

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template

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

Name of the activity/policy/project

Annual Lisburn Light Festival

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

Recurring annual event which has been running each year since 2018/19. This is an updated screening following the first three years.

The Lisburn Light Festival was introduced as an economic development initiative designed to attract footfall (residents and visitors) to the city centre in the run-up to Christmas.

A core element of the Council's Integrated Marketing Campaign each year is focused on the Christmas period. In this context the objective is to drive shoppers into Lisburn City Centre to do the bulk of their Christmas shopping. This initiative supports and complements the LCCC Christmas Campaign providing a focal point in Lisburn City Centre to promote as an additional reason to visit.

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

The overall aim of the Lisburn Light Festival is to maximise the economic contribution into the Council area by attracting spend from inward investors and visitor.

Objectives include:

- To highlight and promote Lisburn City Centre as a positive lifestyle destination, e.g., for shopping, entertainment, arts and culture
- To change perception of the city centre as a Christmas visitor attraction
- To animate the city centre over the Christmas period
- To increase the public's perceptions of the area as a result

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.

The Festival is not targeted at any Section 75 group or any particular section of the public. It is promoted to encourage people from all backgrounds, residents and visitors, to visit the city to enjoy shopping and other activities over the Christmas period. The Festival includes events and activities designed to appeal to all ages.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Economic Development department, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, developed the Festival originally with funding from the Department for Communities and input from other public sector partners, e.g., Transport NI and NIE.

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

Owned by LCCC and implemented by the Economic Development team. The initiative is now fully funded by LCCC.

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

If yes, give brief details of any significant factors.

Financial

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

Staff - Economic Development staff who organise and manage the project and other staff who help with delivery

Service users - Residents and Visitors

Other public sector organisations - None

Voluntary/community/trade unions - local community organisations

Other – Businesses, Elected Members, contractors who are involved in delivery

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

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
Local Development Plan	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/planning/local-development-plan
Corporate Plan	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/ICP_2021_Final.pdf
Tourism Strategy	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/planning/SUBDOC-073%20LCCC%20Tourism%20Strategy%202018.pdf
Community Plan 2017 – 2032	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/Community_Plan_2017-2032_EMAIL.pdf
Regeneration and Investment Action Plan	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC_Investment_Programme_2019_.pdf
City Centre Masterplan	https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/business/rural-development-and-regeneration/regeneration

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 following evidence was considered to inform festival planning and screening:

- Review of previous Light Festival success;
Experience suggests it is attended by a wide range of people, local and visiting, of all ages and backgrounds and is particularly popular with families.
- Stakeholder meetings (Council Officers and Members, Business Owners and Residents)
- Footfall Figures
- Surveys carried out by independent agency (pre and post)
- Public Feedback on Socials
- 2011 NI Census Data

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	<p>2011 NI Census recorded the following statistics with regard to religious belief in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area:</p> <p>67% Protestant (or other Christian) 24% Catholic 8% Other 1% None</p> <p>This festival will impact on all sections of the community, continuous consultation takes place every year with local parish officials who are involved in the project with choirs performing throughout the duration of the festival. The local parish officials are supportive of the collective nature of the project and the inclusion of all religious sectors across the community.</p>
Political Opinion	<p>Census 2011: 65.39% indicated that they had a British national identity, 14.83% had an Irish national identity and 30.46% had a Northern Irish national identity*.</p> <p>The City Centre is a 'neutral space' and is used by those of all community backgrounds. The Lisburn Light Festival and programme of events is held across the City Centre and is free of charge to encourage participation of all users of the City Centre.</p>
Racial Group	<p>Census 2011: 2.36% were from an ethnic minority population and the remaining 97.64% were white (including Irish Traveler).</p>

	<p>The Lisburn Light Festival and programme of events is being held across the City Centre and participation is encouraged from all communities.</p>
Age	<p>20% Children were aged 0-15 years 30% of people aged 16 -39 years 33% aged 40 – 64 years 17% aged 65 years and older.</p> <p>Predicted that the population of the Council area aged 65 and over will increase by 9% by 2025 and 13% by 2030.</p> <p>LCCC recognises that age, especially for older age groups, has an impact on mobility and that rates of disability increase with age. Such issues are recognised and have been given due consideration.</p> <p>Following consultation, relaxed nights were introduced which will offer the opportunity to view the light attractions with quieter music and fewer lights switched on to cater for those with a disability e.g. autism.</p>
Marital Status	<p>Marital status not considered directly relevant to the festival. It is likely to be attended by people of different marital status.</p>
Sexual Orientation	<p>ONS (Office for National Statistics) figures (2016) suggest at least 2% of the NI population identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bi-sexual. However, LGB support groups suggest this is a significant underestimate based on lack of willingness/confidence to identify as LGB.</p> <p>Government Equalities Office research suggests over 4% of the 18-25 year age group identify as</p>

	LGB, confirming that younger people are more likely to be open about sexual orientation.
Men & Women Generally	Gender is not considered directly relevant to the light festival. It is likely to be attended by people of different gender.
Disability	<p>The 2011 Northern Ireland Census collected data on 'persons with a limiting long-term illness' which covered any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits daily activities or work. Statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18.29% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities; and • 82.13% of people stated their general health was either good or very good <p>LCCC are mindful of the need to have due regard for people with a range of disabilities and in line with current guidelines and obligations generally under the Disability Discrimination Act guidance with particular focus on accessibility and mobility for those with sensory sensitivities and/or motor impairment.</p> <p>LCCC ensure appropriate and visible signage at all events and displays warning of flashing lights/ strobe lighting.</p>
People with and without Dependants	<p>The festival tends to be attended by lots of family groups and some families have disabled dependants.</p> <p>In the 2011 Census, 12.51% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12.51% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others.
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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
Religious Belief	It is essential to ensure that choirs, etc. are inclusive of different religious traditions and welcoming to newcomers.
Political Opinion	No differential needs identified for this group.
Racial Group	All events are to be inclusive and welcoming to newcomers.
Age	<p>LCCC recognises that age, especially for older age groups, has an impact on mobility, accessibility noise levels etc.</p> <p>There is street furniture spread out over the City Centre to provide somewhere for visitors to stop and rest if they need to.</p> <p>Relaxed nights were introduced which will offer the opportunity to view the light attractions with quieter music and fewer lights switched on to cater for those with a disability e.g. autism.</p>
Marital Status	No differential needs identified for this group.
Sexual Orientation	No differential needs identified for this group.
Men & Women Generally	No differential needs identified for this group.
Disability	LCCC recognises that disability covers a broad range of conditions (e.g. physical disability, mental health, learning disability, sensory sensitivities) and that many of these will have specific needs which require to be given consideration within the design of the lighting structure, the installation of the lighting structures and the duration of the festival.

	<p>The City Centre Team have consulted with external organisations such as Autism NI, RNIB, Epilepsy Action NI, Action on Hearing Loss to seek advice and guidance on how best to manage the lighting and sound display. Special relaxed nights are scheduled which will offer the opportunity to view the light attractions with quieter music and fewer lights switched on.</p> <p>LCCC ensure that employment of the appropriate number of first aiders trained to deal with particular issues that may be related to those with sensory sensitivities and/or motor impairments throughout the light festival's planned events.</p>
Dependants	<p>People with dependents or disabled family members may require access to toilet facilities during the planned events. The Museum toilets are open to the public during working hours.</p>

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 anticipated for this group.	
Political Opinion	No differential impact anticipated for this group.	
Racial Group	No differential impact anticipated for this group.	

Age	No Impact for older people as mobility impairments and noise reductions has been considered. The event is of more interest to families/children/young people.	
Marital Status	No differential impact anticipated for this group.	
Sexual Orientation	No differential impact anticipated for this group.	
Men & Women Generally	No differential impact anticipated for this group.	
Disability	The potential impact is that noise and lights can be problematic for people with some disabilities but steps are taken to reduce potential negative impacts.	
People with and without Dependents	A positive impact is anticipated for all dependents but the light festival is more particularly attractive to families.	

* 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 further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.

Political Opinion		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
Racial Group		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
Age		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
Marital Status		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
Sexual Orientation		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
Men & Women Generally		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
Disability		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any

		issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.
People with and without Dependants		No further opportunities identified as we are taking all reasonable steps. The Light Festival and events will be reviewed annually to ensure any issues raised are dealt with and taken into account the following year.

Equality Action Plan 2021-2025

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2021-2025? 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:

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

Yes – both.

We have consulted a number of disability group and sought feedback on the Light Festival and events.

Potentially yes, if there is ongoing consultation with disabled people and/or representative groups. Also, we can try to promote the inclusion of disabled children/people and the adjustments we make in pictures and social media coverage, etc.

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 Political Opinion Racial Group	This is a civic event that attracts people from different groups and may contribute to promoting good relations because it is an event in a shared spaces. There is proactive effort every year to make this a cross-community themed event.	

*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 Political Opinion Racial Group		No opportunities identified at this time but if any arise e.g. visitor feedback, they will be addressed.

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.

LCCC recognises that all individuals are not exclusive to just one designated group. “Multiple identity” has been given consideration within this screening exercise, for example, the needs of older people with disability or people who care for children or disabled dependants.

If additional issues/impacts not already covered above arise, they will be addressed.

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
<p>Option 1</p> <p>Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]</p>	<p>It has been concluded that a detailed equality impact assessment is not necessary as all the potential impacts identified are minor and positive. No additional mitigations are needed as the needs of each group has been taken into account.</p>

	Screening will be revisited annually.
<p>Option 2</p> <p>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>Option 3</p> <p>Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)</p> <p>[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?

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.

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.

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 Light Festival is re-screened each year to incorporate new installations and events. This is to ensure all issues are addressed and will be reviewed by project manager when appropriate.

It is independently evaluated pre and post to measure the impact of the festival.

We also take into consideration any comments received on social media, complaints received through the council's customer care process etc.

Discuss – if we are re-screening every year, there would need to be a more detailed analysis/report of the previous year's event. I'm content that some recurring projects don't need to be subjected to a fully screening so long as there is up to date consideration of issues/potential impacts.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

	Position/Job Title	Date
Screened by: Becky Colvin	Project Support Officer	18/10/22
Reviewed by: Mary McSorley	Equality Officer	18/10/22
Approved by: Paul McCormick	Head of ED	18/10/22

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.

Revised Template

Lisburn Light Festival

Project Description and Background:

Recurring annual event which has been running each year since 2018/19. This is an updated screening following the first three years.

The Lisburn Light Festival was introduced as an economic development initiative designed to attract footfall (residents and visitors) to the city centre in the run-up to Christmas.

The Light Festival includes LED canopy, tree, prisms that flash to music.

Objectives:

- To highlight and promote Lisburn City Centre as a positive lifestyle destination, e.g., for shopping, entertainment, arts and culture
- To change perception of the city centre as a Christmas visitor attraction
- To animate the city centre over the Christmas period
- To increase the public's perceptions of the area as a result

Duration:

6 weeks at Christmas - Annually