

Screening Form

- 1. Is this a** Public Service
- 2. Name of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service** Request to use Council Land - Ward Park
- 3. Reference** 345
- 4. Category of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service** New

5. Please provide a description of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service

A request was received via the land requests service for the use of Ward Park on 8th September 2024 To commemorate the life of all

Orangemen/Women lost during the Troubles, known as Orange Victims Day.

The requestor has asked for the 'flag pole be present for this it would be appreciated (we can supply the flag and erect/take down if it's easier than the Council supplying someone to do this on a Sunday)'

Section 10 of the Council's Land and Property Policy which sets out the principles applicable to land requests and the procedure that Council will follow when determining whether to grant approval to such requests and whether a fee is applicable.

Section 10.2 in The lands Policy states: Permission granted under this policy to use Council land or property is without prejudice to any planning, building control, environmental or other legislative or regulatory requirements -

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Act.

6. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The objectives (as per the request) is Bangor District LOL No. 18 wish to commemorate the life of all Orangemen/Women lost during the Troubles.

- 7. Who initiated or wrote the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?** Request from Bangor District LOL No. 18 via Land and Property Policy
- 8. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?** Director of Corporate Services

9. Is this policy affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities?

No

Equality

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

Yes

1a. If Yes, which Section 75 categories are expected to benefit?

Religious Belief, Political Opinion

1b. How are they expected to benefit?

Bangor District LOL No. 18 wish to commemorate the life of all Orangemen/Women lost during the Troubles. *The Orange Institution is a membership organisation comprised of Protestants who are committed to the protection of the principles of the Protestant Reformation.

*Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland: Fraternal organisation: Belfast (1969) Orange Order. Available at: <https://www.goli.org.uk/> (Accessed: 15 August 2024).

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

Yes

2a. If yes, are they:

Legislative - is the Policy required to adhere to specific legislation?

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

Staff, Service Users, Potential Visitors

4. Is this policy associated with any other Council Policy (or Policies)?

Yes

4a. If yes, please state the related Policy (or Policies)

285 Good Relations Strategy 2022-25

301 ANDBC Land and Property Policy

270 Ards and North Down Borough Council Flag Policy 2021

5. Does this policy affect Internal or External users?

Both

Evidence to help inform the Section 75 screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

6. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy?

Religious belief, Political opinion

Religious belief evidence

Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 defines the Troubles as: “the Troubles” means the events and conduct that related to Northern Ireland affairs and occurred during the period—

(a)beginning with 1 January 1966, and

(b)ending with 10 April 1998.

Northern Ireland Troubles (legacy and reconciliation) act 2023, Legislation.gov.uk. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/41/contents/enacted> (Accessed: 15 August 2024).

The lands request may benefit some of the protestant community and those who associate with the Orange Institution. This may negatively impact the catholic community as the request mentions Orangemen/women Victims only. The ECNI recommend that Public bodies have a responsibility to use their authority and considerable influence to contribute to the creation of a shared society in which everyone feels not only physically safe, but also safe in their beliefs and opinions.

The religious breakdown of the Borough can be seen in Appendix one. Not enough information exists on the impact this may have.

Political opinion evidence

The day may highlight the existing divisions between unionists (predominantly Protestant) and nationalists (predominantly Catholic). It can serve to reinforce political identities and deepen divisions between these groups, as it is linked with the commemoration of those within the Orange Institution who died in conflicts related to the Troubles.

The political breakdown of the Borough can be seen in Appendix one. Not enough evidence exists to see what impact this request may have.

Sexual Orientation - Internal

Sexual Orientation	Total Employees	Percentage
Bisexual	3	0.34%
Heterosexual	624	70.75%
Homosexual	3	0.34%
I do not want to answer	21	2.38
None	6	0.68%
Blank	225	25.51%
Total	882	100%

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities for each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy / decision?

7. Please provide details of different needs, experiences and priorities for each of the categories

*In April 2018, The Orange Institution announced plans for a designated victims' day which was to be held later that year. It was intended to be an annual event specifically to honour the Orangemen and one Orangewoman murdered by terrorists during the Troubles and also highlight the ongoing plight of the injured and bereaved. The inaugural Orange victims' day took place on Saturday, 1st of September.

For many unionists and those associated with the Orange Institution, Orange Victims Day is *a day when the Orange family pauses to remember those who were so suddenly and violently taken from them. Celebrating this day can strengthen a sense of belonging and solidarity among those who identify with unionist politics. Conversely, nationalists may view the celebration as exclusionary, leading to further entrenchment of opposing identities.

*Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland: Fraternal organisation: Belfast (1969) Orange Order. Available at: <https://www.goli.org.uk/> (Accessed: 15 August 2024).

8. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Religious belief?

Major

8a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Religious belief

The ECNI recommend that the Council must take steps to create safe and shared public spaces in towns and cities that can be accessed and used by all sections of all communities, fostering a sense of community and shared experience. The requestor wishes to use Ward Park, Bangor. This area is Council land and is regarded as 'shared space'. An event that commemorates victims from one section of the community may highlight the existing divisions between unionists (predominantly Protestant) and nationalists (predominantly Catholic). It can serve to reinforce political identities and deepen divisions between these groups.

9. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Political opinion?

Major

9a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Political opinion

The ECNI recommend that the Council must take steps to create safe and shared public spaces in towns and cities that can be accessed and used by all sections of all communities, fostering a sense of community and shared experience. The requestor wishes to use Ward Park, Bangor. This area is Council land and is regarded as 'shared space'. An event that commemorates victims from one section of the community may highlight the existing divisions between unionists (predominantly Protestant) and nationalists (predominantly Catholic). It can serve to reinforce political identities and deepen divisions between these groups.

10. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Racial group?

None

11. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Age?

None

12. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Marital status?

None

13. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Sexual orientation?

None

14. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Men and women generally?

None

15. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Disability?

None

16. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Dependents?

None

17. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? If Yes, provide details. If No, provide reasons.

Religious belief

The Equality Commission is clear that Section 75 (2) formalises the shift from managing diversity and difference to promoting diversity and integration. This encourages the use of shared community spaces for events, promoting the idea that commemorative activities can take place in environments inclusive of all backgrounds. This event has the potential to cause an impact on equality of opportunity as it is focused on one section of the community, specifically commemorating victims from a mostly protestant persuasion using Council land that is considered a shared space.

Political opinion

The Equality Commission is clear that Section 75 (2) formalises the shift from managing diversity and difference to promoting diversity and integration. This encourages the use of shared community spaces for events, promoting the idea that commemorative activities can take place in environments inclusive of all backgrounds. This event has the potential to cause an impact on equality of opportunity as it is focused on one section of the community, specifically commemorating victims from a mostly Unionist persuasion using Council land that is considered a shared space.

Racial group

N/A

Age

N/A

Marital Status

N/A

Sexual orientation

N/A

Men and women generally

N/A

Disability

The event management plan has no mention of those attending the event with Disabilities, the land and property policy specifically states that the organiser must have due regard to the Disability Discrimination Order. It is unclear how this has been achieved in the event management plan submitted.

Dependants

N/A

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

Major

18a. Please describe the details of the policy impact on good relations

The observance of Orange Victims Day can raise awareness about the complexities of the conflict and the impact it had on some individuals and families involved however this only relates to one community background.

Section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

formalises the shift from managing diversity and difference to promoting diversity and integration. It requires public authorities to take a pro-active initiating approach to contributing to a shared society, rather than responding to the effects of a divided one. In this regard having Orange Victims Day at a shared space in Ward Park, Bangor could have a significant impact on good relations between Protestant and Catholic communities.

The day serves as a platform to acknowledge the suffering experienced by victims from one section of the community during the troubles.

The Equality Commission recommend creating an ethos, a culture, of good relations and recognising the need to promote good relations both within and between communities.

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

Yes

19a. Please provide your reasons below

In regard to promoting Good Relations, the ECNI recommend that there is a focus on impact and outcomes rather than simply outputs. Public authorities should therefore consider:

- the likely outcome or impact the measure will have on promoting good relations;
- what monitoring information they need to collect in order to evaluate whether the outcome has been achieved; and
- once the measure has been taken, the degree to which that outcome was achieved.

This event has the potential to cause an impact on Good relations as it is focused on one section of the community, specifically commemorating victims from a mostly Unionist/ Protestant persuasion using Council land that is considered a shared space. To promote good relations, it is therefore recommended that the Council gathers more information, through an EQIA to understand people's attitudes towards specific issues. This will ensure that everyone in the community is treated fairly, while also respecting and understanding our differences.

Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006

20. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability?

No

21. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would encourage the participation of people with a disability in public life?

No

Additional Considerations

22. Are there any potential impacts of the policy / decision (positive or negative) on people with multiple identities?

Yes

22a. Where appropriate, provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned

People can fall into more than one Section 75 category. People with multiple identities may be impacted depended on circumstance.

Monitoring Arrangements

23. Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties

****Demographic Data:**** Collecting demographic information such as age, gender, ethnicity, disability status, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background can help identify which groups may be disproportionately affected by this policy or decision.

****Quantitative Data:**** Using quantitative data, such as statistics, figures, and numerical measurements, can provide insight into the extent and scale of any unequal impacts.

****Qualitative Data:**** Qualitative data, derived from interviews, focus groups, or open-ended survey questions, can help capture the experiences, perceptions, and lived realities of individuals from different equality groups. This can provide context to the quantitative data and offer a deeper understanding of impacts.

****Intersectional Data:**** Collecting data that acknowledges the overlapping identities and experiences of individuals can reveal nuanced impacts that may not be apparent when considering single equality characteristics in isolation.

****Consultation and Engagement Data:**** Gathering data from consultations with stakeholders, community groups, and representatives of equality groups can offer valuable insights into diverse perspectives and ensure that impacted individuals are involved in the assessment process.

****Comparative Data:**** Comparing data over time or with benchmarks can help track changes and improvements in equality impacts. It can also highlight disparities or trends that may require attention or intervention.

****Feedback and Complaints Data:**** Monitoring feedback, complaints, or grievances related to a policy or decision can provide real-time insights into how different equality groups are experiencing the impacts and whether adjustments are needed.

25. On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy/decision is

Screened In - Necessary to conduct additional Sustainability Assessments or EQIA

25b. Please detail actions to be taken if full EQIA required

The request to use the Councils Flag pole (at Ward Park) falls outside of the current agreed policy, therefore that element of the request should be denied.

The lands Policy states: Permission granted under this policy to use Council land or property is without prejudice to any planning, building control, environmental or other legislative or regulatory requirements -

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Act.

Council has an obligation to promote good relations within the communities they serve and must take steps to create safe and shared public spaces.

In this instance, a land Request which is a council function may have an adverse impact on religious belief, political opinion and Good relations, not enough qualitative data and information is available to determine the significance of the impact. The Equality Commission recommends the use of the equality impact

assessment (EQIA) to consider whether and how policies and decisions have an impact on good relations, whether that impact is positive or negative, and to consider mitigating measures and alternative policies and decisions which might better promote good relations.

A failure to screen and conduct an equality impact assessment on a policy or decision which impacts on good relations, has been found by the Equality

Commission to be a breach of Councils equality scheme. Ards and North Down Borough Councils equality scheme, chapter 3, explains the arrangements for consulting. 3.1 recognises the importance of consultation in all aspects of the implementation of its statutory equality duties and suggests The Council will consult on this equality scheme, action measures, equality impact assessments and other matters relevant to the Section 75 statutory duties.

Having looked at the screening evidence, It is therefore recommended that :

- The group’s request is processed in accordance with the council’s Land and Property policy, following an internal consultation and screening being undertaken.
- The request be screened in i.e. it has been assessed against the council’s obligations under section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, specifically the impact the request may have on the promotion of good relations between persons of different religious belief and political opinion.

In relation to the event, the council will need to undertake an equality impact assessment (EQIA) before it can make a final decision.

The timeline for an EQIA will likely take a number of months due to the requirement for a 12-week public consultation. Therefore, permission cannot be granted for the 8th September 2024.

25c. On a scale of 1 – 3, with 1 being the lowest and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for Equality Impact Assessment.

	Rating
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	1

	Rating
Social need	3
Effect on people's daily lives	3
Relevance to a public authority's functions	1

Rural

1. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. E.g

A request to use Ward Park (Council Land) to celebrate Orange Victims Day.

2. What definition of 'rural' is the Plan using in respect of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

3. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

No

3d. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas

This request relates solely to the City of Bangor which is not classified as a rural area.

Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service? Deprivation levels can be found at Home Page | NI Area Statistics | NISRA

No

4d. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

This request relates solely to the City of Bangor which is not classified as a rural area.

Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

5. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the Social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

This request relates solely to the City of Bangor which is not classified as a rural area.

Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

6. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service been influenced by the rural needs identified?

No

6b. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified

This request relates solely to the City of Bangor which is not classified as a rural area.

Documenting and Recording

7. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information complied.

Depending on your answer your answer may be a 'positive' impact or a 'negative' impact. Specific guidance at each question.

There may be 'no impact'.

If you are not sure complete as 'don't know'

Sustainability

1. What impact will the proposal have on the local community including the ability of people to meet their essential needs?

	What is the impact of the activity?
Transport - Is the activity accessible to everyone via public transport or active travel, in a safe and sustainable way? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.	Don't know
Public Placemaking, Community & Culture - Is the activity impacting on people's sense of place and community by being included and connected to the area? Is the activity impacting on our cultural offering, helping citizens, visitors and young people become acquainted with art and culture? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.	Negative

Comments

	Comments
Transport	
Public Placemaking, Community & Culture	See Equality Screening Doc

Mitigation

	Mitigation
Transport	encourage the use public transport as the location is reasonably close to Bangor Train Station and local bus stops
Public Placemaking, Community & Culture	EQIA required

2. What impact will the proposals have on local, sustainable food supply chains?

	What is the impact of the activity?
Food - If this activity involves either the direct or indirect purchase of food or catering services will there be a negative impact on a sustainable food system? Note: If the answer is yes, select negative. Additional information: Food systems currently account for 21-37% of total global greenhouse gases and are a primary cause of environmental degradation and significantly contribute to socio-economic and health inequalities. This can be mitigated by specifying sustainable food and catering services, fresh seasonal food of a high nutritional value produced through low environmental impact farming methods and high standards of animal welfare.	No Impact

3. What impact will the proposals have on diversity and equality of opportunity?

	What is the impact of the activity?
Equal opportunity - Does the activity have a positive or negative impact on inclusivity and discrimination?	Negative

Comments

	Comments
Equal opportunity	See Equality Screening Documents

Mitigation

	Mitigation
Equal opportunity	Subject to EQIA

4. What impact will the proposals have on prosperity, social value and fair trade?

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Decent jobs and income - Are local employment opportunities being created removed 'or removed'? Will there be any volunteering opportunities?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p>	No Impact
<p>Will the financial benefits help raise local income levels and tackle poverty and derivations of poverty such as food and fuel poverty?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p>	No Impact
<p>Social Value - Will the activity lead to the creation of works or services? Are there opportunities to support apprenticeships or training opportunities to combat social exclusion? Are there any opportunities to work with organisations with an environmental or social mission (e.g., from the VCSE sector)?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p>	No Impact
<p>Human and labour rights - Will there be provisions to ensure workers up the supply chain have their human and labour rights respected?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Products at high risk of the use of child labour and contravention of human and labour rights include electronic equipment, textiles, agricultural commodities and construction materials.</p>	No Impact

5. What impact will the proposals have on greenhouse gas emissions, including energy and transport?

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Greenhouse Gas Emmissions - Will this activity have a positive or negative impact on greenhouse gases (most commonly caused by fossil fuel burning or deforestation)?</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Greenhouse gases include CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs or SF₆. The most common sources include consumption of brown (non-renewable) electricity, burning of coal, oil, petrol, diesel, natural gas, emissions from landfill sites, and the destruction of natural carbon sinks such as peat bogs, woodlands, forests, grasslands, freshwater lakes, and wetlands.</p>	Don't know
<p>Energy - Will the activity reduce energy demand through energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Will energy come from renewable energy sources e.g., solar, wind etc.? Will buildings be designed and constructed to high energy and environmental standards?</p>	Don't know

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Transport - Will the activity be accessible to everyone via active travel (Bike/walking) or public transport? Does the proposal help to reduce non-essential travel and individual car use?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p>	Don't know
<p>Embodied carbon - Will the activity use materials from 'heavy industries' such as cement, concrete, iron and steel, or require international transportation of materials using aviation or shipping?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p>	Don't know

Comments

	Comments
Greenhouse Gas Emmissions	minimal impact
Energy	minimal impact
Transport	minimal impact
Embodied carbon	

6. What impact will the proposals have on waste generation or how waste is managed?

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Waste generation - Will this activity lead to the production of waste?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Have you considered how to reduce waste through demand management and re-use strategies which support the circular economy?</p>	Negative
<p>Waste Management - Is waste going to be managed in a responsible, sustainable way?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Will waste be monitored? What recycling provisions are there? Will any waste be sent to landfill?</p>	Positive

Comments

	Comments
Waste generation	
Waste management	Event management team will provide adequate waste disposal equipment around the site.

7. What impact will the proposals have on the direct consumption of natural resources, including materials, minerals and fresh water?

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Materials - Will this activity lead to the consumption of raw materials? (Raw materials include steel, oil, corn, grain, gasoline, wood / forest resources, plastic, natural gas, and coal).</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Can materials be swapped or reduced, to minimize pressure on natural resources and reduce environmental impact?</p>	No Impact
<p>Will lifecycle costing exercises be used in procurement (e.g., if purchasing vehicles, energy-intensive equipment or major capital projects) in order to minimise the consumption of natural resources and achieve value for money</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive</p>	No Impact
<p>Fresh water - Will this activity increase pressure on freshwater resources through direct water consumption?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p>	No Impact

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Will the activity impact on the public's ability to access a clean and safe water supply?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Unsustainable water consumption includes use of mains water or other freshwater supplied without water efficiency or recycling measures.</p>	No Impact

8. What impact will the proposals have on local resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and severe weather events, including drought, landslips, flooding and sites designated as being at risk of flooding or sea level rise?

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Adverse Weather and Climate Impacts - Will buildings, infrastructure, or natural assets be at risk to the adverse effects of climate change and extreme weather?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>For Northern Ireland, climate change is causing hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters with more extreme weather and rising sea levels.</p> <p>A precautionary approach is advised for all planning and construction decisions, taking into account the latest UK Climate Change Projections and making sure that development is not permitted on flood plains and / or land at risk of flooding under future climate scenarios.</p> <p>Avoid activities that may be vulnerable to overheating or flood risk. New assets (e.g. landscaping, buildings etc.) should be future proofed, ensuring all investments are resilient to current and future climate conditions.</p>	<p>No Impact</p>

9. What impact will the proposals have on the local environment (e.g., air/water/soil pollution, land conversion, visual impacts, traffic, noise, vibration, odour, dust, particulates, smoke), heritage (including designated heritage, archaeology sites or listed buildings) and wildlife (including protected sites and species)?

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Air pollution - Will the activity produce air pollutants?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Air pollutants include: Particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5); Ozone (O3) Nitrogen dioxide (NO2); Carbon Monoxide (CO); Sulphur Dioxide (SO2).</p> <p>The most common causes of air pollution are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel combustion from motor vehicles (e.g. cars and heavy-duty vehicles) • Heat and power generation (e.g. oil and coal power plants and boilers) • Industrial facilities (e.g. manufacturing factories, mines, and oil refineries) • Municipal and agricultural waste sites and waste incineration/burning. 	<p>Don't know</p>

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Ozone layer depletion - Will this activity produce ozone depleting substances (fluorinated gases)?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Fluorinated greenhouse gases (F gases) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) • perfluorocarbons (PFCs) • sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) <p>For example through the use of refrigeration and air conditioning units.</p>	Don't know
<p>Water/soil pollution - Will this activity involve any construction work, street works or road deliveries of construction materials or other goods?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>Soil and water pollution is caused from damaging rainwater run-off arising from road surface treatments, tyre abrasion, fuels and lubricants.</p> <p>Procurement and contractual mechanisms can be used to ensure that building and civil engineering contractors adhere take steps to ensure pollution is prevented from occurring or from dispersing to other areas. Contractors can minimise the use of all substances that could cause pollution and failing that, implement and communicate procedures to ensure the correct disposal (or release) of substances that could cause pollution.</p>	Don't know
<p>Chemical pollution - Will there be any use of toxic chemicals including pesticides, paint or cleaning products?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p>	No Impact
<p>Will there be any excess fertiliser use that could result in nitrogen or phosphorus runoff?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p>	No Impact
<p>Noise pollution - Is the activity likely to create a noise nuisance?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Noise pollution can have detrimental effects on human health, amenity, productivity and the natural environment.</p> <p>Eliminating or reducing excessive noise is a legal responsibility and helps to limit the disturbance of residents and businesses, caused by activities and operations.</p>	Don't know

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>Land conversion - Will this activity result in the reduction in the area of forested land, directly or indirectly?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>Deforestation usually arises from the clearing of land for development, agriculture, or logging for paper, wood, or minerals.</p>	No Impact
<p>Built Heritage - Will this activity impact on designated heritage sites such as a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Archaeology Site, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site or Registered Park and Garden?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p>	No Impact
<p>Natural Heritage and Biodiversity - Will this activity result in any displacement or loss of biodiversity, overfishing or affect protected or designated sites (e.g. ASSIs, SPAs etc).</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative</p> <p>Changes in land use exert the most significant effect on biodiversity. These changes include the conversion of natural ecosystems into agriculture or into urban areas; changes in frequency, duration or magnitude of wildfires and similar disturbances; and the introduction of new species into land and freshwater environments.</p>	No Impact

10 What impact will the proposals have on ensuring peace, justice, public participation and partnership working for sustainable development?

	What is the impact of the activity?
Peace - Will this activity have a negative or positive impact on community safety, crime or anti-social behaviour?	Don't know
Justice - Are there safeguards in place to prevent against bribery and corruption? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive Decision making should be open and transparent with clear governance and accountability arrangements.	No Impact
Political voice - Are citizens involved and do they have a role in deciding what happens and how it gets implemented? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive	Positive
Partnerships - Will this activity involve working with others either locally or at a national level to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development? Note: If the answer is yes, select positive	No Impact

Comments

	Comments
Peace	EQIA required
Justice	
Political voice	EQIA Required
Partnerships	

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is

Screened In - Necessary to conduct additional Sustainability Assessments or EQIA

Data Protection

1. Is Data Protection relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

No

Data Protection Officer Comments

Conclusion

Conclusion

The request to use the Councils Flag pole (at Ward Park) falls outside of the current agreed policy, therefore that element of the request should be denied.

The lands Policy states: Permission granted under this policy to use Council land or property is without prejudice to any planning, building control, environmental or other legislative or regulatory

requirements

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Act.

Council has an obligation to promote good relations within the communities they serve and must take steps to create safe and shared public spaces.

In this instance (The land request) a council function may have an adverse impact on political opinion and Good relations, not enough information is available to determine the significance of the impact - The Northern Ireland Troubles is a highly contentious and polarising issue, and the display of solidarity or support for either side can sometimes be interpreted through the lens of the existing political dynamics . This could be perceived as aligning with one side of the conflict/ community and could potentially inflame tensions or be perceived as divisive by certain political or community groups.

Having looked at the screening evidence, It is therefore recommended that :

- The group's request is processed in accordance with the council's Land and Property policy, following an internal consultation and screening being undertaken.
- The request be screened in i.e. it has been assessed against the council's obligations under section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, specifically the impact the request may have on the promotion of good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

In relation to the event, the council will need to undertake an equality impact assessment (EQIA) before it can make a final decision.

The timeline for an EQIA will likely take a number of months due to the requirement for a 12-week public consultation. Therefore, permission cannot be granted for the 8th September 2024, however subject to the results of the EQIA permission may be granted at a later date. The council will update the requestor.

Internal and External Screening Panel Comments can be viewed in minutes - 29/01/2025, please contact enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Please upload any supporting documents for review



GOLI General PL TWIMC 2025.pdf



Orange Victims Day Event Manageme... .pdf



Orange Victims Day Risk Assessment.pdf

Email

enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Screening Panel Comments

Appendix - Religious Belief

Religious belief (External)

The Northern Ireland Census 2021 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area show the religious group the person belongs to or for people with no current religion their religious group of upbringing. People with no current religion and no religion of upbringing are labelled 'None'.

On Census Day 2021 in Northern Ireland just under one person in five (19.0%) either had 'no religion' (17.4%) or 'religion not stated' (1.6%). Nearly one person in three in Ards and North Down (32.1%) had 'no religion' or 'religion not stated' On census day 2021 bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 45.7% of the population were either Catholic or brought up as a Catholic, while 43.5% were recorded as 'Protestant and other Christian (including Christian related)'. Again, bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 1.5% of the population are classified as 'other religions' and 9.3% of the population identified that they neither belonged to nor were brought up in a religion. This points to the increasingly secular nature of the population ('None').

	All usual Residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian Religions	Other Reglions	None
Ards and North Down	163,659	22,912	111,288	1,636	27,822
Northern Ireland	1,903,178	875,461	818,366	19,031	171,286

	Ards and North Down	Northern Ireland
All Usual residents	163,659	1,903,178
Catholic	18,003	799,334
Presbyterian	47,461	323,540
Church of Ireland	22, 912	228,381
Methodist	6,546	38,063
Other Chrtistian Religions	16,365	133,222
Other Religions	1,636	19,031
No Religion/Not stated	52,370	361,603

Appendix - Political Opinion

Political opinion (External)

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections (2023) and Northern Ireland Assembly Elections (2022) detail the political representation on Ards and North Down. Data also shows the turnout to vote. This tends to be lower than the rest of Northern Ireland, suggesting less strong political opinions, however the results show a preference in Ards and North Down for Unionist Parties.

Constituency	Registered Voters	Turnout
North Down	70,176	60%
Strangford	70,755	68%
Northern Ireland	1,373,731	63%

District Electoral Area	Eligible Electorate	Votes Polled
Overall Turnout (2023) Ards and North Down Borough Council Area	123,736	57,677
Overall Turnout (2023) Northern Ireland	1,380,372	745,400

Party	Local Government Seats Held	Local Government Seats Held	NI Assembly Elections seats held	NI Assembly Elections seats held
	ANDBC	Northern Ireland	North Down and Strangford	Northern Ireland
Alliance	12	67	4	17
Aontù	0	0	0	0
DUP	14	122	3	25
Green	2	5	0	0
Independants	3	19	1	2
People before Profit	0	1	0	1

SDLP	1	39	0	8
Sinn Fèin	0	144	0	27
TUV	0	9	0	1
UUP	8	54	2	9
Other	0	1	0	0

Appendix - Racial Group

Racial group (Internal)

Racial Group	Total	Percentage
White	756	85.71%
Black	2	0.23%
Chinese	2	0.23%
Other	5	0.57%
Did not want to answer	4	0.45%
Left Blank	113	12.81%

Religious belief (External)

The Northern Ireland Census 2021 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area show the religious group the person belongs to or for people with no current religion their religious group of upbringing. People with no current religion and no religion of upbringing are labelled 'None'.

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	All usual Residents	Catholic	Protestant and other Christian Religions	Other Reglions	None
Ards and North Down	163,659	22,912	111,288	1,636	27,822
Northern Ireland	1,903,178	875,461	818,366	19,031	171,286

	Ards and North Down	Northern Ireland

All Usual residents	163,659	1,903,178
Catholic	18,003	799,334
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Other Religions	1,636	19,031
No Religion/Not stated	52,370	361,603

Appendix - Age

Age (Internal)

Age Profile	Female	Female %	Male	Male %
Under 20	0	0%	1	0.18%
20-25	4	1.18%	15	2.76%
26 - 30	11	3.24%	31	5.71%
31-35	26	7.67%	51	9.40%
36-40	40	11.8%	55	10.13%
41-45	62	18.29%	60	11.05%
46-50	70	20.65%	56	10.31%

51-55	57	16.81%	79	14.55%
56-60	38	11.21%	110	20.26
61-65	24	7.08%	74	13.63
66 - 70	6	0.77%	8	1.47%
70+	1	0.30%	3	0.55%

Age (External)

On Census Day 2021 Ards and North down had the largest increase in the number of people aged 65 and over. This rose from 27,692 (17.7%) in 2011 to 36,226 (22.1%) in 2021, demonstrating the scale of population change due to ageing.

Age Profile	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
0 to 14	361,602	27,822

15 to 39	589,983	44,187
40 to 64	609,015	55,644
65+	323,539	36,226
Total	1,903,173	163,659

Appendix - Marital Status

Marital Status (Internal)

Marital Status	Total	Percentage
Single	186	21.09%
Married	437	49.55%
Divorced	39	4.42%
Co Habiting	45	5.10%
Separated	22	2.50%
Civil Partnership	6	0.68
Left Blank	134	15.19%
Never Married	12	1.36%
Widowed	1	0.11%

Marital Status (External)

Statistics classifies people aged 16 and over according to their legal marital or civil partnership status on Census Day 21 March 2021. The law in relation to marriage and civil partnership changed in the ten years to 2021. A summary of the changes in Northern Ireland is given below:

- civil partnership for opposite-sex couples became legal in late 2019;
- marriage for same-sex couples became legal in 2020; and
- in late 2020 a couple in a civil partnership could convert their status from civil partnership to marriage.

The rise in the 'single' population and the fall in the 'married' population here is in line with results from recent censuses in England and Wales. These figures mirror changes in society and specifically in personal relationships that has been witnessed over the last 50 years. Ards & North Down LGD, which has the oldest demographic profile of all 11 LGDs, has the highest percentage of adults who were widowed, at 8%.

Marital Status	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
Single	575,966	41,540
Married or in Civil Partnership	682,065	68,340
Separated, Divorced or Formally in a Civil Partnership	151,570	13,400
Widowed or Surviving partner from a Civil Partnership	97,004	10,720

Appendix - Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation - External

Statistics show that 2.1% (31,600) of NI population aged 16 and over identified as 'lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)' and 90.0% (1,363,900) identified as 'straight or heterosexual'. More urban LGDs have a higher percentage of people who identified as LGB+. Almost 8% of our population aged 16 and over (119,300) either ticked 'prefer not to say' or chose not to answer the question. Taken together, these are labelled 'No sexual orientation stated' in these statistics.

8.8% percent of people who identified as LGB+ in Northern Ireland live in the Ards and North Down Borough, Statistics also show that 800 Households in the Borough are living in a same sex couple relationship.

Living in households by relationship	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
Living in a Same Sex Couple	9,600	800
Not Living as a Couple	694,600	53,500

	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
All usual Residents (over 16)	1,515,700	134,000
Straight or Hetrosexual	1,364,130	121,940
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or other Sexual orientation	30,314	2,680
No sexual orientation stated	121,256	9,380

Appendix - Men and Woman Generally

Men and women generally (Internal)

Male	Female	Total
543	339	882
61.56%	38.44%	100%

Men and women generally (External)

The Northern Ireland usually resident population increased by 5.1% (92,300) from 2011 to 2021. The Census 2021 population is recorded at 1,903,175 people up from 1,810,863 people in 2011. Ards & North Down had an increase of population from 2011 of 7,000, which is 4.5%.

The census day population comprised of 967,000 females and 936,100 males. Statistics show that for every 100 females in Ards and North Down Borough there were 94.9 males.

Statistics show that 54% of the Borough are employed 2% are Unemployed and 43% are Economically inactive. Of those employed, 37% were in the Public administration, education and health Industry and 2% were in the Agriculture, energy and water industry.

62% of employed people travelled to work in a car or van and 34% travelled 5km-20km to their place of work.

There were 70,445 households recorded in Ards and North Down 4,400, 5.9% were unoccupied at the time of the survey.

The average household size in sits at 2.30 (2.44 in NI). 31% are single occupancy and 6% had more than 6 people living in the property.

72% of the Borough owns their own property, this has decreased by 2% from 2011 where 13% are Social rented and increase of 2% increase in 2011.

LGD	Male	Female
Northern Ireland	932,554	970,618

Ards and North Down	80,192	83,466
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Appendix - Disability

Disability (External)

A self-assessment of whether a person has a long-term health problem or disability that limits daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. It includes problems that are due to old age. The 2021 Census (NIRSA) demonstrates an increase of 15% or more in the percentage of people who reported a long-term health problem or disability which limited day-to-day activities. 41,300 or 25.3% of people in Ards and North Down had a limiting long-term health problem or disability. Ards & North Down experienced an increase of 31.4% from 2011. These changes are in part a reflection of the Boroughs ageing population.

The following statistics show a breakdown in residents in Northern Ireland and Ards and North Down borough with a Disability that is expected to last 12 months or more.

The figures show that 7.2 per cent of the Borough have deafness or partial hearing loss, 68% being over the age of 65. 2% have blindness or partial sight loss, 11% of those people are aged 0-39 years. 1.6 % have mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair, in comparison to Northern Ireland statics this means that 9.3% of all those who have mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair reside in the Borough.

0.8% have an intellectual or learning disability including dyslexia and Downs Syndrome. 1.6% have Autism or Asperger syndrome, 49% are between 0-14 years whilst 40% are aged 15- 39 year. 8.1 % have an emotional, psychological or mental health condition, includes depression and schizophrenia, this is highest in the age ranges of 40 – 64 years (47%). 2% have frequent periods of confusion or memory loss, including Dementia, this is most prevalent with ages 65+. 10% of residents have another condition, for example Cancer, Heart Disease or Diabetes, again this is most prevalent in age 65+. Taken together these results show that policy making must consider Ards and north Down aging population and health and disability issues as well as recognition for those that provide unpaid care throughout the Borough.

LGD	All usual residents	Activites Not Limited	Limited a little	Limited a lot
Northern Ireland	1,903,178	1,446,415	247,413	209,349
Ards and North Down	163,659	122,744	22,912	18,002

Long term Health Conditions	None	1	2	3 or More
Northern Ireland	1,237,065	342,572	152,254	171,286
Ards and North Down	101,468	32,731	14,729	14,729
Disability Breakdown Age range (0 - 65+)	Ards and North Down		Northern Ireland	
Deafness or Partial Hearing loss	11,802		109,457	
Blindness or Partial Sightloss	3,214		33,961	

Mobility or dexterity difficulty that required the use of a wheelchair	2,641		28,138	
Intellectual or learning disability include dyslexia and Downs Syndrome	1,469		16,923	
Autism or Asperger Syndrome	2,628		35,367	
Emotional, psychological or mental health condition inc depression and schizophrenia	13,275		165,127	
Frequent periods of confusion or memory loss inc Dementia	3,432		37,789	

Other conditions E.g Cancer, Heart Disease or Diabetes	167,752		16,636	
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Appendix - Dependants

Screening Form

6b. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified

This request relates solely to the City of Bangor which is not classified as a rural area.

Dependants (External)

For the Purposes of S75 a dependant can be classed as Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; for the care of a person with a disability; or the care of a dependant older person.

In Census 2021 one person in eight of NI population aged 5 or more (or 222,200 people) noted that they provided unpaid care. One important point to note in Policy making is that 2,600 children aged 5 to 14 in Northern Ireland provide unpaid care.

Ards & North Down LGD had the highest percentage of people who provide unpaid care throughout Northern Ireland , 13.7% estimated at 30,414 residents. 'Unpaid care' covers looking after, giving help or support to anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age

A dependent child is a person aged 0 to 15 in a household (whether or not in a family) or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s). 'No dependent children' includes households with no children and households where all children are non-dependent.

In Ards and North Down there were 27,822 Children (defined as those aged 0 to 14). Children make up 19.2% of the Northern Ireland population. This percentage varies across the Local Government Districts and is lowest in Ards and North Down where the proportion is 17.0%.

According to Birth statistics on NISRA Ards and North Down recorded 2,854 births between 2020 and 2022 , giving an indication of the numbers using buggies or prams in use.

	Dependent children in household:	Dependent children in household:	Dependent children in household:	Dependent children in household: Three
	None	one	Two	

Northern Ireland	71%	11%	11%	6%
Ards and North Down	74%	11%	11%	4%

Racial group (External)

On Census Day 2021, 3.4% of the population, or 65,600 people, belonged to minority ethnic groups. This is around double the 2011 figure (1.8% – 32,400 people) and four times the 2001 figure (0.8% – 14,300 people); Taken together the bulletin reports and tables released today show an increasing diversity from 2011 to 2021 in Northern Ireland's population across statistics on ethnic group, main language, country of birth and passports held. This increasing diversity is evident to a greater or lesser degree across all 11 Local Government Districts.

All Usual Residents	163,660
White	159,892
Irish Traveller	24
Roma	19
Indian	388
Chinese	500
Filipino	308
Pakistani	87
Arab	28
Other Asian	468
Black African	309
Black Other	135
Mixed	1,236
Other ethnicities	266

Main Language	Ards and North Down	Northern Ireland
English	160,385	1,808,019
Other	3,279	95,158

Passports Held	Ards and North Down	Northern Ireland
All Usual Residents	163,659	1,903,178
UK only	109,651	894,493
Ireland Only	13,092	513,858
Uk and Ireland	13,098	95,158
Other Passport(s)	4,909	95,158
No Passport	21,275	304,508

24. Does this policy require an Equality Impact Assessment?

Yes

Sustainability is a holistic approach that considers ecological, social and economic dimensions, recognising that all must be considered together to find lasting prosperity.

Sustainable development is all about meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Religious belief (Internal)

	Catholic	Protestant & other Christian	Non Determined	Left Blank	Total
Males	52	449	41	1	543
	9.57%	82.68%	7.55%	0.184%	100%
Females	79	236	24	0	339
	23.3%	69.6%	7.07%	0%	100%
Total	131	685	65	1	882
	14%	77.6%	7.36%	0.11%	100%