

Report on	Mid Ulster District Council Draft Equality Scheme (2021-2026)
Date of Meeting	Thursday 8 th October 2020
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report is to seek committee comment and approval for the draft Equality Scheme of Mid Ulster Council, reviewed in line with guidance from the Equality Commission. Subject to member consideration and comment, the Scheme will be made available for a 12 week public consultation in line with Equality Commission guidance.
2.0	Background
2.1	This Scheme has been reviewed in line with Equality Commission Five Year Equality Scheme review guidance. The guidance states that, <i>'the purpose of a 5-year review is to examine how those arrangements have been applied and to assess how effective they have been in assisting public authorities to comply with the Section 75 duties'</i> .
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Following a review by Officers, together with experience of its being implemented from November 2016, the following is a summary of the proposed amendments to the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive communications statement be added (Page 1) • Council Chair updated (Page 2) • The Good Relations reporting committee has been amended to Policy & Resources except in the case of quasi-judicial matters. In such instances matters referred go back to the committee from which they originated (Page 20) • Policy review process extended from 2 to 4 years (to reflect the Council term) (Page 25) • Equality Consultee list has been updated (Appendix 3) • Delivery timeframe updated (Appendix 4) • Good Relations Working Group meeting schedule updated (Appendix 6)

3.2	The changes are not considered as being substantive, which is the trigger for require Equality Commission approval. The Commission have however requested that they are made aware of when the Scheme is being consulted upon, so as to provide any comment/feedback where necessary.
3.3.	The Equality Screening Form has been revised as part of the review process. The Equality Commission have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the changes. Their response indicated that the changes were not significant and that the revised form remains compliant with the Equality Scheme.
3.4	The reviewed Scheme together with the revised equality screening form and action plans are required to be in place from 1 st April 2021.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Costs associated with undertaking a consultation
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: Completed and available on request
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That committee comment and consider as appropriate the reviewed Equality Scheme for approval to move towards public consultation.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Draft Equality Scheme 2021-2026 Appendix B: Revised Equality Screening Form