

Consultation Schedule – The Council Meeting 6 January 2026

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY
1.	NIE	Network Development Plan	Mid January – extension due to oversight
	<p>The plan covers a ten year period from now until 2035 outlining forecasted constraints and proposed interventions on the primary network. It outlines the committed interventions under the RP7 price control period which runs until 2031 and forecasted interventions for the next price control period (RP8) which is as yet unagreed.</p> <p>To facilitate stakeholder feedback, the plan includes a sample of the full list of interventions and forecasts to ensure that the structure and content meets the needs of the wider energy community in Northern Ireland. It builds upon intensive analysis of the approaches taken by other DNOs and incorporates external forecasting experts to ensure planning is robust, data-driven and future-proofed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the latest news updates from your network company Northern Ireland Electricity Networks 		
2.	Department of Finance	DoF Equality Screening template - Remediable Service (Amendment) Regulations - November 2025	30 January 2026
	<p>Screening is the first of two methods by which the necessary level of “regard” is demonstrated as being paid to the statutory equality goal, as set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The DoF Equality Scheme commits us to screening our policies. This includes our strategies and plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, procedure, policy etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoF Equality Screening template - Remediable Service (Amendment) Regulations - November 2025 Department of Finance 		

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3.	hseni	Proposals for amendments to the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004	10 February 2026
	<p>The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (GSIUR) make provisions in respect of the installation and use of gas fittings for the purpose of protecting the public from dangers arising from the distribution, supply or use of gas.</p> <p>HSE made the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2018. This consultation relates to HSENI's proposals on the amendments to the GSIUR; to bring Northern Ireland in line with the changes made in Great Britain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for amendments to the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland, controlling risk together 		
4.	Department of Education	Consultation on a pupil attendance strategy - Attendance Matters	6 March 2026
	<p>The Department of Education is consulting on a new Pupil Attendance Strategy and is keen to get as widespread a response as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on a pupil attendance strategy - Attendance Matters Department of Education 		

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Available to View

RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	The Council's Policy Screening Report - December 2025	Letter attached

Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Department of Finance Land Registration Legislation Project consultation submission by 12 January 2026
- Department for Communities Consultation on Disability and Work: A Strategy for Northern Ireland submission by 12 January 2026
- Housing Executive Public Consultation on our Draft Supporting People Strategic Intent 2026-2031 submission by 16 January 2026

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Policy Screening Report

under

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998

December 2025

Equality Scheme Policy Screening Report

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has developed a number of new policies. In complying with the Council's Equality Scheme Duties, these policies have been screened for any possible adverse impact that they may have under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998. The nine groups are:

Age; Marital status; Women (including girls) and Men (including boys); Persons with a disability and Persons without; Persons with dependants and Persons without; Political Opinion; Racial Group; Religious belief; and Sexual Orientation.

The policies have been screened against the questions below and have been ranked 1,2 or 3

1	'screened in' for equality impact assessment, including date of EQIA
2	'screened out' with mitigation
3	'screened out' without mitigation

Screening Questions

- A 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)
- B Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?
- C To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/major/none)
- D Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

The attached schedule is being published for consultees information. Comments may be submitted in writing, by telephone, e-mail, or in person and should be forwarded to the address below.

Mary Hanna
Policy, Equality & Diversity Manager
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
Borough Council
Old Armagh City Hospital
39 Abbey Street
Armagh
BT61 4DL

Tel: 028 3752 9600

E-mail: mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

This document is available in alternative formats on request
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Section 75 Northern Ireland Act 1998 – Policy Screening Exercise

Policies have been assessed against the four screening questions and a ranking allocated. For each of the policies detailed below, a more comprehensive ‘screening’ document is available on the Council website or on request. The report includes published screening for the period September 2025 to November 2025.

Policy/Procedure	Policy/Procedure Aims	Ranking/ Screening Decision
Armagh Murals	<p>As part of the Townscape Heritage Scheme for Armagh it was agreed to further animate the city by including murals. It is proposed that two murals will be installed. One on College Street and one in McCrum’s Court.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The College Street mural is based on Queen Macha who according to myths and legends founded Armagh.2. The McCrum’s Court mural will depict the Tontine Rooms singers, reflecting on the history of the arts in Armagh. <p>There was extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, the elected members from the Armagh District Electoral Area and the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Partnership. The feedback from the survey and other forms of engagement influenced the designs for the mural.</p>	3
Civic Recognition Policy	<p>This is an amended policy to give appropriate civic recognition to outstanding achievements of individuals, groups or organisations based within the Borough of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.</p>	3

	<p>The Office of the Lord Mayor initiates events and receives significant numbers of requests for various types of functions throughout the year. The purpose of this policy is to provide criteria to assess the number of events and requests for receptions received by Council. This is to ensure that when providing civic hospitality the following objectives are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the civic leadership role of the Council; • Increase the civic pride amongst the people of the Council area; • Recognise the contribution made by individuals and organisations to the Council area; • Actively promote the Council on the national and international stage; <p>The policy is intended to benefit everyone by ensuring that everyone is treated equally based on the agreed criteria. It is likely that there will be a positive impact on a wide range of section 75 categories.</p>	
<u>Corporate Health & Safety Policy</u>	<p>This is an amended policy and makes clear the Council's commitment to the Health and Safety of anyone who may be affected by the Council's acts or omissions and to ensure a consistent approach to Health and Safety within the Council.</p> <p>This is a technical policy and has no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.</p>	3

Dromore Place Plan	<p>The Dromore Place Plan is a new locality plan for Dromore. Its aim is to develop a new integrated local plan for the town, incorporating any existing strategies and policies for the place. The plan identifies a series of strategically aligned outcomes and actions to support sustainability, the built environment, strategic growth, community life, connectivity within Dromore.</p> <p>The new plan contains 5 key outcomes and 37 actions.</p> <p>The Dromore Place Plan has been developed following an extensive engagement, public consultation and research exercise. This included online surveys, engagement with young people and older people, online and live engagement exercises, and engagement with Community Planning Partners and the Community and Voluntary Sector Panel.</p> <p>Desktop research of the available evidence from NISRA and Statutory Partners was compiled to support development of Dromore Place Plan.</p> <p>The research showed that children and young people; older people; people with a disability and carers are affected by the current urban form, layout and engagement that happens in the town. Common themes identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and employment • Accessibility and movement around area • Transportation <p>These are reflected in the actions in the plan and the plan commits the partnership to ongoing dialogue with S75 groups to ensure that their needs are addressed in its implementation.</p>	<p>2</p>
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<u>Environmental Health Quality Management Policy</u>	<p>This policy sets out the commitment by the Environmental Health Department to provide services that fully satisfy the requirements of customers and stakeholders, the continual improvement in the quality of service delivered and compliance with applicable legislation.</p> <p>This is a technical policy and has no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.</p>	3
<u>Event Policy – Lending of Equipment for Community & Voluntary Events via Third-Party Suppliers</u>	<p>This policy and procedure applies to constituted Community & Voluntary Organisations seeking equipment support for the delivery of their Community Events. It covers the provision of event equipment through the use of approved third-party suppliers, who will be identified and approved through a procurement process undertaken by Council. These third-party suppliers will contract with Community and Voluntary Organisations to lend equipment.</p> <p>The policy also aims to ensure Council continues to support local communities in relation to community led events while proactively managing the risk and liability associated with the lending of equipment.</p> <p>The policy is intended to benefit everyone by ensuring that every application is treated equally based on the agreed criteria.</p> <p>Members agreed that Council should formulate an Equipment Lending Policy in relation to this matter. This would be progressed through the Events Working Group meetings which would include:</p>	3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilising 3rd Party Suppliers to support Community Events • Restrict Council owned Equipment for Council Led Events Only • Ensure a robust application and confirmation process is in place aligned to best practice, industry standards and good governance. • Establishing equipment lending thresholds and budget caps to ensure management of spend. 	
<u>Lurgan Park Pride Event</u>	<p>Lurgan Pride concluded their annual parade in Lurgan Park on Saturday 16th August 2025. The group requested use of Council staging for live music and speeches. The group used Lurgan Park from 1pm – 8 pm.</p> <p>Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires all public sector bodies to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. In carrying out its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation • Between men and women generally • Between persons with a disability and persons without • Between persons with dependants and persons without <p>Based on the equality of opportunity duty Council had previously approved religious & prayer services as Religion is one of the protected groups under the Section 75 legislation. Sexual Orientation is also a protected group under this legislation.</p>	2

<u>Transfer of Community Asset</u>	<p>Under Council's Acquisition and Disposal Policy for Land Property under the Options for disposal an agreed method of disposal is a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The purpose of a CAT is to enable the transfer of surplus or under-used land and buildings from the public sector to community ownership and management - helping organisations to develop those assets and deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits which may not otherwise be achieved.</p> <p>Transferring assets into community ownership is likely to have a positive impact on a range of section 75 groups both directly and indirectly, promoting equality and good relations as the organisations develop those assets and deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental benefits.</p>	<p>3</p>
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