

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING ANALYSIS FORM

The purpose of this form is to help you to consider whether a new policy (either internal or external) or legislation will require a full equality impact assessment (EQIA). Those policies identified as having significant implications for equality of opportunity must be subject to full EQIA.

The form will provide a record of the factors taken into account if a policy is screened out, or excluded for EQIA. It will provide a basis for quarterly consultation on the outcome of the screening exercise, and will be referenced in the biannual review of progress made to the Minister and in the Annual Report to the Equality Commission.

Further advice on completion of this form and the screening process including relevant contact information can be accessed via the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Intranet site ([Equality Intranet page](#)).

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT - refer to the [Equality Intranet page](#)

When considering the impact of this policy you should also consider if there would be any Human Rights implications. Guidance is at:

- <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/human-rights-and-public-authorities>

Should this be appropriate you will need to complete a Human Rights Impact Assessment. A template is at:

- <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/human-rights-impact-assessment-proforma>

Don't forget to RURAL PROOF - refer to the [Equality Intranet page](#).

Part 1. Policy scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

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

Information about the policy

Name of the policy

Planning application to determine a Section 54 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 planning application to develop land without compliance with Conditions 10 and 32 of LA03/2018/0605/O, for lands at Ballyclare.

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

This is a decision to approve a planning application which the Department's Planning Business Area is responsible for processing, it is not a policy. (Planning Application SPD/2024/0052/F)

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

The application seeks variation of 2 conditions on the outline permission (LA03/2018/0605/O) for a major urban extension to include: residential neighbourhood, northern section of Ballyclare Relief Road, local centre, central park and other open spaces, equipped children's play areas and ancillary works. The relevant conditions are :

Condition 10 – variation of condition to amend the trigger point for Ballyrobert Crossroads Junction work

Condition 32 - Part removal of wording to delete reference to Town Park

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?
If so, explain how.**

Opportunities to benefit from new housing opportunities should be experienced uniformly across the general population and all section 75 categories should therefore experience the opportunities to the same extent as the general population.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The applicant is Neptune Group, a construction company in Northern Ireland.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Neptune Group will be responsible for constructing the development.

Background

The principle of the overall housing and the Ballyclare relief road has been established by the granting of two outline planning permissions in January 2011 by the former DOE for a major urban extension to include residential neighbourhood, the relief road, local centres, riverside park and associated works. Those applications are subject to conditions.

The applicant previously sought permission to develop the land without complying with some of the conditions. That application was granted in December 2020.

Following this, the applicant sought to approve the specific details of the development (LA03/2020/0881/RM) for of some 38 hectares of the full 73 hectares for which outline permission existed. It excluded lands joining onto the north of Clare Heights, west of Ross's Lane and north-west of Readers Park. It also did not include the Readers Park development.

The present application seeks to change the trigger point for the implantation of road infrastructure works and remove the requirement for a Town Park.

No representations from third parties were received for this current application. There were 5 representations received for the previous associated application LA03/202/0881/RM. However, there were no section 75 or equality issues raised through any representations received in response to the public consultation on the planning applications. The responses received suggest the primary areas of concern were volume of traffic, air and noise pollution and ecology.

The above issues are considered as part of the Development Management Report which is available through the public register <https://planningregister.planningssystemni.gov.uk/simple-search> using the reference numbers SPD/2025/0052/F.

Implementation factors

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

No. The funding for the project is a matter for the applicant.

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

financial

legislative

other, please specify _____

Main stakeholders affected

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

- local residents/local community

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?

Strategic Planning Policy Statement

Planning Policy Statements

- who owns them?

Department for Infrastructure

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](#). Also refer to the [Equality Intranet page](#) for some evidence sources.

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

Religious belief evidence / information:

The proposal lies within the town of Ballyclare. 30.5% of the population were recorded in the 2021 Census as Catholic and 63.2% were recorded as Protestant or other Christian.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the planning applications would affect groups with different religious belief. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to provide housing, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if religious belief is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Political Opinion evidence / information:

As above, Ballyclare is predominantly occupied by both the Protestant and Catholic community, each of these represents a particular political opinion.

In the recent 2023 district elections in the Ballyclare Ward of Antrim & Newtownabbey District Council, the percentage First Preference votes cast were as follows; DUP 36%, UUP 24%, TUV 10%, APNI 14%, Green Party 2%, SF 1%, Ind 13%. This resulted in two candidates from the DUP, one from UUP, one from the Alliance Party and one independent being elected. The turnout was 51%.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect different groups with different political opinions. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if political opinion is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Racial Group evidence / information:

Over 95% of the Ballyclare population were recorded in the 2021 Census as white.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect different racial groups. In the absence

of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if people from ethnic groups are part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Age evidence / information:

24.6% of the Ballyclare population were recorded in the 2021 Census as 0-17 years, 64.5% as 18-64 years and 17% were recorded as 65 years and over.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect different age groups. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if people within the age groups is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Marital Status evidence / information:

45.6% of the Ballyclare population were recorded in the 2021 Census as married or in a civil partnership.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect groups of differing marital status. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if marital status is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

Approximately 99% of the Ballyclare population were recorded in the 2021 Census as heterosexual

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect different groups of differing sexual orientation. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if sexual orientation is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

The population for Ballyclare was recorded in the 2021 Census as 51% female and 49% as male.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect men and women differently. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if gender is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Disability evidence / information:

21.2% of households in Ballyclare were recorded in the 2021 Census as having one or more persons in that household with a limiting lifelong health problem or disability.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect people with disabilities. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals It is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if people with disabilities is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

Dependants evidence / information:

30.2% of households in Ballyclare were recorded in the 2021 Census as having no dependent children and 32.2% has having one or more dependent children up the age of 18. Additionally, adult dependants include 17% of the population being 65 and over. Census data also indicates that those aged 15 and over declaring day to day activities being 'limited a lot' and 'a little' account for 22.2% of the population.

No evidence has been presented through the various consultations carried out on the proposal that approval or refusal of the applications would affect people with dependents differently. In the absence of more robust data outside of that referenced during the consideration stages of the proposals it is difficult to determine the impact(s) on this group of this planning decision. However, as the scheme itself is to improve the economy of the area, and therefore potentially benefit society, the Department does understand that if people who fall under the dependants groups is part of a person's multiple identity that this decision may positively impact on this Section 75 group.

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 of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below).

Religious belief

This decision will support the applicants aim to develop the site to create a new housing development for a range of the population, and which will support the population and economic growth of the area.

There have been no objections to this development, and no specific needs have been identified for people within this group.

Political Opinion

As outlined above

Racial Group

As outlined above

Age

As outlined above

Marital status

As outlined above

Sexual orientation

As outlined above

Men and Women Generally

As outlined above

Disability

As outlined above

Dependants

As outlined above

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) 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;
- 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.

In favour of '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.

In favour of 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.

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

Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

(Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none).

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

There have been no objections to this development and as such none from a s75 perspective or otherwise. That said, no members of any s75 group should be prohibited from benefitting from housing opportunities within the development.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Age**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Marital Status**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Sexual Orientation**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Men and Women**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Disability**: As outlined at above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Dependants**: As outlined at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Potentially a minor positive impact.

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

(Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below).

Religious Belief - No. The proposal may disproportionately benefit members of the Protestant community due to the composition of the population of Ballyclare and its geographical proximity to the new development opportunities. As noted in the background however there have been no objections to this development.

Political Opinion – No. As outlined above.

Racial Group – No – as outlined above in religious belief.

Age – No - as outlined above in religious belief.

Marital Status – No - as outlined above in religious belief.

Sexual Orientation – No - as outlined above in religious belief.

Men and Women generally – No - as outlined above in religious belief.

Disability – No - as outlined above in religious belief.

Dependants – No - as outlined above in religious belief.

3. **To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

The proposal provides opportunities for housing which will benefit all sections of the community. It is not anticipated that other than positive economic impacts for society it will not impact on good relations between groups of different religious belief.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**: As outlined above.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**: As outlined above at religious belief.

What is the level of impact? None

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

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief – No. There are no opportunities to promote good relations between these groups.

Political Opinion - No. As outlined above.

Racial Group - No. As outlined above.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

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

(Every citizen belongs to more than one group - For example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Each Section 75 identity combines to make society in general. Introducing a proposal to assist with providing suitable housing in this area will potentially improve the needs for all s75 groups in Ballyclare in the first instance.

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

As above

Part 3. Screening decision

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

The proposal has not been found likely to impact differently on any section 75 groups and therefore a full equality impact assessment is not considered necessary.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced - please provide details of this consideration.

These proposals have the potential to positively impact society in general and as such an EQIA is not required.

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

N/A

All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative 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 policy.

Timetabling and prioritising

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

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

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

Priority criterion [choose 1 2 or 3 if a full EQIA is to take place]

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

Social need **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

Effect on people’s daily lives **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

Relevance to a public authority’s functions **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

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

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

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).

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

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

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: Mark Bradley
Position/Job Title: Senior Planning Officer
Date: 26/06/25

Approved by: M McCrisken
Position/Job Title: PPTO
Date: 09/07/2025

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 public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

For Equality Team Completion:

Date Received: 26/06/2025
Amendments Requested: Yes
Date Returned to Business Area: 30/06/25
Date Final Version Received / Agreed: 25/06/2026
Date Published on Dfl's Section 75 webpage: 26/06/2026