**LCCC Environmental & Sustainability Policy**

**Equality and Good Relations Screening**

**Part 1. Policy scoping: Information about the policy**

**Name of the activity/policy**

**Environmental & Sustainability Policy**

**1. Is this activity/policy…?**

An existing activity/policy [ ]  A revision of an existing activity/policy. [ ]  A new activity/policy? [x]

**2. What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy is trying to achieve?**

**It should be noted that this Policy is a framework to be used as a ‘comparator’ against which other policies or projects measure themselves in respect of environmental and sustainability measures. This Policy will not directly affect Section 75 groupings but provides a screening tool to highlight issues concerning sustainability matters pertinent to other policies or plans (much like this equality screening tool).**

The intended aims are to Commit the Council to promoting Sustainable Development and the protection of the Environment and deliver on the Corporate Themes:

* Leading Well
* Our Economy
* Health and Wellbeing
* Where we Live
* Our Community

A healthy economy and society depend on a healthy environment. Furthering sustainable development requires the integration and balancing of complex social, economic and environmental factors when plan-making and decision-taking. To achieve this, the Council is committed to integrating sustainability throughout our operations, where possible, through the use of the proposed Sustainability Screening Tool.

The Council also recognises that urgent action is required to address climate change, and that the Council must play its part in the global effort to meet the aims of the UN development goals to combat climate change and accelerate and intensify the actions needed for a sustainable low carbon future.

The benefits will be shared by all Section 75 groups in a cleaner, healthier more vibrant place to live, work in and visit.

**3. Are there any expected benefits to the Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy? If so, please explain.**

Whilst the Policy is not targeted at any particular group, it is intended and expected that all the benefits of adopting an Environmental & Sustainability Policy will be of benefit to all within LCCC by:

* Providing a framework where the council recognises the dangers of Climate Change and a commitment to address the issues
* To align the councils commitments to the Programme for Government and UN Sustainable Development Goals
* It is to be owned by the Council and applied by all council officers, elected members, contracted partners and provides a starting point to further develop ‘green issues’
* Assists in gaining a green momentum in the council area that can reflect and lead the wider societal thinking.
* A benefit of adopting this policy is creating a healthier place to live and visit, with obvious mental and physical benefits by reducing pollution
* Potential to stimulate the green economy and biodegradable products
* Potential to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels (longer term)

**4. Who initiated or wrote the activity/policy?**

The Policy was developed through the LCCC Environmental & Sustainability Member led Working Group, with the HOS, Building Control coordinating the development.

**5. Who owns and who implements the activity/policy?**

 LCCC Owns the Policy. The Policy is designed in such a way to be crosscutting and therefore implemented by the Policy user – which may be the E&S Working Group, Members, Officers etc.

**Implementation factors**

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

**YES** [x]  **NO** [ ]

**If yes, are they:-**

Financial?[ ] Legislative?[x] Other?[ ]

If other, please detail below

The possible introduction of the Climate Change Bill and a statutory duty placed on councils

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

|  |
| --- |
| Staff |[x]
| Service Users |[x]
| Other Public Sector Organisations |[x]
| Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions |[x]
| Other |[x]

If other, please detail below

##### The Policy applies to Elected Members, Council employees, external contractors, visitors, service users and all persons and organisations using the Councils facilities.

##### [Other policies with a bearing on this policy](#Onefour)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of policy | Who owns or implements policy? |
| Everyone’s Involved, Sus.DevStrategy2010 | NI Executive |
| Duty for Sustainable Dev – LG Act 2016 | DAERA |
| Wildlife & Nat Env Act (NI) 2011 | DAERA |

Programme for Government NI Executive

 Outcomes Delivery Plan NI Executive

 UN Sustainable Development Goals United Nations

 LCCC Corporate Plan LCCC

 LCCC Community Plan LCCC

**Available evidence**

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

The Policy is for the benefit of all citizens and Section 75 groups. This Policy does not directly affect any Section 75 categories, but may do so indirectly through any council policies, plans and projects having to reference this Policy and take due regard of Sustainability Screening outcomes. This Policy will be applied equitably and proportionately across all groups within the Council area in a consistent manner by way of providing a sustainability framework and screening tool to be applied by all other policies, plans and projects being developed.

In developing the policy/framework we have considered a range of corporate information and have considered the make-up of the LCCC area in terms of residents/citizens but do not feel there is information specific to the different equality groups that is relevant to this particular policy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sec 75 Category** | Details of evidence/information |
| Religious Belief |  |
| Political Opinion |  |
| Racial Group |  |
| Age |  |
| Marital Status |  |
| Sexual Orientation |  |
| Men & Women Generally |  |
| Disability |  |
| Dependants |  |

### **Needs, experiences and priorities**

The Policy is for the benefit of all citizens and Section 75 groups. This Policy does not directly affect any Section 75 categories, but may do so indirectly through any council policies, plans and projects having to reference this Policy and take due regard of Sustainability Screening outcomes. This Policy will be applied equitably and proportionately across all groups within the Council area in a consistent manner by way of providing a sustainability framework and screening tool to be applied by all other policies, plans and projects being developed.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sec 75 Category** | Details of needs/experiences/priorities |
| Religious Belief |  |
| Political Opinion |  |
| Racial Group |  |
| Age |  |
| Marital Status |  |
| Sexual Orientation |  |
| Men & Women Generally |  |
| Disability |  |
| Dependants |  |

**Part 2. Screening questions**

What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Sec 75 equality categories? (Minor/major/none).

The Policy is for the benefit of all citizens and Section 75 groups. This Policy does not directly affect any Section 75 categories, but may do so indirectly through any council policies, plans and projects having to reference this Policy and take due regard of Sustainability Screening outcomes. This Policy will be applied equitably and proportionately across all groups within the Council area in a consistent manner by way of providing a sustainability framework and screening tool to be applied by all other policies, plans and projects being developed. There is anticipated to be no differential impact on the different equality groups.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sec 75 Category** | **Details of policy impact** | Level of impact (minor/major/none) |
| Religious Belief | It is anticipated that there will be no differential impact on the different equality groups | None |
| Political Opinion |
| Racial Group |
| Age |
| Marital Status |
| Sexual Orientation |
| Men & Women Generally |
| Disability |
| Dependants |

Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Sec 75 equality categories?

The Policy is for the benefit of all citizens and Section 75 groups. This Policy does not directly affect any Section 75 categories, but may do so indirectly through any council policies, plans and projects having to reference this Policy and take due regard of Sustainability Screening outcomes. This Policy will be applied equitably and proportionately across all groups within the Council area in a consistent manner by way of providing a sustainability framework and screening tool to be applied by all other policies, plans and projects being developed.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sec 75 Category** | **IF Yes, provide details** | **If No, provide details** |
| Religious Belief |  | No, as this policy is merely a framework that will be applied to all relevant policies/ activities. |
| Political Opinion |
| Racial Group |
| Age |
| Marital Status |
| Sexual Orientation |
| Men & Women Generally |
| Disability |
| Dependants |

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

Whilst no adverse impact is identified for any particular group, it is considered that this Policy will support positive environmental impacts irrespective of the characteristics/ community background of the individual or group.

The policy in itself as a framework won’t directly improve or affect relations between communities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good Relations Category** | **Details of policy impact** | Level of impact (minor/major/none) |
| Religious Belief |  |  |
| Political Opinion |  |  |
| Racial Group |  |  |

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

Whilst there are no direct opportunities in relation to this policy, opportunities may be identified in operational procedures and programmes or activities for communities to work together which may be beneficial.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good Relations Category** | **IF Yes, provide details** | **If No, provide details** |
| Religious Belief |  |  |
| Political Opinion |  |  |
| Racial Group |  |  |

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

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

Whilst we recognise that everyone has multiple identities, we have not identified any particular impact on people with multiple identities in relation to this overarching policy. However, multiple identity issues may emerge in future screening of operational programmes/policies.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

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

The outcome of this screening is that a full equality impact assessment is not considered necessary – it is screened out and does not require mitigation.

The reasons being, that this is an overarching framework; it is designed to apply equally to all; no negative impacts have been identified; and relevant operational policies/ programmes/ activities will be subject to full equality and good relations screening at the appropriate stage of planning and/or delivery as required by Section 75.

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

**N/A**

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

**N/A**

**Mitigation**

Where it is concluded that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations may be considered.

It may be that the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative 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 policy.

**N/A**

**Timetabling and prioritising (Only to be used where the policy in question has been assessed as requiring full EQIA).**

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

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

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

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

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please provide details

**N/A**

**Part 4. Monitoring -** See note above.

**Part 5 - Approval and authorisation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Screened by:** | **Position/Job Title**  | **Date** |
|  Colin Duff | HoS – Building Control | April 2021 |
| **Approved by:** |  |  |
| Heather Moore  | Director Env Services | April 2021 |

 **Equality Screening – Guidance on Completing Screening**

**Screening Form (2010 Guidance)** (Taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for public authorities April 2010, Appendix 1).

**Introduction – Notes to Aid Completion of the Screening Form**

The following notes are included in Appendix 1 of the Guidance and are an aid to assist completion of the screening form.

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

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

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

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

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

 A screening flowchart is provided overleaf.

**SCREENING FLOWCHART**

**Policy Scoping**

* Policy
* Available Data

**Screening Questions**

* Apply screening questions
* Consider multiple identities

**Screening Decision**

None/Minor/Major

**“None”** – Screened out

**“Major” –** Screened in for EQIA

**“Minor” –** Screened out with mitigation

Publish template

Mitigate

Publish template for information

EQIA

Reconsider screening

Publish template

Evidence based concern/s raised Re: screening decision

Monitor

**Equality Screening Template**

**Part 1. Policy scoping**

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration.

The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened.

At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

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

**Part 2. Screening questions**

**Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

**In favour of a ‘major’ impact**

1. The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
6. The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

**In favour of ‘minor’ impact**

1. The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of no impact**

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

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions (questions 1-4) given in the screening form (Part 2) and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

**Multiple identity**

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

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

**Part 3. Screening decision**

All public authorities’ equality schemes must state the authority’s arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity.

The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

**Timetabling and prioritising**

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

**Part 4. Monitoring**

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

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

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