**Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council**

**Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening**

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

**Name of the activity/policy/project**

**Procurement of waste contractors**

This screening exercise is being conducted on the approach to procurement of contractors to deliver a range of services related to the haulage, treatment and/or disposal of municipal waste, recyclable and compostable materials managed by the Council.

Examples of the types of contract include:

* A contractor appointed to collect general waste from Council Household Recycling Centres and transport it to a landfill site or residual waste treatment facility for treatment/disposal.
* A contract for provision of a facility to accept waste or recyclable material collected by the Council and deposited at that facility for treatment and/or disposal.
* A contractor appointed to collect metals from Council Household Recycling Centres and transport it to a facility for onwards recycling.

L&CCC is also a member of the arc21 Waste Management Group. arc21 is an umbrella waste management group in Northern Ireland representing 6 councils on the eastern coast. arc21 works on behalf of its partner councils to guide, support and help them deliver their statutory waste management obligations, drive forward innovative waste management programmes, including developing infrastructure, and address greater circularity of resources. arc21's six partner councils are Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. arc21 operates within the framework of a legally binding collaborative agreement between all of its councils.

The Waste Management Plan sets out in detail how arc21 proposes to deal with waste throughout its region. The latest version of the Waste Management Plan (WMP) was determined by the Department of the Environment (now DAERA) in September 2015. The Waste Management Plan can be viewed or downloaded at: <https://www.arc21.org.uk/download/files/arc21%20Waste%20Management%20Plan%20Sep15.pdf> and is currently being refreshed to reflect a magnitude of changes, such as the Circular Economy, extended Producer Responsibility and Net Zero.

The present Waste Management Plan takes account of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy which is entitled "Delivering Resource Efficiency" which was published at the end of October 2013. In line with the review of the WMP, it is likely that DAERA will develop a new document in the near future.

The arc21 waste management plan has gone through an Equality Screening and consultation exercise and screening was reviewed for the 2015 plan. Documents are available here <https://www.arc21.org.uk/downloads/Equality>

Any specific waste projects or contracts that relate to services delivered directly by LCCC to the public, e.g., Waste Collection Policies, will be considered for equality screening as required. Screening reports will be available on the Council’s website at [Equality/Section 75](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/publications/equality-section-75)

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

These activities are ongoing as part of the Council statutory duty regarding waste collection, treatment & disposal. Some procurements will be a simple retendering for activities already underway while others may seek new methods of treating or recycling waste in order to achieve landfill diversion and recycling targets.

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

The overall aim of any waste haulage/treatment/disposal activity is to discharge the Council’s statutory duty and contribute towards delivery of the Council Waste Management Plan available to view at the following link:

<https://www.arc21.org.uk/download/files/arc21%20Waste%20Management%20Plan%20Sep15.pdf>

**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 procurement of waste related contracts does not target any specific Section 75 groups and does not impact directly on the public.

**Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?**

Waste Management & Operational Services.

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

The policy is owned by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and will be implemented by Waste Management & Operational Services.

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

No

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

**Staff**

Waste Management & Operational Services staff.Various staff involved in the procurement, contract management and day to day management of contracts for haulage, treatment and/or disposal of municipal waste, recyclable and compostable materials managed by the Council.

**Service users**

No direct impact on service users

**Other public sector organisations**

arc21 – in partnership with other councils to deliver the sub regional Waste Management Plan

**Voluntary/community/trade unions** N/A

**Other** – appointed contractors

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of policy/strategy/plan** | **Who owns or implements?** |
| Waste Management Policies  <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/publications/policies> | Owned by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and implemented by Waste Management & Operational Services. |
| Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency" | DAERA |
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Accounting Manual – Procurement Policies | Owned by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and implemented by Finance/Procurement within the 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.**

This screening is a consideration of our approach to procurement of waste related services associated with delivery of the waste management plan and statutory waste collection, treatment and disposal functions of the Council. We have considered how our current procurement processes work.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 Category** | **Details of evidence/information** |
| Religious Belief  Political Opinion  Racial Group  Age  Marital Status  Sexual Orientation  Men and Women generally  Disability  People With and Without Dependants | The procurements for waste haulage, treatment and/or disposal contracts are for services delivered to the Council in order to manage municipal waste in line with the objectives of our Waste Management Plan.  We do not have information on the equality characteristics of the contractors who provide services through waste management procurement exercises.  However, contracts are procured in line with Council procurement policy to ensure fairness and transparency. Contractors of all backgrounds are able to compete for contracts for which they are suitably qualified.  LCCC requires all contractors who provide services to be an equal opportunities employer and service provider.  Procurement of these waste contracts does not impact directly on any category of the public. |

### 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  Political Opinion  Racial Group  Age  Marital Status  Sexual Orientation  Men & Women Generally  Disability  People with and without Dependants | There is no evidence of particular needs other than the need for a fair and transparent procurement process to ensure equality of opportunity for all contractors who may be eligible to apply for council contracts. |

**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  Political Opinion  Racial Group  Age  Marital Status  Sexual Orientation  Men & Women Generally  Disability  People with and without Dependants | No direct impact on equality of opportunity identified for any group as all contracts are procured through an open and transparent process that complies with all equality legislation. | 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, Political Opinion, Racial Group, Age, Marital Status, Sexual Orientation, Men & Women Generally, Disability, People with and without Dependants |  | No opportunities identified in relation to procurement as we use a public tender process which already takes account of equality considerations. |

**Equality Action Plan 2021-2025**

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the [Equality Action Plan 2021-2025](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/publications/equality-section-75/action-plans-equality-and-disability)? 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](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/council/publications/equality-section-75/action-plans-equality-and-disability):

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

No

**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 | No impact identified - no relevance to good relations |  |

\*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 opportunity identified as no relevance to good relations |

**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.**

N/A**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] | There is no need for a detailed equality impact assessment as no equality issues/impacts identified. Equality of opportunity is already built into procurement processes and contract management |
| 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] |  |
| 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)**

N/A

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

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)** N/A

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**

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:

All in house awarded contracts are procured in line with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council procurement guidelines and contract management activities are ongoing throughout the duration of each contract.

While no equality related issues are foreseen in relation to waste haulage/treatment/disposal services procured through third party providers, if any issues do arise this will be evaluated as part of the contract management process and action taken as appropriate.

Arc21 will continue to monitor waste management plan activities on behalf of Member Councils.

**Part 5 - Approval and authorisation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Position/Job Title** | **Date** |
| Screened by: Noeleen O’Malley & Tim Smith | Waste Policy & Development Manager  Waste Services & Contracts Manager | May 2022 |
| Reviewed by: Mary McSorley | Equality Officer | 14.07.22 |
| **Approved by:** Wilfie Muldrew | HoS Waste Management & Operational Services | 28.09.22 |

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:

1. The policy/project is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. 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;
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.

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.

No impact (none)

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.

Revised Template @ April 2022