

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening template

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

Name of the activity/policy/project

Strategies and Action Plans within Tourism

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

Revised – the new emerging LCCC Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2029 is being developed with the last strategy finished in December 2023. An Equality Screening exercise was carried out on this project for the previous Strategy and Action Plan is being reviewed for this next version.

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

The overall aim is to revise and update the 2018-2022 Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area. The revised Tourism Strategy and Action Plan will attempt to proactively address and support the areas tourism needs. The revised Tourism Strategy and Action Plan should be closely aligned with key existing strategies, policy documents, action plans and draw out opportunities/actions presented for the LCCC area. The subject of sustainable tourism is becoming more of a priority and measures should be taken into consideration when developing the new Tourism Strategy. The revised Tourism Strategy and Action Plan will demonstrate clear links to driving the local economy forward.

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

The new Tourism Strategy and Action Plan is intended to be a road map for delivery of tourism initiatives to ultimately drive visitor trips, overnight stays, and tourism revenue into the Council area. It is anticipated that all nine of the Section 75 categories could potentially benefit from this policy. For example, it is anticipated that it will benefit those of different ages, religion, as well as those with disabilities and those with dependents who use the services of LCCC.

This policy will be open equally across the Council Area. The strategies and plans commissioned will be accessible to all organisations in the participating council area

and LCCC will work to ensure that it is particularly accessible to those considered as marginalised or vulnerable within the participating LCCC.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Tourism Development Unit in LCCC

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

Owned by LCCC Service Transformation Directorate; implemented by the Tourism Development Unit

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

If yes, give brief details of any significant factors.

Financial - The delivery of the Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2029 will be dependent on the annual budget estimates process. Some activity may require additional budgets.

Legislative: Tourism development is a non-essential service.

Other: Tourism Development supports economic development, generating jobs and economic wealth to the local area.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon? Delete if not applicable

Staff - all LCCC staff involved in the deliver or Tourism.

Service users - wide range of local and out of state visitors.

Other public sector organisations - Tourism NI, Forest Service, DAERA

Voluntary/community/trade unions

Other – including Elected Members

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

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
Lisburn & Castlereagh Community Plan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Hillsborough Master Plan	LCCC
LCCC Corporate Plan 2024-28	LCCC
Visit Belfast Tourism Strategy 2024-2027	Visit Belfast
Tourism Strategy for NI 10 year plan	Tourism NI
Forest Service NI Business Plan	DAERA
NI Economic Strategy – Vision for 2030	Department for the Economy
LCCC Equality Scheme and associated equality action plans and policies	LCCC

Available Evidence

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

In developing the draft LCCC Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2029, a wide range of information, research and expert advice was considered.

To support this screening document, it was necessary to look at many aspects of work covered by the Tourism Development. The main stages in tourism development planning include: the analysis of previous tourist development; evaluation of the position of tourism in the area including competition; formulation of relevant tourism policy by Government; the defining of a development strategy and the formation of a programme of action.

Tourism development can be defined as creating strategies and plans to increase/develop/encourage tourism for a destination. The fundamental reason behind planning and implementing strategies for developing the tourism sector is primarily to make money and to subsequently increase the GDP of an area or country. The emerging Tourism Strategy commissioned by LCCC provides a Vision and Action Plan, creating a 'road map' to assist the growth in the local tourism offer, maximising tourism opportunities that will in turn increase bed nights, trips and spend. One way to assist in this growth is to support minor and major events, expansion of accommodation provision and providing visitor information centres in the LCCC area.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council work closely with Tourism NI and Visit Belfast to support this objective. Tourism NI's Mission is to build the value of tourism to the local economy, and state, 'Our Vision is to confidently and passionately champion the development and promotion of the Northern Ireland experience'.

Visit Belfast is funded and supported by Belfast City Council, Tourism Northern Ireland (Tourism NI), Tourism Ireland, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, strategic and corporate partners Translink, Belfast One, Diageo

Northern Ireland, Value Cabs, ICC Belfast, Titanic Belfast, Hastings Hotels and Victoria Square. Visit Belfast is a public-private sector partnership that represents over 500 tourism businesses, operators and services.

In the most recent NISRA, June 2019, Local Government Tourism statistics Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is highlighted as having the least number of bed-nights and visitor trips of any Council. Whilst tourism revenue is slightly better performing this is partly attributed to the strong shopping and retail offer in the Council area. The new LCCC Tourism Strategy looks at ways to address the undersupply in commercial accommodation alongside other initiatives to attract more visitors and associated spend. The staging of events is one such way to steadily grow visitor numbers, especially the day visitor market. Another benefit from events is the positive PR attached to the same.

Feedback on the emerging Tourism Strategy will occur throughout the eight-week consultation period with a questionnaire directed to stakeholders, community and the public that will provide an opportunity for feedback on Section 75 equality and good relations.

We have also considered the most up to date NISRA population data from Census 2021 (published 22/09/22) [Lisburn and Castlereagh Census Data](#)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	It is likely that the Council area will be visited by people from all religions and those with no beliefs. The 8-week consultation should provide an opportunity for any issues to be raised and how best to address these.
Political Opinion	There is no evidence of the political opinion of visitors to the Council area. It is likely that the area will be visited by people with different political opinions.
Racial Group	All proposed plans/initiatives/strategies will endeavour to support all visitors from a tourism perspective from across LCCC and beyond.
Age	<p>The 2021 census showed the population in the Lisburn Castlereagh area totalled 149,106.</p> <p>19% = (0-14 years)</p> <p>30% = (15-39 years)</p> <p>33% = (40-64 years)</p> <p>18% = (65+ years).</p>

	The Council area is visited by people of all ages for leisure and tourism activities, however particularly strong for families, culturally curious, and those interested in food and drink.
Marital Status	We do not have information on the marital status of people who visit the Council area.
Sexual Orientation	We do not have information on the sexual orientation of people who visit the Council area.
Men & Women Generally	We do not have information on the precise gender make up of visitors to the Council area. It is anticipated this will not be an issue raised as part of the feedback from the 8-week consultation.
Disability	Latest Census data (2021) and LGD boundary data (2014) indicates that 18.29% of the population have a disability or long-term health condition. This includes a wide range of disabilities, including physical, sensory and communication disabilities. The childhood disability figure for Northern Ireland is 5.5%, highest in UK (2017 Research Report, Caring More Than Most, Leeds University on behalf of Contact). Observation and feedback to date suggests that the new sculpture trail is being used by school groups of disabled children.
People with and without Dependents	Evidence suggests the Council area is being visited by people with and without dependents. Evidence in the past would suggest the area is visited namely by family groups, culturally curious and those interested in food and drink.

Needs, Experiences, and Priorities

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

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	The tourism product is for all religious beliefs with family attractions and things to do for everyone. It would not be

	anticipated that specific needs are required for differing religious beliefs.
Political Opinion	The tourism offering is for all political backgrounds with no anticipated negative feedback expected.
Racial Group	No issues expected about race once the Strategy and Action Plan go out for consultation, but we are aware that BME residents and visitors to the area may be under-represented as visitors to the Council area. We recognise that there is a need to ensure that people know about the free places to visit. There is a need to ensure that information about all the things to do and see in the Council area are available in other languages for those who do not have English as a first language. This has been taken into account when developing the recent Digital Sculpture Trail at Hillsborough Forest. The App is available in 4 different languages these are: Spanish, French, German and Chinese. We also have collateral literature in these 4 different languages for visitors.
Age	Market research would suggest the LCCC tourism product is more aligned to mature audiences looking to experience culture, short walks, and good food and drink. We would anticipate less of the youth market providing feedback on the emerging strategy.
Marital Status	No issues expected during the eight-week consultation period. The programme will be administered to prioritise equality of opportunity across all categories.
Sexual Orientation	No issues expected during the eight-week consultation period. The programme will be administered to prioritise equality of opportunity across all categories.
Men & Women Generally	No issues raised during consultation in relation to gender. However, council staff are aware of the need to ensure that forest facilities are perceived to be safe for lone visitors (especially females, young people, older visitors). No new issues raised since sculptures have been installed. Although only a small proportion of those who have provided feedback to date have provided negative comments, more negative feedback has been received from females.
Disability	All proposed initiatives will be open to all businesses and organisations across the Council.
People with and without Dependants	Parents with buggies or people who care for those with physical disabilities may have accessibility issues. Parents with young children may visit different attractions within the Council area.

Part 2. Screening Questions

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

We await feedback from the eight-week consultation to assess and monitor the impact on equality of the emerging LCCC Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2029.

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
Political Opinion	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
Racial Group	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
Age	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
Marital Status	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None

Sexual Orientation	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
Men & Women Generally	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
Disability	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None
People with and without Dependants	No impact for majority of visitors coming into Lisburn & Castlereagh. The emerging Tourism Strategy an Action Plan is striving to be inclusive for all, wherever possible.	None

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

As feedback is received, consideration will be given to any issue raised before finalising and approving the new LCCC Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 204 – 2029.

Section 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
Political Opinion	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
Racial Group	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
Age	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	

Marital Status	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
Sexual Orientation	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
Men & Women Generally	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
Disability	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	
People with and without Dependants	Awaiting feedback from eight-week consultation.	

Equality Action Plan 2021-2025

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2021-2025? Yes/No If yes, specify which action.

No, however the policy will be kept under review to ensure that requests for information in various formats are monitored and provided across the Council, i.e. to ensure information is accessible to all.

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

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

- to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?
- to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

No, activities conducted under this policy are available to all, regardless of Section 75 category. Through the consultation exercises disabled people will be targeted proactively for their feedback.

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

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief Political Opinion Racial Group	We anticipate a positive impact for all, with an increased number of visitors to the area from all Section 75 groups.	Minor - positive

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

Good Relations Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief Political Opinion Racial Group		No, there are no further opportunities to better promote good relations between these groups. All opportunities are currently being addressed.

Multiple identity

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

We have taken into account the needs of different multiple identities in the development of the emerging Tourism Strategy and Action Plan. For example, children with disabilities or older people with disabilities will benefit from enhanced accessibility measures.

Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

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

There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no relevance to equality, no negative impacts identified or only very minor positive impacts for all groups. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor potential impacts or opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified, so mitigations appropriate. Much of our activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant and/or potentially negative impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment. [See Equality Commission guidance on justifying a screening decision.]

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]	
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts could be identified in the eight-week consultation, and they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation or some opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified [complete mitigation section below]	The screening has not identified any impacts however will be more strenuously tested during the eight-week consultation period.
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

[If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below]	
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Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

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

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.

Feedback from the eight-week consultation will be considered once approval is granted from Regeneration and Growth Committee to go out for consultation.

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

If the activity/policy has been ‘**screened in**’ for full equality impact assessment, give details of any factors to be considered and the next steps for progressing the EQIA, including a proposed timetable.

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? Yes/No. If yes, please provide details.

Not applicable

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission’s Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

Effective monitoring will help a public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the activity/policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and activity/policy development.

What will be monitored and how? What specific equality monitoring will be done? Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency? Please give details:

The Tourism team will be responsible for monitoring of this project that will involve logging feedback and concerns from stakeholders, community and the public when required. The Council will proactively seek feedback on the emerging Tourism Strategy and Action Plan by way of consultation questionnaires for an eight-week period following agreement from Committee.

Part 5 - Approval and Authorisation

	Position/Job Title	Date
Screened by:	Andrew Kennedy Tourism Development Manager	8.8.24
Reviewed by:	Annie Wilson Equality Officer	08.08.24
Approved by:	Paul McCormick Head of Economic Development	8.8.24

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

- approved and 'signed off' by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
- included with Committee reports, as appropriate
- sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees, internal reporting and publishing on the LCCC website
- shared with relevant colleagues
- made available to the public on request.

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