

<b>Report on</b>	Council Draft Disability and Equality Action Plans (2021-2026)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Service
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide members with an opportunity to consider and comment on the Council's draft Equality and Disability Action Plans (2021-2026). Subject to comment, the plans will be subject to formal consultation for a period of 12 weeks in line with Equality Scheme commitments.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Council is required to comply with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Compliance with the Act requires Council to have both an Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan in place.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Council's Equality Scheme commits it to the development and implementation of an associated Equality Action Plan to run from its approval until 2026, setting out how the priorities identified in the Scheme are to be delivered. The draft Equality Action Plan (refer to appendix A) has been informed by an Audit of Inequalities which was carried out between May-August 2020 with input from across Heads of Service. The Equality Commission requires that a public consultation be undertaken to inform the draft Equality Action Plan. Themes identified for inclusion in the Plan, from the Audit of Inequalities, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility of Council Services, Facilities and Events</li> <li>• Corporate Practices</li> <li>• Participation Levels</li> <li>• Partnership Working</li> </ul>
3.2	A Disability Action Plan was initially approved by Mid Ulster Council (Shadow) in December 2014. This Plan has been reviewed (refer to appendix B), and subsequently revised and updated to meet the changing needs of those who access our services. Disability Action Plans do not require direct approval from the Equality Commission though they are informed in their development by Equality

3.3	<p>Commission guidance, dictating that a number of actions measures on for example training measures are included.</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Disability Forum is a named consultee within the current Disability Action Plan and as such have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the updated draft actions, as contained within appendix A and B to this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: None identified
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management: None identified
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Contributing towards Equality Scheme development
	Rural Needs Implications: Assessment undertaken and available on request
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That the Committee considers and comments as appropriate the draft Equality and Disability Action Plans and approval to move to public consultation on same, in line with Equality Commission commitments.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix A: Equality Action Plan (draft) 2021-2026</p> <p>Appendix B: Disability Action Plan (draft) 2021-2026</p>