Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening

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

The DIY & Technical Assistance Fund, which is part of the council's Local Investment Plan for 2024/25 aims to support local groups to refresh, refurbish or make general improvements to existing community facilities and/or commission professional/technical assistance to explore the potential of expansion and/or upgrades to facilities.

Name of the activity/policy/project

DIY & Technical Assistance Fund 2024-25

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

New project.

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

Local groups play a crucial role in communities and add value to what Council can do by itself. Local groups support Council in delivering its own strategic outcomes, especially those in the Community Plan.
We understand that smaller groups are engaging people and connecting them to others; that larger groups are providing support services and creating active citizens and that all groups are adding value through volunteering fundraising and building networks across the Council area. In doing so they are contributing to the delivery of the wider strategic (population) outcomes of our Community Plan. The aim is to offer financial assistance to local community & voluntary sector organisations to assist with the refreshment, refurbishment or making general improvements to existing community facilities and/or commission professional/technical assistance to explore the potential of expansion and/or upgrades to facilities

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

The project is not targeting any specific Section 75 groups. There may be incidental benefits for particular equality groups however the main objective is to support local groups to deliver their priorities through financial support should they meet the criteria of the fund.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

This project developed on behalf of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council by the Communities & Wellbeing Department which contributes to the council's overall Local Investment Plan.

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council owns the project. Community Services implements the project on behalf of the Council.

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

If yes, are they: financial, legislative, other? Give brief details of any significant factors.

Yes :

Financial – the project is dependant on the financial contribution from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Legislative – Rural Needs Impact

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

Staff	All staff involved in the development and delivery of the grant programme including assessment, processing and support.
Service Users	The general public and applicants of the scheme
Other Public Sector Organisations	N/A
Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions – please list	Local Community/Voluntary sector groups who are the recipients of the grant scheme
Other – please list (eg, Elected Members, delivery partners, contractors, etc)	Elected Members

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
LCCC Interim Corporate Plan 2021-24	LCCC
Community Plan 2017-2032	LCCC
Community Development Strategy	LCCC
Section 75 of NI Act 1998	ECNI
Rural Needs Impact Assessment	DEARA

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

The Council area is the least deprived in Northern Ireland.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information .
Religious Belief	This activity is in line with the Community Development strategy to build community cohesion, a sense of place & local identity & community involvement. LCCC recognises the important part that local groups can play in developing strong, united & connected communities. The entire council has a higher proportion of residents from a Protestant community background (49%) and have range of community organisations, some of which are single identity and will cater mainly for that group Following this grouping, the proportion of residents and communities identifying as Catholic (24.0%), none (25%) and other (2%). (Census 2021)
Political Opinion	This project is open to all eligible community/voluntary sector organisations to apply with successful applicant being identified through an agreed eligibility criterion, regardless of political opinion.
Racial Group	The Council area has a minority of BME residents and there are a number of support organisations across the area. According to the 2021 Census, 87 % of LCCC population were born in N Ireland.
Age	NISRA Census 2021 data indicates: 0-14 years – 19% 15-39 years – 30%

	40-64 years – 33% 65+ years – 18% There are several support groups for older people within the council area.
Marital Status	Single 33% Married 52% 2021 Census; small percentages of people who are divorced, separated, widowed and in same-sex partnerships
Sexual Orientation	2% of the population identify as LGBT+ (Census 2021) but likely to be much higher due to under-reporting. Limited LGBTQ+ specific support organisations within LCCC Area
Men & Women Generally	LCCC Local Govt District 49% Male 51 Female – census 2021
Disability	67% reported as having no long-term health conditions which impacted their day-to-day activities 81% stated their general health was either good or very good. (2021 Census). There are a number of support organisations within the council area specific to address the needs of those with disabilities
Dependants	Census data for LCCC 2021 suggests 31% of residents have dependent children. 14% of the population stated that they provided unpaid care to dependents.

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	No different needs have been identified. This grant scheme is open to all eligible community groups/ organisation across the council area that meet the criteria for this fund. As a requirement of this fund, successful applicants are required to complete monitoring of their programme
Political Opinion	As above

Racial Group	As above
Age	Digital literacy issues may be a concern regarding accessibility for older people – to address this, the grant application and guidance notes can be made available in a variety of formats. Support from identified council offers has been made available to support accessibility to the scheme.
Marital Status	No different needs have been identified
Sexual Orientation	No different needs have been identified
Men & Women Generally	No different needs have been identified
Disability	Digital literacy issues may be a concern regarding accessibility for those with applicable disabilities – to address this, the grant application and guidance notes can be made available in a variety of formats. Support from identified council offers has been made available to support accessibility to the scheme.
Dependants	No different needs have been identified

Part 2. Screening questions

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

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor -** There should be no differential impact as the scheme is open to all who meet the criteria. There is a fair and transparent assessment process to ensure all applicants have an equal opportunity.
Political Opinion	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**

Racial Group	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**
Age	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**
Marital Status	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**
Sexual Orientation	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**
Men & Women Generally	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**
Disability	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**
Dependants	This grant scheme requires applicants to commit to promoting equal opportunities.	**Minor**

* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	LCCC will aim to reinforce the responsibility of groups /organisations to comply with all relevant equality legislation and contribute to the Council's equality obligations in relation to Section 75. The council will promote and encourage diverse groups to apply via the Ezine, social	None identified at this stage
Political Opinion		None identified at this stage
Racial Group		None identified at this stage
Age		None identified at this stage
Marital Status		None identified at this stage
Sexual Orientation		None identified at this stage
Men & Women Generally		None identified at this stage
Disability		None identified at this stage

| Dependants | media, council website, & through the officers working on the ground. | None identified at this stage |
| | Should organisations require help or support to enable them to understand Council's funding processes and enable them to apply, support can be offered. | |

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

Yes

- To improve accessibility and inclusion in local community facilities. This may include funding towards the provision of improvements to access or adaptions to community facilities.

- To encourage the participation and inclusion of those with accessibility issues.

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

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	The scheme is open to all community groups/ organisations that meet the objectives and eligibility criteria.	Minor
Political Opinion		Minor
Racial Group	Some successful organisations may undertake good relations as a result of their completed project.	Minor

*See Appendix 1 for details.

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

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	This is a minor improvements project however there may be an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect as a result of the works being completed.	
Political Opinion	This is a minor improvements project however there may be an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect as a result of the works being completed.	
Racial Group	This is a minor improvements project however there may be an opportunity to promote mutual understanding and respect as a result of the works being completed.	

Multiple identity

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

The beneficiaries of this project are dependent on the successful applicants of the scheme and their respective funding requests.

LCCC recognises that people have many different identities and therefore multiple needs. Depending on the services the successful organisations provide or intend to provide, there may be benefits for various groups on multiple identity grounds. For example, older people with disabilities will benefit from any enhanced accessibility to local community facilities.

Part 3. Screening Outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a full equality impact assessment on a proposed policy or project.

There are 3 possible outcomes:

1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no negative impacts identified (or only entirely positive impacts for all groups). This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.

2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor impacts identified which can easily be mitigated. Most activity will probably fall into this category.

3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant (and potentially negative) impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 **Screen out** – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required	
Option 2 **Screen out with mitigation** – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation	This equality screening has concluded that a full equality impact assessment is not necessary as we have not identified any negative impact, and potential impacts are likely to be incidental and minor. The Council will proactively promote such funding opportunities to diverse communities via social media, council website, community website etc. Through Community Development Officers increased promotion to under-represented groups will also be undertaken. We will seek feedback from applicants regarding the application process and scheme which will be used to inform future planning.
Option 3 **Screen in** for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

This funding programme is designed to be open and inclusive, as it is a new scheme, we will proactively promote to diverse communities via social media, council website,

community website, through Community Development Officers working on the ground to target unrepresented groups.

We will also provide hard copy information if required. Feedback to inform future planning will also be actively sought.

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

As above

Timetabling and prioritising for EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

Not applicable

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? No

Part 4. Monitoring

Elements to monitoring:

1) **Monitoring the activity generally as part of normal review and evaluation or service improvement and 2) monitoring by equality category.**

Example 1 - Council funding programme for community groups.

General monitoring would consider how/where the programme was promoted, how many enquiries were received, how many applications were received, the number of successful applicants, outcomes of the funding and how grant recipients contributed to council objectives, feedback from applicants, complaints, etc.

Equality monitoring would include all the above however look in greater detail by considering each equality category individually. For example, who was targeted for the programme and what methods were used to ensure underrepresented groups were aware of the opportunity and faced no barriers to applying, the equality characteristics of applicants, characteristics of successful applicants, outcomes by equality category, characteristics of beneficiaries, feedback from applicants and beneficiaries by equality category, etc.

Will be undertaken by: Name & Position/Job Title:	Frequency: Annually
Victoria Jackson Acting Community Development & Resources Manager	Grant scheme will be evaluated via a monitoring form to capture information in relation to: • Beneficiary Numbers • Success of scheme • Demographic of beneficiaries • Cost
Will be signed-off by: Angela McCann Head of Communities	

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Insert name (s)	Officer/manager	

Reviewed by Victoria Jackson	Acting Community Development & Resources Manager	
Approved by:		
Angela McCann	Head of Communities	

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
- sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees and internal reporting
- published on the LCCC website accompanied by a copy of the policy/project/plan being screened
- made available to the public on request.

Evidence referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

*Major impact:

a) The policy/project is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
b) Potential equality matters are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

Minor impact

a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;

c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

No impact (none)

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