‘Draft’ Maintenance of Unadopted Roads Policy

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mid Ulster District Council has received a number of requests in relation to the maintenance and/or repair of unadopted roads and has approved the repair of one stretch of road at Curran Terrace in Dungannon. This Policy is intended to provide a framework of criteria against which such requests can be assessed in order to provide the Council with a consistent approach in dealing with such requests.

1.2 Whilst it is recognised that each request will contain a number of unique elements it is important that in exercising the Council's General Power of Competency it is seen to do so in a fair and equitable manner, in line with its Corporate Objectives and giving consideration to the utilisation of Council Resources.

2.0 POLICY AIM & OBJECTIVES

2.1 **Policy Aim**: To provide a structured approach to dealing with requests for the maintenance and repair of unadopted roads.

2.2 **Policy Objectives:**

- To ensure that the Council has a consistent approach in exercising its General Power of Competence with respect to processing requests for the maintenance and repair of unadopted roads within the Mid Ulster District Council area

3.0 POLICY SCOPE

3.1 This policy relates specifically to defining an approach with associated objective criteria which will enable the Council to determine whether it wishes to exercise its power under the General Power of Competency in relation to the maintenance, repair and potential adoption of 'private' roads.

4.0 LINKAGE TO CORPORATE PLAN

4.1 Referring to Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019, this policy contributes toward the delivery of Corporate Theme "Delivering for Our People".

5.0 CONSIDERING REQUESTS

5.1 The Council will only consider any application to exercise the General Power of Competence with respect to the repair, reconstruction or preparation for adoption of unadopted roads where the following criteria are satisfied:

a) The Council owns the land on which the road is constructed or previously had responsibility for the road in question prior to Local Government Re-organisation in 1972

Or

b) The subject road was not transferred to nor adopted by the statutory 'Roads Authority' at the relevant time of transfer of local government functions for example under the 1972 Local Government Act.

Or

c) Properties adjacent to and accessed from the subject road were built by the Council or its predecessors.

Or

d) The situation appears to have arisen in light of an anomaly

And

e) All options (to establish ownership and/or maintenance liabilities) with other relevant statutory bodies have been exhausted.

f) The subject road is in a state of disrepair to the extent that it is difficult to safely drive a vehicle on it and/or is a safety hazard.

g) An exceptional case must be proven and other statutory bodies and adjacent owners not in a position to carry out works.

5.2 Land that is privately owned and/or where a developer is involved and/or where there is or should be a road bond/insurance in place, would not be eligible under this Policy.

5.2 As any decision to carry out works would be a discretion under the General Power of Competence, therefore, consideration must be given to issues such as; resource use and utilisation; financial implications; anticipated specific benefits; risk mitigation; statutory duties and strategic objectives alignment;

effective and economic roll out; any public law duties; and any other relevant considerations. Due consideration will need to be given to Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 which deals with the application of the General Power of Competency for local authorities in Northern Ireland.

5.3 Requests shall be reported to and considered by the Environment Committee, in the first instance solely for the purpose of considering the validity of the request and subsequent recommendation brought to the monthly Council meeting.

5.4 Once a case has been determined and approved for the Council to exercise its General Power of Competency a report will be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration of inclusion within the Council's Capital Program when the factors listed at 5.2 above will be considered.

5.5 The Council shall only approve requests where they both satisfy the criteria set out in this Policy and which have been considered as 'affordable' within the resources of the Council. Note: the affordability test may vary depending on the demands on the Council at the time of the request.

6.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 All requests shall initially be presented to the Environment Committee by the appropriate council officer for consideration and recommendation to the next available Council meeting to make a decision.

7.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

7.1 Equality Screening & Impact

7.1.1 The Policy has been subjected to equality screening in accordance with the council's screening process.

7.1.2 The Policy has been subjected to a Rural Impact Assessment (RIA) in line with the legislative guidance.

7.2 Staff & Financial Resources

7.2.1 In the main it is anticipated that any successful requests would be funded through the Council's Capital Program as so determined form time to time by the Council.

7.2.2 Officer time will be required to process request, carry out the necessary investigations and prepare the necessary Committee Reports. It is anticipated that a considerable level of input would be required from the Council's Solicitor.

8.0 SUPPORT AND ADVICE

8.1 Advice and guidance on the implementation of this should be sought from the Director, relevant Head of Services and Council Solicitor.

9.0 COMMUNICATION

9.1 The Environment & Property Directorate is responsible for the communication and delivery of this Policy.

10.0 MONITORING & REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

10.1 Implementation of this policy will be monitored and a formal review undertaken 24 months from its effective date.

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Equality & Good Relations Screening Report

Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council has a statutory duty to screen its policies, procedures, practices/decisions. This Policy Screening Form and Report assists Council Departments to consider the likely equality and good relations impacts of the aforementioned, if any, placed upon our ratepayers, citizens, service users, staff and visitors to the district.

Section 1 – Policy scoping

This asks the Policy Author to provide details on the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations. Reference to policy within this document refers to either of the aforementioned (policy, procedure, practice, and/ or decision).

Section 2 – Screening questions

This asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and issues.

Section 3 –Screening decision

This guides the Council to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

Section 4 – Monitoring

This provides guidance to the Council on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Section 5 – Approval and authorisation

This verifies the Council's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Appendix A Screening Process

Section 1 Policy Scoping & Information

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration which sets the context and confirms the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. Scoping the policy helps to identify constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy author to work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

1. Policy Name		
Maintenance of Unadopted Roads Policy		
2. Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?		
This is a new policy		
3. What is it trying to achieve? (aims/outcomes)		
To ensure that the Council has a consistent approach in exercising its General Power of Competence with respect to processing requests for the maintenance and repair of unadopted roads within the Mid Ulster District Council area.		
4. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?	Yes	
	No	✓
If so, please explain N/A		
6. Who initiated or wrote the policy?		
This policy was initiated by the Council through the Policy and Resources Committee and drafted by the Director of Environment & Property.		
7. Who owns and who implements the policy?		
The Director of Environment & Property owns the policy and will oversee its implementation		

Implementation factors

		Yes	**No**
Are there any factors which could contribute to/ detract from intended aim/ outcome of the policy?		✓	
• If yes, are they financial?		✓	
• If yes, are they legislative?		✓	
• If yes, Please specify	***Financial:*** Implementation of the Policy may well be limited by the Capital Resources available to the Council at any given point in time.		

	Legislative: Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 which deals with the application of the General Power of Competency for local authorities in Northern Ireland.
• Other, Please specify	

Stakeholders

The internal and external (actual or potential) that the policy will be impacted upon

	Yes	No
Staff	✓	
Service Users	✓	
Other public sector organisations	✓	
Voluntary/community/ trade unions		
Other, please specify		

Others policies with a bearing on this policy

Policies	Owners

Available evidence

Information and available evidence (qualitative and quantitative) gathered to inform the policy under each of the Section 75 groups as identified within the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

<table>
<tr><th>Section 75 category</th><th>Details of evidence/information</th></tr>
<tr><td>Religious belief</td><td>63.77% of the population were brought up in the Catholic religion and 33.46% belong or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. Other religions comprised 690 (0.5%) and None 3,153 (2.28%) of the population (Source: 2011 Census).

<table>
<tr><th>Religion or Religion brought up in</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr>
<tr><td>Catholic</td><td>88,375</td><td>63.77</td></tr>
<tr><td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td><td>46,372</td><td>33.46</td></tr>
<tr><td>Other religions</td><td>690</td><td>0.5</td></tr>
<tr><td>None</td><td>3,153</td><td>2.28</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>138,590</td><td>100</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Political opinion</td><td>Political party representation can be used as an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within Mid Ulster council area. The most recent local government/ council election in 2014 the percentage 1st preference vote share for each of the political party/ independents is detailed bellowed along with representation (seats) on Council (Source: NISRA):

<table>
<tr><th>Party</th><th>Votes</th><th>Percentage</th><th>Council Seats</th></tr>
<tr><td>SF</td><td>22,587</td><td>41.0%</td><td>18</td></tr>
<tr><td>DUP</td><td>9,723</td><td>17.6%</td><td>8</td></tr>
<tr><td>UUP</td><td>9,573</td><td>17.4%</td><td>7</td></tr>
<tr><td>SDLP</td><td>7,600</td><td>13.8%</td><td>6</td></tr>
<tr><td>Independent</td><td>2,689</td><td>4.9%</td><td>1</td></tr>
<tr><td>TUV</td><td>2,380</td><td>4.3%</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Alliance</td><td>250</td><td>0.6%</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>UKIP</td><td>195</td><td>0.4%</td><td>0</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Racial group</td><td>According to the 2011 Census the overwhelming majority of the population 136,485 (98.48%) were classified as 'white'. Within this total will be migrant communities, such as Polish, Lithuanian and so forth. Statistics indicate that the number of people in Mid Ulster Local Government District (LGD) born outside Northern Ireland is:

<table>
<tr><th>Place of Birth</th><th>No.</th></tr>
<tr><td>Great Britain</td><td>4,053</td></tr>
<tr><td>Republic of Ireland</td><td>2,250</td></tr>
<tr><td>EU Countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)</td><td>6,795</td></tr>
<tr><td>Other</td><td>2,280</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

	The minority ethnic language profile within the area can serve as a possible indicator of the Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) community profile within the district. The composition of language groups in Mid Ulster LGD area is also noted from the 2011 census by NISRA as: **Main Languages of residents in Mid Ulster Council area** — **No.** English — 125,715 Polish — 2,008 Lithuanian — 2,039 Portuguese — 903 Irish (Gaelic) — 404 Slovak — 477 Russian — 297 Latvia — 261 Hungarian — 117 Chinese — 64 Tagalog/Filipino — 38 Malaysian — 33 Other — 922
Age	The age profile of Mid Ulster Local Government District area as at 2015 (Source, NISRA) **Mid Ulster** — **Northern Ireland** Total Population — 144,002 — 1,851,621 0-15 years — 33,123 — 385,200 16-39 years — 47,646 — 583,116 40-64 years — 43,621 — 591,481 65+ years — 19,612 — 291,824 Population Change % (2005-2015) — 15.3% — 7.2%

Marital status

The below table sets out the martial status profile for Mid Ulster District Council area as extracted from results of the 2011 Census

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No	%
Single (never married or never registered a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)	38,353	35.97	517,393	36.14
Married (Aged 16+)	54,192	50.82	680,831	47.56
In a registered same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)	62	0.06	1,243	0.09
Separated (but is still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)	3,369	3.16	56,911	3.98
Divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved (Aged 16+)	4,139	3.88	78,074	5.45
Widowed or surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)	6,523	6.12	97,088	6.78

Sexual orientation

No specific statistics are available from the 2011 government census for this Category and there are therefore no official statistics available in relation to persons of different sexual orientation. However, the Integrated Household Survey would include between 3% and 4% would be either gay, lesbian and/or bisexual. However, due to the nature of 'disclosure' in this area, umbrella organisations often state that the figure may be closer to 10%.

Region	Heterosexual / Straight	Gay/ Lesbian	Bisexual	Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual	Other	Don't know /refuse	No response
England	92.54%	1.10%	0.51%	1.61%	0.33%	4.07%	1.45%
Wales	93.93%	1.04%	0.48%	1.52%	0.45%	2.99%	1.11%
Scotland	94.65%	0.82%	0.33%	1.14%	0.26%	2.59%	1.37%
N Ireland	**93.00%**	**0.64%**	**0.96%**	**1.60%**	**0.26%**	**3.98%**	**1.17%**
Total	92.80%	1.06%	0.51%	1.57%	0.32%	3.89%	1.42%

Research also conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5%-7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgendered and transvestite) (LGBT).

Men & women generally

The gender profile of Mid Ulster LGD is detailed as;

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	69,362	50.05	887,323	49.00
Female	69,228	49.95	923,540	51.00

Disability

According to the 2011 NISRA census statistics 19.39% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities whilst 80.43% of people within the district stated their general health was either good or very good

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Disability / long term health	26,870	19.39	374,646	20.69
No disability / long term health problem	111,720	80.61	1,436,217	79.31

In Northern Ireland the profile of persons with a disability has been reported by Disability Action as;

- More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population have a disability
- 1 in 7 people have some form of hearing loss
- 5,000 persons use sign language - British Sign Language and/or Irish Sign Language
- There are 57,000 blind persons or persons with significant impairment
- 52,000 persons with learning difficulties

Dependants

Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and/ or a dependent older person. The below table provides a summary with respect Mid Ulster LGD.

	Mid Ulster		Northern Ireland	
	No.	%	No.	%
Households with dependent children	18,626	38.99	238,094	33.86
Lone parent households with dependents	3,485	7.30	63,921	9.09
People providing unpaid care	12,821	10.69	231,980	11.82

Of the households in Mid Ulster Local Government District with dependent children, they can be summarised as;

- 7,407 families in households have 1 dependent child
- 6,394 families in households with two dependent children
- 5,014 families in households with three dependent children

There are 37,306 dependent children within families.

Needs, experiences and priorities

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

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	None expected
Political opinion	None expected
Racial group	None expected
Age	None expected
Marital status	None expected
Sexual orientation	None expected
Men and women generally	None expected
Disability	None expected
Dependants	None expected

Section 2 – Screening Questions

In making a decision as to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), the Council should consider its answers to the questions 1- 3 detailed below.

If the Council's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity categories, then the Council may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity, the Council should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the Council's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the Council's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

In favour of a 'major' impact

a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;

b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;

c) Potential equality impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;

d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;

e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;

f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;

b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;

c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;

d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

In favour of none

a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity.

b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity for people within the equality categories.

Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories (minor/ major/ none)		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Political opinion	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Racial group	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Age	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Marital status	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Sexual orientation	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Men and women generally	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Disability	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected
Dependants	No adverse impacts anticipated	None expected

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories? (Yes/ No)		
Section 75 category	If **Yes,** provide details	If **No,** provide reasons
Religious belief		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Political opinion		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Racial group		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Age		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Marital status		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Sexual orientation		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Men and women generally		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Disability		We do not believe there are opportunities to better

		promote equality of opportunity in this regard.
Dependants		We do not believe there are opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in this regard.

3. Are there opportunities without prejudice, to the equality of opportunity duty, to better promote good relations between Section 75 equality categories, through tackling prejudice and/ or promoting understanding? (Yes/ No)		
	No	✓
	Yes	
If yes, please detail the opportunities below:		

If yes is concluded to Question 3, then the policy will be referred to the Council's Good Relations Working Group for consideration. The Group will consider the potential opportunities and assess if and how the overall impact of a decision/policy can better promote good relations.

Additional Considerations - Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? (*For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).*
None
Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.
None

Section 3 – Screening Decision

In light of answers provided to the questions within Section 3 select one of the following with regards the policy:

		Select One
1	Shall not be subject to an EQIA - *with no mitigating measures required*	✓
2	Shall not be subject to an EQIA - *mitigating measures/ alternative policies introduced*	
3	Shall be subject to an EQIA	

If 1 or 2 above (i.e. not to be subject to an EQIA) please provide details of reasons why.
It is considered that this policy will have no adverse impact.

If 2 above (i.e. not to subject to an EQIA) in what ways can adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.
N/A

If 3 above (i.e. shall be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons.
N/A

Mitigation

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

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity?
If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy:

Timetabling and prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the below to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

- **On a scale of 1-3 (1 being lowest priority and 3 being highest), assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment**.

Priority criterion	**Rating (1-3)**
Effect on equality of opportunity	**N/A**
Social need	**N/A**
Effect on people's daily lives	**N/A**
Relevance to a Council's functions	**N/A**

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the Council in timetabling. Details of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the Screening Reports.

- **Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?**

Yes	✓
No	

Section 5 – Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the Council to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development. Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

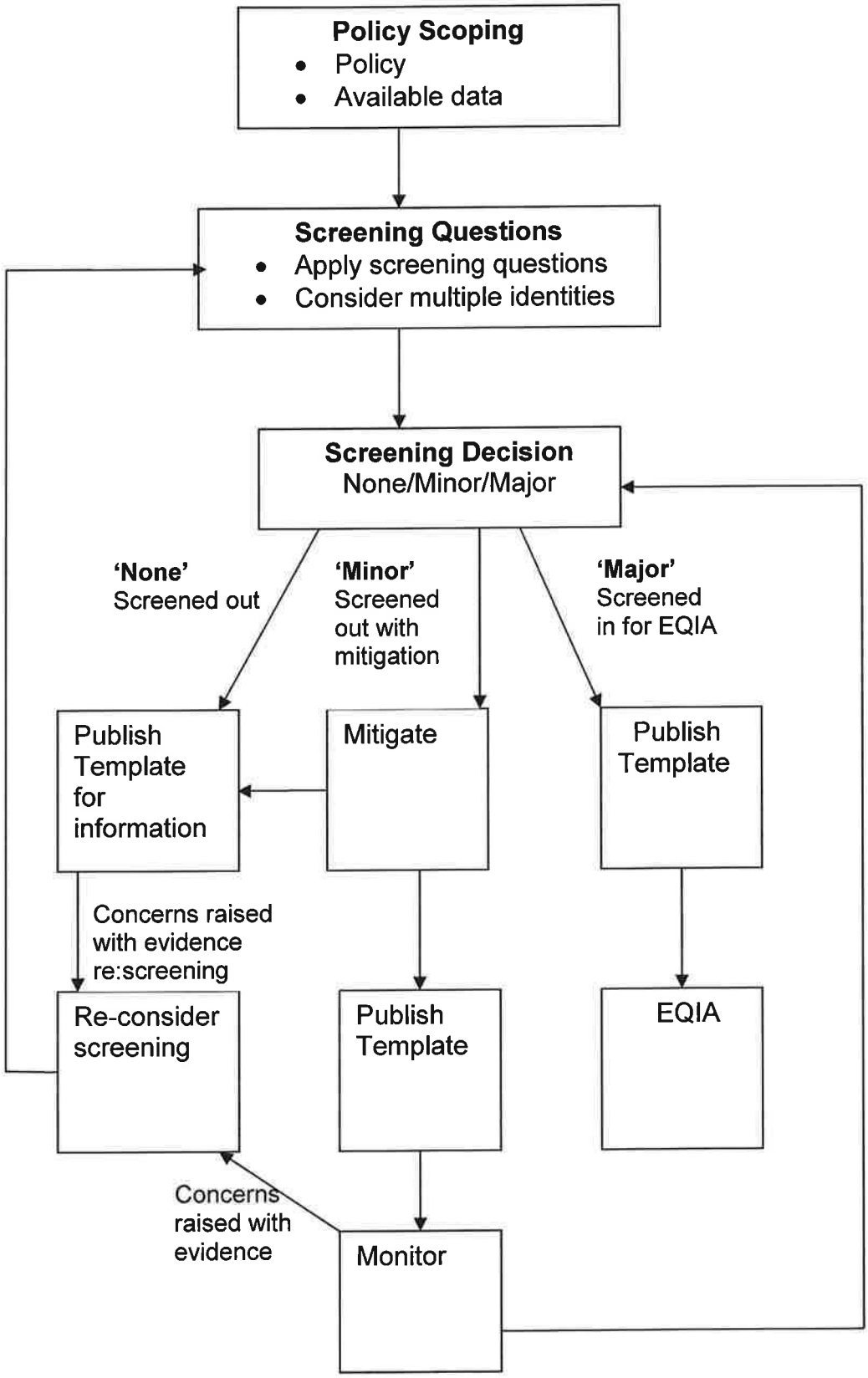
This policy will be reviewed 24 months after its date of approval.

Section 6 – Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/ Job Title	Date
Andrew Cassells **Ann McAleer**	Director of Environment & Property Corporate Policy & Equality Officer	5 September 2017
Approved by:	**Position/ Job Title**	**Date**
Andrew Cassells **Andrew Cassells**	Director of Environment & Property	5 September 2017

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

Appendix A **Mid Ulster District Council Screening Process**



Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

Maintenance of Unadopted Roads Policy

Step 1: Define the Issue

Key questions to consider:

- *What are the objectives of the strategy, policy plan or service?*
- *What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?*
- *How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this policy/strategy/service/plan?*
- *What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?*

What are the objectives of the Policy?

The objective of the Policy is to ensure that the Council can demonstrate a consistent approach in determining to use its General Power of Competence in relation to requests for the repair and maintenance of unadopted Roads within its District.

What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?

The Policy does not make any distinction between Rural and Urban areas and would therefore be applied equitably in either scenario. The Policy has been developed in response to requests, the initiation of which the Council has no control over; i.e. its application will be 'demand driven' and as such is not restrictive in terms of its applicability in a Rural setting.

How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this policy?

'Rural' as set out within Department for Environment, Agriculture & Rural Affairs guidance relating to the Rural Needs Act, as being settlements of less than 5,000 residents.

What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?

That the outcome of the application of the Policy to any request received by the Council is no different simply because of where the request emanated from.

Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider

What is the current situation in rural areas?
What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?
If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?
Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?
Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of rural needs?

What is the current situation in rural areas?

The Council has not openly sought requests from rural (or urban) areas therefore the extent of the issue is currently unquantifiable.

What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?

Save for the requests received to date none at this stage; it is not a subject which has been the focus of any known statistics or data.

If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?

As this is a 'responsive' Policy the Council can only act on requests received; there are no plans to seek requests.

Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?

As it is difficult to know who the stakeholders may be no views are available; however a positive outcome from a request following the application of the Policy would be seen to enhance the infrastructure of the area concerned.

Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of rural needs?

Transport NI as the Statutory Roads Authority are responsible for the maintenance of all adopted Roads whilst unadopted Roads are generally the responsibility of the provider and/or landowner.

Step 3: Develop and appraise options

Key questions to consider

Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?
If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?
Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?
What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?

Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?

No: the principle limitation of the application of the Policy will be in terms of the Council agreeing to utilise Council resources in exercising its General Power of Competence

If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?

These restrictions can be mitigated to an extent by the Council rigorously applying the Policy;

Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?

No

What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?

As previously stated the Policy does not differentiate between Rural and Urban applications

Step 4: Prepare for Delivery

Key questions to consider

Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?
Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?
What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?
Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?
Are different solutions required in different areas?

Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?

Yes

Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?

Delivery Mechanisms are limited as actually delivery of a successful outcome following a request will be subject to the Councils Procurement Policy.

What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?

No differentiation between Urban & Rural requests has been made nor is it intended; the outcomes, will, as per the Policy be consistent across the whole Council District.

Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?

Yes

Are different solutions required in different areas?

No

Step 5: Implementation & Monitoring

Key questions to consider

Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?
How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?
Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?

Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?

Given the definition of Rural associated with this Policy monitoring can be conducted on the basis of the location of any such requests and whether they are successful of not; however each case will no doubt contain unique elements which may make comparison on this basis difficult.

How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?

Number of requests received, number of requests which proceed based on compliance with the criteria set out in the Policy and the decision by Council to process such requests.

Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?

As above.

Step 6: Evaluation & Review

Key questions to consider

What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy, strategy, plan or service?
Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?
How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?

What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy?

The Policy is to be reviewed every two years.

Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?

Rural needs will be considered

How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?

Given that the Policy has yet to be applied to any requests it is difficult to know what specific rural issues would arise, however, any that do will be considered.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by	Andrew Cassells
Position:	Director of Environment & Property
Signature:	Andrew Cassells
Date completed:	5 September 2017
Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by	Ann McAleer
Position:	Corporate Policy and Equality Officer
Signature:	Ann Mc Aleer
Date completed:	5 September 2017

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Andrew Cassells Andrew Cassells
Position:	Director of Environment & Property
Signature:	
Date approved:	5 September 2017