

# Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

## Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template (Oct 2022)

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

This policy sets out investment plans across the seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) for 2025–2026, as part of a wider £3.4 million programme over five years. It includes funding for 85 projects, such as the **Grand Choice participatory budgeting scheme** and the **Community Facilities Fund**. While some variation in funding will occur based on local needs, **all DEAs will receive equal investment** in community facilities and participatory budgeting. 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 2025-2026

#### 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.

#### 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

#### 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.

This policy may benefit all Section 75 groups. By recognising the different needs of each area and not treating all areas identically, the policy is designed to reduce local inequalities and improve community outcomes. Individual projects will be subject to equality screening to identify any Equality Impacts.

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

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 and programme managed via the Portfolio Team within the Organisational Development & Innovation directorate.

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

Yes/~~No~~

**If yes, give brief details of any significant factors.**

Financial

~~Legal~~

Other

Due to the fact that a number of specific projects sitting under the programme will be inviting applications for funding there may be an overspend or under-spend of the whole programme depending on numbers applying for funding and the success rate of the applications.

The funding projects that sit under the programme are allocated on a DEA basis with all 7 DEA's availing of the opportunity to equally receive funding. This will help to promote a balanced investment right across all Electoral Areas.

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

**Service users** - Potentially as beneficiaries of the successful applicant

**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 <a href="https://lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk">Corporate plan and ambitions 2024/2028 - Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh (lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)</a>
2 Departmental Plans	LCCC Departments
3 Investment Plan	LCCC

4 Council's Equality Scheme	LCCC <a href="http://lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk">Equality Scheme - Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh (lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)</a>
5 Community Plan 2017-2032	LCCC <a href="http://lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk">Community Planning - Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh (lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk)</a>

## 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	<b>NI Census 2021</b>	<b>N. Ireland (%)</b>	<b>LCCC (%)</b>
	Catholic	42.3	23.9
	Protestant and Other Christian	37.7	48.7

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>17.3</td> <td>1.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Religion</td> <td>17.3</td> <td>24.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Stated</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> </table>	Other	17.3	1.8	No Religion	17.3	24.1	Not Stated	1.6	1.4												
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Political Opinion	<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"> <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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Marital Status	<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"> <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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	Gay or lesbian	1.17	1.21
	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 &amp; 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 Dependants	<p>2021 Census Information – Lisburn &amp; 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 &amp; young adults aged 15 – 19 years.</p> <p>In 2021, of the 60,143 households in the Lisburn &amp; 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

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	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 and 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	Minor
Political Opinion		Minor
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
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\* 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		Individual projects will be subject to Equality Screening to identify any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.
Political Opinion		
Racial Group		
Age		
Marital Status		
Sexual Orientation		
Men & Women Generally		
Disability		
People with and without Dependants		

**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**

- 3.2 Some individuals/ groups may find the location of our facilities a deterrent to use or may find certain buildings and premises inaccessible
- 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) [new]**

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?**

<b>Good Relations Category</b>	<b>Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]</b>	<b>Level of impact – minor/major*</b>
Religious Belief	It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will impact positively on good relations between people of different religious belief –this will be further identified during 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	It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will impact positively on good relations between people of different political opinion – this will be further identified during 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
Racial Group	It is expected that investments via the DEA programme will impact positively on good relations between people of different racial groupings – this will be further identified during 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

\*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?**

<b>Good Relations Category</b>	<b>IF Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide details</b>
Religious Belief	Consideration to include equality of opportunity for	

	people with different religious beliefs will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	
Political Opinion	Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people with different political opinions will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	
Racial Group	Consideration to include equality of opportunity for people from different racial groups will also be made via the development of funding criteria and promotional materials.	

### **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 just one of the designated groups. As a consequence, it is envisaged that the positive impacts of the DEA investments will spread across all section 75 categories.

This goal will also be achieved through constant review of implementation based on evaluation of impact on 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  <b>Screen out</b> – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]	
Option 2  <b>Screen out with mitigation</b> – 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	

<p><b>Screen in</b> for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)</p> <p>[If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below]</p>	
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**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 participatory budgeting 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 of Section 75 groups and monitoring of uptake.

Supporting Section 75 groups as outlined (including providing additional support and adjustments) on the basis of targeted need. The DEA Investment Programme will be monitored on a monthly basis by CMT and a HOS monthly steering group. All programme level risks are escalated for mitigation at these meetings. At these junctures, programme delivery and evaluation methods will form part of the agenda and will be adjusted to address all programme and project risks to include those to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations. This ‘change control’ approach will also 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 on a monthly basis by CMT and a HOS monthly steering group.

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

	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Screened by: Colin McKenna	Programme Co-Ordinator	10/09/25
Reviewed by: Annie Wilson	Equality Officer	11/09/25
<b>Approved by: Louise Moore</b>	Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing	17/09/25

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