Belfast

Local Development Plan

Plan Strategy 2035

Equality Impact Assessment
May 2023

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Belfast City Council

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Executive Summary

The equality impact assessment (EQIA) of the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) Plan Strategy (PS) has found that there is unlikely to be any adverse impact against Section 75 (S75) groups associated with the implementation of these policies.

The EQIA has revealed that, generally, the PS policies will have a positive or neutral impact upon the entire population and will improve the overall quality of life for those who live in or visit Belfast. Some S75 groups in particular will be positively impacted upon by the implementation of some of the PS policies.

Religious Group and Political Groups:

- Positive impacts through policy CGR1 (community cohesion and good relations) and CGR2 (meanwhile uses in interface areas), which aim to promote community cohesion and improve good relations within and between communities.

Racial Group:

- Positive impact for Travellers through policy HOU9 (travellers accommodation).
- Positive impacts through policy CGR1 (community cohesion and good relations) and CGR2 (meanwhile uses in interface areas), which aim to promote community cohesion and improve good relations within and between communities.

Age:

- Positive impacts through policy HOU5 (affordable housing) by providing more affordable housing which will benefit those on moderate to low incomes.
- Positive impact through policy HOU6 (housing mix) providing range of accommodation needs and choice of housing for single and two-person households and ageing population.
- Positive impacts through policy HOU7 (adaptable and accessible accommodation) for an ageing population.
- Positive impact through policy HOU8 (specialist residential accommodation) in relation to sheltered housing, nursing homes and residential care.

- Positive impacts through policy HOU12 (large scale purpose built managed student accommodation) providing better accommodation for students, who are predominantly younger adults.
- Positive impact through policy RD2 (residential extensions) which provides for extensions and alterations to houses, adaptations to meet the needs of ageing adults.
- Positive impact through policy CI1 (community infrastructure) by protecting existing facilities and securing additional provision to meet needs, including health, education and social facilities.
- Positive impact through policy EC7 (higher education institutions) to support current and future educational opportunities for students.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN2 (creating an accessible environment) where new development must take account of the specific needs of people with disabilities and mobility impairment.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN10 (design of car parking) where the design of new developments must take account of the specific needs of people with disabilities and mobility impairment.

Disability:

- Positive impacts through policy HOU7 (adaptable and accessible accommodation), which supports housing designed to adapt to the changing needs of its occupants, including people with disabilities.
- Positive impact through policy HOU8 (specialist residential accommodation) in relation to housing for special needs and care.
- Positive impacts through policy HOU12 (large scale purpose built managed student accommodation) providing better quality and adapted accommodation for all students, including those with disabilities.
- Positive impact through policy CI1 (community Infrastructure) by protecting existing facilities and securing additional provision to meet needs, including health and social facilities
- Positive impact through policy TRAN2 (creating an accessible environment) where new development must take account of the specific needs of people with disabilities and mobility impairment.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN8 (car parking) where the design of new carparks must include spaces for people with disabilities.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN10 (design of car parking) where the design of new carparks must include accessible parking bays.

Dependants:

- Positive impact through policy HOU6 (housing mix) providing range of accommodation needs and choice of housing, including to meet the needs of persons and families with dependants.
- Positive impacts through policy HOU7 (adaptable and accessible accommodation) to provide flexible houses that can accommodate dependants.
- Positive impact through policy HOU8 (specialist residential accommodation) in relation to accommodation and respite care for dependants, such as nursing homes and residential care.
- Positive impact through policy CI1 (community infrastructure) by protecting existing facilities and securing additional provision to meet needs, including health, support and social facilities.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN2 (creating an accessible environment) where new development must take account of the specific needs of people with disabilities and mobility impairment, which also affects those responsible for such persons.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN8 (car parking) where the design of new carparks must include accessible parking bays, which can assist those responsible for young, disabled or mobility impaired persons.
- Positive impact through policy TRAN10 (design of car parking) where the design of new carparks must include accessible parking bays, which can assist those responsible for young, disabled or mobility impaired persons.

All nine S75 groups will benefit from the PS policies through the provision of a broader mix of housing, more jobs, access to green infrastructure, including open space, walking and cycling routes and improved access to services and facilities.

This EQIA has identified no negative impacts on any S75 group.
This will be subject to monitoring of the policies, as set out in paragraph 1.12.

1. Overview and current context

1.1 The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) transferred responsibility for the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) from the Department of Environment (DoE) (now Department for Infrastructure (DfI)) to councils and established a plan–led system which gives priority to the LDPs in the determination of planning applications.

1.2 The policy underpinning the 2011 Act was subject to equality, regulatory and human rights impact assessment, and to extensive public consultation from July to October 2009 by the DoE before being agreed by the Executive in February 2010. The Act was subject to scrutiny in the Assembly from December 2010 to March 2011.

1.3 LDPs guide the future use of land in their respective areas and inform developers, members of the general public, communities, government, public bodies, representative organisations and other interests of the policy framework. There are three stages in the development of the LDP

1. Publication of the Preferred Options Paper (completed in 2017).
2. Preparation of the LDP Plan Strategy (PS).
3. Preparation of the LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP).

1.4 Belfast City Council prepared a Preferred Options Paper (POP) and published this in January 2017. The POP outlined the vision, objectives and key planning issues affecting the city, with possible approaches to new development and planned growth and justification for the Council's preferred options for Belfast.

1.5 These preferred options were developed to support the aspirations and vision set out in the emerging Community Plan for the city at that time (the Belfast Agenda – adopted November 2017). The POP process provided the Council with the opportunity to consult with the public and stakeholders to encourage inclusive engagement that stimulated discussion on key planning issues in a meaningful way at that early stage of the LDP preparation.

1.6 The public and stakeholder comments in relation to the POP were taken into account in formulating the LDP - Draft PS and the final adopted PS. The POP was subject to an initial EQIA and the comments received were taken into account in preparing the draft Plan Strategy and the draft EQIA document that accompanied it.

1.7 The second (current) phase EQIA was carried out on the draft Plan Strategy (dPS) prior to a period of public consultation during summer/autumn 2018. The

EQIA of the dPS considered how equality of opportunity could be promoted through the implementation of the dPS policies. It considered how each policy in the dPS might have an effect on the statutory groups set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and, in addition, any potential impacts on good relations, having regard to the scope of the LDP and the key inequalities that the Plan Strategy, once adopted, can influence.

1.8 The dPS was published on Thursday 23 August 2018 and a formal consultation period ran from Thursday 20 September 2018 to Thursday 15 November 2018. The draft EQIA of the dPS was also published on 23 August 2018 for a 12 week public consultation period.

1.9 There were three responses received within the public consultation period in relation to the dPS EQIA. One of these was incomplete and did not include any comments and, therefore has not been considered further. A number of points for consideration were raised by two respondents covering evidence used to inform the assessment of draft policies. In particular, respondents raised issues relating to inclusive growth, access and social housing provision, which are issues considered to be more pertinent to the community plan, The Belfast Agenda. The issues raised were largely outside the scope of the dPS and were passed to the Council's community planning team for consideration though the community partnerships.

1.10 The dPS EQIA has now been finalised to align with the adoption of the Plan Strategy. The adoption follows the public consultation stages and the independent examination into the dPS and is in accordance with a legal direction issued by the Department for Infrastructure. Further details on the LDP preparation and adoption process can be found in Chapter 2 of this EQIA.

1.11 This EQIA includes amendments, where necessary and appropriate, to take account of the final policies in the adopted Plan Strategy and also having regard to the specific comments made that are within the scope of the LDP. Whilst it is acknowledged that the adopted Plan Strategy includes modifications to the dPS, the overall objectives and policy approach were not significantly changed. Consequently, the assessment of policies in the dPS EQIA remains valid and there is no change to the overall findings in this final EQIA.

1.12 This EQIA will be subject to annual monitoring in accordance with 'Stage 7' of the Equality Commission's guidance for EQIAs. The LDP policies will be subject to review and the LDP annual monitoring framework will assist this process by assessing the implementation of policies. Where monitoring identifies potential policy implementation issues, these policies may be subject

to revision as part of the LDP statutory review process. Any such revisions will be subject to EQIA at that time. The monitoring arrangements are set out in the PS. This will also help to shape the EQIA for the third phase of the LDP process – the Local Policies Plan.

2. Background

2.1 LDPs apply regional policies at the appropriate local level and inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within a specified area.

Legislative Context

2.2 **Part 2** of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 Act provides for the preparation of a LDP by Belfast City Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace the current development planning framework. Although formally adopted in 2014, the adoption process of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) was declared unlawful as a result of a judgement in the court of appeal delivered in May 2017. This means the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001 and a number of other development plans provided the statutory planning context for the Belfast City Council area. However, draft BMAP, in its most recent, post-examination form, remained a significant material consideration in future planning decisions until the new Belfast LDP is adopted.

2.3 The Belfast LDP will comprise of two development plan documents:

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

2.4 The LDP will fulfil the following functions:

- provide a framework to support the economic and social needs of the district in line with regional policies and provide for the delivery of sustainable development;
- facilitate sustainable growth to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community;
- allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development should take place;
- provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision- making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- deliver the spatial aspects of the council's current community plan.

Role of parties involved in the local development plan process

2.5 Public participation and engagement in formulating the LDP is facilitated through a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Timetable, which were agreed in February 2016. Minor changes to the SCI and a revised timetable were further agreed with DfI in March 2018.

2.6 **The Council**: A council must prepare a LDP for its area in consultation with consultation bodies and the public. Belfast City Council therefore has responsibility for local planning in its area.

2.7 **The Department for Infrastructure (DfI)**: Under the LDP process, DfI has an oversight and scrutiny role. Belfast City Council must submit its LDP to the DfI in advance of an independent examination (see below). DfI directs the adoption of LDPs and also has general powers to secure the delivery of LDPs and ensure that they are up to date.

2.8 **Planning Appeals Commission (PAC)**: The 2011 Act requires that an independent examination is held on all LDP documentation and this is carried out by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC), or another person appointed by the DfI. The purpose of an independent examination is to determine whether the LDP satisfies the requirements of the Act and whether it is sound. The PAC reports to the DfI with recommendations following the independent examination. Following consideration of the PAC's report, the DfI directs councils to adopt, modify or withdraw the LDP.

2.9 **Consultation Bodies:** Consultation bodies are set out in Regulation 2 of the Local Development Plan Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. These include government departments and agencies and adjoining councils. Consultees play a key role in providing input at various stages of the plan preparation process including the draft PS and the independent examination as they can provide detailed and expert information to inform the LDP.

2.10 **Local Community:** Public participation, particularly at the early stages of LDP preparation is important in identifying relevant issues and local views in the plan process from the outset. The local community will therefore have an important role to play in the plan preparation process and they have the opportunity to make representations. Belfast City Council's SCI sets out the key stages for public and community engagement for the LDP.

2.11 The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 introduces a statutory link between the community plan and a LDP and the LDP must take account of the community plan, which is the Belfast Agenda in this case. In many ways, the LDP will be a spatial reflection of the community plan and the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for a council area and its communities, setting long term social, economic and environmental objectives for an area.

2.12 The Plan Strategy represents the second step in the preparation of the Belfast LDP 2035 and, at its draft stage, it provided the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of draft strategic policies and topic based policies for dealing with key issues within the plan area. Consultation at each stage allows the council to test for soundness - which requires the development plan document to be tested in terms of content, conformity and the process by which it is produced, at independent examination.

2.13 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires all public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- men and women generally;
- persons with a disability and persons without; and
- persons with dependants and persons without.

2.14 In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, public authorities must also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

2.15 As part of the development of the council's LDP, we are undertaking a series of EQIAs to ensure equality obligations are met to the fullest possible extent and that the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations is at the core of the LDP. An initial screening confirmed that EQIA should be undertaken for the LDP. As the development of the LDP is a three-stage process, it was agreed to carry out EQIAs on each of the three phases. The first phase EQIA was of the POP and was completed in July 2017. We are now at the completion of the second phase EQIA - on the draft PS and adopted PS.

2.16 The purpose of this EQIA is to –

- consider the potential equality and good relations impacts of the PS, focusing on the key inequalities which the PS can help reduce or otherwise influence;
- provide an outline analysis of data and research on current major inequalities experienced by people in the S75 groups in relation to the key commitments under the LDP;
- establish the positive equality impacts which the future LDP can make; and

- to shape equality assessment going forward in the third phase of the LDP process – the draft LPP.

2.17 In carrying out the EQIA, the council has followed the guidance of the Equality Commission on the practical conduct of impact assessments (2005). This recommends that there should be seven stages in the EQIA process:

Stage 1: Definition of the aims of the policy

Stage 2: Consideration of available data and research

Stage 3: Assessment of potential and actual impacts

Stage 4: Consideration of Measures

Stage 5: Formal Consultation

Stage 6: Decision and publication of the results of the EQIA

Stage 7: Monitoring for adverse impact

2.18 This report represents stage 6 and follows the formal consultation phase (stage 5) alongside the draft PS.

3. Stage 1 Definition of the aims of the policy

The LDP Vision and Objectives

3.1 This section sets out the vision and objectives of the LDP. The context of the Belfast Agenda is also set out below.

Belfast Agenda (Community Plan)

3.2 The Belfast Agenda has a bold and ambitious vision, as follows:

> *"Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict. A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone. A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region. A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world. A city people dream to visit."*
>
> *To achieve this vision we will work towards the five things people want by 2035:*
>
> *Belfast will be a city….*
>
> - *where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy*
> - *that is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all*
> - *where everyone fulfils their potential*
> - *where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing*
> - *that is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable*

The Plan Strategy Vision

3.3 Like the Belfast Agenda, the PS vision sets out an ambitious spatial vision for the LDP, as follows:

> *'In 2035, Belfast will be a globally successful, smart regional city that is environmentally resilient with a vibrant economic and social heart. As a centre of learning and business, the knowledge economy flourishes where collaboration and innovation attracts investment, talent and jobs. We will value and conserve our unique natural and built heritage to enhance and develop tourism.*

Thriving socially inclusive well connected neighbourhoods, that encourage a healthy active lifestyle with well-designed homes where people love to live. A strong, inclusive local economy will support progressive, safe and vibrant communities. The city will provide a gateway to opportunities locally, nationally and worldwide.'

PS Strategic Aims

3.4 To help deliver the city envisaged in 2035, there is a series of strategic aims and related objectives which have been identified in the PS to support the delivery of the vision. These are set out below.

Good relations and Community cohesion

3.5 In response to feedback to the POP, the policy on community cohesion and good relations was elevated within the Plan Strategy as an over-arching policy. This also acknowledges the comments made by the Equality Commission to the POP in relation to the recognition of the Council's commitment to promote good relations in the plan. This overarching policy has been further transposed into two further policies (CGR1 - Community cohesion and good relations and CGR2 - Meanwhile uses in interface areas), which have been evaluated under this EQIA. Further overarching policies have been introduced to ensure the Council's commitment to the promotion of good relations such as through connectivity, sustainability and positive place making policies.

3.6 The PS strategic aims and objectives generally align with the Belfast Agenda and are as follows:

- **Shaping a Liveable Place** – Promoting development that enhances the health and wellbeing of communities, neighbourhoods and places.
- **Creating a Vibrant Economy** – A strengthened Belfast as the regional economic driver.
- **Building a smart connected and resilient place** – Improving connectivity and supporting the efficient movement of people, goods, energy and information to create a dynamic innovative 21st century city with the capacity for adaption to environmental challenges.
- **Promoting a green and active place**– A protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting, reinforcing uniqueness and accessibility to all who live work and enjoy the city.

3.7 Belfast has witnessed a revival with inward investment stimulating significant regeneration with major growth in new offices, tourism and higher education facilities. However, there are areas of the city that are fractured, disjointed and contain poor quality environments, as well as areas that suffer from deprivation and social exclusion.

3.8 There are opportunities to reconnect the city, to seek to improve public transportation networks and extend service provision. This could be encouraged by promoting appropriate design in new developments to make the city more permeable and aid both vehicular and pedestrian movement. New development could be encouraged along routes connecting the city centre to inner-city neighbourhoods that are currently poorly integrated with the urban core.

3.9 There are opportunities through planning and regeneration processes to increase equality of opportunity and contribute to a breakdown of the physical and psychological aspects of division. There is an opportunity to plan for regeneration that seeks to rejuvenate interface areas and facilitate the removal of barriers and other forms of infrastructure or architecture that serve to reinforce patterns of division within the city. There are also opportunities to promote development of shared sites and facilities that provide safe access for all of the community and have potential to foster greater levels of social integration.

3.10 There are also opportunities to support and promote the continued regeneration of the city centre to attract inward investment and encourage a more diverse economy that will contribute to an enhancement in liveability with potential to attract residents and address dereliction or poor-quality environments.

3.11 The above opportunities must be considered within the context of the scope of the land use planning system and what the LDP PS can help to achieve. The LDP provides a framework for new development for the assessment of planning proposals, whilst the Belfast Agenda provides a mechanism to seek programme delivery of all partners. However, the LDP cannot ensure actual delivery of projects and development – it provides a framework against which planning applications are assessed and decided.

4. Stage 2 Consideration of Available Data and Research

4.1 This EQIA has been carried out utilising a wide range of both quantitative and qualitative data, from sources both within and external to the council. Much of the general research relates to Northern Ireland as a whole but is particularly pertinent to Belfast. The data used at the dPS EQIA stage remains the basis for this final EQIA to preserve the integrity of the PS process and to avoid inconsistencies in evidence base. Nevertheless, it is considered that the dPS EQIA evidence base remains pertinent for LDP purposes and this final EQIA.

4.2 The analysis is presented under the headings of the nine S75 equality categories. However, these headings simply provide a framework; it is acknowledged that the effects of the LDP PS will be different for each individual person and will not necessarily relate to a specific S75 characteristic.

As noted in **Section 3**, the LDP Objectives are:

- **Shaping a Liveable Place** – Promoting development that enhances the health and wellbeing of communities, neighbourhoods and places.
- **Creating a Vibrant Economy** – A strengthened Belfast as the regional economic driver.
- **Building a smart connected and resilient place** – Improving connectivity and supporting the efficient movement of people, goods, energy and information to create a dynamic innovative 21st century city with the capacity for adaption to environmental challenges.
- **Promoting a green and active place**– A protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting, reinforcing uniqueness and accessibility to all who live work and enjoy the city.

4.3 The PS is likely to have a positive impact on all S75 groups, both directly and indirectly by contributing to the economic, social and environmental regeneration and wellbeing of the city. Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland and is acknowledged as the economic driver for the whole region.

4.4 Overall investment in the city has the potential to grow the city's attractiveness as a place to live in, work in, visit, study in or invest in. A more competitive economy in Belfast will bring the potential for increased prosperity to all residents and the potential for more sustainable employment. The Council believes that the future LDP will have the potential for positive impacts for S75 groups.

4.5 The main purpose of the dPS EQIA was to ensure that, in identifying and taking

forward future planning policy within the LDP draft PS, the Council gave due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and good relations by addressing inequalities within and between S75 groups. This remains the case for this final EQIA. It was therefore important to identify clearly the key inequalities which the future LDP has the potential to address.

4.6 In preparing the draft PS the Council also prepared a series of technical supplements on a wide range of planning related subjects. These background papers reflect the various topic papers that were used to inform the main planning issues for Belfast contained within the POP. The POP topic papers were revised to take account of any updated baseline information (where appropriate) as the current technical supplements and remain available to view at www.Belfastcity.gov.uk/Planning alongside the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) Report.

4.12 The POP topic papers and the updated technical supplements that supported the dPS were used to provide much of the evidence and data for this EQIA. As mentioned above, this evidence and data remains valid as the basis for this final EQIA.

District Profile (source: LDP Plan Strategy)

4.13 **Social –**

The social context in Belfast can be seen as a tale of two cities. It is home to a growing and affluent population, the growth in those living in the city lags behind many other areas of NI and most other cities of a similar size across the UK. Although Belfast is home to some of the most affluent communities in NI, it is all home to some of the most deprived communities. The population is characterised by a growing number of children, young people and a rapidly ageing population. There is a high level of owner occupied housing in many areas of the city and also a strong reliance on socially rented housing. There is a need for the LDP to increase equality of opportunity and contribute to the breakdown of the physical and psychological aspects of division.

4.14 **Economic –**

Belfast has witnessed a revival in recent years in terms of inward investment, including significant regeneration within the Titanic Quarter and waterfront areas, major growth in tourism and the Ulster University redevelopment in the city centre. There are opportunities to support and promote the continued regeneration of the city centre to attract inward investment and encourage a more diverse economy that will contribute to an enhancement in liveability and quality of place.

4.15 **Environmental –**

Belfast has one of the most striking landscape settings to be found in any city in the British Isles. It lies at the head of Belfast Lough in the lower reaches of the valley of the River Lagan and is flanked to the north west by the Divis and Black mountains and on the south east by the gentler slopes of the Castlereagh and Holywood Hills. Cognisance of our natural heritage, the LDP will balance development pressures along with the restoration and conservation of our natural heritage and environment.

Data reviewed

4.16 **Demographics of Section 75 Target Groups**: A summary of the demographic situation in relation to each of the equality groups is given below. This provided a starting point for the analysis of likely impacts of the draft PS on these groups.

4.17 **Population:** In 2016, the Belfast City Council area had a total population of 339,579. By 2020, the population is estimated to rise to 341,770, which is 18% of the NI population. It is the largest of the 11 new Local Government Districts and has over 130,000 inhabitants more than the next largest new council area, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon. However, comparisons with 6 other similar sized cities across the UK shows that in 1950 Belfast was the second largest, but today it is the joint smallest with Newcastle upon Tyne.

4.18 Whilst most cities have seen population decline during the 1960s as a result of new housing programmes, Belfast's population declined by over 33% from 1971 to 2011, whilst the population of Northern Ireland as a whole increased by over 18%. The population of the city has seen modest increases in the last 10 years (about 1.3%), but continues to lag behind population growth in the rest of NI and, perhaps more crucially, cities such as Cardiff and Sheffield who have reversed population decline.

4.19 The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) seeks to "strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver" as one of its eight key aims, recognising that "successful regions have strong and vibrant cities at their core" and that "Belfast drives much of the economic growth and shares its wealth across the Region". However, population projections continue to show slow growth in Belfast's population (only 3.3% to 2024). This will need to be accelerated if Belfast, and Northern Ireland as a whole, is to remain competitive.

4.20 Belfast had a total population of 336,800 in mid-2014, this is 18.3% of NI.

4.21 **Settlement Hierarchy:** The district currently includes Belfast as the only city and three small settlements – Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.

4.22 **Spatial Deprivation**: Persistently high levels of inequality between the affluent suburbs in the south and east of the city and the neighbourhoods in west and north Belfast that are the most deprived and segregated in Northern Ireland.

4.23 Around 40% of Belfast's wards (about 35% of its population) have been consistently in Northern Ireland's most deprived decile, even though the city contains only 17% of the regional population.

4.24 **Age Profile**: 19.7% of the Belfast population are children aged 0-15 years. Older persons (i.e. 65 years and over) made up 14.6% of the Belfast population.

Figure 1: Age Structure of Population 2016

District	All persons	Persons 0-14 years	Persons 15-29 years	Persons 30-44 years	Persons 45-59 years	Persons 60-74 years	Persons 75+ years
Northern Ireland	1,862,137	365,605 (19.6%)	361,163 (19.4%)	363,545 (19.5%)	377,149 (20.3%)	262,979 (14.1%)	131,696 (7.07%)
Belfast LGD 2016	339,579	63,231 (18.6%)	78,074 (23.0%)	68,750 (20.2%)	64,028 (18.9%)	41,598 (12.2%)	23,898 (7.04%)

Source: *NISRA Population Estimates Broad Age Bands 2016 (Administrative Geographies)*

4.25 **Gender and Life Expectancy:** The usually resident population in Belfast is broadly 50/50 men and women. Life expectancy continues to improve for both males and females, leading to an ageing population. However there are health inequalities in deprived areas.

Figure 2: Gender balance of Belfast Population- 2016

Sex	Belfast LGD (%)	N.Ireland (%)
Male	48.40	49.15
Female	51.60	50.85

Source: *NISRA Population Totals (LGD2014)*

4.26 **Marital Status:** The average household size has steadily declined in Belfast, driven by: a higher proportion of single people (45.32%) than the NI average; a lower married proportion and a marginally higher proportion are divorcees (6.17%).

Figure 3: Marital Status- 2011

	All People ≥ 16	Single (never married) %	Married %	Divorced %	Widowed %
NI	1,431,540	36.14	47.56	5.45	6.78
Old Belfast LGD	269,654	45.32	35.57	6.17	7.46

Source: *NISRA Census 2011*

4.27 **Dependents:** A lower level of households with dependent children than the NI average (29.74% compared with 33.85%). A "dependent child" is defined as 0-15 or aged 16-18 who is a full-time student and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s) (Census 2011). In both Northern Ireland and Belfast, the proportion of households (including lone parent households) with dependent children has declined since 1981.

Figure 4: Percentage of Households with Dependent Children – 1981, 2011 & 2016

Households	N. Ireland	Belfast
% with dependent children 1981	45.98%	37.30%
% with dependent children 2011	33.85%	29.74%
% with dependent children 2016*	29.61%	27.61%

Source: *NISRA and Census 2011* ** 2016 figures are 2012-based projections*

4.28 A closer examination of the Super Output Areas (SOAs) within each district reveals that many have much higher proportions of households with children than the district level including Whiterock 1, Glencolin 1, Cliftonville 1, Upper Springfield 2 and Ligoniel 1. At the opposite end of the scale, other SOAs around Queen's University (Botanic 1, 2, 3 & 4 and Windsor 2, 3 & 4) are those with the lowest proportion of households with dependent children as all are less than one in eight households

4.29 **Racial Group and Ethnicity:** 96.69% of the population of Belfast are white. Nevertheless, Belfast is the most ethnically diverse council in Northern Ireland. The main minority ethnic groups in Belfast are Chinese (0.71%), Indian (0.70%), Other Asian (0.61%), Mixed (0.48%), Black African (0.32%), Irish Travellers (0.08%) and Pakistani (0.08%). In the new Belfast City Council Area (from Census 2011), 5.97% of the resident population were born either in the European Union (EU) (2.58% - 0.67% pre-2004 accession states and 1.91% post-2004 accession states) or outside the EU (3.39%). The housing needs assessment undertaken by the NIHE addresses the distinct needs in terms of Irish Travellers.

4.30 **Sexual Orientation**: Estimates for the LGBT population range from 0.3-10% using different sources. A commonly used estimate of LGBT people in the UK, accepted by Stonewall UK, is approximately 5-7% of the population.

4.31 **Disability and Health:** 16.6% of all residents in Belfast are in receipt of at least one disability-related benefit. Belfast's disability-related benefit claimant level is above the Northern Ireland average of 13.9%. The highest concentrations of disability related benefits claimants are located in areas of

north and west Belfast. This is to be contrasted with some areas in the south and east, which have some of the lowest levels of disability related benefits in Northern Ireland.

4.32 **Religion:** 48.8% of the Belfast population belong to the Roman Catholic religion and 42.5% belong a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion. 1.6% belong to or were brought up in other religions; and 7.1% belong to or were brought up in no religion.

4.33 Since the 2001 Census, the proportion of the Belfast population that belong to or were brought up in:

- No religion has more than doubled with an increase of 3.7 percentage points from 3.4%;
- The Roman Catholic has increased by 1.6 percentage points from 47.2%;
- Protestant and Other Christian have decreased by 6.1 percentage points from 48.6%; and
- Other religions have doubled, growing by 0.8 percentage points from 0.8%.

5. Stage 3 Assessment of Potential and Actual Impacts

EQIA assessment of the Plan Strategy as a whole

5.1 The PS has eight overarching strategic policies that set out the foundation for the overall planning policy approach and these have a potential benefit for the whole population, including all S75 groups. Following the dPS independent examination and DfI direction, an additional overarching strategic policy was added as a subsidiary of SP1. This is called SP1A and relates to the phasing of development and supporting infrastructure, *that aims to flag the need for infrastructure provision in tandem with new development and reflects existing practice in planning decision-making. This Policy SP1A has been incorporated in the adopted LDP Plan Strategy and was previously subject of EQIA screening.* All strategic policies are further transposed into more detailed operational planning policies and the EQIA assesses each of these.

5.2 For ease of reference and presentation purposes the PS policies have been set out in summary in the following table and in detail in the EQIA assessment matrix (See Appendix 1). The table below highlights where individual detailed policies have impacts on particular S75 groups. In this regard, whilst the strategic policies are included in the policy matrix and listing below, they are at a very high level and, whilst generally positive to the whole city and population, they are identified as having a 'neutral' effect on S75 groups. However, the relevant related detailed policies are further assessed in terms of the S75 groups and any individual impacts are identified. For the purposes of this EQIA, 'neutral' effect means that the evidence identifies that the policy has no specific negative or positive effect on section 75 groups and impacts equally for each of the S75 groups, in the same way as it affects the general population.

Policy	**Impacts**	**Section 75 group**
Strategic Policies		
SP1 - Growth strategy & SP1A - Managing growth and supporting infrastructure delivery	Neutral	
SP 2 - Sustainable development	Neutral	
SP3 - Improving health and wellbeing	Neutral	
SP4 - Community cohesion and good relations	Neutral	
SP 5 - Positive place making	Neutral	
SP6 - Environmental resilience	Neutral	
SP7 - Connectivity	Neutral	
SP8 - Green and blue infrastructure network	Neutral	

Spatial Development strategy		
SD1 - Settlement hierarchy	Neutral	
SD2 - Settlement area	Neutral	
SD3 - City centre	Neutral	
Housing		
HOU1 - Accommodating new homes	Neutral	
HOU2 - Windfall housing	Neutral	
HOU3 - Protection of existing residential accommodation	Neutral	
HOU4 - Density of residential development	Neutral	
HOU5 - Affordable housing	**Positive**	**Age**
HOU6 - Housing mix	**Positive**	**Racial, Age, Dependants**
HOU7 - Adaptable and accessible accommodation	**Positive**	**Age, Disability, Dependents**
HOU8 - Special residential accommodation	**Positive**	**Age, Disability, Dependents**
HOU9 - Traveller accommodation	**Positive**	**Racial**
HOU10 - Housing management areas	Neutral	
HOU11 - Intensive housing needs	Neutral	
HOU12 - Large scale purpose built managed student accommodation (PBMSA)	**Positive**	**Age, Disability**
HOU13 - Short term let accommodation	Neutral	
Urban Design		
DES1 - Principles of urban design	Neutral	
DES2 – Masterplanning for major development	Neutral	
DES3 - Tall buildings	Neutral	
DES4 - Advertising and design	Neutral	
Residential Design		
RD1 - New residential design	Neutral	
RD2 - Residential extensions	**Positive**	**Age**
RD3 - Conversion or subdivision of existing buildings for residential use	Neutral	
Built Heritage		
BH1 - Listed buildings	Neutral	
BH2 - Conservation areas	Neutral	
BH3 - Areas of townscape character	Neutral	
BH4 - Works to grounds affecting built heritage	Neutral	
BH5 - Archaeology	Neutral	
BH6 - Historic Parks, gardens and demesnes	Neutral	
Community Cohesion and good relations		
CGR1 - Community Cohesion and good relations	**Positive**	**Religious, Political, Racial**
CGR2 - Meanwhile uses in interface areas	**Positive**	**Religious, Political, Racial**

Promoting healthy communities		
HC1 - Promoting healthy communities	Neutral	
Community Infrastructure		
CI1 - Community infrastructure	**Positive**	**Age, Disability, Dependants**
CI2 - Cemeteries and crematoria	Neutral	
Economic Growth		
EC1 - Delivery of economic growth	Neutral	
EC2 - Employment Land Supply	Neutral	
EC3 - Major employment and strategic employment locations	Neutral	
EC4 - Loss of zoned employment land	Neutral	
EC5 - Industry, storage & distribution uses	Neutral	
EC6 - Office development	Neutral	
EC7 - Higher education institutions	**Positive**	**Age**
Retail		
RET1 - Establishing a centre hierarchy	Neutral	
RET2 - Out of centre development	Neutral	
RET3 - District & local centres and city corridors	Neutral	
RET4 - Retail warehousing	Neutral	
RET5 - Primary retail and leisure area	Neutral	
RET6 - Temporary and meanwhile uses	Neutral	
City Centre		
CC1 - Development opportunity sites	Neutral	
Supporting tourism, leisure and cultural development		
TLC1 - Supporting tourism, leisure and cultural facilities and assets	Neutral	
TLC2 - Existing tourism, leisure and cultural facilities and assets	Neutral	
TLC3 - Overnight visitor accommodation	Neutral	
TLC4 - Evening and night-time economy	Neutral	
Infrastructure, Telecommunications and Utilities		
ITU1 - Telecommunications development	Neutral	
ITU2 - Water and sewerage infrastructure	Neutral	
Renewable Energy		
ITU3 - Electricity and gas infrastructure	Neutral	
ITU4 - Renewable energy development	Neutral	
Waste/Infrastructure		
W1 - Environmental impact of a waste management facility	Neutral	
W2 - Waste collection and treatment facility	Neutral	
W3 - Waste disposal	Neutral	
W4 - Land improvement	Neutral	
W5 - Development in the vicinity of waste management facilities	Neutral	
Minerals		

M1 - Minerals	Neutral	
Transportation		
TRAN1 - Active travel, walking and cycling	Neutral	
TRAN2 - Creating an accessible environment	**Positive**	**Age, Disability, Dependants**
TRAN3 - Transport assessment	Neutral	
TRAN4 - Travel plan	Neutral	
TRAN5 - New transport schemes	Neutral	
TRAN6 - Access to public roads	Neutral	
TRAN7 - Access for protected routes	Neutral	
TRAN8 - Car parking and servicing arrangements	**Positive**	**Disability, Dependants**
TRAN9 - Parking standards with area of parking restraint	Neutral	
TRAN10 - Design of car parking	**Positive**	**Age, Disability, Dependants**
TRAN11 - Provision of public and private car parks	Neutral	
TRAN12 - Temporary car parks	Neutral	
Environmental Resilience		
ENV1 - Environmental quality	Neutral	
ENV2 - Mitigating environmental change	Neutral	
ENV3 - Adapting to environmental change	Neutral	
ENV4 - Flood risk	Neutral	
ENV5 - Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)	Neutral	
Open Space		
GB1 - Green and blue infrastructure	Neutral	
OS1 - Protection of open space	Neutral	
OS2 - New open space within settlements	Neutral	
OS3 - Ancillary open space	Neutral	
OS4 - New open space outside settlements	Neutral	
OS5 - Intensive sports facilities	Neutral	
OS6 - Facilities ancillary to water sports	Neutral	
OS7 - Floodlighting	Neutral	
Natural Heritage		
NH 1 - Protection of natural heritage resources	Neutral	
Trees		
TRE1 - Trees	Neutral	
Landscape and Coast		
LC1 - Landscape	Neutral	
LC2 - Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP)	Neutral	
LC3 - Belfast Hills	Neutral	
LC4 - Coastal Areas	Neutral	

Development in the Countryside		
DC1 - All countryside development general policy principles	Neutral	
DC2 - Housing in the countryside	Neutral	
DC3 - Replacement dwellings	Neutral	
DC4 - The conversion and reuse of existing buildings	Neutral	
DC5 - New dwellings - Personal and domestic buildings	Neutral	
DC6 - Dwellings for non-agricultural business enterprises	Neutral	
CD7 - Ribbon development	Neutral	
DC8 - New dwellings in existing clusters	Neutral	
DC9 - Residential caravans and mobile homes	Neutral	
DC10 - New dwellings on farms	Neutral	
DC11 - Agriculture	Neutral	
DC12 - Farm diversification	Neutral	
DC13 - Other proposed development in the countryside	Neutral	

Overall Findings of Impact

5.3 The main purpose of this EQIA is to ensure that the LDP gives due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity by addressing inequalities within and between S75 groups. Feedback from the consultation process on the draft EQIA has helped to inform and highlight the importance of building equality considerations into the future development of the LDP and the council welcomes the comments received.

5.4 The EQIA of the PS has found that there is unlikely to be any adverse impact against S75 groups associated with the implementation of the policies. The assessment has revealed that, generally, the PS policies will have a positive or neutral impact upon all S75 groups, as part of the wider population, and will improve the overall quality of life among people in these groups. The S75 groups relating to age, disability, dependents and racial groups will be particularly positively impacted upon by the implementation of some of the policies in the PS. These positive impacts are primarily related to policies that are targeted to help particular S75 groups or where there is a consequential positive effect on some groups.

5.5 The implementation of the LDP will make an important contribution in terms of the development of the key planning issues affecting the city in terms of new development and planned growth. In addition, it supports the aspirations set

out in the Belfast Agenda. The council believes that the PS will not have specific adverse impacts for any S75 group any, as referred to above, the analysis of available data and research shows that there are a number of inequalities that the LDP may help to address.

5.6 The PS will benefit all those who live or work in Belfast, as well as those who invest in or visit the area by providing policies for the future sustainable development of the city. All people and businesses who depend on Belfast's economy will benefit by the PS's level of growth up to 2035. The PS will seek to bring forward sustainable growth in housing and employment along with promoting connectivity and accessibility, all of which will bring benefits to the citizens of Belfast. Policies will seek to protect and enhance the built and natural environments, which will benefit everyone who lives or works in, or visits, Belfast.

5.7 Certain policies (particularly housing policies) within the PS have the potential, through the promotion of inclusive growth and targeting special housing needs, to address social and economic inequalities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This ultimately helps to create safe shared spaces and builds a sense of belonging for everyone, where relationships between people from different backgrounds are valued and respected.

5.8 The mix of house types will take account of the growing number of single and two-person households, the ageing population, the need to provide larger family homes, and to accommodate those from communities who may have multi-generational or other large families. The PS will also provide for Traveller-specific accommodation, either on land zoned for such purposes, or on un-zoned land, in either case, subject to criteria.

5.9 The design policies within the PS promote the principles of good design in the creation of buildings and spaces that strengthen civic pride, community ownership and stewardship. This has the potential to aid with addressing or highlighting any likely issues that may arise that could disadvantage any sector of the community.

5.10 The community cohesion and good relations policies are considered to have potentially significant positive effects between different racial, religious and political groups given that interface locations are closely associated with differences in community background based on race, religion or political opinion.

Section 75 Group - Age

5.11 Certain policies (particularly housing policies) within the PS have the potential to positively impact on certain age groups particularly, e.g. young professionals, first time buyers with affordable housing helping them to access home ownership, or for young couples to rent a social home etc. Positive impacts are achievable through the provision of an appropriate housing mix. The mix of house types will take account of the growing number of single and two-person households, the ageing population. Adaptable and accessible accommodation can meet the full range of needs a person has throughout their lifetime.

5.12 Significant positive impacts in relation to age group are achievable through the student accommodation policy; there could be a greater positive impact on those in third-level education, the majority of whom are young people. There is also the potential for positive impacts on all sections of the community through increasing housing stock as existing housing is released for general occupation as more students are accommodated in PBMSA.

5.13 The PS policies also note the continued upward trend in the older population, thereby seeking to enable adaptations required if not already covered under prevailing permitted development rights. This could result in additional positive effects on older age groups.

5.14 The higher education policy seeks the enhancement of the five higher education institutions; it aims to support the city's aspirations of a 'learning city' by creating an environment that allows the city's educational institutions to reach their full potential. This policy has the potential to have a direct advantageous effect for the younger members of the community.

Section 75 Group - Disability

5.15 Certain policies, including housing and accessibility, within the PS have the potential to positively impact positively on the disabled group. Policies that seek to secure adaptable and accessible accommodation can meet the full range of needs a person has throughout their lifetime. It can also enable those who are disabled, for example those in wheelchairs, to continue to live in their own homes. In addition, quality urban design that incorporates the principles of access for all and creates safe, attractive and vibrant neighbourhoods and public spaces will benefit those with disabilities and the elderly.

Section 75 Group - Dependants

5.16 Some housing policies within the PS have the potential to positively impact on the dependants group through the provision of mixed, adaptable and specialist housing, which improves choice and assists in meeting community needs, including those with dependants. A mix of house types will take account of those with dependants, including children or aging relatives. Adaptable and accessible accommodation can also provide dependants with comfortable safe homes that meet all family needs. Specialist housing can also provide accommodation and respite for dependants and their responsible persons.

5.17 It should be acknowledged that the PS is a relatively strategic planning policy document that generally applies across the City Council area. It does not allocate specific land or sites for particular uses or development proposals. Rather, it provides a planning framework against which future planning applications will be assessed. Whether policies have a positive, neutral or negative effect will often depend on how the policy is implemented, including the exact location of any proposal and the detailed design. In this regard, land use zoning and other spatial designations will be included in the final LDP document, being the Local Policies Plan (LPP). The LPP will also be subject to EQIA in due course. Nevertheless, the PS policies include principles, requirements and considerations that should avoid and mitigate any potential negative impacts on 75 groups, insofar as this is within the scope of the LDP and the planning system.

6 Stage 4 Consideration of measures

6.1 The LDP PS is likely to have a positive impact on all S75 groups as part of the general population, including both direct and indirect impacts, by contributing to economic growth and social progress. The assessment has not identified any negative impacts of the PS on any S75 group. It is anticipated that some policies may have a differential positive impact on a number of S75 groups by addressing recognised need.

6.2 Overall, the implementation of the PS and the anticipated delivery of significant investment in Belfast is likely to have a positive impact on the wider population, including all S75 groups. This positive impact is both direct and indirect, by contributing to the economic, social and environmental regeneration and wellbeing of the city. Whilst the allocation of employment is outside the scope of the PS, economic growth may provide some opportunities to target under-represented groups, including S75 groups.

6.3 Polices seek to ensure that services and facilities are more accessible to all and are better connected to residential areas. This may have particular benefits for those groups that currently experience barriers to access, including people from BME communities, disabled people, older people and people with dependants. Policies have also been developed to help seek to reduce segregation and promote inclusion and integration for all S75 groups and different communities.

6.4 The LDP is the mechanism to encourage the development of welcoming, safe, and inclusive spaces. As Belfast becomes home to an increasingly diverse society the city needs to ensure it is able to function as a shared and accessible place, which is fundamental to ensuring that inclusive growth benefits everyone in the city.

6.5 In terms of outcomes, there is a need to have an up to date LDP to guide development in a coherent way. The PS sets out policies to guide land use in the council area until 2035. These policies will be used to determine planning applications and will guide the nature and quality of development as well as providing protection from certain forms of inappropriate development.

6.6 The potential impacts of the LDP will only be realised when the LDP is adopted and implemented.

7 Further Steps

7.1 The plan-making and decision-making processes must balance and integrate a variety of complex, social, economic, environmental and other matters that are in the long-term public interest. To assist with the above, the LDP PS has core planning principles including: improving health and wellbeing; creating and enhancing shared space; supporting good design and positive place making; and preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

7.3 Following the dPS consultation period and independent examination, the draft EQIA report has been revised to take account of all comments received from consultees. As the Plan Strategy is now adopted, this final EQIA completes Stage 6 of the EQIA process for this stage of the LDP – the Plan Strategy. The LDP process, with three key stages (POP, Plan Strategy and LPP), each with their own EQIA ensures that equality matters are duly considered, within each stage helping to inform the subsequent stage of the EQIA process.

7.4 The results of ongoing monitoring of the equality impacts will be reviewed on an annual basis and included in the annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. This review will be published on the council's website. This will complete Step 7 of the EQIA process for the PS.

7.6 If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that there has been a greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the council and its community planning partners will take steps to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.

7.7 The next stage of the LDP EQIA is Phase 3 - Local Plan Policies. A draft EQIA will be prepared alongside the draft LPP and will be subject to public consultation in due course. Further implementation and delivery mechanisms will be considered at LPP stage and this may include key site requirements. The employment land monitor and housing monitor are ongoing measures to continually assess the provision and take up of development land and these will also inform the LDP annual report and any subsequent policy and plan review.

Appendix 1

EQIA Assessment of PS Policies and Outcomes

++	Policy is likely to have significant positive effect upon the S75 group
+	Policy is likely to have positive effect upon a S75 group
/	The forward slash denotes a mixed effect upon the S75 group
0	Policy considered to have a *neutral effect.
-	Policy could have a negative effect upon a S75 group
--	Policy could have a significant negative effect upon a S75 group

* Meaning of 'Neutral' effect: the evidence identifies that the policy has no specific negative or positive effect on section 75 groups and impacts equally for each of the S75 groups, the same way it effects the generally population .

Note:

The PS has eight overarching strategic policies that set out the foundation for the overall planning policy approach and these have a potential benefit for the whole population, including all S75 groups. Following the dPS independent examination and DfI direction, an additional overarching strategic policy was added as a subsidiary of SP1. This is called SP1A and relates to the phasing of development and supporting infrastructure.

These strategic policies are further transposed into more detailed operational planning policies and the EQIA assesses each of these. In this regard, whilst the strategic policies are included in the policy matrix below, they are at a very high level and, whilst generally positive to the whole city and population, they are identified as having a 'neutral' effect on S75 groups. However, the relevant related detailed policies are further assessed in terms of the S75 groups and any individual impacts are identified.

The information presented has been considered under the following statutory duties:

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires Belfast City Council to comply with two statutory duties:

Section 75 (1)
In carrying out our functions relating to Northern Ireland we are required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability and persons without
- persons with dependants and persons without

Section 75 (2)
In addition, without prejudice to the obligations above, in carrying out our functions in relation to Northern Ireland we are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

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Strategic Policies

Assessment of impact and outcomes

Strategic Policies	Religious Group*	Political Group*	Racial Group*	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
SP1 - Growth Strategy & SP1A - Managing growth and supporting infrastructure delivery	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of these strategic policies is to support sustainable economic growth over the plan period (2020-2035) through the allocation of sufficient land to accommodate strong job creation to meet the Belfast Agenda's target of supporting 46,000 new jobs; to grow the population of the city by 66,000 additional people; and to provide 31,600 new homes. Infrastructure will be needed to support sustainable growth. This economic growth has the potential to benefit all sections of the community by meeting the needs of current and future residents through the provision of new jobs and homes. This overarching high-level policy has been transposed into more detailed policies such as HOU1 and EC1, which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.
SP 2 - Sustainable Development	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of this Strategic policy will help to deliver an efficient, compact city form, which is environmentally attractive, highly accessible and is not demonstrably harmful in meeting its needs now and in future. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community by making economic, environmental and social progress for this generation and future generations. This overarching high-level policy underpins everything else in the PS, including the full suite of operational policies. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.

*Note: The assessment of impacts on religious, political and racial groups has considered each group individually, as well as the three groups collectively, including in terms of promoting good relations.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
SP3 - Improving Health and Wellbeing	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This overarching policy's aim is to ensure new development maximises opportunities to improve health and wellbeing for all residents and visitors, including through the creation of safe, attractive and connected neighbourhoods with the objectives of reducing the need to travel, promoting quality sustainable design and creating and improving a network of green and blue infrastructure. Which will positively support development that maximises opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, whilst resisting development that will result in harm. The strategic policy is transposed in more detail in policy HC1 Promoting Healthy Communities, which is further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.
SP4 - Community cohesion and good relations	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This overarching policy will contribute to a society where diversity is valued and in which communities have a shared sense of belonging, it is therefore considered to have a positive effect in relation to reducing deprivation and inequality. These include: the involvement of local communities; supporting initiatives which remove peace infrastructure; and design principles to encourage connectivity, permeability, safety and support shared spaces and services. This strategic policy is transposed in more detail in **policies CGR1 and CGR2,** which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
SP5 Positive Place Making	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The policy positively supports development that maximises the core principles of good design and positive place making in the creation of the successful and sustainable places. All development proposals should take account and aspire to achieve the qualities of successful urban places. This strategic policy is transposed in more detail in polices in DES 1 to DES4 Urban design and other design policies for housing and heritage etc, which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.
SP6 - Environmental Resilience	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of this policy is to build environmental resilience and support the transition to a low carbon future. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. This overarching high-level policy has been transposed into more detailed policies such as ENV1 – ENV5, W1-W5 and M1, which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.
SP7 - Connectivity	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of this policy is to support sustainable patterns of development which reduce the need for motorised transport and prioritise active travel and travel by public transport. This strategic policy is transposed into other policies within the PS see **TRAN 1 to TRAN 12**, which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	SP8 - Green and Blue Infrastructure Network	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of this policy is to plan for a green and blue infrastructure network across the plan area, to address the significant challenges of poor health due to an inactive lifestyle, poor connectivity, air pollution and climate change. It will help to build environmental resilience to protect and enhance the city. A green and blue infrastructure network will connect open spaces and green corridors to provide a multitude of recreational, environmental, ecological, wellbeing, socio-cultural and economic benefits for Belfast. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. This overarching high-level policy has been transposed into more detailed policies such as GB1, OS1 – OS7, which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.
	SD1 - Settlement Hierarchy	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy designates 4 settlements within the plan area. The policy designates them based on their role, services and facilities available and their potential for accommodating development. This policy will not generally affect any S75 groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. This overarching high-level policy has been transposed into more detailed policies such as HOU1, EC2 and RET1, which are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
SD2 - Settlement Area	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy designates 8 settlement areas within Belfast City Centre. The settlement areas have distinct functions based on existing development patterns within the Belfast City settlement area. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. This overarching high-level policy has been transposed into more detailed policies such as HOU1, HOU4, EC2, RET1, and RET3. These policies are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.
SD3 - City Centre	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy identifies 4 broad areas/locations to encourage new sustainable mixed-use development to facilitate population and economic growth within Belfast City Centre, namely the City Core; Innovation District; Mercantile District; and Waterfront District. This policy will not generally affect any S75 groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. This overarching high-level policy has been transposed into more detailed policies such as **CC1, EC2, EC6, RET1, RET5, TLC3, and TLC4.** These policies are further assessed. EQIA outcome - This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups and has a generally neutral effect on the groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community.

Shaping a Liveable place

Housing

Assessment of impact and outcomes

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
HOU1 - Accommodating new homes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of this policy is to increase housing supply within the council area. The LDP is required to identify and zone a supply of housing land that is sufficient to meet the population growth projections for the Belfast district. The council is also required to ensure an ongoing viable 5-year supply of land for housing. The increase in the number of dwellings will be facilitated mainly through the zoning of housing land enabling the provision of 31,660 new homes over the plan period. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as it has the potential to increase housing supply within the council area which will benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
HOU2 - Windfall housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	There is a presumption that all new housing development within the plan area will be delivered on previously developed land within the existing urban footprint. In accordance with the sequential approach set out in the SPPS, priority will be given to the reuse of previously developed or 'brownfield' land within the existing urban footprint when identifying and zoning new land for housing. It is essential that housing coming forward from windfall sites meets the same high level of sustainability as the sites identified and zoned in the LDP and that there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to support development. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as it has the potential to increase housing supply within the council area which will benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
HOU3 – Protection of existing Residential Accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of this policy is to seek to restrict the type of non-residential proposals permitted in established residential areas to protect existing housing stock. Where non-residential uses are permitted, they should be complimentary to the surrounding residential uses and protect established residential amenity. There is a general presumption in favour of the retention of residential stock for permanent occupation through this policy. There are a range of community uses that may be appropriate and necessary, in principle, within residential areas, such as community centres, health facilities, nurseries or educational facilities. Such facilities located within established residential areas could contribute towards sustainable communities when appropriate in scale and accessible. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as the retention of residential stock for permanent accommodation has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
HOU4 - Density of residential development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of the policy is to accommodate housing growth by increasing density without town cramming, through the provision of density bands for settlement / character areas. The national planning policy, the SPPS requires a number of measures to be included in development plans, including the need to 'set density levels for housing sites appropriate to the location of the site and the character of the surrounding area'. In accordance with the SPPS, this will need to be delivered in a sensitive way, striking a careful balance between meeting housing needs whilst ensuring well-designed developments appropriate to their locations. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as an increase in housing stock has the potential to benefit all sections of the community - higher densities means more homes and more housing choice. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	HOU5 - Affordable Housing	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	This policy aims to ensure the provision of affordable housing across the city by requiring housing developers to provide a minimum of 20% of units as affordable housing on sites greater than 5 units or 0.1ha. The regional planning policy, the RDS recognises that the provision of more affordable housing helps to build strong balanced communities. The SPPS acknowledges the role of the development plan as the primary vehicle for facilitating identified need by zoning land for housing and indicating where a proportion of a site may be required for affordable housing. EQIA outcome – **Positive for Age**. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community through the provision of affordable housing supply. However, It is considered that certain age groups could benefit particularly, e.g. young adult first time buyers with affordable housing helping them to access home ownership, or for young adults to rent a social home etc. It is acknowledged that religious groups and political groups could be affected by any policy on affordable housing, as social housing tends to be allocated on a single-identity basis (with the exception of 'shared housing' developments). However, whilst planning can influence the physical form of the city and help minimise any barriers to physical accessibility, the community background of residents or a building's users is beyond its scope as planning has no role in the allocation or occupation of units. In terms of good relations, HOU5 can assist with this aim through the provision of affordable housing as part of mixed tenure developments, having regard to prevailing local housing need and ensuring an integrated tenure-blind approach. These are key in helping to build and sustain good community relations.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
HOU6 - Housing mix	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	The aim of this policy is to ensure a mix of house types and sizes in developments that is suitable to provide choice and to assist in meeting community needs, which will aid the creation of balanced and sustainable communities. EQIA outcome – **Positive for Racial Groups, Age and Dependants**, This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community through the provision of an appropriate housing mix based on analysis of prevailing housing need in the area and the creation of sustainable communities. The required mix of house types will also take account of the growing number of single and two-person households, the ageing population, the need to provide larger family homes, including for dependants, and also to accommodate those from multi-generational households or other large families. Therefore, these groups may experience particular benefits.
HOU7 - Adaptable and accessible accommodation	0	0	0	+ +	0	0	0	+ +	++	The aim of this policy is to ensure that new housing can adapt to changing needs of the occupants, including through ageing, family size, illness and mobility. EQIA outcome – **Significant Positive for Age, Disability and dependants**. Adaptable and accessible accommodation can meet the full range of needs a person has throughout their lifetime. Adaptable, accessible accommodation can also enable those who are disabled, for example those in wheelchairs, to continue to live in their own homes. It can also provide dependents with comfortable safe homes that meet all family needs.
HOU8 - Special residential accommodation	0	0	0	+ +	0	0	0	+ +	++	The aim of this policy is to ensure those persons, whose needs cannot be met by general needs housing, are catered for through the provision of specialist residential accommodation. EQIA outcome – **Significant Positive**, **Age, Disability and Dependants**. This policy supports the provision of specialist accommodation to meet local needs and this is considered to be of greatest benefit to those needing elderly or specialist care or support, including those responsible for such persons.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
HOU9 - Traveller accommodation	0	0	+ +	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports proposals for traveller facilities, where a demonstrable need arises, on land zoned for such purposes or on un-zoned land, subject to site suitability and other normal planning criteria. This policy recognises the preference of some elements of travelling communities to live in caravans or other mobile homes, including permanently, or using sites as temporary accommodation. The policy requires proposals for the development of sites for the accommodation of Travellers to demonstrate suitability of the site, including in terms of location, surrounding uses, accessibility and services. EQIA Outcome – **Significant Positive Impact for Racial Groups**. Travellers have distinctive needs which will be assessed as part of the continual/ongoing local housing needs assessment undertaken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive Housing Needs Assessment. The policy relates specifically to Travellers' needs and responds to evidence relating to education and health outcomes for travelling communities, ensuring that any sites for Travellers are well connected to health care facilities and schools, as well as employment opportunities. The policy also supports protection of existing Travellers' facilities and sites. Any consequent land use zoning will be included in the LDP Local Policies Plan.
HOU10 - Housing Management Areas (HMA's)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy aims to ensure that the residential character in Housing Management Areas (HMAs) is protected and that Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and flat conversions are diverted away from areas that are experiencing problems associated with the over-proliferation of intensive forms of housing. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as the protection of residential amenity has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
HOU11 - Intensive housing needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy is designed to meet the need and demand for shared forms of housing and direct it to appropriate areas where it can be accommodated and can contribute to regeneration objectives. The intensive housing nodes will provide for HMOs and flats/apartments as part of a more geographically dispersed and less concentrated provision of shared housing across the city. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as greater housing choice at designated locations has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
HOU12 - Large scale purpose built managed student accommodation (PBMSA)	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	This policy aims to ensure that student housing provision is well planned, suitably located and appropriately managed, taking account of the need to balance the opportunities presented by the growth in students with the potential pressures on local services and amenity. EQIA Outcome - **Positive impact for age and disability groups.** A higher standard of designed accommodation at accessible locations helps to improve the welfare and living conditions of students. This is considered to have a greater positive impact on younger people. In addition, better quality accommodation can help disabled students. There is also the potential for benefits on all sections of the community as existing housing is released for general occupation as students take up PBMSAs.
HOU13 - Short term let accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy aims to strengthen and diversify the choice of tourist accommodation in Belfast through short-term let accommodation at appropriate, accessible locations, whilst considering the potential impact on the viability of other visitor offerings in the city. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as visitor accommodation choice and protection of amenity has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy would be considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Urban Design	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	DES1 - Principles of Urban Design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of the policy is to improve urban design standards that will help ensure development relates to local context and reinforces a sense of place, including safety, security, legibility and accessibility for all. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as better quality urban design and public realm has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. Whilst better and safer places may have particular benefits for more vulnerable persons, some of whom may belong to S75 groups, such benefits apply across the population. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	DES2 - Master Planning for major development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy promotes a holistic approach to the design and delivery of major developments and redevelopment sites in the city. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as quality masterplan-led redevelopment has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	DES 3 - tall buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy will aim to promote high quality design and siting that will assist in the provision of tall buildings in accessible locations close to local services and facilities. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	DES4 - Advertising and design	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy promotes high quality designed and contextually appropriate advertising and signage which can help promote attractive and accessible places encouraging investment. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
Residential Design	RD1 - New residential Design	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This places an emphasis on place making and requires residential development to be of a high design quality and respect local context. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as a high standard of design quality has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	RD2 - Residential extensions	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports house extensions that do not harm local character and amenity. The policy also supports adaptations to houses that area required to facilitate independent living for ageing occupants. EQIA Outcome - **Positive impact** on the **age** S75 group. A high standard of design quality and protection of amenity has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. However, the policy's recognition of adaptations to facilitate ageing occupants results in additional positive effects on older age groups.
	RD3 - Conversion or subdivision of existing buildings for residential use	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports the conversion and sub-division of buildings, subject to criteria to ensure residential amenity. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as greater house type choice through conversions and sub-divisions has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Built Heritage	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	BH1 - Listed buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to secure the protection and enhancement of built heritage and promote sustainable development of heritage assets. It also seeks to maintain the integrity of built heritage assets and their settings. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	BH2 - Conservation areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to identify, protect and conserve the built heritage character of conservation areas. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	BH3 - Areas of townscape character	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to identify, protect and conserve the built heritage character of townscape character areas. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	BH4 - Works to grounds affecting built heritage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to protect and conserve the setting of listed buildings. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	BH5 - Archaeology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to protect and conserve archaeological sites and monuments. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	BH6 - Historic Parks, gardens and demesnes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks protect and conserve the built heritage assets of historic parks and landscapes. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Community Cohesion and good relations	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	CGR1 - Community Cohesion and good relations	+ +	+ +	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy aims to encourage all new development to promote community cohesion and good relations, outlining criteria to be considered, including community involvement in the design of development, supporting initiatives to remove peace infrastructure and key design principles to encourage connectivity, permeability, safety and support shared spaces and services. EQIA Outcome – **Significant Positive Impact on religious groups and political groups. Potential positive impact on racial groups also.** This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. However, it is considered to have potentially significant positive effects in relation to religious groups and political groups given that interface locations are closely associated with differences in community background based on religious or political opinion. This also applies to newer racial groups in the city to encourage integration and safety. The community cohesion policy seeks to create and enhance shared space as a core planning principle and recognises that the planning system's complementary role in addressing the barriers to the creation and maintenance of shared space. In relation to good relations, the policy recognises that initiatives concerning peace-lines and contested spaces should be addressed in partnership with local residents to promote equality of opportunity and also to build community cohesion and strengthen good relations where differences are valued and respected. It is therefore considered to have significant positive effects in relation to promoting good relations.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	CGR2 - Meanwhile uses in interface areas	+ +	+ +	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy encourages shared meanwhile uses as a tool to be used alongside other local interventions to promote social integration in interface areas, and create opportunities for shared community spaces that assist in building community opportunities. It will help to facilitate social integration through the development of meanwhile shared projects in the interface areas. EQIA Outcome – **Significant Positive Impact on religious groups and political groups. Potential positive impact on racial groups also.** This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. However, it is considered to have potentially significant positive effects in relation to religious groups and political groups given that interface locations are closely associated with differences in community background based on religious or political opinion. This also applies to newer racial groups in the city to encourage integration and safety. The policy could also help to environmentally enhance existing derelict spaces or the reuse of vacant buildings and promote social integration in interface areas and create opportunities for shared community spaces

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
Promoting Healthy Communities	HC1 - Promoting healthy communities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy is concerned with supporting development that promotes healthy and active lifestyles, active travel, improving accessibility to local services, adequate provision of public open space and recreation facilities, promoting balanced communities and sustainable neighbourhoods. This is consistent with the core planning principle of improving health and wellbeing of our citizens. This policy will not negatively affect any S75 groups as the promotion of health and wellbeing has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
Community Infrastructure	CI1 - Community Infrastructure	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+**	**+**	The aim of this policy is to protect and provide development opportunities for community, health, leisure, nurseries and educational facilities based on local need and in line with the projected population growth. EQIA Outcome - **Positive impact in relation to Age, Disability and Dependants.** The policy will enable opportunities for retaining as well as new provision for schools, libraries, health centres, and community facilities in accessible locations. The protection of existing facilities and designated siles/lands will ensure that promotion of equality of access to community infrastructure and reduce health inequality. This will benefit the entire population. However, people in the S75 groups of age, disability and dependants will particularly benefit from community infrastructure linked to education, health and social care.
	CI2 - Cemeteries and crematoria	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of this policy is to protect burial spaces from development that would prejudice their amenity or cultural and heritage importance and their setting. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Economic Growth

Creating a vibrant economy

Assessment of impact and outcomes

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
EC1 - Delivery of economic growth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of this policy is to ensure adequate provision of land appropriate for employment uses in areas that are well located in terms of connectivity and distribution networks. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy would be considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
EC2 – Employment Land Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of this policy is to ensure adequate supply of land is available, on sites in a range of locations, sizes and conditions, to attract investment into the city and to support existing business sectors. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
EC3 – Major Employment and Strategic Employment Locations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The aim of this policy is to ensure adequate provision of land for appropriate employment uses as well as seeking the retention of appropriate zoned employment areas. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
EC4 – Loss of Zoned Employment Land	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy ensures that there is a sufficient allocation of employment land for the plan period by protecting existing zoned lands designated for employment. It is unlikely to have a significant impact upon any particular S75 groups. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
EC5 – Industry, Storage and Distribution uses	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The aim of this policy is to ensure that an ample supply of land is available for industrial and storage and distribution enterprises over the plan period. It is unlikely that the policy will have a significant impact upon any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
EC6 – Office Development	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to support the promotion of the role of Belfast City Centre as the primary location for office development in order to reinforce the role of Belfast as a regional city. It identifies other areas at Queen's University and Stormont for office development. It is unlikely that the policy will have a significant impact upon any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
EC7 - Higher education institutions	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports the growth of the higher education institutions and their links with other research and development establishments. EQIA outcome - **Positive impact in relation to Age.** Whilst the policy will likely benefit the entire city and population, its support of third level education establishments is considered of particular benefit to students who, are predominantly young adults.

Retail	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	RET1 - Establishing a centre hierarchy	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy establishes the retail hierarchy for Belfast and provides for a range of uses appropriate to the role and function of centres. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	RET2 - Out of centre development	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy acknowledges Belfast City Centre as the primary location for retailing and adopts a sequential approach to retail and other town centre uses in decision making. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	RET3 – District Centre, Local Centre & City Corridors	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy aims to provide an appropriate scale of retail and town centres uses in accordance with their scale, role and function to support local economies by ensuring continued vibrancy and vitality. The location and safeguarding of the relevant shops and services in relevant locations is to the benefit of all groups. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	RET4 – Retail warehousing	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy aims to avoid trade diversion that could have an adverse impact upon centres within the hierarchy and is intended to manage the proportion of convenience goods sold in these locations. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	RET5 – Primary Retail and Leisure Area	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy aims to focus opportunities for retail, leisure and other appropriate uses in the city centre. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	RET6 - Temporary and meanwhile uses	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy aims to regenerate vacant buildings and land with temporary uses pending redevelopment. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
City Centre	CC1 - Development opportunity sites	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The policy identifies key development opportunities around the City Centre for mixed use regeneration schemes. It will help to create accessible employment and housing opportunities that will also contribute to reducing dereliction and deprivation. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Supporting tourism, leisure and cultural development	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	TLC1 - Supporting tourism, leisure and cultural facilities and assets	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports tourism, leisure and cultural development that extends and improves the city's offer to visitors. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	TLC2 - Existing tourism, leisure and cultural facilities and assets	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy protects existing tourism leisure and cultural facilities and only allows their loss or redevelopment for other uses in specific circumstances. This will help to protect employment opportunities and facilities that are also beneficial for social wellbeing. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	TLC3 - Overnight visitor accommodation	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports improving the supply of overnight accommodation, particularly in the city centre area or close to other attractions or in existing tourism clusters. Improving the supply and variety of overnight visitor accommodation will help to increase tourism. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	TLC4 - Evening and night-time economy	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports development proposals that strengthen and enhance the evening and night time economy. Particularly in the city centre and tourism clusters. It will also protect existing night-time venues and employs the 'agent of change' principle in addressing new development. This will help to improve employment opportunities and provide facilities and venues that are also beneficial for wider social wellbeing. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Building a smart, connected, resilient place

Infrastructure, telecommunications & utilities

Assessment of impact and outcomes

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
ITU1 - Telecommunications development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports the development of new telecommunications infrastructure in appropriate locations to enhance connectivity, encourage investment and support the competitiveness of the city and region. This is subject to criteria to ensure no unacceptable damage to visual amenity, heritage features and the environment. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
ITU2 – Water & Sewerage Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy facilitates the development of water and sewerage infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The policy also encourages the use of sustainable initiatives and technologies, including reducing water consumption and SuDS measures. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	ITU3 - Electricity and gas infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports the relevant statutory authorities in meeting the demands of planned growth and addressing existing constraints in the interests of sustainable development. The policy also facilitates proposals to develop new or upgrade existing infrastructure by utility providers in an efficient and effective manner. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
Renewable Energy	ITU4 - Renewable energy development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy supports appropriate forms of renewable energy development, including decentralised and local energy generation and district heat distribution, whilst ensuring other environmental assets are protected. The policy provides a positive basis for assessing the delivery of renewable energy technology where appropriate. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Waste /Infrastructure	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	W1 - Environmental impact of a waste management facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The key aim of this policy is to achieve sustainable waste management. It is essential that all waste management facilities are developed to the highest standards so that waste can be dealt with in a way which minimises impacts on the environment, including the need to divert waste away from landfill in favour of delivering resource management and adopting more sustainable approaches. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	W2 - Waste collection and treatment facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports proposals for waste collection and treatment facilities, at appropriate locations and where a need is demonstrated in the Waste Management Strategy (WMS) and the relevant Waste Management Plan (WMP). This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	W3 - Waste disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports proposals for waste disposal (landfill or land raising) at appropriate locations only where a need is demonstrated through the Waste Management Strategy and the relevant Waste Management Plan. The policy also sets out a number of criteria, including access and environmental protection. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	W4 - Land improvement	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports proposals for land improvement by inert waste deposition, subject to need and environmental considerations. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	W5 - Development in the vicinity of waste management facilities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals in the vicinity of existing or approved waste management facilities do not prejudice or unduly restrict said activities and will not have unacceptable adverse impacts on people, transport systems or the environment. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
Minerals	M1 - Minerals	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to secure a balanced and sustainable approach that takes account of the need for minerals to support development and the need to protect landscape and other environmental resources. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community and therefore is unlikely to have a significant impact on any particular S75 group. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Transportation	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	TRAN1 - Active travel, walking and cycling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to promote and facilitate the provision of safe, convenient, comfortable, coherent and continuous walking and cycling environments throughout the city in order to encourage active travel. The policy seeks to promote health and wellbeing. It is recognised that increased physical activity can improve physical and mental health, better connectivity, more natural surveillance, increased safety and perception of safety. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	TRAN2 - Creating an accessible environment	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	++	The policy seeks to provide an accessible environment especially for disabled people or people who have mobility impairments, which is essential to maintain and enhance an inclusive and equal society. A design and access statement will be required to accompany a development proposal to ensure the creation of buildings and places are accessible and inclusive for all. This policy has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - **Significant Positive impact for Age Disability and Dependents.** It seeks to facilitate improved accessibility for all people, and in particular, will require that the specific needs of people with disabilities and others whose mobility is impaired be addressed. This will have particular significant positive impacts on disabled, dependents and age S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
TRAN3 - Transport assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to review all potential transport impacts of a proposed development or redevelopment with an agreed plan to mitigate any adverse impacts allow a long term approach to encouraging sustainable travel. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community by assessing potential adverse impacts. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
TRAN4 - Travel plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy requires a travel plan for all significant travel generating proposals to consider more sustainable travel patterns. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community by promoting sustainable travel. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
TRAN5 - New transport schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to safeguard land required to implement future transport proposals and improvements identified in DfI transport plan. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics and has potential benefits for all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
TRAN6 - Access to public roads	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The policy seeks to control new accesses or the intensification of the use of an existing access onto a public road in the interests of safety. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
TRAN7 - Access to protected routes	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	The policy seeks to restrict the number of new accesses and control the level of use of existing accesses on protected routes for safety and traffic flow reasons. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
TRAN8 - Car parking and servicing arrangements	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**+**	**+**	This policy seeks adequate provision for car parking and servicing in line with the sustainable travel. It includes required and convenient provision for people with disabilities and parent and child. EQIA outcome **– Positive impact for Disabled and Dependents**. Whilst this will generally benefit the entire population, the policy specifically addresses the needs of people with disabilities and parent and child parking spaces.
TRAN9 - Parking standards with area of parking restraint	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to reduce the need for car borne commuting and promotes more sustainable forms of transport by controlling parking in areas of restraint, including the city centre. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
TRAN10 - Design of car parking	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	This policy seeks a high standard of design for all proposals for car parking, including layout, landscaping and safety. Provision required for accessible parking bays for people with a disability or impaired mobility. EQIA outcome – **Positive impact for Age, Disability and dependants.** The policy specifically recognises the needs of people with disability and those whose mobility is impaired, which will also generally benefit the age and dependants groups.
TRAN11 - Provision of public and private car parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy controls the provision of additional car parks in line with identified need and sustainable travel objectives, and subject to environmental considerations. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
TRAN12 - Temporary car parks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy sets a presumption against the development of temporary car parks unless there is clear need and up to a maximum 1 year period only. This policy will not generally impact on any S75 characteristics EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
Environmental resilience	ENV1 - Environmental quality	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to protect and improve existing environmental quality, through the aid of assessments and appropriate measures to remove or mitigate any cumulative effects on health, natural environment and general amenity. This policy has an important role in preventing development from contributing to or being put at risk from unacceptable levels of pollution, including in relation to ground contamination, water, air, noise and light. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	ENV2 - Mitigating environmental change	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate environmental change, including through creating a compact city, providing local and accessible services, increase opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport and reduces the need to use the car. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
ENV3 - Adapting to environmental change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to ensure that proposed developments incorporate measures to adapt to environmental change, in order to support sustainable and enduring development. This includes future risks such as flooding and extreme weather. This seeks to secure the economic, social and environmental resilience. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
ENV4 - Flood risk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to minimise flood risk to people, property and the environment. It requires assessment of the flood risk in affected areas and adopts a precautionary approach in flood risk areas, also taking account of environmental change. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
ENV5 - Sustainable Drainage systems (SuDS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to reduce surface water runoff to reduce flood risk through the promotion of SuDS measures to attenuate and manage surface water. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Promoting a green and active place

Open Space

Assessment of impact and outcomes

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
GB1 - Green and Blue Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy recognises the opportunity to plan for a network of connected natural spaces and corridors to provide a multitude of recreational, environmental, ecological, wellbeing, socio-cultural and economic benefits for Belfast. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
OS1 - Protection of open space	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks the protection and enhancement of important open spaces, including parks, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and other areas that form part of green and blue infrastructure. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
OS2 - New open space within settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports the provision of new and improved open space and recreational facilities at appropriate locations to serve the current and future needs of residents and visitors. It recognises the importance that open space plays in the health & wellbeing and environmental quality of the city. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
OS3 - Ancillary open space	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports the provision of ancillary open space to serve primary uses, including residential and commercial, to meet the occupants' needs. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
OS4 - New open space outside settlements	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy facilitates appropriate recreational proposals at accessible locations in the countryside, subject to consideration of environmental impacts, including rural land use, landscape and nature conservation. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
OS5 - Intensive sports facilities	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to ensure that new intensive sports facilities are at accessible and appropriate locations within settlement boundaries and sets out the key criteria against which proposals will be assessed. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
OS6 - Facilities ancillary to water sports	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy supports ancillary facilities required in connection with water sports, subject to careful consideration of potential environmental and other impacts. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	OS7 - Floodlighting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to ensure a balanced approach in considering new floodlighting proposals whilst ensuring that environmental matters are given due weight. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
Natural Heritage	NH 1 - Protection of Natural Heritage Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports the SPPS and seeks to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, improve nature conservation and biodiversity interests, in accordance with a hierarchy of designations and relevant legislation. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
Trees	TRE1 - Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to protect existing trees as well as requiring the provision of new trees, taking account of the important role trees play in local amenity, biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to environmental change and assisting in improving public health and wellbeing. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
Landscape and Coast	LC 1 - Landscape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policies for the landscape aim to protect and enhance the quality of the environment, including the scenic and amenity value, and to preserve the unique landscape setting of Belfast. Areas are designated of particular importance for landscape quality or sensitivity and development within such areas will be carefully assessed to ensure that the character and quality of the area is not prejudiced. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	LC2 - Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy controls development within the LVRP in order to protect and enhance its key role in relation to natural heritage, landscape quality and recreation. Sustainable development may be considered acceptable, subject to planning and environmental considerations and these will be encouraged to focus on existing development nodes. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	LC3 - Belfast Hills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to protect the Belfast Hills from inappropriate development, whilst providing support for sustainable development that is consistent with conserving and improving the landscape and recreational value of the Hills. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

	Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
	LC4 - Coastal Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy aims to protect and enhance the quality of the natural coastal environment, including its nature conservation, scenic and amenity value, whilst acknowledging the importance of the port of Belfast to the city and region. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
Development in the countryside	DC1 - All countryside development general policy principles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to ensure development in the countryside does not result in a detrimental impact on rural amenity and environmental quality. The general approach is to protect and enhance the character and value of the countryside resource, including for landscape, recreation and nature conservation, whilst providing for the essential needs of rural communities. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
	DC2 - Housing in the countryside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to protect and enhance the character and value of the countryside resource, whilst providing for the essential needs of rural communities through a general presumption against new housing in the countryside, unless proposals are in accordance with the exceptions. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community, through meeting rural housing needs and protecting rural character. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
DC3 - Replacement dwellings	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy facilitates consideration of replacement houses in the countryside, subject to criteria and considerations. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC4 - The conversion and reuse of existing buildings	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks the sympathetic conversion of suitable buildings for appropriate alternative uses, through the retention of houses and other buildings that contribute to rural character. It promotes sympathetic renovation for continued use or incorporation into new development proposals. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC5 - New dwellings - Personal and domestic buildings	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to control new housing development in the countryside, unless there are compelling and site-specific reasons related to the applicant's personal or domestic circumstances. The policy makes provision for exceptional cases. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC6 - Dwellings for non-agricultural business enterprises	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to control new housing development in the countryside, unless there is a connection with an established non-agricultural business enterprise and where a site-specific need is demonstrated that makes it essential for the proprietor, manager or one of the employees to live at the site of their work. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
DC7 - Ribbon development	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to control development that creates or adds to a ribbon of development, which creates a built-up appearance along rural roads and laneways. This policy will not generally affect any S75. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC8 - New dwellings in existing clusters	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy facilitates new dwellings at an existing cluster of development subject to specific criteria. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC9 - Residential caravans and mobile homes	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy seeks to restrict residential caravans or mobile homes in the countryside to a temporary period only, unless proposals are in accordance with the exceptions. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC10 - New dwellings on farms	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	This policy makes provision for circumstances for new dwellings on farms to support the agricultural activities on the farm. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Policy	Religious Group	Political Group	Racial Group	Age	Marital Status	Sexual Orientation	Men & Women Generally	Disability	Dependants	Commentary
DC11 - Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy facilitates proposals that are necessary to support an active and established agricultural or forestry holding, subject to location/design considerations. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC12 - Farm diversification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy supports appropriate rural agricultural diversification that support the rural economy and communities, subject to criteria. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.
DC13 - Other proposed development in the countryside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy facilitates consideration of other proposals that are sustainable and appropriate in the countryside and support the rural economy and communities, subject to environmental and other considerations. This policy will not generally affect any S75 characteristics as it has the potential to benefit all sections of the community. EQIA outcome - This policy is considered to have neutral effect on the S75 groups.

Appendix 2 - Section 75 Categories

Main Groups Relevant to the Section 75 Categories	
Category	**Main Groups**
Religious belief	Protestants; Catholics; people of non-Christian faiths; people of no religious belief
Political opinion	Unionists generally; Nationalists generally; members/supporters of any political party
Racial Group	White people; Chinese; Irish Travellers; Indians; Pakistanis; Bangladeshis; Black Africans; Black Caribbean people; people with mixed ethnic group
“Men and women generally”	Men (including boys); women (including girls); trans-gendered people
Marital status	Married people; unmarried people; divorced or separated people; widowed people
Age	For most purposes, the main categories are: children under 18, people aged between 18-65, and people over 65. However, the definition of age groups will need to be sensitive to the policy under consideration
“Persons with a disability”	Disability is defined as: A physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities as defined in Sections 1 and 2 and Schedules 1 and 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
“Persons with dependants”	Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a person with an incapacitating disability; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a dependant elderly person
Sexual orientation	Heterosexuals; bi-sexuals; gays; lesbians;

Appendix 3. Available Evidence

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information and engagement
Religious Belief	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 – Population
Political Opinion	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 - Population
Racial Group	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 – Population BCC Topic Paper 2 - Housing New migrants and Belfast, Jarvan N, 2006 Migrant workers in NI, Institute of Conflict research 2004 Labour force survey NISRA 2011 Research Commissioned from Consultants Strategic leisure including the findings of an assessment of supply and demand for association, Gaelic football, rugby union and hockey in Belfast.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information and engagement
Age	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in NI April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 – Population BCC Topic Paper 2 – Housing BCC Topic Paper 11 – Public Services (Health Education & Community) BCC Topic Paper 15 – Transportation Age friendly Belfast Plan April 2014 - 2017 Audit of Inequalities 2011 BCC Employment inequalities in an economic downturn, EC 2010 for NI Labour Market Report October 2010 Continuous household survey
Marital Status	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 - Population
Sexual Orientation	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 - Population 2005 life and times survey Attitudes towards Lesbian, gay & bisexual people in NI. Equality Awareness Survey ECNI 2008 Through Our Eyes 2011 (Rainbow Project); Stonewall

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information and engagement
Men & Women generally	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing & Communities in NI April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 - Population Individual income series for NI DSD 2007 NI, Sport and Physical Activity Survey, BHC 2008 Divided by Health, a city profile, BHC 2008 Survey of Belfast Residents IPSOS Moris 2010
Disability	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing & Communities in NI April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 – Population BCC Topic Paper 2 – Housing BCC Topic Paper 15 - Transportation Belfast Average income DSD 2010 Sports NI 2009 Active places Research
Dependants	NISRA Statistics Census Population 2011 Statement of Key Inequalities in NI Equality Commission Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities in Northern Ireland April 2017 NIHE Housing Needs Assessment 2017 BCC Topic Paper 1 – Population BCC Topic Paper 2 – Housing BCC Topic Paper 15 - Transportation Breakthrough NI Centre for Social Injustice 2010 Survey of Belfast Residents population IPPROS Mori 2010

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