



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSrátha Báin
Derry Cittie & Strábane
Deistrick Cooncil

Please remember to send this document to equality@derrystrabane.com once completed .

Integrated Impact Assessment

Equality Screening and Rural Needs and Climate Impact Assessment

[Derry City & Strabane District Council - Anti-Poverty Action Plan]

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Part One: Policy Scoping

1. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public

Following a Council motion, officers have been working with Elected Members and stakeholders groups involved in supporting people affected by poverty. It was agreed that the Council would facilitate the development of an anti-poverty action plan which is set in the strategic context of the Inclusive Growth Plan. These discussions have been facilitated through publicly advertised workshops as well as smaller focused groups. The purpose of these discussions has been to increase awareness of the work that was being undertaken, identify local priorities and seek to identify possible actions which could help prevent poverty and/or provide pathways out of poverty.

The following four priority themes have been identified and draft actions have been proposed for each:

1. **Lobbying & Advocacy** - to benefit all geographical areas & S75 groups
2. **Access to Support** - to benefit all geographical areas & S75 groups
3. **Education, Skills & Employment** - to benefit all geographical areas & S75 groups
4. **Supporting our Communities** - to benefit all geographical areas & S75 groups

Authority that is subject to Equality Screening under Section 75 Act and Rural Needs Impact Assessment under Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

2. Please tick as appropriate

New Policy ☒

Revised Policy ☐

Corporate Policy ☐

Departmental Policy ☐

If Departmental, please specify which department

Chief Executive

2b Please indicate which category the activity specified in Question 1 above relates to.

	Policy	Strategy	Plan
Developing a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3a. Please describe the aims of the policy.

To implement agreed actions which could help prevent poverty and/or provide pathways out of poverty.

3b. Are there any associated objectives of the policy? If so, what are they?

The plan has a series of actions which following the consultation with have designated time periods for delivery.

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

All Section 75 groups are expected to benefit from the anti-poverty action plan, although those who research tells us are more vulnerable to poverty – single people; single parents; households with 3 or more children and people with disabilities are likely to benefit more from the draft actions, depending on their level of engagement.

Extensive desk research and engagement with local stakeholders plus regional charities and government agencies, has demonstrated that the cost of living crisis is affecting people across all the DEAs within the Council area and that no one set of circumstances defines hardship or poverty.

5. Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The action plan has been prepared by the Director of Legacy

6. Who is responsible for the implementation of the policy?

Derry City and Strabane District Council

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

If yes, are they

- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Legislative
- ☒ Other, please specify

The interventions contained in the anti-poverty action plan have been co-designed by elected members, local stakeholders and those with lived experience of poverty, some of whom will also be involved in the delivery of certain actions with the Plan.

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

- ☒ Staff
- ☒ Service Users
- ☒ Other public sector organisations
- ☒ Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions
- ☒ Other, Please specify

Residents in the Council area.
<p>9. <i>Is this policy associated with any other Council Policy(s)?</i></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please state the related policy(s) below.</p>
Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan; Service Delivery Plan for Corporate Services
<p>10. How does the policy contribute towards the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives?</p>
<p>The context of Derry City and Strabane District Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan 2017 – 2032 sets out the vision of a 'thriving, prosperous and sustainable city and district with equality of opportunity for all'.</p> <p>This strategic vision sits within the individual service delivery plans of the Council. Specifically within the Strategic Planning and Support Units Directorate. In order to deliver the Directorate outcome and/or service improvement objectives, the Council identified a number of key activities, and one of which was the co-design of an anti-poverty action plan which would align to the Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan and also to the NI Anti-Poverty strategy.</p> <p>The action plan will also complement the strategic interventions which Council is already committed to, including Community Wealth Building and the delivery and management of the DfC funded Labour Market Partnership Programme.</p>

11. *How does the Council interface with other bodies in relation to the implementation of this policy?*

Through the co-design process, local partners have been identified as agents who could assist with the delivery of the actions. These discussions were facilitated through workshops and subsequent follow up meetings with partners. Further engagement with statutory partners will ensue to ensure alignment and synergies with programmes and funding opportunities.

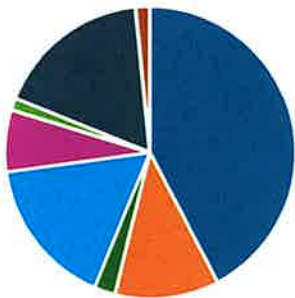
The Council will facilitate events (frequency to be determined following the consultation) on the progress of the implementation of the action plan.

Part Two : Equality Screening

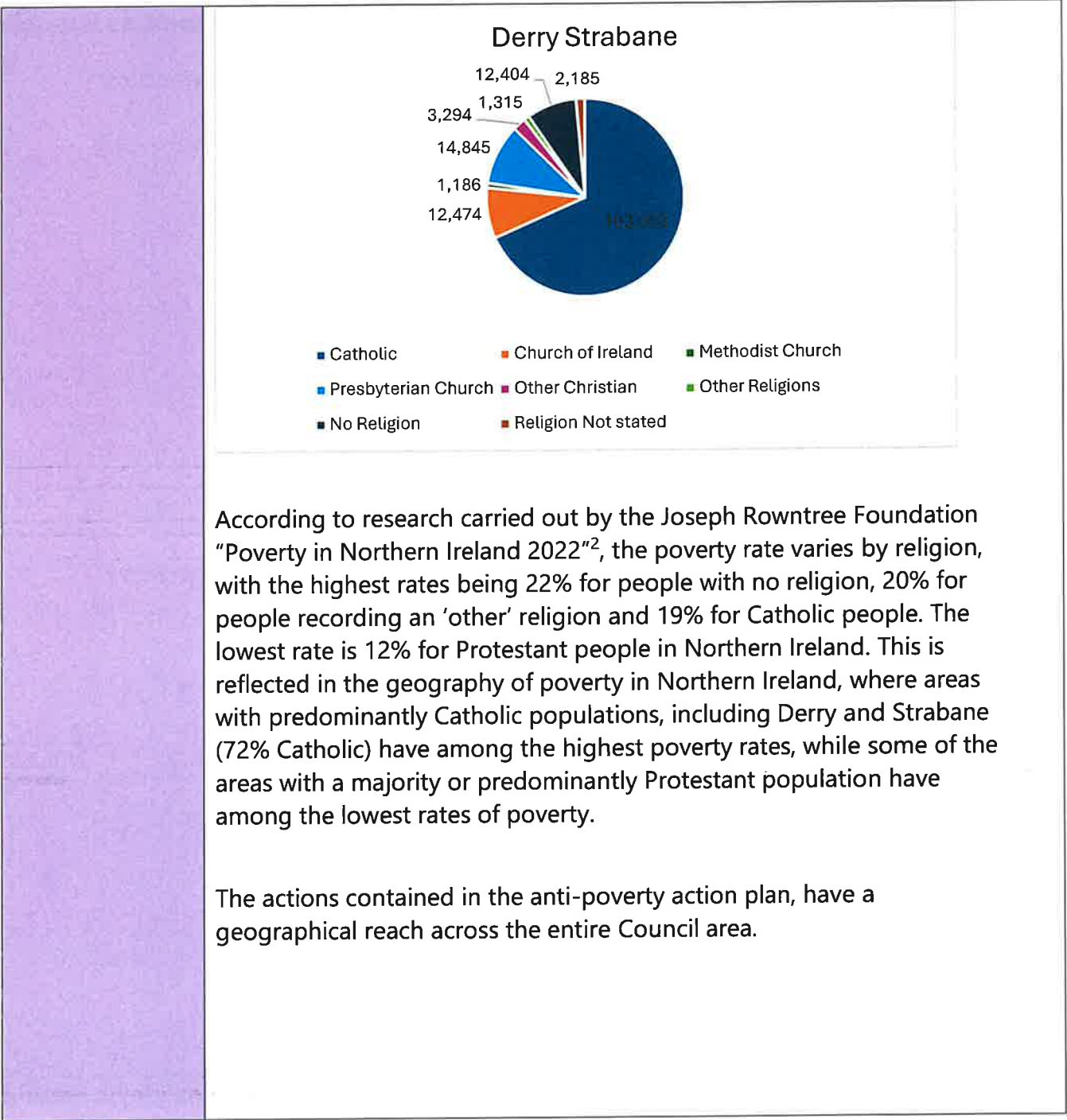
2.1 Available evidence

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


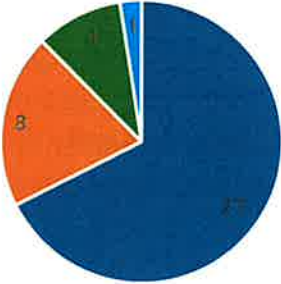
What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories. **Please add policy relevant information.**

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	<p>According to data from the Census 2021 the breakdown detailing the religious belief profile of residents as a proportion of the whole population in the Derry City and Strabane District Council, compared to Northern Ireland is as follows¹:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NI</p>  <p>■ Catholic ■ Church of Ireland ■ Methodist Church ■ Presbyterian Church ■ Other Christian ■ Other Religions ■ No Religion ■ Religion Not stated</p>

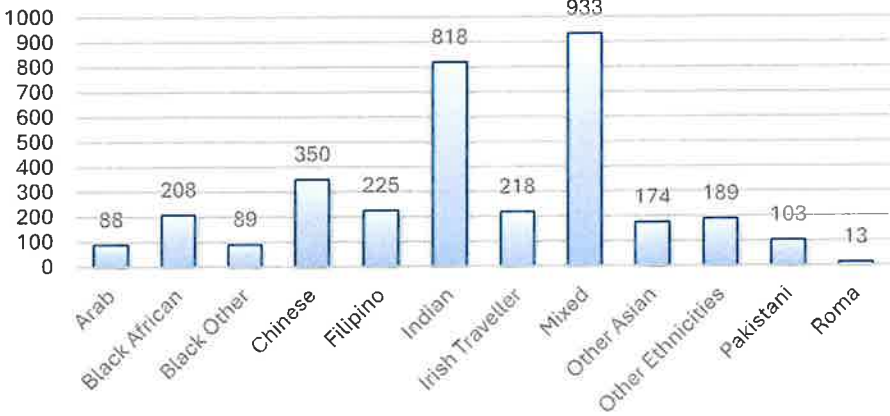
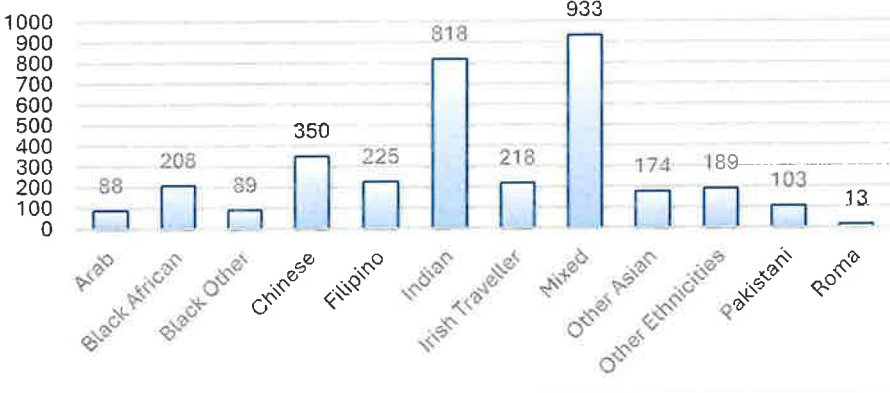
¹ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-religion-tables>



² <https://michaelharrison.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Poverty-in-Northern-Ireland-2022.pdf>

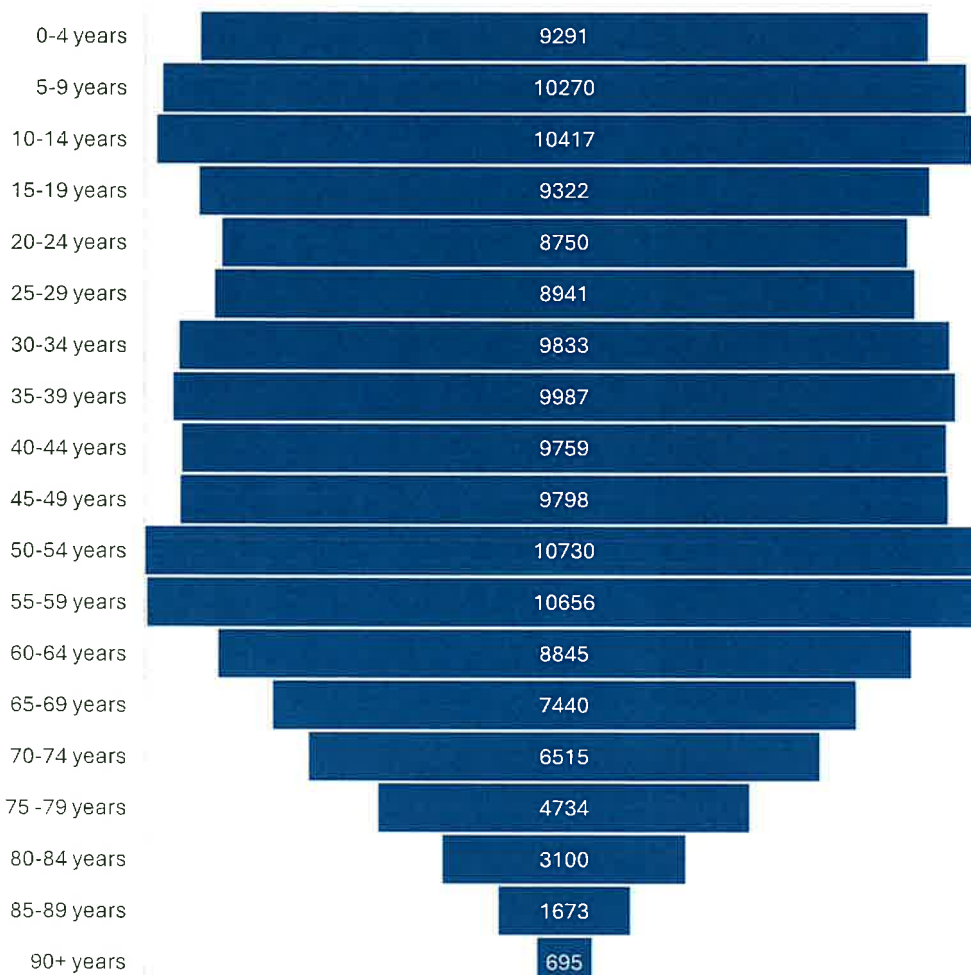
<p>Political opinion</p>	<p>The political opinion of the Council's elected members is as follows:</p> <p>Derry and Strabane political party breakdown 2023</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Party</th> <th>Seats</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sinn Féin</td> <td>18 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDLP</td> <td>10 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democratic Unionist</td> <td>5 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Unionist</td> <td>3 seats</td> </tr> <tr> <td>People Before Profit</td> <td>1 seats</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Derry and Strabane elected members by political opinion</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Political Opinion</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Nationalist generally</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unionist generally</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Do not wish to say</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Party	Seats	Sinn Féin	18 seats	SDLP	10 seats	Democratic Unionist	5 seats	Ulster Unionist	3 seats	People Before Profit	1 seats	Political Opinion	Count	Nationalist generally	23	Unionist generally	8	Other	1	Do not wish to say	1
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<p>Racial group</p>	<p>According to the Census 2021 statistics³ the breakdown detailing the ethnic profile of the residents of the Council area is as follows:</p>																						

³ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Derry Strabane population by ethnic background</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic Background</th> <th>Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Arab</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>Black African</td><td>208</td></tr> <tr><td>Black Other</td><td>89</td></tr> <tr><td>Chinese</td><td>350</td></tr> <tr><td>Filipino</td><td>225</td></tr> <tr><td>Indian</td><td>818</td></tr> <tr><td>Irish Traveller</td><td>218</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed</td><td>933</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Asian</td><td>174</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Ethnicities</td><td>189</td></tr> <tr><td>Pakistani</td><td>103</td></tr> <tr><td>Roma</td><td>13</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Derry Strabane population by ethnic background, excluding white</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic Background</th> <th>Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Arab</td><td>88</td></tr> <tr><td>Black African</td><td>208</td></tr> <tr><td>Black Other</td><td>89</td></tr> <tr><td>Chinese</td><td>350</td></tr> <tr><td>Filipino</td><td>225</td></tr> <tr><td>Indian</td><td>818</td></tr> <tr><td>Irish Traveller</td><td>218</td></tr> <tr><td>Mixed</td><td>933</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Asian</td><td>174</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Ethnicities</td><td>189</td></tr> <tr><td>Pakistani</td><td>103</td></tr> <tr><td>Roma</td><td>13</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnic Background	Population	Arab	88	Black African	208	Black Other	89	Chinese	350	Filipino	225	Indian	818	Irish Traveller	218	Mixed	933	Other Asian	174	Other Ethnicities	189	Pakistani	103	Roma	13	Ethnic Background	Population	Arab	88	Black African	208	Black Other	89	Chinese	350	Filipino	225	Indian	818	Irish Traveller	218	Mixed	933	Other Asian	174	Other Ethnicities	189	Pakistani	103	Roma	13
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Age	<p>According to Census 2021 data the age profile of the Derry and Strabane LGD area ⁴ is as follows:</p>																																																				

⁴ Ibid

Derry and Strabane population by five year age bands



In the Multiple Deprivation Measure Report 2017 it shows that almost 16% of the population in the Council area have an equivalised income of 60% below than the NI median – of these households there are 21% in which there are children aged 15 and under living and 5.4% households where there are people aged 65 years and older living. The NI Poverty and Inequality Report for 21/22 has confirmed that in NI, the long-term trend shows that children (before housing costs) have a higher risk of living in poverty than the other population groups (all individuals, working-age adults and pensioners).

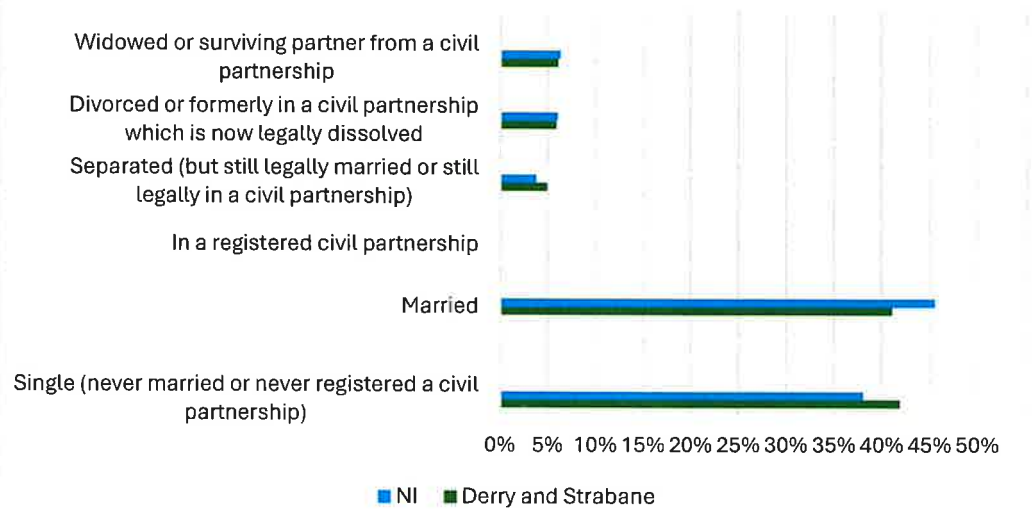
The percentage of children living in relative poverty in 2021/22 was 18%; compared to 22% in 2019/20. Children living in absolute poverty fell from 17% to 15% over the same period.

Working-age adults – Poverty (Before Housing Costs):

- In 2021/22 the proportion of working age adults in relative poverty was 14%; the same as in 2019/20. The absolute poverty rate for working age adults changed from 11% in 2019/20 to 12% in 2021/22.
- The risk of being in relative poverty is much higher for households where no one is in work (53%); compared to households where at least one adult is in work (8%). However, because there are a greater number of working households in general, it is estimated that of all working age adults living in poverty, over half (53%) live in a working household.

Pensioners – Poverty (After Housing Costs):

- In 2021/22 the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty was 16%; compared to 13% in 2019/20. Over the same period, absolute poverty for pensioners increased from 10% to 12%.
- Over the last decade, the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty has fluctuated from a high of 16% (in 2013/14 and 2021/22) to a low of 10% in 2018/19. Over the same period, absolute poverty has shown a downward trend, from a high of 17% in 2013/14.

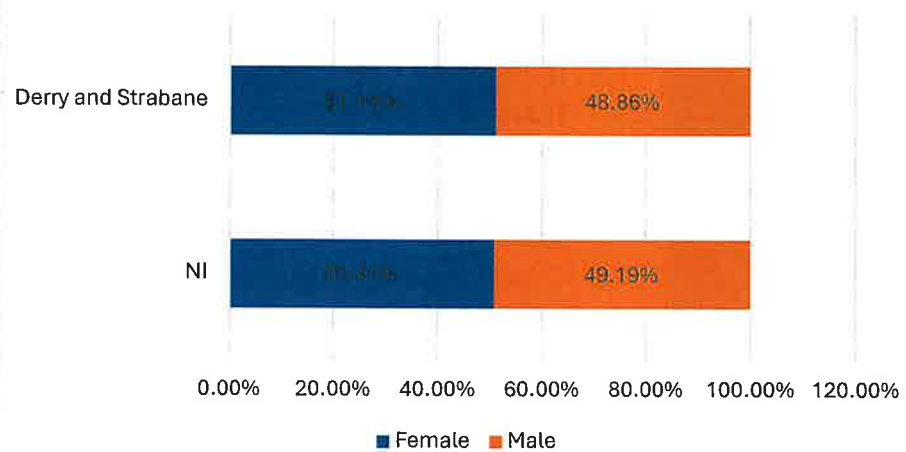
Marital status	<p>The table below illustrates the marital status profile of the Derry and Strabane LGD:</p> <div><p>Marital Status of those aged 16+, as proportion of the population</p><table><thead><tr><th>Marital Status</th><th>NI (%)</th><th>Derry and Strabane (%)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)</td><td>38</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td>Married</td><td>45</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr></tbody></table></div>	Marital Status	NI (%)	Derry and Strabane (%)	Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	38	42	Married	45	40	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	2	1	Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	3	2	Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership	3	2
Marital Status	NI (%)	Derry and Strabane (%)																	
Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	38	42																	
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Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	2	1																	
Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	3	2																	
Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership	3	2																	
Sexual orientation	<p>Analysis of the Census 2021 indicates that, of those aged 16 years and over 2.1% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other. A further 7.6% did not state their sexual orientation. 90.3% said they were straight or heterosexual.⁵</p> <p>The Rainbow Project have provided a number of qualitative contextual reasons why they believe studies, especially the census, aren't fully reflective of actual figures. These include:</p> <div><div>1.</div><div>Bisexual people, who are believed to be the largest part of the LGBTQIA+ community, are more likely to report as heterosexual, particularly those in opposite sex relationships, due to societal bierasure and biphobia.</div></div>																		

⁵ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-3-statistical-bulletin-sexual-orientation.pdf> (accessed 11/07/23)

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Bisexual people are also more likely to end up in an opposite sex relationship in general due to societal homophobia, making their chances of the above even higher.3. In more rural locations, and over the past 10+ years in particular with housing issues, more and more young adults are living with family for longer or moving back in. They may not be out to family, or may be out but just not accepted, therefore filling out the same form together forces them to closet themselves and record as heterosexual.4. Covid-19 had a major impact on the LGBTQIA+ community, safety and isolation issues became much more significantly higher, and with many people being forced to move back in with family people who may have been out among their independent life, just not with family, where forced back into the closet.5. Older adults who are LGBTQIA+ are much less likely to correctly report on forms as past societal expectations forced many to marry into a heterosexual relationship.6. Safety is a big factor, people are terrified how data is used and LGBTQIA+ people are more likely to lie on forms for self-preservation, older adults in particular.7. Housing concerns become a big factor in this. Although it is illegal for a landlord to evict a tenant on the grounds of them being LGB, even those out, may "act straight" around landlords, employers and other officials including census and other demographics forms.8. Fear of hate crime towards LGBTQIA+ people drives some to mis-report for self-preservation.9. Trust – there can be a lack of trust among LGBTQIA+ people on how census data is used. |
|--|---|

Men and women generally

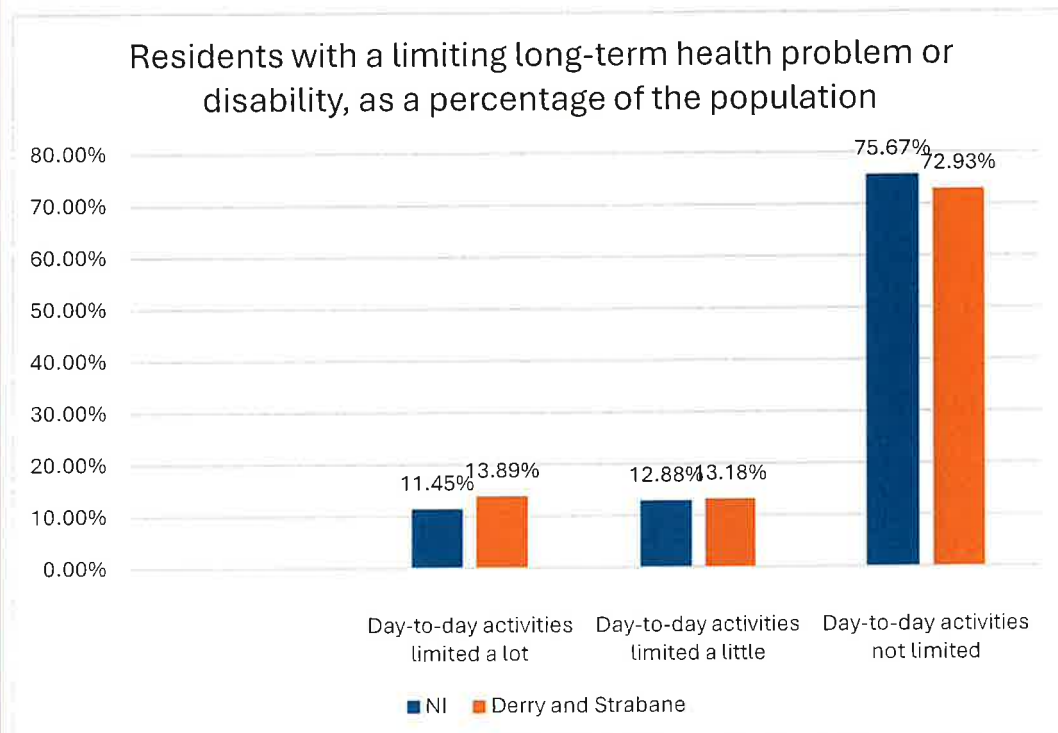
Gender as a proportion of the population



NISRA data confirms that DCSDC is the second highest area in NI with lone parent households with dependent children. 578 of these lone households are male and 6687 are female. Recent qualitative research in 2023 completed by the Women's Support Network and the Ulster University reported that 56% reported that there were in debt and of these women 82% reported they had to borrow as a result of the cost of living increases.

Disability

According to statistics for Census day 2021 the health profile of the Council area was as follows⁶:



According to a research report from Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) differences in occupation, qualifications and working hours contribute to lower earnings for disabled people, which are one-fifth lower than the earnings of non-disabled workers. On an income basis the difference in household income is more stark. Over one in five (23%) disabled people live in relative poverty, and almost two-fifths (38%) of people living in households experiencing poverty in NI include a person living with a disability.⁷

⁶ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

⁷ https://www.ulster.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/127581/Disability-and-the-labour-market.pdf

Dependant

According to statistics for Census day 2021 the caring profile for the Council area was as follows:⁸

All Usual Residents aged 5 and over						
	All usual residents aged 5 and over	Provide no unpaid care	Provide 1-19 hrs unpaid care per week	Provide 20-34 hrs unpaid care per week	Provide 35-49 hrs unpaid care per week	Provide 50+ hrs unpaid care per week
Northern Ireland	1,789,348	1,567,135 87.58%	100,777 5.63%	24,636 1.38%	28,109 1.57%	68,691 3.84%
Derry City & Strabane	141,465	123,487 87.29%	7,135 5.04%	2,178 1.54%	2,608 1.84%	6,057 4.28%

Results for Census 2021 in Northern Ireland show that 52 children aged 5 years provide 1 or more hours of unpaid care per week.

The proportion of carers in Northern Ireland is similar to the proportion of carers in Derry and Strabane. Carers are counted from age 5+. Results for Census 2021 in Northern Ireland show that 52 children aged 5 years provide 1 or more hours of unpaid care per week.

Poverty amongst informal carers in Northern Ireland was just under 3 in 10, some 8 ppt higher than those without caring responsibilities, and is the highest of all four UK nations. Within this, there are notable differences depending on the time spent caring. Carers with relatively low caring responsibilities (less than 20 hours per week) have lower poverty rates than those caring for 20 to 34 hours a week or over 35 hours (20%, 33% and 35%, respectively).⁹

⁸ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-msD01unpaid-care-tables> – Table msD17

⁹ Joseph Rowntree Foundation **Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022** <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022>

This higher rate of poverty is, as with disabled people, likely to be driven in part by employment rates. Unsurprisingly, working-age carers with higher caring responsibilities (35+ hours a week) have much lower employment rates, with just 2 in 5 employed. As a result, twice as many carers live in families in receipt of income-related benefits than those without caring responsibilities (36% and 18%, respectively).¹⁰

2.2 Equality Needs, experiences and priorities

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

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation referenced on p11 noted that poverty rates vary by religion, with 19% of Catholics and 12% of Protestants deemed to be living in poverty. Given this, we could assume that as more Catholics are living in poverty, that this community would have more need for support.
Political opinion	None
Racial group	Council and delivery partners will ensure that anyone seeking information or access to support will be provided with assistance, taking into consideration potential issues such as language
Age	All age groups are affected by poverty and focus groups have been held with a broad spectrum of age groups, including young people and senior citizens. However children of single parents and households with 3 or more children are more likely to be living in poverty. Access to support via sign posting and awareness raising interventions will be tailored to meet the individual needs of each of the age profiles.

¹⁰ Joseph Rowntree Foundation **Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022** <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022>

Marital status	Data tells us that lone parents are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty.
Sexual orientation	None
Men and women generally	Research tells us that single males and also females who are lone parents, are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty.
Disability	Evidence shows that people with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty and second priority theme in the anti-poverty action plan – Access to Support - will seek to ensure there is wide access to the information and awareness raising of the support available to people with disabilities.
Dependants	<p>Evidence would suggest that families and lone parents are more likely to experience poverty. Accordingly actions are included in the draft plan which are designed to provide particular supports to these groups, including:</p> <p>Advocacy & Lobbying Theme – providing proactive support for campaigns to tackle the root causes of poverty, e.g. Addressing Child Poverty</p> <p>Access to Support Theme – extending Moneyhelper Programmes to schools and community settings, to increase awareness and application of financial literacy</p> <p>Supporting Our Communities Theme – Expansion of circular initiatives to promote the reuse of school uniforms and sports kits & exploration of the Free School Day initiative</p>

2.3 Screening questions

What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? Minor/major/none?		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	<p>The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, regardless of religious belief.</p> <p>Research tells us that a higher proportion of Catholics than Protestants are living in poverty in N.I. The 2021 census shows the religious profile of the Derry Strabane Council area to be 72% Catholic, therefore the action plan may have a positive impact for Catholics, dependent on levels of engagement.</p>	Minor, positive
Political opinion	<p>The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, regardless of political opinion.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2012 support the view that religious background and voting behaviour in Northern Ireland are closely aligned, therefore, for the purposes of this screening religion may be viewed as a proxy indicator of political opinion. It could be inferred that more Nationalist people will benefit from the programme, dependent on levels of engagement.</p>	Minor, positive
Racial group	<p>The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, regardless of their racial grouping.</p>	None

Age	The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to benefit Council residents of all ages but, dependent on engagement, may have a greater positive impact on children, as children of lone parents and those living in households with 3 or more children, are more likely to be living in poverty.	Minor, positive
Marital status	The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, regardless of their marital status, however research tells us that lone parents are more vulnerable to poverty and so the anti-poverty action plan will have a more positive impact on lone parents who engage with the actions.	None
Sexual orientation	The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, regardless of their sexual orientation	None
Men & women generally	The actions contained in the anti-poverty action plan will target both men and women equally. However research tells us that single males and also females who are lone parents, are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty and so the actions in the plan may have a positive impact on these groups	The action plan has been designed to only have a positive impact
Disability	The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, both able-bodied and disabled. However the plan may have a greater positive impact on disabled people as they are more vulnerable to poverty and more likely to be in poverty.	The action plan has been designed to only have a positive impact
Dependants	The actions contained in the Anti-Poverty Action Plan have been designed to support all Council residents, but may have a positive impact on lone parent families and households with 3+ children, as research tells us that these groups are more vulnerable to poverty.	The action plan has been designed to only have a positive impact

2.4 Equality of Opportunity

Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief	This programme will be applied equally to all residents in the Council area without exception and has the potential to better promote equality of opportunity within the Catholic population, as statistically this group is more likely to experience poverty. However this will be dependent on the level of engagement from the Catholic community to the proposed actions.	
Political opinion	This programme will be applied equally to all residents in the Council area without exception but has the potential to better promote equality of opportunity within the Nationalist community, given that religious belief may be viewed as a proxy indicator of political opinion ¹¹ . However this will be dependent on the level of engagement	

¹¹ The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2012

	from the Nationalist community to the proposed actions.	
Racial group	The Council will work with local ethnic minority groups to identify the most effective way to ensure equality of access to support and opportunities.	
Age	This programme will be applied equally to all residents in the Council area without exception but has the potential to better promote equality of opportunity to children in lone parent households and children in households with 3+ dependents, depending on the extent of parental engagement with the action plan.	
Marital status	This programme will be applied equally to all residents in the Council area without exception but has the potential to better promote equality of opportunity among lone parents who engage with the proposed actions	
Sexual orientation		No – this programme will be applied equally to all residents in the Council area without exception
Men & women generally	The Advocacy and Lobbying Theme of the Action Plan will provide opportunities for people with lived experience of poverty to advise on the design of employment programme and to assess the impact on different genders, to ensure equality of access, particularly to female lone parents and single males.	
Disability	The Advocacy and Lobbying Theme of the Action Plan will provide opportunities for	

	people with lived experience of poverty to advise on the design of employment programme and to assess the impact on people with disabilities, to ensure equality of access and equality of opportunity, for those with disabilities.	
Dependants	This programme will be applied equally to all residents in the Council area without exception but has the potential to better promote equality of opportunity to those households with 3+ children and households with full-time caring responsibilities for dependents, who engage with the proposed actions.	

2.5 Good Relations

Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between Section 75 equality categories through tackling prejudice and/or promoting understanding?

☐ Yes



No

If Yes, the policy will be considered by a Designated Working Group

Section 75 category

Religious belief

Political opinion	
Racial group	

2.6 Disability Duties

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

Yes ☒

No ☐

If Yes, provide details of opportunities identified (including details of consultation with relevant stakeholders)

Desk research highlighted that people with disabilities are one of a number of groups who are more likely to be vulnerable to or have experienced poverty. During the development of the anti-poverty action plan, a focus group was held with members of NW Disability Action and representatives from local disability support organisations attended stakeholder engagement sessions. Through the discussions, many significant issues were raised, some of which are beyond the remit of Council and local partners and can only be addressed by central government. Such issues included: a social security system that provides the necessary support to meet essential needs; affordable and secure housing and additional support for people with disabilities.

Subsequent actions proposed in the action plan include: Exploring opportunities for people with lived experience to advise on the design of employment programmes and assessing the impact for different genders and/or people with disabilities

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

Yes ☐

No ☒

If Yes, provide details of opportunities identified (including details of consultation with relevant stakeholders)

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

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

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

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

The Anti-Poverty Action Plan is designed to address and reduce poverty across the City & District, and it recognizes the importance of ensuring equality of opportunity for all individuals, particularly those with multiple identities that fall under the Section 75 categories of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 such as age, gender, disability, race, religion, political opinion, sexual orientation, marital status, and dependents.

The plan aims to improve the lives of those who are most vulnerable to poverty, including those with overlapping Section 75 characteristics such as women with disabilities, who may face difficulties in accessing employment due to both gender-based discrimination and barriers related to their disability; women who are parents and carers; disabled members of the Catholic community and others who may experience multiple layers of disadvantage due to the combination of their Section 75 characteristics.

2.7 Screening Decision

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

The proposals outlined in this screening exercise are not expected to have any adverse impact on Section 75 equality groups. Any impact is expected to be minor and positive across all age and gender profiles

The proposals are intended to be a positive measure to assist low income households who may be vulnerable to or experiencing poverty.

Mitigations will be employed for people with different needs in terms of ability to access information in different formats.

If the decision is **is not to conduct an equality impact assessment** the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced. Please provide details

None

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

2.8 Mitigation

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

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

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

To ensure access to each of the four interventions the Council will be working with local stakeholders in the delivery of actions to promote equality of opportunity. For example communications for ethnic minority groups, older people understanding benefits entitlements, and accessibility arrangements for any information events for people with disabilities, dependents or working poor.

2.9 Monitoring Arrangements

Provide details of the monitoring arrangements that will be in place to ensure that there are no adverse impacts as a result of the implementation of this policy.

Proposed actions contained in the action plan will be assigned to lead partners to take forward. Council will provide a progress report and monitoring form for these partners who will be asked to provide an update on the delivery of the action on an annual basis. This information will be reported to Health & Communities Committee by the Director of Legacy.

Where possible to do so, and where the sample size is useful, lead partners will be asked to request the completion of monitoring reports from beneficiaries.

Part Three: Rural Needs Impact Assessment

3.1 Which definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

- Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition) ☒
- Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below) ☐
- A definition of 'rural' is not applicable ☐

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'

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

3.2a. Is the Policy, Strategy Plan or Public Service intended to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes ☒

No ☐

If the response is No go to Section 3.2e

3.2b. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is intended to impact on people in rural areas

The interventions in the draft Anti-Poverty Action Plan are designed to support all households across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

The draft plan references the Department for Communities report in September 2023 which notes that the rate of households in 'Deep Poverty' in urban areas is 6% while the rural area is rated at 9%. While focus tends to be upon urban areas, this highlights the requirement that we take a much broader view to include rural initiatives tailored to rural needs

In Theme 2 of the draft plan – Access to Support, a specific action involves increasing accessibility to services for rural communities, in collaboration with the three rural Local Growth Partnerships and relevant support organisations.

3.2c. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is intended to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it will impact people in rural areas differently

The Plan is not intended to impact people in rural areas differently, rather there is a recognition that rural areas have particular and often additional challenges with regards to poverty and social isolation, that we must consider.

3.2d. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is intended to impact on

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rural Tourism		<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Education or Training in Rural Areas		<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas		<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas		<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas		<input type="checkbox"/>

Poverty in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
(If the response to Section 3.2a was yes go to 3.3a)	
3.2e Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT intended to impact on people in rural areas	

3.3 Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas	
3.3a. 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?	
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the response is NO GO TO Section 3.3e	
3.3b. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources we used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas	

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders ☒

Consultation with Other Organisations ☒

Published Statistics ☒

Research Papers ☒

Surveys or Questionnaires ☐

Other Publications ☐

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details) ☐

3.3c Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Meetings with the three Rural Local Growth Partnerships, the Rural Area Partnership in Derry, Rural Community Network, Rural Issues Group and local support organisations.

3.3d. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

- Levels of poverty
- Dependence on local services which can be more expensive.
- Less options for renewable fuel options
- Limited public transport options

(If the response to Section 3.3a was Yes go to Section 3. 4a)

3.3e. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas??

3.4 – Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3.4a. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas identified by the Public Authority.

- Access to and awareness of support services
- Limited access to public transport
- Broadband
- Volunteer burnout and lack of manpower for the delivery of services

3.5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

3.5a. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revision of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**

3.5b. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revision of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified

- Recognition of need to identify and include actions in the draft Plan that will enable residents to access relevant support services
- Recognition that communications must be tailored and available in a range of formats

3.5c. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revision 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

Not applicable

Part Four: Climate Change Screening

4.1 What impact will the policy/proposal/plan have on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?

- Beneficial impact (Reduce emissions) ☐
- A mixed impact (Good & Bad) ☐
- Negative impact (Harmful / increase emissions) ☐
- No impacts / Not applicable ☐
- Don't know ☒

4.2 Does the policy/proposal/plan consider initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. sustainable transport, zero waste circular economy principles, renewable and efficient energy, and green infrastructure?

Yes (please explain)



Draft action included in the plan involves the expansion of circular initiatives to promote the reuse of uniforms and sports clothing, repair of electrical goods and exchange of items

No



Not applicable



4.3 Will the policy/proposal/plan be impacted by the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, sea level rise, heat stress, poor air quality, and habitat and biodiversity loss?

Impacted



A mixed impact (Good & Bad)



Not Impacted



Not applicable



Don't know



4.4 What impact will the policy/proposal/ plan have on the resilience to the adverse effects of climate change, e.g. flooding, sea level rise, heat stress, poor air quality, and habitat and biodiversity loss?

- Beneficial impact (Improve resilience) ☐
- A mixed impact (Good & Bad) ☐
- Negative impact (Harmful / reduce resilience) ☐
- No impacts / Not applicable ☒
- Don't know ☐

4.5 Does the policy/proposal/ plan consider initiatives to reduce the adverse effects of climate change, e.g. avoid construction in flood risk areas, emergency and resilience planning measures, green infrastructure?

Yes (please explain) ☐

No ☐

Not applicable ☒

4.6 Does the policy/proposal /plan require further detailed assessment e.g. whole life carbon assessment, climate change risk analysis?

Yes (please explain)

☐

No

☐

Not applicable

☒

Part Five: Privacy impact assessment screening questions

These questions are intended to help decide whether a PIA is necessary. Answering 'yes' to any of these questions is an indication that a PIA would be a useful exercise.

- Will the project involve the collection of new information about individuals? ☐
- Will the project compel individuals to provide information about themselves? ☐
- Will information about individuals be disclosed to organisations or people who have not previously had routine access to the information? ☐
- Are you using information about individuals for a purpose it is not currently used for, or in a way it is not currently used?
☐ ☐
- Does the project involve you using new technology which might be perceived as being privacy intrusive? For example, the use of biometrics or facial recognition. ☐
- Will the project result in you making decisions or taking action against individuals in ways which can have a significant impact on them? ☐
- Is the information about individuals of a kind particularly likely to raise privacy concerns or expectations? For example, health records, criminal records or other information that people would consider to be particularly private. ☐

- Will the project require you to contact individuals in ways which they may find intrusive?

☐

Part Six - Approval and authorisation

Conclusions

(Details to be reflected in the relevant committee report.)

- The plan has been screened out for equality impact assessment.
- The development, adoption, implementation or revision of the plan or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has not been influenced by the rural needs identified in the impact assessment.
- The plan does not require further detailed assessment in terms of climate change and adaption
- The plan requires further assessment in terms of data protection / privacy

Screening / impact assessment completed by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Oonagh McGillion <i>angillon</i>	Director of Legacy	17 th Jan 2025
Approved by:		

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

