

<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster District Council's Finalised Equality Action Plan and Reviewed Disability Action Plan (Post Consultation)
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and 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	To seek Member's approval to implement Council's Equality Action Plan and Revised Disability Action Plan post consultation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Council is required to comply with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act). Mid Ulster District Council is bound by Section 75 of the N Ireland Act 1998. Section 75(1) requires that the council gives due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between groupings/categories as detailed within the Act and Section 75(2) requires that regard be given to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
2.2	Compliance with the Act requires Council to have both an Equality Action Plan and Disability Action Plan in place. Public Consultation of the Equality Action Plan is required by the Equality Commission. The Public Consultation was held over a 14week period between June and Sept 2017.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Council's Equality Scheme (2015-2020) was approved by the Equality Commission in November 2016. The Scheme requires the implementation of an associated Equality Action Plan to run from its approval until 2020, setting out how the priorities identified in the Scheme will be delivered. The Equality Action Plan has been informed by an Audit of Inequalities which was carried out in April 2015. The Equality Commission require that a public consultation is carried out to fully inform the draft Equality Action Plan. Themes identified for inclusion in The Plan from the Audit of Inequalities included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Corporate practices</li> <li>• Participation levels</li> <li>• Partnership working</li> </ul>
3.2	Council's current Disability Action Plan was first approved by the Shadow Council in December 2014. The revised version was brought up-to-date prior to consultation in order to reflect the current needs identified in Mid Ulster District Council area.

3.3

As a result of the consultation, two of the action points in the Equality Action Plan were amended slightly to include more specific actions. These changes are included in red below. Further details are included in the Consultation Report (Appendix A). The Revised Disability Action Plan did not require amendment as a result of the consultation.

3.4

Action No.	Theme 1: Accessibility	Key Inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents from ethnic minority backgrounds feel perceived inaccessibility to local democracy</li> <li>Older people feel they cannot access Council facilities</li> </ul>		
			Desired Outcome	Performance Indicator	Responsibility
1a	Increased accessibility of Council services available online and in other requested formats while incorporating of multi-channel communication tools	Improved accessibility of Council services	Level of increase of online transactions	Chief Executive and Directors	2017-2020
Action No.	Theme 4: Partnership Working	Key Inequalities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership working between Council and Community &amp; Voluntary support organisations</li> <li>Council being more proactive by creating linkages and networking opportunities for the Community &amp; Voluntary sector</li> </ul>		
			Desired Outcome	Performance Indicator	Responsibility
4b	Provide opportunities for residents, customers and visitors to engage directly with Elected Members. Include outreach sessions with Elected Members and Officers.	Create opportunities for people to get involved	No. of events and opportunities provided No. of attendees	Heads of Service	2018

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: N/A</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>No negative impacts on equality or good relations are anticipated as a result of the implementation of both plans.</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members approve the attached finalised Equality Action Plan and Reviewed Disability Action Plan for implementation.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A: Consultation Report