

Equality & Good Relations Screening Report (updated 2019)

Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council has a statutory duty to screen its policies, procedures, practices/decisions. This Policy Screening Form and Report assists Council Departments to consider the likely equality and good relations impacts of the aforementioned, if any, placed upon our ratepayers, citizens, service users, staff and visitors to the district.

Section 1 - Policy scoping

This asks the Policy Author to provide details on 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. Reference to policy within this document refers to either of the aforementioned (policy, procedure, practice, and/ or decision).

Section 2 - Screening questions

This 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 issues.

Section 3 -Screening decision

This guides the Council to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

Section 4 - Monitoring

This provides guidance to the Council on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Section 5 - Approval and authorisation

This verifies the Council's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Appendix A Screening Process

Section 1 Policy Scoping & Information

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration which sets the context and confirms the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. Scoping the policy helps to identify constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy author to work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

1. Policy Name

Mid Ulster Towns Covid 19 Business Grants

2. Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New Programme

3. What is it trying to achieve? (aims/outcomes)

The aim of Mid Ulster Towns Covid 19 Business Grant is to assist businesses to adapt to and implement social distancing measures to protect staff and customers in line with government guidance.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- 1. To modify the internal structure of business/commercial properties to assist with social distancing measures.
- 2. To modify the external structure of business/commercial properties to assist with social distancing measures.
- 3. To provide assistance for PPE.
- 4. To provide assistance towards customer signage for adherence to social distancing.
- 5. To provide assistance towards equipment/services which would aid social distancing.

4. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

Yes	Х
No	

If so, please explain

All Section 75 groupings will have the opportunity to benefit equally from this Programme, as outlined below. However, some groups may potentially benefit more than others:-

Age- Older people and young people

Women

People with disabilities

People with dependants

5. Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Mid Ulster District Council developed the Mid Ulster Towns Covid 19 Business Grants Programme as one element of the Town Centre Recovery Plan. Funding was sourced from the Department of Communities for this programme.

6. Who owns and who implements the policy?

Mid Ulster District Councils Local Economic Development Department will implement this programme which will be funded by the Department for Communities

Implementation factors

		Yes	No
Are there any factors which intended aim/outcome of	h could contribute to/ detract from the policy?	X	
If yes, are they financia	al?	X	
If yes, are they legislate	ive?	X	
If yes, Please specify	Financial: Securing funds from E Communities and/or Mid Ulster D Legislative: Works which are in re accessibility must be compliant v Discrimination Act	district Counterlist list in the list in t	cil
Other, Please specify	Based on delivery of similar busines is expected that this scheme will attend of applications in excess of the budgets.	ract a high no	umber

Stakeholders

The internal and external (actual or potential) that the policy will be impacted upon

	Yes	No
Staff		
Service Users		
	1 1 1	
Other public sector organisations		
Voluntary/community/ trade unions		
Other, please specify	Businesses (Private Sec	ctor)

Others policies with a bearing on this policy

Policies	Owners
Mid Ulster District Council's Community Plan (2015) Mid Ulster District Council's Economic Development Plan (2015) Mid Ulster District Council's Procurement Policy (2017) Mid Ulster District Council's Marketing and Communications Plan (2017) and Accessible Communications Policy (2019)	Mid Ulster District Council
Northern Ireland Executive Recovery Strategy	NI Executive

Available evidence

Information and available evidence (qualitative and quantitative) gathered to inform the policy under each of the Section 75 groups as identified within the Northern Ireland Act 1998. [Add information and evidence from other sources, eg, research, survey findings, service user feedback, consultation feedback, review findings, etc]

category	Details of evidence/information		
Religious belief	63.77% of the population in Mid Ulster were broad 33.46% belong or were brought up in a Protesta Christian related) religion. Other religions comp (2.28%) of the population (Source: 2011 Census	nt and Other Ch rised 690 (0.5%)	ristian (incl
	Religion or Religion brought up in	No.	%
	Catholic	88,375	63.77
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	46,372	33.46
	Other religions	690	0.5
	None	3,153	2.28
	Total	138,590	100

vote share for each political party and current representation (seats) on Council. (Source: Electoral Office):

Party	Votes	Percentage	Council Seats
SF	23,553	39.8%	17
DUP	13,700	23.2%	9
SDLP	8,512	14.4%	5
UUP	8,021	13.6%	6
Independent	3,422	5.8%	2
Aontu*	846	1.4%	1 2
Alliance	729	1.2%	
TUV	230	0.4%	
Workers' Party	95	0.2%	

*A councillor who was elected as a representative of the SDLP resigned from that party and aligned with Aontu shortly after the 2019 local government elections

There is no regional or local data available regarding the breakdown of businesses in the categories above

Racial group

According to the 2011 Census the overwhelming majority of the population 136,485 (98.48%) were classified as 'white'. Within this total will be migrant communities, such as Polish, Lithuanian and so forth. Statistics indicate that the number of people in Mid Ulster Local Government District (LGD) born outside Northern Ireland is:

Place of Birth	No.
Great Britain	4,053
Republic of Ireland	2,250
EU Countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia,	6,795
Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)	
Other	2,280

The minority ethnic language profile within the area can serve as a possible indicator of the Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) community profile within the district. The composition of language groups in Mid Ulster LGD area is also noted from the 2011 census by NISRA as:

Main Languages of residents in Mid Ulster Council area	No.
English	125,715
Polish	2,008
Lithuanian	2,039
Portuguese	903
Irish (Gaelic)	404
Slovak	477
Russian	297
Latvia	261
Hungarian	117
Chinese	64
Tagalog/Filipino	38
Malaysian	33
Other	922

There is no regional or local data available regarding the breakdown of businesses in the categories above.

The age profile of Mid Lister Local Government District area as at 2015 (Source).

Age

The age profile of Mid Ulster Local Government District area as at 2015 (Source, NISRA)

	Mid Ulster	Northern Ireland
Total Population	144,002	1,851,621
0-15 years	33,123	385,200
16-39 years	47,646	583,116
40-64 years	43,621	591,481
65+ years	19,612	291,824
Population Change % (2005-2015)	15.3%	7.2%

There is no regional or local data available regarding the breakdown of those managing businesses in the categories above.

Marital status

The below table sets out the martial status profile for Mid Ulster District Council area as extracted from results of the 2011 Census

	Mid U	Ister	Northern Ireland		
	No.	%	No	%	
Single (never married or never registered a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)	38,353	35.97	517,393	36.14	
Married (Aged 16+)	54,192	50.82	680,831	47.56	
In a registered same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)	62	0.06	1,243	0.09	
Separated (but is still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)	3,369	3.16	56,911	3.98	
Divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved (Aged 16+)	4,139	3.88	78,074	5.45	
Widowed or surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)	6,523	6.12	97,088	6.78	

There is no regional or local data available regarding the breakdown of those managing businesses in the categories above.

Sexual orientation

No specific statistics are available from the 2011 government census for this Category and there are therefore no official statistics available in relation to persons of different sexual orientation. However, the Integrated Household Survey would include between 3% and 4% would be either gay, lesbian and/or bisexual. However, due to the nature of 'disclosure' in this area, umbrella organisations often state that the figure may be closer to 10%.

Region	Heterosexual / Straight	Gay/ Lesbian	Bisexual	Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual	Other	Don't know /refuse	No response
England	92.54%	1.10%	0.51%	1.61%	0.33%	4.07%	1.45%
Wales	93.93%	1.04%	0.48%	1.52%	0.45%	2.99%	1.11%
Scotland	94.65%	0.82%	0.33%	1.14%	0.26%	2.59%	1.37%
N Ireland	93.00%	0.64%	0.96%	1.60%	0.26%	3.98%	1.17%
Total	92.80%	1.06%	0.51%	1.57%	0.32%	3.89%	1.42%

Research also conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5%-7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgender and transvestite) (LGBT).

There is no regional or local data available regarding the breakdown of those managing businesses in the categories above

Men & women generally

The gender profile of Mid Ulster LGD is detailed as;

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male_	69,362	50.05	887,323	49.00
Female	69,228	49.95	923,540	51.00

The Programme will benefit both females and males in the delivery of the grants programme.

Disability

According to the 2011 NISRA census statistics 19.39% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities whilst 80.43% of people within the district stated their general health was either good or very good

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Disability / long term health	26,870	19.39	374,646	20.69
No disability / long term health problem	111,720	80.61	1,436,217	79.31

In Northern Ireland the profile of persons with a disability has been reported by Disability Action as;

- More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population have a disability
- 1 in 7 people have some form of hearing loss

- 5,000 persons use sign language British Sign Language and/or Irish Sign Language
- There are 57,000 blind persons or persons with significant impairment
- 52,000 persons with learning difficulties

Dependants

Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and/ or a dependent older person. The below table provides a summary with respect Mid Ulster LGD.

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
No.		%	No.	%
Households with dependent children	18,626	38.99	238,094	33.86
Lone parent households with dependents	3,485	7.30	63,921	9.09
People providing unpaid care	12,821	10.69	231,980	11.82

Of the households in Mid Ulster Local Government District with dependent children, they can be summarised as;

- 7,407 families in households have 1 dependent child
- 6,394 families in households with two dependent children
- 5,014 families in households with three dependent children

There are 37,306 dependent children within families.

A Town Centre Forum/Regeneration Partnership exits for each town centre (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt) and since the Covid 19 pandemic these forums have met individually to discuss the implications on each area. The discussions and consultations from the Forums have assisted Council in the development of a Mid Ulster Town Centre Recovery Plan which includes numerous measures to strengthen the economic recovery of the Council area including the development of the Mid Ulster Town Covid 10 Business Grant Programme.

Department for Communities: - Funding to support the Town Centre Recovery Planhas been secured from DFC including this programme.

Mid Ulster District Council: - A working group has been established with a number of Council departments to work on the economic recovery of Mid Ulster which consists of representatives from:

- Building Control
- Environmental Health
- Economic Development
- Planning
- Property Services
- Technical Services

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 policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth as we enter the recovery phase of Covid 19 for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their religious beliefs.
	There is no evidence of particular needs, issues or barriers for people of different religions.
Political opinion	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth as we enter the recovery phase of Covid 19 for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their religious beliefs. The Programme will be promoted widely to all sections of the community so there should be no barriers to take up based on political opinion.
Racial group	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth as we enter the recovery phase of Covid 19 for the benefit of everyone irrespective of racial group. Details of the scheme can be translated upon request for whom English is not their first language.
Age	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations, and provide a service for the benefit of everyone, which will be reflected in relation to accessibility requirements. Older people who are service users/potential service users tend to have greater need for physical accessibility to be considered. Older people who have difficulty accessing services outside of their local area.
Marital status	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations, and provide a

	service for the benefit of everyone irrespective of marital status.
Sexual orientation	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations, and provide a service for the benefit of everyone irrespective of sexual orientation.
Men and women generally	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations, and generate economic growth as we enter recovery phase for Covid 19 for the benefit of everyone irrespective if they are male or female. Applications will be open to male and female.
Disability	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth as we enter the recovery phase of Covid 19 for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their status within this Section 75 category. People with physical disabilities have greater difficulty accessing business premises than those without a physical disability and specific access needs vary according to the level and type of disability.
Dependants	The project is intended to assist commercial premises in adhering to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth as we enter the recovery phase of Covid 19 for the benefit of everyone irrespective if they have dependents. People with dependants, for example, parents with buggies or carers of disabled people, may experience difficulties accessing business premises

Section 2 - Screening Questions

In making a decision as to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), the Council should consider its answers to the questions 1- 3 detailed below.

If the Council's conclusion is <u>none</u> in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity categories, then the Council may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity, the Council should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the Council's conclusion is <u>major</u> in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the Council's conclusion is <u>minor</u> in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality 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.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance:
- 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;
- Potential equality 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.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- 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.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity for people within the equality categories.

Screening questions

	likely impact on equality of opportunity for the hof the Section 75 equality categories (minor	
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	The project is intended to enhance commercial premises and generate economic growth for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their religious beliefs.	None
Political opinion	The project is intended to enhance commercial premises and generate economic growth for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their political belief.	None
Racial group	The project is intended to enhance commercial premises and generate economic growth for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their racial group.	None
Age	The scheme will encourage better use of the business premises for all age groups in relation to Covid 19 Government Regulations. The new designs put in place will potentially offer increased accessible space that will be beneficial to both younger and older people, externally and internally. Older people and young people who don't have transport may benefit if this scheme means that local services are enhanced or sustained so they don't have to travel outside their local towns.	Minor- Positive
Marital status	The project is intended to enhance commercial premises and generate economic growth for the benefit of everyone irrespective of their marital status.	None
Sexual orientation	The project is intended to enhance commercial premises and generate economic growth for	None

	the benefit of everyone irrespective of their sexual orientation.	
Men and women generally	The scheme will encourage businesses to invest in their commercial premises to assist with compliance of Covid 19 Government Regulations, which in turn will continue to deliver a service to local communities.	Minor- Positive
Disability	The scheme will encourage businesses to invest in their commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Guidance, which in turn will continue to deliver a service to local communities.	Minor- Positive
Dependants	The scheme will be a positive to those with dependents - services will be maintained and enhanced; designs which will improve accessibility and internal reconfiguration to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations.	Minor- Positive

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories? (Yes/ No)		
Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Political opinion		No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Racial group		No, this project will enhance commercial premises to

	adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Age	No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Marital status	No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Sexual orientation	No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Men and women generally	No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Disability	No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and generate economic growth regardless of s75 grouping.
Dependants	No, this project will enhance commercial premises to adhere to Covid 19 Government Regulations and

	generate economic grow regardless of s75 groupin
duty, to better promote good relation	orejudice, to the equality of opportunity ons between Section 75 equality ice and/ or promoting understanding?
	No X
If yes, please detail the opportunities b	Yes
otential opportunities and assess if an	sideration. The Group will consider the downward how the overall impact of a decision/policy
an better promote good relations.	d how the overall impact of a decision/polic
an better promote good relations. Additional Considerations - Mu Generally speaking, people can fall int Taking this into consideration, are ther policy/decision on people with multiple	Itiple identity to more than one Section 75 category. re any potential impacts of the identities? (For example; disabled minorial impacts)
Additional Considerations - Mu Generally speaking, people can fall int Taking this into consideration, are ther policy/decision on people with multiple	Itiple identity to more than one Section 75 category. re any potential impacts of the
Additional Considerations - Mu Generally speaking, people can fall int Taking this into consideration, are ther policy/decision on people with multiple ethnic people; disabled women; young and bisexual people).	Itiple identity to more than one Section 75 category. re any potential impacts of the identities? (For example; disabled minorial impacts)
Additional Considerations - Mu Generally speaking, people can fall int Taking this into consideration, are ther policy/decision on people with multiple ethnic people; disabled women; young	Itiple identity to more than one Section 75 category. re any potential impacts of the elidentities? (For example; disabled minorical protestant men; and young lesbians, gay

Section 3 – Screening Decision

In light of answers provided to the questions within Section 3 select one of the following with regards the policy:

		Select One
1	Shall not be subject to an EQIA - with no mitigating measures required	X
2	Shall not be subject to an EQIA - mitigating measures/ alternative policies introduced	
3	Shall be subject to an EQIA	

f 1 or 2 above (i.e. not to be subject to an EQIA) please provide details of reasons why.	
No negative impacts identified	

If 2 above (i.e. not to subject to an EQIA) in what ways can adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

If 3 above (i.e. shall be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons.

Mitigation

When it is concluded that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you may consider mitigation to lessen the

severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity?

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy:

Mitigation will not be required because a minor positive has been identified.

Timetabling and prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the below to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

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

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a Council's functions	

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 Council in timetabling. Details of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the Screening Reports.

 Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

Yes	
No	X

Section 5 – Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the Council to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development. Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The project development and roll out is based on the previous grants schemes delivered and lessons learnt. This scheme will be monitored from initiation to completion with indicators identified at project initiation. Monitoring details will be presented to Development Committee on a timely basis.

A monitoring form will be created and issued to successful applicants for completion with due regard to S75 Groupings. This form will be returned to the Corporate Policy and Equality Officer of Mid Ulster District Council.

Each successful applicant will be issued a notice encouraging them to refer to Every Customer Counts as a guidance for making improvements to their business.

Section 6 – Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/ Job Title	Date	
Mary McCullagh	Regeneration Manager	03 (OK FC
	H. McCaligh	03.08.20	
Approved by:	Position/ Job Title	Date	
2	DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS + COMMUNITIES	03 08 20	

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy; made easily accessible on the council website as soon as possible following completion and be available on request.



