

Screening Form

1. Is this a Strategy
2. Name of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service ANDBC Artificial Sports Pitch Replacement Strategy
3. Reference 346
4. Category of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service New

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

Artificial Sports Pitch Replacement Strategy proposing the implementation rolling replacement programme covering the next 10 year period. Involves the utilisation of an annual condition review of artificial pitches across the borough along with an accompanying needs assessment in order to prioritise the replacement of a number of pitches each year on a rolling basis to ensure that all pitches are replaced by their end of life.

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

The aim of this Strategy is to:

- To ensure a reliable portfolio of artificial sports surfaces which are safe, fit for purpose and meet the ever-increasing demand levels within the sector.
- To pro-actively prioritise, plan for and evenly distribute capital expenditure on artificial sports surfaces and avoid “spikes” in capital demand.
- Increase customer satisfaction with reduced complaints regarding the quality of artificial sporting surfaces.

7. Who initiated or wrote the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service? Leisure Services Officer - Ian Elliott

8. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service? Leisure Services Officer - Ian Elliott

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?

All

1b. How are they expected to benefit?

1. Accessibility - Artificial surfaces can be designed to be more accessible than natural grass, with smoother, even textures that make navigation easier for individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.

2. Safety : These pitches often provide better traction and shock absorption than traditional surfaces, reducing the risk of slips and falls, which is particularly beneficial for athletes with coordination challenges. Artificial surfaces are generally more consistent and even than natural grass, which is particularly important for older adults who may have balance issues.

3. Consistent Playing Conditions : Artificial surfaces maintain a consistent quality regardless of weather conditions, allowing for year-round play without the concerns of muddy or uneven ground that can limit access for those with disabilities. Well-maintained artificial pitches promote physical activity by providing a safe and inviting space for low-impact sports like walking soccer, walking football, or other activities tailored for the elderly.

4. Less Maintenance : Artificial pitches require less maintenance, which means they can be used more frequently and reliably. This can lead to more opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in sports without interruptions.

5. Inclusive Design : Many artificial sports facilities are designed with inclusivity in mind, featuring accessible seating, restrooms, and pathways, making it easier for individuals with disabilities to participate in or attend events.

6. Variety of Sports - Artificial pitches can be used for a wide range of sports, from soccer to field hockey, allowing individuals with disabilities to choose activities that they enjoy and excel in. The versatility of artificial pitches allows for a range of activities suitable for the elderly, from gentle exercise to organised recreational sports, helping to keep them active and engaged.

7. Community Engagement: Artificial pitches that are well-maintained can support community programs and events designed for individuals with disabilities, promoting social inclusion and participation. Engaging in physical activity on artificial pitches can have a positive impact on mental health by providing a sense of accomplishment and improving mood through social interaction and exercise. These sports pitches can also act as community hubs for social activities, fostering connections among elderly individuals through organised games, tournaments, or casual meetups, which can help reduce feelings of isolation.

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

No

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

Staff, Service Users, Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions, Potential Visitors,

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

No

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?

All

Religious belief evidence

Evidence shows that AND Council area has proportionately larger percentage of the population coming from protestant/Christian religions than other religious beliefs, with a significant portion of the population belonging to the Catholic religion or identifying as having no religious belief.

Political opinion evidence

Data suggests less strong political Opinions, however the results show a preference in Ards and North Down for Unionist Parties.

Racial group evidence

The local area has only small proportion of people from a minority ethnic background, however, evidence demonstrates a trend towards increasing diversity. The clubs who will use the facility are likely to have relatively small numbers of players/members who are BME. There is some evidence that BME people are under-represented in sport in NI.

Age evidence

Whilst populations grouping according to age is reasonably evenly spread with Ards and North down, there is seen to be a trend towards increasing number of people aged 65+.

Marital status evidence

Evidence shows a relatively even split between the numbers of single and married/civil partnerships in the borough.

Sexual orientation evidence

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.

Men and women generally evidence

Evidence shows a relatively even split in the population in the borough in terms of men and women, with a slightly higher percentage of females. Growth evident in women and girls sports. There is a need to ensure equal opportunity for access to facilities as needed.

Disability evidence

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. 7.2 per cent of the Borough have deafness or partial hearing loss.

2% have blindness or partial sight loss.

1.6 % have mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair

0.8% have an intellectual or learning disability

8.1 % have an emotional, psychological or mental health condition.

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.

Dependants evidence

Ards & North Down LGD had the highest percentage of people who provide unpaid care throughout Northern Ireland , 13.7% estimated at 30,414 residents.

In Ards and North Down there were 27,822 Children (17% of population).

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

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

Each group listed above will have the same basic need in terms of this strategy...To have the opportunity to avail of safe, accessible, modern, fit for purpose sports pitches.

- Religious Belief: Any facility needs to be perceived as welcoming and open for use by people of all religions and none.

- Political Opinion: Any facility needs to be perceived as welcoming and open for use by people of all political opinions and none.

- Racial Group: Racial minorities, especially those who are new to the district, may need to be targeted to encourage participation in local clubs and sports activities. Any new provision needs to be communicated/promoted to support groups.

- Age: There is a need to specifically target older people (male and female) to ensure that they are encouraged to participate in sport as they age. Most people drop out of sport after school age due to other interests and/or commitments. It is acknowledged that older age groups may have different needs in comparison to younger groups. Also, the link between age & disability (& gender) is noted.

Marital Status No differential needs identified in relation to this project.

- Sexual Orientation: Any facility needs to be perceived as welcoming and open for use by people of all sexual orientations.

- Men & Women Generally: Improved facilities will provide much needed opportunities for women and girls field sports.

- Disability: Any facility needs to provide for clubs/groups who cater for players/participants with various disabilities, both visible and hidden, and disabled people of all ages. There is a need for

physically accessible facilities, including for changing, that meet the needs of both children and adults. Spectator spaces/facilities also need to be accessible.

- Dependants: Facilities need to provide for parents who accompany children to sports activities or those who have disabled or older dependants.

The proposed strategy aims to provide improved facilities across the Councils portfolio of Artificial sports pitches, used in a range of sports and by a range of teams and individuals. It takes into consideration facilities that are available to the entire community and as it covers areas across the entire borough, is likely to benefit all people regardless of their location within each of the groups listed.

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

None

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

None

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?

Minor

11a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Age

By prioritising pitches that are old or in bad repair, accessibility can be improved, with smoother, even textures that make navigation easier for older individuals, particularly important for older adults who may have balance issues. This reduces the chance of slips and falls.

Well-maintained artificial pitches promote physical activity by providing a safe and inviting space for low-impact sports like walking soccer, walking football, or other activities tailored for the elderly.

The versatility of artificial pitches allows for a range of activities suitable for the elderly, from gentle exercise to organised recreational sports, helping to keep them active and engaged.

These sports pitches can also act as community hubs for social activities, fostering connections among elderly individuals through organised games, tournaments, or casual meetups, which can help reduce feelings of isolation.

The enhanced facilities will enable clubs to offer more provision to new target groups and participants including youth age and older people

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?

Minor

14a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Men and women generally

Artificial pitches are playable all year round and are not affected by weather/season. Traditionally, grass sports pitches are closed during the summer months for renovation and refurbishment. These closures are problematic as they collide with the ladies competitive season (in soccer for example). provision of fit for purpose artificial pitches ensures that there are equal opportunities for ladies teams to access sports pitches whilst grass pitches are closed for maintenance during summer months.

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

Minor

15a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Disability

1. Accessibility - Artificial surfaces can be designed to be more accessible than natural grass, with smoother, even textures that make navigation easier for individuals using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.
2. Safety : These pitches often provide better traction and shock absorption than traditional surfaces, reducing the risk of slips and falls, which is particularly beneficial for athletes with coordination challenges. Artificial surfaces are generally more consistent and even than natural grass, which is particularly important for older adults who may have balance issues.
3. Consistent Playing Conditions : Artificial surfaces maintain a consistent quality regardless of weather conditions, allowing for year-round play without the concerns of muddy or uneven ground that can limit access for those with disabilities. Well-maintained artificial pitches promote physical activity by providing a safe and inviting space for low-impact sports like walking soccer, walking football, or other activities tailored for the elderly.
4. Less Maintenance : Artificial pitches require less maintenance, which means they can be used more frequently and reliably. This can lead to more opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in sports without interruptions.
5. Inclusive Design : Many artificial sports facilities are designed with inclusivity in mind, featuring accessible seating, restrooms, and pathways, making it easier for individuals with disabilities to participate in or attend events.
6. Variety of Sports - Artificial pitches can be used for a wide range of sports, from soccer to field hockey, allowing individuals with disabilities to choose activities that they enjoy and excel in. The versatility of artificial pitches allows for a range of activities suitable for the elderly, from gentle exercise to organised recreational sports, helping to keep them active and engaged.
7. Community Engagement: Artificial pitches that are well-maintained can support community programs and events designed for individuals with disabilities, promoting social inclusion and participation. Engaging in physical activity on artificial pitches can have a positive impact on mental health by providing a sense of accomplishment and improving mood through social interaction and exercise. These sports pitches can also act as community hubs for social activities, fostering connections among elderly individuals through organised games, tournaments, or casual meetups, which can help reduce feelings of isolation.

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

Minor

16a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Dependants

1. Accessibility - Artificial surfaces can be designed to be more accessible than natural grass, with smoother, even textures that make navigation easier for individuals coming to the facility with buggies and/or prams.
2. Safety - quality fencing surrounding pitches can aid in ensuring that children participating in sporting activity or spectating can be monitored in an area without the possibility of wandering off or getting lost.

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

No opportunities identified as the facility will be available to and used by all

Political opinion

No opportunities identified as the facility will be available to and used by all

Racial group

No opportunities identified as the facility will be available to and used by all

Age

Yes, the enhanced programme facilitated by the additional space and number of teams will provide more opportunities for people of all ages.

Marital Status

No opportunities identified as the facility will be available to and used by all

Sexual orientation

No opportunities identified as the facility will be available to and used by all

Men and women generally

The enhanced facilities provide opportunities for sports clubs and others to develop numbers participating in women's field sports.

Disability

Working with local clubs provide more and better training and competitive training opportunities for people with disability.

Dependants

Improved access and supervision opportunities.

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?

Minor

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

Improved and upgraded facilities will cater for a range of sports that are played by all sections of the community, there is the potential for it to be seen as a multi-sports venue that is perceived as neutral and inclusive.

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

More clubs using a facility provides potential opportunity for increased diversity and better understanding of others.

Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006

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

Yes

20a. Provide details of opportunities identified

Potentially the improved facilities will assist local clubs and organisations to access more and better training and competition facilities for participants and members with disabilities. More visibility for disabled people playing sport promotes awareness of what disabled people can do, rather than what they cannot.

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

Yes

21a. Provide details of opportunities identified

If disabled people have increased opportunities to participate in sport in their local community, they will potentially have opportunities to contribute their views and feedback. Participation in team sports can also help to develop confidence which has wider benefits for participation in other areas of life.

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

Improving the provision to allow for year round playing potentially creates opportunities for clubs to provide better for currently under-represented groups, eg, females both young and older; children and adults with disabilities; etc.

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

monitoring information (i.e. usage figures, customers profiles), complaints, research surveys, public consultations.

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

Screened Out - No negative impacts

26. Monitoring Recommendations

The pitches included in the strategy will be under the management of Ards and North Down Borough Council Leisure Services and will be an integral part of its ongoing monitoring programme including consideration of usage, customer feedback, complaints etc.

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

Strategy for the replacement of artificial sports pitch surfaces in Ards and North Down

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?

Yes

3a. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The strategy will provide prioritisation for the replacement of artificial sports pitches in some rural areas, ensuring these facilities in all locations are maintained in a safe, fit for purpose and accessible manner.

The impact of this strategy for people in rural areas is likely to be provision of improved sports pitches and improved accessibility for the local community and beyond.

This should increase customer satisfaction with more people avail of quality sports pitches for training and matches, reduced negative maintenance/defect impacts and, hence positively impact on Health and Wellbeing.

3b. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

n/a...This strategy aims to set a framework for investing in the maintenance, renovation and replacement of artificial sports pitches across the borough. ANDBC continue to invest in rural sporting facilities and not disproportionately favour urban locations when planning and budgeting pitch renovation works. Outcomes and benefits are expected to be the same regardless of whether the facility is based in a rural or urban location.

3c. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on

Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas, Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas, Rural Crime or Community Safety

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?

There is no discrimination in terms of this strategy between rural and urban residents. This strategy aims to address the need to replace artificial sports pitches as they reach end of life, to ensure safe and accessible facilities across the borough regardless of location. The strategy does not involve proposals for creating any new provision or facilities.

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.

There is no discrimination in terms of this strategy between rural and urban residents. This strategy aims to address the need to replace artificial sports pitches as they reach end of life, to ensure safe and accessible facilities across the borough regardless of location.

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

There is no discrimination in terms of this strategy between rural and urban residents. This strategy aims to address the need to replace artificial sports pitches as they reach end of life, to ensure safe and accessible facilities across the borough regardless of location. The strategy does not involve proposals for creating any new provision or facilities.

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 compiled.

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?
<p>Transport - Is the activity accessible to everyone via public transport or active travel, in a safe and sustainable way?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p>	Positive
<p>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?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select positive.</p>	Positive

Comments

	Comments
Transport	The proposed activity is accessible to everyone. No additional impact to what already exists
Public Placemaking, Community & Culture	Improved facilities are likely to increase peoples feeling of pride in their area, offer additional opportunity for people to get involved in sport through local clubs and feel connected to the area.

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

	What is the impact of the activity?
<p>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?</p> <p>Note: If the answer is yes, select negative.</p> <p>Additional information:</p> <p>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.</p>	No Impact

Comments

	Comments
Food	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?	Positive

Comments

	Comments
Equal opportunity	Improved facilities increase accessibility for all sections of the community and increase inclusivity as more people will have the opportunity to take part in active leisure across the borough.

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>	Positive
<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>	Positive
<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>	Positive
<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

Comments

	Comments
Decent jobs and income	Artificial sports pitches require skilled staff to maintain them.
Financial benefits	Improved facilities will be more attractive, have increased opportunity for the public to hire them, hence increasing income generation and generating a rates saving.
Social value	Improved sporting facilities will be more attractive, safer and drive increased usage which will positively impact on the health and well being of the community. Increasing activity of the sports clubs will offer increased opportunity for people to become involved in volunteering with the clubs, becoming more actively involved in the community.
Human and labour rights	

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>	Positive
<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>	Positive
<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>	No Impact
<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>	Negative

Comments

	Comments
Greenhouse Gas Emmissions	Upgrade of floodlighting at the relevant sports pitches, converting to LED will reduce energy consumption and subsequently reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from the associated supply chain.
Energy	Upgrade of floodlighting at the relevant sports pitches, converting to LED will reduce the amount of energy used and reduce carbon output.
Transport	No impact above what already exists
Embodied carbon	Provision of construction materials and subsequent supply chain

Mitigation

	Mitigation
Greenhouse Gas Emmissions	na
Energy	na
Transport	na
Embodied carbon	Use tendered contractors who meet Council's environmental policy needs.

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	Removal of existing artificial turf surfaces during refurbishment
Waste management	Contractors appointed through Council's tender process, who have a robust waste management policy, suitable waste licences and aim to reduce and reuse waste

Mitigation

	Mitigation
Waste generation	Contractors appointed through Council's tender process, who have a robust waste management policy, suitable waste licences and aim to reduce and reuse waste
Waste managemen	Contractors appointed through Council's tender process, who have a robust waste management policy, suitable waste licences and aim to reduce and reuse waste

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>	Negative
<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>	Positive
<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
<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

Comments

	Comments
Materials	Materials used in the construction process
Lifecycle costing exercises	This strategy is intended to take into account and plan for the lifecycle of artificial sports pitches across the borough. By actively monitoring, maintaining and replacing pitches as required the will be a positive impact in that the need for costly, intensive reactive maintenance will be reduced, facility closure and downtime will be reduced and usage will increase. This will ensure Council achieves value for money across the portfolio.
Fresh water	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Accessing clean and safe water	No impact above what already exists and is in place

Mitigation

	Mitigation
Materials	Use tendered contractors who meet Councils requirements, have a suitable environmental and sustainability policy in place
Lifecycle costing exercises	na
Fresh water	na
Accessing clean and safe water	na

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>	No Impact

Comments

	Comments
Adverse Weather and Climate Impacts	No impact above what already exists and is in place

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. 	No Impact
<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>	No Impact
<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>	No Impact
<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

	What is the impact of the activity?
<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>	No Impact
<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

Comments

	Comments
Air pollution	No impact above what already exists and is in place. Whilst there will be generation of air pollution during construction phases, the need for reactive maintenance will be reduced therefore Air pollution generation is likely to be neutral or improved across the life of a pitch.
Ozone layer depletion	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Water/soil pollution	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Chemical pollution	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Excess fertiliser use	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Noise pollution	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Land conversion	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Built Heritage	No impact above what already exists and is in place
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	No impact above what already exists and is in place

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?	Positive
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.	Positive
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	No Impact
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	Improved facilities will increase opportunities for participation and reduce ASB
Justice	Council's official procurement processes - tender procurement
Political voice	Customers and citizens voice concerns on facilities through the Councils complaints procedures, satisfaction surveys and comments forms.
Partnerships	No impact above what already exists and is in place

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

Screened Out - Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)

Mitigating Actions

Appoint suitable contractors through Council's procurement processes. Tenders written to ensure contractors are only eligible if they have suitable Environmental, Waste and Sustainability policies in place.

Data Protection

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

No

Data Protection Officer Comments

Conclusion

Conclusion

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



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 Christian Religions	16,365	133,222
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

There is no discrimination in terms of this strategy between rural and urban residents. This strategy aims to address the need to replace artificial sports pitches as they reach end of life, to ensure safe and accessible facilities across the borough regardless of location. The strategy does not involve proposals for creating any new provision or facilities.

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:
	None	one	Two	Three

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?

No

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%