents, with monitoring in place to ensure continued adaptability. See Appendix 2.</p>	
5.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
5.4	<p>The RNIA demonstrates a positive impact on rural needs, noting that strengthened community-based approaches will help reduce barriers to participation. See Appendix 3.</p>	

<p>Appendices:</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Draft Community Development & Good Relations Framework 2026-2029.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Equality Screening Draft Framework</p> <p>Appendix 3 – RNIA Draft Framework</p>
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Community Development and Good Relations Framework 2026-2029

SECTION 1

35

Our Vision:

Communities throughout Lisburn & Castlereagh can cultivate inclusion and understanding, avail of opportunities for participation and collaboration, and are empowered to deliver positive change.

Background:

This framework establishes the context for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's work to strengthen and support local communities over the next three years through the coordinated delivery of community development and good relations initiatives. By bringing community development and good relations together, this framework builds on and formalises the collaborative, integrated approach already advanced by the Council's Community Services Unit through alignment of the Community Support Programme (CSP) and the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP).



Community Development

Community Development is both a professional discipline and a model of working with communities in a structured and collective effort towards positive social change. The process begins with the experiences of individuals and their communities and enables working together towards shared outcomes. Community Development is inherently value-based with the All-Ireland Standards for Community Work framing its practice around five core values.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council delivers community development initiatives through its Community Support Programme. This programme, with support from the Department for Communities, seeks to contribute towards communities that are active and organised, influential, informed, and sustainable. It promotes the empowerment and resourcing of local communities, facilitation of local responses, and the increasing of equity and inclusion through strategic partnership with community and voluntary sector organisations.



Source: All Ireland Standards for Community Work, Community Work Ireland (2016)

Good Relations

The strategic framework for good relations in Northern Ireland is developed within *Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC)*. This outlines the promotion of good relations as an active and collaborative process that transcends the management of division or difference towards the creation of a new reconciled and shared society.



As part of our commitment to good relations, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council delivers a District Council Good Relations Programme supported by The Executive Office (TEO). This is comprised of locally tailored interventions to improve relations within and between communities and is aligned to T: BUC priorities.

Our children and young people

To continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.

Our shared community

To create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Our safe community

To create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

Our cultural expression

To create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

SECTION 2

Outcomes

The framework was developed through a thorough process aligned with the community planning model. This involved mapping existing services, reviewing current practice, and assessing performance to understand the impact of current provision. A structured consultation with key stakeholders also helped identify emerging needs and ensure the strategy reflects local priorities.

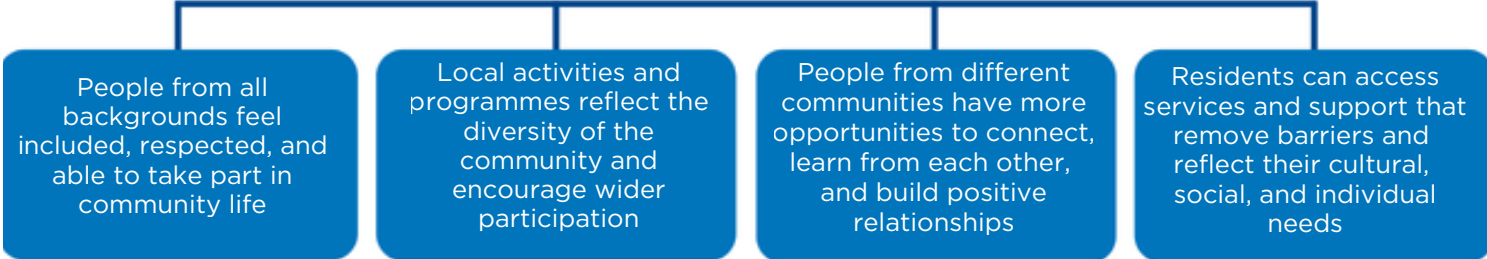
Based on the evidence gathered, and in line with the Council’s commitment to an integrated and outcomes-focused approach, five key strategic priorities and their associated outcomes have been identified.

These priorities provide a clear structure for delivery, helping ensure that resources, programmes, and partnerships are aligned, consistent, and responsive to need. They also set the basis for measuring progress and guiding operational planning and performance management.

1. Inclusive Communities

Our work promotes inclusion and diversity to reduce barriers and meet the diverse needs of our communities

OUTCOMES



2. Connected Communities

Social connections and partnerships are supported across neighbourhoods, organisations and sectors

OUTCOMES



3. Empowered Participation
 Our communities can influence decisions and shape priorities through their work and through active collaboration.

OUTCOMES

- Barriers faced by underrepresented groups are reduced through more inclusive services and programmes
- Communities across all DEAs feel greater ownership and influence through co-designed Council initiatives
- Community and voluntary groups work together creating projects that strengthen relationships
- Residents gain confidence and support to take part in decision-making through volunteering and learning opportunities

4. Safe & Shared Spaces
 Our community spaces are inclusive and safe, and our services are accessible and tailored to local needs.

OUTCOMES

- Communities feel confident and supported to manage facilities confidently and sustainably
- Open spaces are enjoyed as safe, shared areas supported by local events and programming
- Community facilities offer accessible ways for people to take part and get involved in local activities and decisions
- Shared facilities help build positive relationships and reduce divisions between communities

5. Sustainable Communities
 Our communities are resilient and able to adapt to challenges

OUTCOMES

- Community and voluntary groups feel better supported and more able to meet local needs through access to funding and guidance
- Volunteers are better equipped to plan, deliver, and evaluate their work through tailored training and support
- Residents can access essential support services that help them cope with financial, social, and personal challenges
- More people are able to volunteer, and organisations feel equipped to support and manage their volunteers well

SECTION 3

Monitoring

The implementation of this framework will include the development of annual Community Support and Good Relations Action Plans. Key actions will be measured using an outcomes-based accountability measure and will be included in both quarterly reports and the production of Key Performance Indicators.

	Quantity	Quality
Effort	How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
Effect	Is anyone better off?	

By continuing to look closely at our local community, the voluntary sector, and good relations across the council area, our action plans will be shaped by what we've learned from past work and by any new or changing needs. We will strengthen community involvement by asking for people's views and working with them to co-design key parts of our programmes. We will also focus on making sure support is delivered fairly across the council area and on actively removing any barriers that might prevent people from taking part.



Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Revised Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened

This strategy establishes the context for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's work to strengthen and support local communities over the next three years through the coordinated delivery of community development and good relations initiatives. By bringing community development and good relations together within a single framework, the strategy builds on and formalises the collaborative, integrated approach already advanced by the Council's Community Services Unit through alignment of the Community Support Programme (CSP) and the District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP).

Name of the activity/policy/project

Community Development and Good Relations Strategy 2026-2029 –

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

This strategy replaces and amalgamates two former strategy documents, namely the Community Development Strategy and the Good Relations Audit, Strategy, and Action Plan 2022-2025.

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

This strategy will structure the work of community development and good relations within Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council towards 5 key outcomes:

1. *Inclusive Communities* — Our work supports equality and diversity to reduce barriers and meet the diverse needs of our communities.
2. *Connected Communities* — Social connections and partnerships are supported across neighbourhoods, organisations, and sectors.
3. *Empowered Participation* — Our communities can influence decisions and shape priorities through their work and through active collaboration.
4. *Safe & Shared Spaces* — Our community spaces are inclusive and safe, and our services are accessible and tailored to local needs.
5. *Sustainable Communities* — Our communities are resilient and able to adapt to challenges.

These outcomes will establish the primary goals of both the *Community Support Programme* and the *District Council Good Relations Programme* and act as a foundation for the development of associated action plans and the measurement of performance. Further, the strategy will provide a framework for delivery, ensuring that resources and partnership activity are aligned and responsive to identified need.

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

All residents of Lisburn & Castlereagh and the community and voluntary groups working with, and on behalf of, communities across the council area. This will include organisations with a purpose or area of benefit that includes, or specifically targets, Section 75 groups.

The strategy is universal in scope with targeted actions expected to benefit specific Section 75 groups where inequality or under-representation is identified. The strategy also contains specific aims that include the promotion of good relations, increasing diversity and inclusion, and removing barriers to participation.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

The strategy has been developed by the Communities Services unit within Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?

The strategy is owned by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council with responsibility for implementation and delivery led by the Community Services unit.

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

Yes

If yes, are they: financial, legislative, other? Give brief details of any significant factors.

Financial

- Delivery on the strategic aims is dependent on the sustained allocation of Council resources, external funding provision and associated partner capacity.
- Wider public sector budget pressures may affect the scale, pace, or sequencing of actions.
- Financial strain and uncertainty within the community and voluntary sector may impact the capacity or viability of local organisations to engage with Council provision or be involved in partnership delivery.

Legislative

- Statutory duties under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and associated equality legislation must be met across delivery.

Other

- Buy-in from residents and the community and voluntary sector is critical to successful delivery of the strategy.
- Changes in policy direction, or emerging need may necessitate adaption of the strategy and associated actions.
- A deterioration of inter/intra community relations may impact capacity for delivery in certain areas.
- A reduction in of capacity support from support organisations within the community and voluntary sector would place increased onus on this element of delivery.

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

Staff	LCCC Community Services unit Other units within LCCC who contribute to delivery of community development or good relations programmes through a Community Planning approach.
Service Users	Residents of Lisburn & Castlereagh Individuals accessing community and voluntary sector support within Lisburn and Castlereagh
Other Public Sector Organisations – please list	The Executive Office Department for Communities Northern Ireland Housing Executive Education Authority Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Community and voluntary sector organisations (local and regional) Sports Clubs Faith Groups Umbrella and support organisations. Housing Associations
Other –	Elected Members Delivery partners Funders Commissioned organisations/contractors

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Community Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council & Community Planning partners
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Connect, Invest, Transform Investment Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Corporate Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Our Plan: Doing what matters most – Programme for Government 2024-2027	Northern Ireland Executive
Equality Commission Guidance	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Good Relations: A Guide for Local Authorities	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Equality Action Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Together: Building a United Community	The Executive Office
Beyond the Centre: a consultation document on the District Council's Community Services Programme.	Department for Communities
Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future A Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland	Department for Communities
Partnership Agreement between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector in Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Executive Joint Forum Government and Voluntary & Community Sector NI
Advising, Supporting, Empowering: A Strategy for the delivery of generalist advice services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020	Department for Communities
Programme for regional support for women in disadvantaged areas and rural areas	Department for Communities; Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs.
Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland)	Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs

Available evidence

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Community Development and Good Relations Strategy has been developed using a range of sources including reviews of existing and previous strategies and action plans, online consultations separately targeting local community/voluntary sector organisations and residents within Lisburn & Castlereagh, and extensive community engagement including focus groups. Together this data collection has been designed to ensure broad input across multiple locations and demographics within the council area.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	<p>Census data and community consultation revealed the religious breakdown of the population (58% Protestant, 27% Catholic, 13% none).</p> <p>Group consultations included contributions from faith-based organisations, in addition to community groups delivering in areas with a diverse religious profile.</p> <p>Consultations completed by residents evidenced a broad range of religious belief.</p>

Political Opinion	<p>Census data 2021 – British only 41%, Irish only 16%, Northern Irish only 21%, British & Irish only <1%, British & Northern Irish only 11%, Irish & Northern Irish only 2%, British, Irish & Northern Irish only 2%, Other national identities 6%.</p> <p>Surveys were completed by a diverse representation of local community groups and residents. Feedback included information on local communities including influence and organisation, community relations, and good relations priorities.</p>								
Racial Group	<p>Census data 2021 indicated around 6% of the LCCC population were born outside of the UK and Ireland.</p> <p>Applications to EU settlement scheme Aug 2018 to March 2021 – 3940. Applicants from range of nationalities – largest groups Polish, Lithuanian and Romanian. LCCC also has a small population of Syrian refugees. Furthermore, the Asylum Seeker population is increasing across Northern Ireland as a whole.</p> <p>The consultation gathered feedback on questions of racism, cultural understanding, inclusion, and the provision of shared spaces. Responses evidenced strong support for activities to increase cultural awareness and inclusion alongside assistance for marginalised communities and the provision of spaces/opportunities for the connection of diverse groups.</p>								
Age	<p>LCCC population:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>0-14</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-39</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-64</td> <td>33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> </table> <p>LCCC has an aging population with a higher-than-average population aged over 85 years.</p> <p>Group consultation responses included organisations that represent and deliver to a wide range of ages with 58% of respondents delivering youth provision and 70% delivering programmes to older people.</p> <p>Resident consultation evidenced a broad age profile with experience of accessing targeted support across multiple ages within a community setting.</p>	0-14	19%	15-39	30%	40-64	33%	65+	18%
0-14	19%								
15-39	30%								
40-64	33%								
65+	18%								

	<p>Respondents frequently identified youth engagement and opportunities for older people as key priorities within consultation feedback, whilst increased accessibility and linkages across generations were also highlighted.</p>
Marital Status	<p>In relation to the council area, the Census indicated the following data for marital and civil partnerships:</p> <p>Single 33% Married or in a civil partnership 52%. Separated 3% Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership 6%. Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership 6%</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>Census 2021 highlighted the following figures in relation to the council area:</p> <p>Straight or heterosexual 91% Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation 2% Prefer not to say or not stated 7%.</p> <p>Consultation responses highlighted the importance of fostering inclusion within community and voluntary settings and providing support for marginalised communities.</p>
Men & Women Generally	<p>The gender breakdown of the LCCC population reflects the national picture – 51% female: 49% male.</p> <p>Northern Ireland has a small but growing number of people who identify as trans (based on referrals to gender identity services and support groups) and it is likely that LCCC will have a small number of trans residents.</p> <p>There was a similar breakdown of genders consulted throughout the process.</p>
Disability	<p>Published data from the 2021 census indicates that 32% of the population had one or more long term health conditions. This figure was broadly aligned with the profile of resident responses within consultations. 35% of respondents within resident consultations indicated they had accessed support for health, disability, or welfare in the previous 12 months. This figure was 15% for engaging in similarly focused volunteer activity in the previous 12 months. Consultations showed a strong emphasis on the importance of delivering accessible and inclusive programming, including supporting volunteers and community leaders in this endeavour.</p>

<p>Dependants</p>	<p>People with dependants includes those who care for children, older people, and those with disabilities. Limited information on carers is available; however, 2021 Census data indicates 14% of the council population reported providing some level of unpaid care and 31% of households have at least one dependant.</p> <p>Consultation respondents included organisations delivering support programmes designed around early years and youth provision, in addition to supporting those with dependants.</p>
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
<p>Religious Belief</p>	<p>Activities should be neutral and inclusive of all faiths or none. Monitoring and engagement are needed to ensure equitable access.</p> <p>Support programmes emanating from the strategy must be sensitive to differences of belief and the potential to impact areas of advice (such as governance or funding).</p> <p>Consultations evidenced a greater demand for opportunities for different communities to mix and the provision of shared spaces.</p>
<p>Political Opinion</p>	<p>Local election data shows diverse representation. Consultations demonstrated engagement in a wide range of community activity and organising with some political dimension. Actions and programming must be sensitive to this diversity and should be non-partisan and ensure that groups and residents with varying political views or low civic engagement can participate.</p>
<p>Racial Group</p>	<p>Addressing hate incidents and racism were highlighted as a key priority for good relations. A related need to further develop understanding of cultures/cultural celebrations and create shared spaces and inclusive programmes was evidenced.</p>

	Other needs include culturally appropriate engagement, translated materials where needed, and outreach to minority ethnic and refugee communities to support participation.
Age	Youth engagement and delivery was highlighted as a distinct need across community development and good relations priorities. A considerable proportion of community and voluntary sector organisations are delivering programming and support for older people and require support to ensure continued delivery. Engagement should be tailored to different age groups and develop opportunities for both peer and intergenerational learning.
Marital Status	Activities should be accessible to all, with flexibility to engage residents regardless of marital status.
Sexual Orientation	Ensure safe, inclusive participation, and design materials and programmes to acknowledge diverse sexual orientations. Provide support for the provision of safe/shared spaces, and for the organisations and volunteers to champion inclusion.
Men & Women Generally	Engagement should reach all genders and include support for community and voluntary sector organisations focusing on supporting specific genders in addition to those delivering to all.
Disability	Within responses, health, disability, and welfare was one the most common reasons for use of a community centre within the previous 12 months. Consultations highlighted a need for accessibility and inclusion within support and programming, as well as the fostering of shared spaces and the championing of inclusion at community level. Community groups require additional support and training to meet these needs.
Dependants	Consideration of the need for flexibility to access programmes and opportunities. Ongoing support for delivery within the community and voluntary sector.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	Promotes inclusive approaches that support participation across all religions and none. Actions emanating from the strategy will be open to all and monitored to identify any barriers to participation.	Minor positive
Political Opinion	The strategy and associated outcomes focus on inclusive and collaborative initiatives, promoting increased partnership between communities, statutory bodies, and Council. An emphasis on community empowerment and a non-partisan approach will ensure delivery across the political spectrum.	Minor positive
Racial Group	The strategy emphasizes an anti-discrimination and human rights focused approach. Key outcomes include fostering inclusion and diversity. Partnership working and collaboration are expected to increase visibility and influence for minority ethnic communities.	Minor positive
Age	The strategy makes provision for increased support, collaboration, and resourcing of community and voluntary sector organisations to deliver positive outcomes. Young people form a core part of good relations priorities, whilst focusing on greater sharing and networking, alongside support for accessibility and transport, will positively impact older residents and social isolation.	Minor positive
Marital Status	No differential impact on equality of opportunity based on marital status. Universal access to all programmes; no specific	None

	interventions targeting marital status.	
Sexual Orientation	The strategy places a strong emphasis on support for inclusion and a shared community. Greater collaboration and connection across organisations may increase opportunities for support, peer learning, and delivery.	Minor positive
Men & Women Generally	Greater focus on facilitating collaboration and networking, alongside ongoing resourcing, will have a positive impact on community and voluntary groups delivering gender-specific support and programming.	Minor positive
Disability	Developing training and capacity building opportunities that champion inclusion and remove barriers to participation will have a positive impact. Increased opportunities for individuals and communities to influence council delivery will increase visibility and participation.	Minor positive
Dependants	No differential impact identified.	None

* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) 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 details
Religious Belief	Opportunities to promote equality of opportunity include adapting engagement methods, targeted outreach and ensuring accessible information. Development of networks and collaborative frameworks will permit increased visibility and influence of Section 75 groups. Training on unconscious bias, cultural competency, and the specific needs of Section 75 groups will enhance inclusive	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		

Sexual Orientation	engagement and service delivery. Regularly collecting and analysing disaggregated data on participation, service uptake, and outcomes will ensure timely adjustments to better promote equality of opportunity and address any unintended barriers.	
Men & Women Generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2012-2025? If yes, give brief details.

Yes.

2.1 Some individuals/ groups may be disadvantaged by not having full access to information provided by Council

The strategy makes provision for improved information sharing through outreach services, such as generalist advice, tailored support for community and voluntary sector organisations, supply of information to local community and voluntary sector organisations, and the development of opportunities for greater networking, collaboration, and sharing of information.

3.2 Some individuals/ groups may find the location of Council facilities a deterrent to use or may find certain buildings and premises inaccessible.

The key outcome of 'Safe and Shared Spaces' champions safe and inclusive community spaces with accessible services that are tailored to local needs. This includes through the support of accessibility and the further development of Lisburn & Castlereagh Community facilities as hubs for participation and provision of services.

3.3 Some groups may feel that they can't access available grants

The strategy commits to providing financial assistance and funding guidance to support community and voluntary sector organisations to meet their objectives. It further supports groups to develop in keys areas of governance, community development, and good practice to increase opportunities for grant funding. Increased opportunity for influence over the delivery of Lisburn & Castlereagh programmes, and opportunities for information sharing and peer learning, will also impact on this action.

4.3 Some individuals/ groups may feel they can't participate in various leisure activities due to costs

The strategy will improve access to community-based leisure activities through support and financial assistance. Ongoing Community Transport provision will further positively impact the financial accessibility of leisure activities.

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

- To promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Yes. The strategy's aims include supporting equality and diversity alongside reducing barriers to access. This includes the development of associated training opportunities for local groups

and delivering tailored interventions to foster respect and understanding between diverse groups of people. This will be measured through Outcomes Based Accountability monitoring including changes in attitudes and accessibility to programmes.

- To encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

Yes – Within the strategy, safe and inclusive spaces are outlined as a key aim. Provision of support and financial assistance will include groups providing support to disabled people, whilst an increased focus on collaboration, accessibility, and empowerment will deliver positively towards encouraging increased participation.

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

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – Minor / major*
Religious Belief	The strategy is specifically intended to promote and further good relations, particularly but not exclusively between these three groups. The strategy outlines key aims for achieving this and develops an integrated approach that increases the coordination of good relations and community development delivery.	Minor positive
Political Opinion		Minor positive
Racial Group		Minor positive

*See Appendix 1 for details

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

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	This strategy provides the context for Lisburn & Castlereagh’s work to strengthen and support local communities through coordinated delivery of good relations and community development. This integration will provide increased opportunity for the promotion of good relations within wider community development delivery alongside existing good relations programming. Key themes within the strategy	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

	<p>commit to the delivery of increased inclusion, accessibility, and partnership working across diverse groups and communities. Monitoring within the strategy makes provision for ongoing assessment of outcomes and assessment of good relations within the Council area informing subsequent action plans.</p>	
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Multiple identity

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

The strategy recognises that individuals may belong to more than one Section 75 category and that community and voluntary sector organisations often deliver programming across multiple Section 75 categories. The strategy has been designed to be inclusive and flexible to address the needs of people with multiple identities. Consultation and monitoring processes will consider overlapping needs and barriers to ensure equitable access and participation across all Section 75 groups.

Part 3. Screening decision

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a full equality impact assessment on a proposed policy or project. There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no negative impacts identified (or only positive impacts for all groups). This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor impacts identified which can easily be mitigated. Most activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant (and potentially negative) impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment.

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required	
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation	<p>Following review it has been concluded that a full equality impact assessment is not required. The Community Development and Good Relations Strategy has been developed following extensive consultation including residents, and community and voluntary sector organisations demonstrating a wide range of demographics and delivery.</p> <p>Appropriate monitoring and evaluation is embedded within the strategy and must be reflected in any subsequent action plans over the lifetime of the strategy. This will permit the strategy to be responsive to emerging need and will serve to mitigate any potential impacts.</p>
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.]

The strategy provides an overarching approach to community development and good relations within Lisburn & Castlereagh. It is adaptable but can only be amended in line with oversight and governance arrangements within the Council. Mitigations, as outlined, have included robust consultation, monitoring, and the foregrounding of inclusion, accessibility, and good relations within the strategy. The strategy will be delivered through the production of action plans that will provide additional flexibility to respond to opportunities to improve the promotion of equality of opportunities and/or good relations.

Timetabling and prioritising for EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? **N/A**

Part 4. Monitoring

Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency?

<p>Alison Prentice <i>Community Development & Resources Manager</i></p> <p>Stephen Mc Cann <i>Community Support Officer</i></p>	<p>Monitoring will take place as part of specific action plans within both the Community Support Programme and the District Council Good Relations Programme.</p> <p>The strategy commits to the production of quarterly reports whilst further annual monitoring will be a feature of action plans for both good relations and community support.</p>
Will be signed-off by:	
Victoria Jackson, Head of Communities	

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Stephen Mc Cann	<i>Community Support Officer</i>	03/03/2026
Reviewed by: Annie Wilson	<i>Equality Officer</i>	03/03/2026
Approved by:		
Alison Prentice	<i>Community Development & Resources Manager</i>	04/03/2026

Revised Template @ Nov 2021

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

1B. 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.

Community Development and Good Relations Strategy 2026-2029

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Community Development and Good Relations Strategy 2026-2029

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

To build resilient, connected, and inclusive communities across Lisburn & Castlereagh by centralising how we plan and deliver community development and good relations priorities—ensuring consistent standards, better use of resources, and improved access and outcomes for residents in both urban and rural areas.

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.

Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.

Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The Strategy will benefit local communities throughout the LCCC area both urban and rural and will provide an understanding of current provision of services and identify issues of ongoing future need. It will focus on delivering services and how these can be expanded to our rural communities to ensure inclusivity particularly through increased delivery in each DEA removing barriers such as transport and accessibility thus the strategy is likely to have a positive impact on people in rural areas.

By ensuring delivery of initiatives across the council area, in a variety of venues (including supporting the community-centre model within rural areas), the strategy seeks to increase accessibility for rural residents to engage in opportunities being delivered through the programme.

Council recognises the important part that community programming on a localised basis can play developing strong, united and connected communities.

2C. 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.

The strategy is not intended to impact differently in people in rural areas. Events, programs, activities will be organised and delivered in collaboration with local residents. Where programs are held centrally, provision will be made to ensure that rural dwellers are able to access the services through the provision of transport being made available.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. 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?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Published Statistics | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultation with Other Organisations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Research Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveys or Questionnaires | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below). | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3C. 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.

Together: Building a United Community
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Community Plan

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council’s Connect, Invest, Transform investment Plan

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council’s Corporate Plan
Equality Commission Guidance
Equality Action Plan

The strategy has been development by the Council’s Community Service Unit through engagement with a range of stakeholders including residents, community & voluntary sector organisations and internal stakeholder. Feedback from rural residents and organisations formed part of this engagement process. A number of focus group sessions (3) and workshops were held for local community and voluntary organisations with one of which being delivered in Downshire West to include the rurality of the council area. Two online surveys targeting community and voluntary organisations, and residents were also part of the consultation process.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

Rural communities often experience higher levels of social isolation across a range of dimensions, which can impact participation in community development and good relations initiatives. These communities are frequently characterised by a lack of local amenities, including schools and retail facilities, limited public transport provision, restricted access to healthcare services, poor broadband and mobile connectivity, and reduced opportunities for social cohesion. As a result, many individuals report lower levels of confidence and self-esteem, with increased prevalence of mental health challenges and poverty, all of which can affect engagement in community-based programmes and services.

Key issues include the need for accessible, locally delivered services, particularly those provided through community and voluntary groups. Such provision is especially important for groups including young people, older people, people with disabilities, carers, and others who may face additional barriers related to transport availability, associated costs, and digital connectivity. These barriers can limit awareness of, and participation in, council-led initiatives where services are not delivered locally.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has given careful consideration to the impact of poverty and social isolation on vulnerable groups in rural areas, recognising that rural living can intensify both financial hardship and barriers to accessing essential services and community activity. The Council has examined the specific effects of rurality on financial poverty, service accessibility, and social isolation, alongside potential measures to mitigate these challenges.

In response, the Council has identified a clear need for approaches that reflect the distinct circumstances faced by rural communities. This strategy presents an opportunity to reduce inequality and broaden community engagement, by improving access to community-based services and supporting inclusive participation across dispersed rural areas.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

The strategy has been shaped on the needs of local residents and will be open to all residents within the 7 DEA's.

In considering the social and economic needs of people living in rural areas, a range of interrelated issues were identified that collectively contribute to disadvantage, inequality, and social exclusion, in the context of community development and good relations activity.

Social needs include social isolation arising from dispersed populations, limited opportunities for social interaction, and reduced community infrastructure. The absence or loss of key local amenities—such as schools, shops, and community facilities—can weaken community cohesion and reduce informal support networks. Limited public transport and poor digital connectivity further restrict participation in community life, access to education and training, and engagement with support services. These factors disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including older people, young people, people with disabilities, carers, and those experiencing mental health challenges, often leading to reduced confidence, lower self-esteem, and declining wellbeing.

Economic needs are shaped by restricted access to employment opportunities, higher living and transport costs, and limited availability of local services. Rural residents may face challenges in accessing stable and well-paid employment, alongside increased costs associated with travel, fuel, and digital access. Financial poverty can be exacerbated by difficulties in accessing advice, benefits, and essential services, particularly where broadband and mobile coverage are poor, *which can reduce engagement in community-based programmes*.

Small businesses and social enterprises in rural areas may also experience barriers to growth due to limited footfall, skills shortages, and infrastructure constraints.

In addition, access to essential services—including healthcare, education, childcare, and financial support—is often more limited in rural areas, requiring individuals to travel significant distances at additional cost. This can further entrench inequality and increase reliance on informal or voluntary support, which was considered in assessing accessibility of strategy delivery.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO GO TO Section 5C.**

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

In recognising that rurality can exacerbate poverty, social isolation, and barriers to accessing services, particular consideration has been given to ensuring that the approach taken is responsive to the distinct circumstances of rural communities.

During the development phase, evidence relating to challenges and barriers faced by those in rural areas shaped the objectives and priorities of the strategy. This resulted in a stronger emphasis on locally accessible, community-based provision and the need to minimise reliance on travel to urban centres. The approach also acknowledges the importance of flexibility in delivery models to reflect dispersed populations and varying levels of infrastructure across rural areas.

In terms of implementation, the identified rural needs influenced the design and delivery of services by prioritising outreach-based and partnership-led approaches. Greater focus has been given to work collaboratively to empower community and voluntary groups who deliver services locally, ensuring accessibility for vulnerable groups such as older people, young people, people with disabilities, carers, and those on low incomes. Consideration has also been given to reducing additional costs associated with transport and digital access, thereby helping to address both financial and social barriers to participation.

Consultation and feedback from rural communities and delivery partners have informed adjustments to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness. This includes adopting more innovative and adaptable approaches, strengthening local networks, and supporting initiatives that promote social connection, community resilience, and economic participation in rural areas.

Overall, the identified rural needs have played a central role in shaping a policy and service delivery framework that seeks to reduce inequality, improve access to essential services, and enhance community engagement, while recognising and responding to the unique challenges faced by rural communities

If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. 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 compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Alison Prentice
Position/Grade:	Community Development & Resources Manager (Acting)
Division/Branch	Community Services
Signature:	RA Prentice
Date:	03 March 2026
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Victoria Jackson
Position/Grade:	Head of Communities
Division/Branch:	Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Signature:	Victoria Jackson
Date:	04 March 2026



Committee:	Communities and Wellbeing
Date:	14 April 2026
Report from:	Head of Communities

Item for:	Noting
Subject:	Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum – Going Places Programme Update

1.0	<u>Background</u>
1.1	The Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum continues to make significant progress through its involvement in The Art Fund’s Going Places Programme. As reported in September 2024, the Museum was selected to take part in the development phase of this UK-wide initiative, designed to strengthen collaboration between heritage organisations, broaden audience reach, and support shared use of collections.
1.2	As part of this work, Lisburn Museum is a core partner within the Communities of Making Network, alongside Carmarthenshire Museum Service (Wales), the Highland Folk Museum and Inverness Museum & Art Gallery (Scotland). The network is supported through £2.86 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and £1.5 million from the Julia Rausing Trust, with the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum receiving £170,042 to deliver its programme activity across a five-year programme until June 2030.
1.3	This unique UK-wide scheme brings together 20 museums and galleries across six networks to develop 12 major touring exhibitions over the next five years - the largest collaborative touring project of its kind. The Communities of Making Network will explore local heritage and craft traditions, including Irish linen, Scottish wool and Welsh basketry, drawing on collections spanning textiles, machinery and artworks.
1.4	A key focus is building the capacity, skills and confidence of young people aged 16–24, who will engage in hands-on heritage learning and co-curation. Participants will have the opportunity to travel to partner museums and will co-produce two exhibitions scheduled for 2027 and 2029.
2.0	<u>Progress to Date</u>
2.1	A strong response to the initial call for participants has resulted in 16 young people from across the council area being selected for the first cohort. This diverse group will now be fully involved in shaping the programme’s next phase, ensuring a co-designed approach that reflects both project objectives and participant perspectives.
2.2	The programme is now entering its design stage, where participants will collaborate closely with museum staff and partners to plan activity and define learning outcomes. In addition to developing curatorial skills, participants will gain practical experience with the Museum’s renowned textile collections, including opportunities to learn traditional skills such as hand loom weaving.

2.3	<p>Upcoming milestones include a programme of knowledge-exchange visits to the Highland Folk Museum and Inverness Museum & Art Gallery in June 2026, providing participants with valuable insight into comparative heritage practice. In autumn 2026, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council will in turn host the Carmarthenshire cohort, further strengthening inter-regional collaboration, building professional networks, and deepening shared learning across the partnership.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that Members note</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the content of this report in respect of an update on the Going Places Programme. 	
4.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum has confirmed funding of £170,042 from the Going Places Programme.</p>	
5.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
5.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
5.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>Update only.</p>	
5.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
5.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Update only.</p>	

Committee:	Communities and Wellbeing
Date:	14 April 2026
Report from:	Acting Head of Parks and Amenities

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Request to use councils Parks and Open Spaces

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Parks and Amenities Department have received two requests to use Parks during July and August.
1.2	The first is from Lisburn Feile who wish to hold their annual family fun day in Wallace Park Lisburn on Saturday 18 th July 2026. Appendix 1. Alongside this, the organisation hope to hold ancillary events in Lough Moss, Lisburn City Centre, Hillsborough and Killultagh.
1.3	The second is from the City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter who wish to use Moat Park for their annual parade on Saturday 29 th August 2026. Appendix 2.
1.4	The above events, if approved, will require Council temporarily setting aside the relevant Byelaws which prohibit activities such as preaching, erection of a tent/stall and driving a vehicle on site. The Byelaws state that prior consent of the council but be sought for such events so that the byelaws be set aside for the requested purpose.
1.5	If members are minded to support these requests, the byelaws can be set aside for the duration of each event. The organisers will be required to comply with all usual booking requirements such as providing adequate insurance and necessary risk assessments.
2.0	<u>Recommendation</u> It is recommended that Members agree to; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of Wallace Park and Moat Park for the events detailed. 2. Approve the setting aside of byelaws to enable these requests to progress. 3. Infrastructure requirements for events from existing budget.
3.0	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> To be managed within existing workstreams.

4.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
4.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p> <p>See Appendix 3.</p>	Yes
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>The equality screening has been screened out with mitigations, to include being a good neighbour, accessibility considerations, inclusion and communication.</p>	
4.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	No
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>The RNIA has not been carried out as this is a third party booking request and mitigations would be out of our control.</p>	

Appendices:	<p>Appendix 1 – Lisburn Feile Booking form</p> <p>Appendix 2 – City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter Booking form</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Equality Screening Documentation</p>
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LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Leisure & Community Wellbeing

Parks & Amenities

Outdoor Events Booking Request Form

Booking details (Please complete in Block Capitals)

1. **Venue and Address** (please specify the location of the proposed event)

Wallace Park, Fort Hill, Lisburn BT27 4AN

2. **Date and Time** (please specify the proposed date and time of the event to include set/take down time)

Saturday 18th July 2025 from 12-5pm

3. **Describe the proposed Event in as much detail as possible** (please describe the event; space required, content including vendors to be used, anticipated numbers attending etc)

We propose to bring back our Lisburn Feile event to Wallace Park this year, building on the fantastic success of last three years. We plan to host it a little different this year working in partnership with the adult social hurlers on the main playing field area near the car park entrance, they will facilitate taster sessions with different sports such as hurling, rugby, soccer, softball etc finishing off with a social hurling tournament with various teams across Ireland. Lisburn Féile will make use of the band stand as a central point for music, lost and found and first aid point. We will also use the green area between the cricket club and the play park to host our diversity and multicultural family day. We shall explore further parking facilities with Masonic Hall, church and the school whilst promoting parking facilities across Lisburn, we shall also hold a series of meetings with local PSNI and community groups.

This year's event will feature various Marques to facilitate with live music, powered by a diesel generator, along with a wide variety of vendors offering hot food, sweets, confectionery, and fun kids' toys. We will bring back the same trusted vendors from last year, who are fully certified and ready to provide a great experience for the public.

There will be loads to do for all ages, including inflatables, an animal petting farm, birds of prey displays, and a dedicated sensory area. You'll also find marquees housing cultural workshops, information stands, and plenty of fun activities like a climbing wall, face painting, and visits from Disney characters and experience multi-cultural dancing with an opportunity to join in.

To ensure a safe and enjoyable day, we'll have onsite first aiders and a well-organised setup. We're anticipating around 1,500 attendees.

4. Please tick the appropriate boxes to show the activities and facilities you intend to utilise.

Fireworks/Pyrotechnics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Live Music	x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carnival/Procession	<input type="checkbox"/>	Live Entertainment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairground Equipment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost Children Point	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Marquees	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barrier/Fencing	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Balloon launch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Portable Generator (Diesel Only)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Supply	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horses/Donkeys/Other Animals	x	Alcohol		<input type="checkbox"/>
Motor Vehicles	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food/Drink Concessions	x <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural Activities (e.g. ploughing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barbecue		<input type="checkbox"/>
Inflatables (e.g. Bouncy Castle)	x	Bonfire		<input type="checkbox"/>
Portable Staging	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	On-Site Communications	x <input type="checkbox"/>
PA System	<input type="checkbox"/>	Market Stalls	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stewarding/Security	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-enactment Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify) _____

5. Purpose of proposed Event (Social, Recreational, Private Party, Fund Raising, Commercial etc)

The proposed event is a social and recreational family intergenerational fun day, celebrating diversity and multi-cultural activities designed to bring together community members of all ages for a day of entertainment, connection, and enjoyment. It aims to foster community spirit, provide engaging activities for all generations, and create lasting memories in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

6. Facilities Required (please specify what exactly you require eg is it a grassed area on which to hold an event; approx. how much space; or is it a function room for an internal event)

The grassed outdoor area, keen to arrange a site visit with council staff to specify exact area and space.

7. Your Details

Organisation (Organisation/Club/Team etc. If it a private booking go directly to 'Applicant's Contact Details')

Organisation Name	Lisburn Feile
Commercial / Profit Making	No
Charity	No (if Yes please provide NI Charity Commission Registration Number. Remain on waiting list for charity status)
Community Group	Yes

Applicant's Contact Details

Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Mobile Number	

8. **Safety Advisory Group.** If your event booking is approved then it is a requirement of the Council that you notify S.A.G (Safety Advisory Group) of your event. The link below provides you access to the necessary forms:

9. **Insurances and Risk Assessments.** If your event booking is approved then you may be required to provide Public and if relevant Employers Liability insurance to the Council Insurance Officer. You will also be asked to provide a Risk Assessment for the event.

10. **Contact.** Please email this form to event.request@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk once completed. Your request will be considered and you shall be contacted shortly to advise on availability and costs. No booking has been made until such times as this has been clarified and confirmed by the Council in email.
You are advised NOT to make any commitments re your event until such time as your request has been approved and confirmed.

11. **Privacy Notice.**

Your Personal Data:

What we need

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is the 'Controller' of the personal data that you provide to us. We only collect basic personal data, this does not include any special types of information, it does however include name, address, email etc.

Why we need it

We need to know your basic personal data in order to proceed with your event booking. We will not collect any personal data from you we do not need in order to provide and oversee this service to you.

What we do with it

All personal data that we process is processed by our staff in the UK however for the purposes of IT hosting and maintenance this information is located on servers within the European Union. No 3rd parties have access to your personal data unless the law allows them to do so. We have a Data Protection regime in place to oversee the effective and secure processing of your personal data.

How long we keep it

We are required under UK law to keep your basic personal data (name, address, contact details) in line with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Retention and Disposal Policy after which time it will be destroyed.

What are your rights?

If at any point you believe the information we process on you is incorrect you may request to see this information and even have it corrected or deleted. If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are

processing your personal data not in accordance with the law you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The Council Data Protection Officer can contact at **data.protection@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk**

Full details of can be found on the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council website **www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk**



LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Leisure & Community Wellbeing

Parks & Amenities

Outdoor Events Booking Request Form

Booking details (Please complete in Block Capitals)

1. **Venue and Address** (please specify the location of the proposed event)

Moat Park, Garden of Reflection, Park Drive

2. **Date and Time** (please specify the proposed date and time of the event to include set/take down time)

29/8/2026 - 9:30am - 1:00pm

3. **Describe the proposed Event in as much detail as possible** (please describe the event; space required, content including vendors to be used, anticipated numbers attending etc)

The Annual City of Belfast Grand Black Chapters Day of Demonstration is being held in Dunlonald in 2026. We require use of Moat Park to hold a Drumhead Service and to form the parade up prior to stepping off.

4. Please tick the appropriate boxes to show the activities and facilities you intend to utilise.

Carnival/Procession	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Live Music / Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairground Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Re-enactment Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marquees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost Children Point	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barrier/Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motor Vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Portable Generator (Diesel Only)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport Activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Power Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portable Staging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Food/Drink Concessions	<input type="checkbox"/>
PA System	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On-Site Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stewarding/Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Market Stalls	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

The Council does not permit the use of the following on Council Property:

- Fireworks / Pyrotechnics
- Balloons
- Horses/Donkeys/Other Animals
- Petrol Generators
- Alcohol
- Barbecue
- Bonfire
- Agricultural Activities (e.g. Ploughing)
- Inflatables (e.g. Bouncy Castle)

5. Purpose of proposed Event (Social, Recreational, Private Party, Fund Raising, Commercial etc)

Cultural Day - Parade + Demonstration

[Empty rectangular box]

6. **Facilities Required** (please specify what exactly you require eg is it a grassed area on which to hold an event; approx. how much space; or is it a function room for an internal event)

The use of Moat Park (Next to police station)

7. **Your Details**

Organisation (Organisation/Club/Team etc. If it a private booking go directly to 'Applicant's Contact Details')

Organisation Name	City of Belfast Grand Black Chapte
Commercial / Profit Making	Yes / No
Charity	Yes / No (if Yes please provide NI Charity Commission Registration Number [redacted])
Community Group	Yes / No

Applicant's Contact Details

Name	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]
Email Address	[redacted]
Mobile Number	[redacted]
By signing this form, I hereby confirm that I have read, understood and agree to the terms and conditions for the above booking.	signature [redacted]

8. **Insurances and Risk Assessments.** If your event booking is approved then you may be required to provide Public and if relevant Employers Liability insurance to the Council Insurance Officer. You will also be asked to provide a Risk Assessment for the event.

9. **Contact.** Please email this form to event.request@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk once completed. Your request will be considered and you shall be contacted shortly to advise on availability and costs. No booking has been made until such times as this has been clarified and confirmed by the Council in email. You are advised NOT to make any commitments re your event until such time as your request has been approved and confirmed.

10. **Bye-laws.** Please familiarise yourself with the council's Bye-laws before your event. A copy of these can be found via this link [lisburn castlereagh city council - bye laws - leisure and community fa-2020-pdf](#)

11. Privacy Notice.

Your Personal Data:

What we need

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Why we need it

We need to know your basic personal data in order to proceed with your event booking. We will not collect any personal data from you we do not need in order to provide and oversee this service to you.

What we do with it

All personal data that we process is processed by our staff in the UK however for the purposes of IT hosting and maintenance this information is located on servers within the European Union. No 3rd parties have access to your personal data unless the law allows them to do so. We have a Data Protection regime in place to oversee the effective and secure processing of your personal data.

How long we keep it

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What are your rights?

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Full details of can be found on the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council website:
www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened.

All Council owned parks & open spaces within the remit of Parks & Amenities Service Unit are being considered under this process. These spaces are used by members of the public, contractors, 3rd party event organisers and our own Council staff.

The facilities managed by the Parks and Amenities unit include **Parks/open spaces** incorporating Childrens play areas, Outdoor gyms, Multi Use Games Areas, Bike and pump tracks, indoor tennis, Caravan pitches, Dog exercise areas.

Sports turf Senior Football, Junior football pitches, Baseball diamond, Gaelic pitch, Cricket Square, Cross country course, Golf course, Outdoor Bowling greens.

Facility users

Allotments: Allotment holders, Disability groups, Horticultural workshops

Cemeteries: Mourners, cemetery visitors

Council events Mayors' parade and Family fun day. Park life, Music /Jazz Twilight night, Christmas lights, Teddy bear picnic, ceremonial events. Colour runs. Biodiversity projects, Woodland and Bat walks.

Externally organised events Car show meets, Royal black chapter. Orange order, Lisburn Feile, food festivals, IFA Disability football, IFA Grassroots football, Dawn church services, corporate days, Park runs, schools' sports days, Football leagues.

Name of the activity/policy/project

Parks & Amenities parks & open spaces

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

This is a new policy.

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

To ensure that our parks & open spaces have taken consideration of S.75 equality and good relations. Many of our open spaces are utilised by 3rd party event organisers and therefore consideration must be given to this process.

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

Council owned/managed open spaces and amenities are intended for everyone to enjoy. This includes residents and visitors to the district. Our aim is to provide amenities and facilities that will be attractive and accessible to all ages and categories, including the Section 75 categories. Open spaces provide opportunities to all for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or scoot within parks and open space or exercise along paths, bridleways and riverbanks. Allotments may provide physical exercise and other health benefits. It has been proven that the use of open green spaces can provide physical and mental health benefits to users, no matter which section 75 group they belong to. The Council recognise that facilities must be promoted so that everyone will wish to use them, so that they know about provision and accessibility to open space areas.

Open spaces within the Council area will particularly benefit certain groups whose needs have been taken into account, in terms of accessibility. Many parks, trails and greenways have been designed with particular groups in mind, for example they are suitable for those with mobility issues, including those who look after or care for children using buggies/pushchairs, those who have disabilities and older people who are using rollator walking aids or walking sticks. The council are keen to continue this in the future, taking consideration of certain Section 75 group needs, in the design and construction of new open spaces.

In local equipped areas for play, any new play equipment will be introduced for children with disabilities, so that they have the ability to use the same equipment as those without disabilities e.g. accessible ground level trampolines.

The Council wish to make green open spaces as accessible for as many section 75 groups as possible. At a number of sites, where it is appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs will be installed. This means that many more sites will be accessible for those who are blind and partially sighted. Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play will be installed in local communities, so that residents can access these areas in their own community. This will have a positive effect on those with particular political opinions, within racial groups and who have differing religious beliefs.

These sections of the community can access open spaces which are convenient to them, without having to travel into another community where they may not feel comfortable to play or carry out physical activity.

The Council recognises the need for creating accessible places for everyone to experience the great outdoors. Where opportunities arise the Council will explore new ways to access the countryside. If this is through obtaining formal planning permissions or permissive path agreements, with local land owners, the Council will pursue all avenues, to create new trails which are accessible to all.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Community & Wellbeing management team

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council owns the activity.
Parks & Amenities Service Unit within Communities & Wellbeing Directorate will implement the activity.

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

Yes

If yes, give brief details of any significant factors.

Limited budget, unsuccessful funding bids, government policy including planning restrictions. Dependency on partners in some areas, for example Lagan Valley Regional Park.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the schedule will impact upon? Delete if not applicable.

- External Customers –**
- Other public sector organisations –**
- Voluntary/community/trade unions –**
- Other**

Staff	Yes.
Service Users	Yes. Particularly those with access issues.
Other Public Sector Organisations – please list	Yes. Belfast City Council who are partners in the management of Lagan Valley Regional Park.

	Athletics NI, Belfast hills, Lough Neagh partnership
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Yes. The voluntary and community sector who wish to use open spaces and 3 rd party event organisers.
Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc)	Elected Members, delivery partners and contractors during construction works.

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Community Planning Partners
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Corporate Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Regional Development Strategy	NI Executive
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Connect, Invest, Transform investment Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Local Development Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
LCCC Open space strategy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Health & Safety Policies	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
LCCC local Biodiversity Action Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Pitch strategy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Available evidence

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Council recognises the importance of creating a healthy, active and accessible environment connecting places and people. We also recognise that as part of this, biodiversity, conservation and adapting to climate change are key. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a huge upsurge in people exercising outdoors. This, coupled with a desire from Council for more local DEA projects, has increased the opportunities for the development of open spaces for recreation throughout the Council area.

We have engaged with partners such as RNIB to identify areas for improvement in our Parks and then sought to avail of grant opportunities

through the Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme to install tactile maps and braille signs.

The Council’s Customer Care interface provides a regular source of useful user feedback, which we consider, when making changes to open space areas.

Most up to date NISRA population data from Census 2021 (published 22/09/22) [Lisburn and Castlereagh Census Data](#)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information												
Religious Belief	2021 Census data indicates that 27% of the LCCC population were brought up in the Catholic religion while 73% were brought up in the Protestant & Other Christian religion												
Political Opinion	The Local Government Election in May 2023 demonstrated the following weighting in the Borough’s political opinion. Note: only 52% of those eligible submitted a vote.												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="609 1070 730 1146">DUP (%)</th> <th data-bbox="730 1070 903 1146">Alliance (%)</th> <th data-bbox="903 1070 1024 1146">UUP (%)</th> <th data-bbox="1024 1070 1145 1146">SF (%)</th> <th data-bbox="1145 1070 1289 1146">SDLP (%)</th> <th data-bbox="1289 1070 1391 1146">Ind (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="609 1146 730 1200">35</td> <td data-bbox="730 1146 903 1200">32.5</td> <td data-bbox="903 1146 1024 1200">15</td> <td data-bbox="1024 1146 1145 1200">10</td> <td data-bbox="1145 1146 1289 1200">5</td> <td data-bbox="1289 1146 1391 1200">2.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DUP (%)	Alliance (%)	UUP (%)	SF (%)	SDLP (%)	Ind (%)	35	32.5	15	10	5	2.5
	DUP (%)	Alliance (%)	UUP (%)	SF (%)	SDLP (%)	Ind (%)							
35	32.5	15	10	5	2.5								
Racial Group	Using the same Census/boundary data indicates that just over 4% of the population were from an ethnic minority group												
Age	The population in 2021 totalled 149,106: 28,331 (0-14 years) 44,731 (15-39 years) 49,205 (40-64 years) 26,839 (65+ years)												
Marital Status	For the 16+ population in relation to marital and civil partnerships: 33% single 52% married or civil partnership 3% separated. 6% Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership. 6% Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership												

Sexual Orientation	The Census 2021 data indicates that 91% identified as Straight or heterosexual, 2% of the household population in identified as Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation, while 7% Prefer not to say or not stated.
Men & Women Generally	The LCCC population (2021) was 51% female and 49% male. This reflects the overall NI position
Disability	Using the same census data as above indicates that 32% of the population had a long-term health problem or disability. Several studies have shown a positive association between access to natural environments and increased rates of physical activity for all ages. Physical activity can help reduce obesity, improve mental health and overall health and well-being. We need to make sure that our open spaces are inclusive to all.
People with and without Dependents	In 2021, of the 60,143 households in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City council area 14.4% (8,661) had dependent children. 10.98% of the population on average provide unpaid care, with 3.4% providing more than 50 hours per week.

Needs, experiences and priorities.

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe.
Political Opinion	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe. The Council

	recognises the diverse community celebrations and cultural traditions within Northern Ireland. For all events, Council takes a positive action approach, working with communities, agencies, and individuals to address any potential environmental or social impacts of planned events as appropriate and to ensure community cohesion. All community celebrations/events will be considered and assessed in line with event booking process.
Racial Group	Accessibility to open spaces in their own, local community, where they feel safe. Some ethnic minorities, who are new to the area, may need access to translation of information, and their knowledge of open spaces may be limited.
Age	Older people may be less mobile than others and will need safe level surfaces in order to use open spaces. They may also need rest areas (seating or shelter) and well-lit areas, where they will feel safe. Accessible toilets will also be required for some older people.
Marital Status	No particular needs identified for people of different marital status
Sexual Orientation	No particular needs identified for people of different sexual orientation
Men & Women Generally	Need for safe spaces with areas which are well-lit, especially at night.
Disability	Paths, trails and greenways accessible for wheelchair users and those with other mobility conditions. . Signage and information available in formats that those with visual/hearing impairments can access. Accessible toilet provision. Other disabled people (for example neurodivergent people, those with mental health conditions) may also benefit from the provision of more quality open spaces that are convenient to where they live.
People with and without Dependents	Carers of children/older people/disabled people need accessibility for buggies/wheelchairs/walking aids so that they can enjoy open spaces as a family group. The Council recognises the diverse community celebrations and cultural traditions

	<p>within Northern Ireland. For all events, Council takes a positive action approach, working with communities, agencies, and individuals to address any potential environmental or social impacts of planned events as appropriate and to ensure community cohesion.</p>
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Needs

The main need is for accessibility for all. This includes those with disabilities, those with dependents and those who are older. People in these groups often have different needs from other groups. They may find access to the countryside difficult or limiting. If paths have steps, steep gradients, gates or small entrances, those in wheelchairs, using walking sticks, partially sighted, using pushchairs or those who are unsteady on their feet would find these obstacles difficult to overcome. Traditionally parks have been designed for able-bodied children. It has been recognised that there is also a great need for play equipment for those children who have disability so that they too can access this play space.

There is also a need for some communities to access open spaces in their local area. If those with particular religious beliefs, political opinions or racial groups find it difficult to go into areas where people have different beliefs, opinions or are a different race, then the council has endeavoured to introduce Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play. These play areas are usually convenient to residential areas. The council will ensure that the strategy provides equitable open space provision across all communities and supports community cohesion towards celebrations in line with normal event booking practices. Open spaces convenient to residential areas, also provides space for children and young people to play, who may not have access to transport.

It became apparent throughout the Covid 19 lockdown period that there is a need for additional suitable walking trails within the Council area. Some of the current paths are not suitable for those with limited mobility. The Council realise that appropriate path provision is necessary, so that people with disabilities, those with dependents and older people, also have access to the countryside and a place to exercise. Due care has been taken by the Council to consider these groups and many new open spaces have been designed with these groups in mind. There has also been a focus on opening local walking paths and trails. This has enabled those living in cities and towns to walk to the

open space that they wish to use for exercise. This also has a positive effect on climate change by reducing the carbon footprint of individual households. Where appropriate, tactile maps and braille signs have been installed in parks to provide improved access for those who are visually impaired.

The Council also recognises a need on occasions to support some event organisers that use our open spaces with certain infrastructure, such as barriers, toilets and Gazebos.

Experiences

The experience of those with disabilities, buggies/pushchairs or rollators is that at many open space areas, they may not have full access to a site due to poorly planned walkways or barriers to using them. The Council wants to avoid this, and so all greenways, paths and parks have been carefully pre-planned to take all end users into account. Tactile maps and braille signs have also been installed at a number of sites to enable access for those who are partially sighted. Children with disabilities have experienced a lack of play equipment that is suitable for their use, in traditional playparks.

Priorities

The priorities of the groups that could be affected by access (as stated in the table above), will be full accessibility to open spaces within the council area, so that they can achieve the same benefits as those who are not in these groups.

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Political Opinion	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor

Racial Group	Positive – people can access open spaces which are convenient to where they live and safe.	Minor
Age	<p>Positive – more older people, particularly those with mobility issues, will be able to safely access and use open space areas, due to enhanced accessibility measures.</p> <p>Children will have access to open spaces which are convenient to where they live, encouraging participation in physical activity.</p> <p>Teenagers will be able to access open spaces designed with their needs in mind – pump parks, skate parks.</p>	Minor
Marital Status	No differential impact identified	None
Sexual Orientation	No differential impact identified	None
Men & Women Generally	No differential impact identified	None
Disability	<p>Positive - People with certain disabilities, including those who are wheelchair users, use mobility aids, and who are visually impaired will find open spaces more accessible.</p> <p>Those who are visually impaired, can use tactile maps and braille signage.</p>	Minor

	Those who have mental health disabilities can access safe open spaces where they can relax and feel close to nature.	
People with and without Dependants	Positive - People with dependants, including those who use buggies or wheelchairs, will find open spaces easier to use. Open spaces will have improved facilities which whole families can enjoy – with this comes social benefits.	Minor

* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) 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 details
Religious Belief		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Political Opinion		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Racial Group		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Age		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Marital Status		No opportunities identified in relation to

		this policy for any of these groups.
Sexual Orientation		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Men & Women Generally		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
Disability		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.
People with and without Dependents		No opportunities identified in relation to this policy for any of these groups.

Open spaces have been designed to accommodate all S.75 groups. LCCC owned spaces are shared spaces and not specifically aimed to accommodate one particular S.75 group. No further opportunities have been identified at this time as the needs of different groups have been considered fully in this activity. However, if further issues arise, they will be addressed.

Equality Action Plan 2021-2025

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2021-2025? Yes/No If yes, specify which action.

No

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

1. to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Open spaces will allow improved access so that more people with disabilities will be able to use the Council’s parks and greenways. Through this, there will

be more interaction between disabled people and non-disabled people, and so this may work towards promoting more positive attitudes towards disabled people. There is also the potential for use of images of disabled people in promotional material for council facilities and spaces, which will also raise awareness and promote positive attitudes.

2. to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

LCCC open spaces encourage the participation of disabled people in public life, by providing opportunities for those with disabilities to enjoy outdoor spaces, by giving them access to these spaces. When planning new sites and refurbishing existing sites, the views of those with disabilities will be sought, to ensure improved accessibility.

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

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	Should have a positive impact as open spaces will provide a safe and secure environment.	Minor
Political Opinion	Should have a positive impact as open spaces will provide a safe and secure environment.	Minor
Racial Group	Should have a positive impact as open spaces will provide a safe and secure environment.	Minor

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

Good Relations Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	Encouraging delivery of programme to promote inclusivity across all categories.	
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		

Multiple identity

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

The Council recognises that no individual sits in one group and this has been given consideration.

Increased accessibility may particularly benefit older people with disabilities, younger people with disabilities, people who have dependent children or dependants who are disabled.

The development of the Council’s open spaces may be considered to be designed with people with disabilities, dependents and older people in mind, however these areas can be used by anyone in the community. Is it also recognised that those using parks, trails and greenways, for example those with disabilities, will fall into other groups. They may be young or old, male or female or from a specific religious background.

Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a **full equality impact assessment** on a proposed policy or project. There are 3 possible outcomes:

1. **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no relevance to equality, no negative impacts identified or only very minor positive impacts for all groups. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
2. **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor potential impacts or opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified, so mitigations appropriate.
3. **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant and/or potentially negative impact identified for one or more groups, so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment. [See Equality Commission guidance on justifying a screening decision.]

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
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<p>Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]</p>	
<p>Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation or some opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified [complete mitigation section below]</p>	<p>This policy will be screened out with mitigation. We have concluded that the impacts will be minor and should generally be positive for all groups. However, in developing plans for open spaces, due consideration will be given to some issues identified, including accessibility and inclusion.</p>
<p>Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) [If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below]</p>	

Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended, or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

Mitigation factors – the geography of the council area will be studied closely and open spaces will be designed taking into account path width, path incline, seating provision and rest places at points around open spaces. Entrances to parks and greenways are designed to be accessible for wheelchair users and those pushing buggies. New playparks, and those which are being refurbished, will be designed to provide play equipment for those in wheelchairs. The allotment site provides access for those with disabilities, in terms of accessible raised beds and potting benches and accessible toilets.

The screening has identified some needs and potential positive impacts on the following three groups – those with dependents, those with disabilities and those in the older age category. The impacts on these groups are now taken into consideration during construction works and the redevelopment of open spaces, and those impacts are minor or none. All measures have been taken to mitigate any potentially negative impacts on these groups.

Timetabling and prioritising for full EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

If the activity/policy has been 'screened in' for full equality impact assessment, give details of any factors to be considered and the next steps for progressing the EQIA, including a proposed timetable.

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details.

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring**Two elements to monitoring:****1. Monitoring the activity generally as part of normal review and evaluation or service improvement**

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

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

Where possible 'Access Counters' will be fitted to monitor footfall and use of the open spaces.

Periodic spot surveys will also take place to gather qualitative feedback from users and to gather comments for further improvement. This can take place at Council organised events etc.

The Council's Customer Care policy is advertised on all Park signage to encourage feedback – good or bad. All communication is responded to.

2. What will be monitored and how? What specific equality monitoring will be done? Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? Please give details:

Play equipment for those with disabilities will be monitored and kept in working order. Weekly and quarterly inspections by Assets unit followed up full independent annual inspection with report.

Accessibility to facilities will be constantly reviewed and improved when identified.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

	Position/Job Title	Date
Screened by: William Torrens	P&A Manger	21 Jan 2025
Reviewed by: Annie Wilson	Equality Officer	22 Jan 2025
Approved by: Gareth Lennox	HoS P&A (Acting)	22 Jan 2025

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- Approved and 'signed off' by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy.
- Included with Committee reports, as appropriate.
- Sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees, internal reporting, and publishing on the LCCC website.
- Shared with relevant colleagues.
- Made available to the public on request.

Evidence and documents referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

*Major impact (none)

Minor impact (none)

No impact (none)

Updated Template @ Oct 2022