

## Policy on Dual Language Nameplate Signage

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## 1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 Mid Ulster District Council resolved that a policy and associated procedures be developed to guide the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (“the 1995 Order”), referenced in Appendix A to this policy, on;

- (i) Erection of dual language Street signage

## 2.0 **Policy Aim & Objectives**

2.1 **Policy Aim:** To ensure that requests for the erection of dual language nameplate signage for existing streets are delivered in a fair, equitable and consistent manner.

### 2.2 **Policy Objectives:**

- To facilitate Mid Ulster District Council in meeting its statutory obligations with regard to local government Street Signage requirements.
- To lay out and facilitate a process whereby residents may request that their street be named in any other language other than English.
- To facilitate a process that considers requests from residents to have their street sign displayed in their chosen language as well as in English.

## 3.0 **Policy Scope and Legislative Framework**

3.1 This policy relates specifically to the naming of the erection of nameplates expressing the name of the street in a language other than English. The statutory basis for this policy is contained within Article 11 of the 1995 Order.

3.2 This legislation empowers Council to authorise the naming of streets within its respective District. It also provides the Council with a discretionary power to erect dual language street signs or second nameplates in a language other than English via Section 1a and 1b. A copy of the relevant statute is included in Appendix A.

3.3 For purposes of this Policy, the following interpretation/ definitions apply as set out within the 1995 Order:

- Nameplate - defined as a means of 'signifying a name in writing'
- Street - defined as 'any road, square, court, alley, passage or lane'.

#### **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 1 *Delivering for Our People*.

#### **5.0 Dual Language Signage Nameplates**

- 5.1 The Council will apply this policy when considering applications for dual language signage expressing the name of the street in a language other than English, to both existing and new streets.
- 5.2 The 1995 Order gives the Council a discretionary power to erect dual language signs or second nameplates, adjacent to the nameplate in English. In exercising this discretionary power, the Council must have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.
- 5.3 Criteria - General

The Council in making arrangements and providing opportunities for dual language signage within street naming shall;

1. Have regard to any views on the matter expressed by occupiers of the street.
2. For the purposes of the policy, surveys will be issued to all occupiers (the age of 18 or over) of each dwelling where any person resides in a dwelling, including a house, flat, maisonette or house in multiple occupancy and which is numbered directly off the adjoining street, hereafter referred to as 'property'. Only the views of the occupiers aged 18 or over for each property that is occupied and listed on the Electoral Register at the date of survey will be considered.
3. In relation to properties, the 'occupier' will include the owner and family members or tenants as listed on the current Electoral / Rates Register as residing at that address or tenants in actual possession of the premises, but not employees within such premises at the date of the survey.
4. The naming of the street in a language other than English does not authorise or require its use as, or part of, the address of any person or the description of the land for the purpose of any statutory provision; e.g., Building Control applications.

5.4 The provision of dual language Street Names will normally only be considered in the following circumstances:

- In the case of existing streets, where the Council has been petitioned and/or consulted with the occupiers of premises in that street and other persons it deems appropriate, in accordance with these arrangements.

5.5 Where an applicant does not have English as their first language, information in relation to this policy can be provided in an alternative language. Applications can be accepted in alternative languages if required by the applicant. Please see Appendix D for details.

5.6 Applications for Dual Language Signage will be processed in accordance with the Procedure as outlined in Appendix B

## **6.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

6.1 **Director of Public Health and Infrastructure:** shall have responsibility for implementation of this policy by Mid Ulster District Council, through the Building Control Service.

6.2 **Building Control Service:** shall be responsible for implementing arrangements to administer requests to have an existing name of a Street erected in a language other than English;

## **7.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

### **7.1 Equality Screening & Impact**

7.1.1 This policy has been subject to equality screening in accordance with the Council's equality scheme screening process. It has been 'screened out' for an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **7.2 Rural Needs Impact**

7.2.1 This policy has been subjected to a rural needs impact assessment and thus can demonstrate regard to rural needs when delivering this public service.

### **7.3 Staff & Financial Resources**

7.3.1 No issues have been identified which will impact on the delivery of Council business as a result of this policy being implemented.

## **8.0 Support and Advice**

8.1 Advice and guidance on the implementation of this should be sought from the Head of Building Control

## **9.0 Communication**

- 9.1 The Building Control Service within the Public Health & Infrastructure Department of Council is responsible for the communication, delivery and adherence to this policy

## **10.0 Monitoring and Review Arrangements**

- 10.1 Implementation of this policy will be routinely monitored and a formal review undertaken 4 years from its effective commencement date.

**Appendix A**  
**Article 11, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**

*Street names and numbering of buildings*

**Powers of councils in relation to street names and numbering of buildings**

11.—(1) A council may erect at or near each end, corner or entrance of any street in its district a nameplate showing the name of the street; and a nameplate erected under this paragraph—

- (a) shall express the name of the street in English; and
- (b) may express that name in any other language

(2) A council may, immediately adjacent to a nameplate erected under paragraph (1) which expresses the name of a street in English only, erect a second nameplate expressing the name of the street in a language other than English.

(3) Neither this Article nor anything done by a council thereunder authorises or requires the use of the name of a street expressed in a language other than English as, or as part of—

- (a) the address of any person; or
- (b) the description of any land; for

the purposes of any statutory provision.

(4) In deciding whether and, if so, how to exercise its powers under paragraph (1)(b) or (2) in relation to any street, a council shall have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.

(5) Any person who—

- (a) obscures, pulls down or defaces any nameplate erected under paragraph (1) or (2);
- (b) erects in any street any nameplate showing as the name of the street a name different from that in any nameplate erected in the street under paragraph (1) or (2); or
- (c) erects in any street any nameplate purporting to show the name of the street, without the authorisation of the council for the district in which the street is situated,

shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(6) Where a council has exercised its powers under paragraph (1) in relation to any street, the occupier of each house or other building in that street shall ensure that that house or building is at all times marked with such number as the council may approve for the purposes of this Article.

(7) Where a person fails to comply with paragraph (6) the council may serve on him a notice requiring him to comply with that paragraph within 7 days from the date of service of the notice.

(8) A person who fails to comply with a notice served on him under paragraph (7) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(9) Where a person fails to comply with a notice served on him under paragraph (7) in respect of any house or other building, the council may itself do anything which he has failed to do and may recover from that person summarily as a civil debt any expenses thereby reasonably incurred by it.

(10) In this Article—  
“nameplate” includes any means of signifying a name in writing; “street” includes any road, square, court, alley, passage or lane.

(11) The power of a council to erect a nameplate under paragraph (1) or (2) includes power—

- (a) to erect it on any building or in such other manner as the council thinks fit; and
- (b) to cause it to be erected by any person authorised in that behalf by the council.

(12) The following statutory provisions shall cease to have effect, namely—

- (a) sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847<sup>F6</sup>;
- (b) in section 38 of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854<sup>F7</sup> the words “naming the streets and numbering the houses and also so much thereof as relates to”;
- (c) section 21 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907<sup>F8</sup>;
- (d) section 19 of the Public Health and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1949<sup>F9</sup>; and
- (e) so much of any local Act as relates to the naming of streets or the numbering of houses or buildings

## **Appendix B**

### **Dual Language Signage Nameplates: *Procedure***

In deciding whether it should exercise its discretionary powers in relation to erection of dual language nameplates under Article 11 of the 1995 Order, the Council shall only do so after having regard to the views of occupiers of premises which has its frontage immediately adjoining that street.

The procedure for seeking and assessing the views of occupiers and criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a dual language nameplate in a language other than English is;

1. A valid letter, signed by an occupier of the street must be made to Council to enable this matter to be considered. Requests should be made to the Building Control Service within the Public Health and Infrastructure Department. A letter of request shall be valid if; it is from an occupier who appears on the Electoral Register as maintained by the Electoral Office for NI; the applicant's address is referenced on the letter and; the individual's name is clearly stated and the letter has been signed by the petitioner (who must be an occupier of premises on the street). A letter may be received by email but it must be attached as a file and signed. The Council shall not accept a request made within the body of an email.
2. The Environment Committee will receive notification of submitted requests by way of valid letters as referenced at 1, above. A letter will be deemed to be valid where it is submitted by a minimum of one householder on that street. The Environment Committee will be informed of requests which have been validated and are proceeding to survey.
3. Following validation, the Council will canvass, by post, each occupier within a household as listed on the Electoral Register; seeking their views on the request to erect a dual-language street nameplate. Each household will receive a letter accompanied by survey forms based on the number of occupiers listed on the Electoral Register. The requisite number of survey forms for individuals registered at that address will be forwarded to each household (See Appendix E)
4. The occupiers will be advised of the date by which completed surveys must be returned. Incomplete or illegible survey returns will not be counted. Completed surveys which has been signed and name printed as required, must be returned in the self- addressed envelopes provided for that purpose. Only replies received by the specified date shall be considered.
5. For purposes of assessment where 51 % (rounded to nearest whole number) of occupiers that respond indicate that they are in favour of the erection of a dual language street nameplate, then the results of the survey will be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information confirming that the dual language nameplate will be erected

6. For purposes of assessment where 51 % (rounded to nearest whole number) of occupiers that respond indicate that they are not in favour of the erection of a dual-language street nameplate, then the results of the survey will be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information confirming that the dual language nameplate will not be approved or erected
7. In specific circumstances a report may be brought to the Environment Committee to determine an application where there are particular issues requiring the Members consideration
8. If the request is refused by those households surveyed, further requests will not be considered until the expiry of 12 months from the date at which the Environment Committee refuses it.
9. Where a request for Irish Language signage, the Irish Language Section within Department of Culture and Arts and/or an approved translator will provide the translation of the street name. Any other language shall be obtained from an approved translation service the cost of which will be notified to the Environment Committee when receiving the report on the outcome of the survey. The second language will not be used to express the name of the street for statutory purposes.
10. The layout, font and size of lettering of the second language shall be in accordance with that as shown in Appendix C.
11. Following the Council's decision with regards to the request on Dual Language Signage for a particular street/road, the outcome will be published on the Council Website. Where requested, written confirmation of the decision will be forwarded to relevant households.
12. Where agreed, a new dual language nameplate will be erected at the start and finish of the street or road in question and at such points along it as required e.g. at other road junctions, in accordance with any operational requirements as determined by the Property Services Team.

## Appendix C Name Plate Layout

**AGREED:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Environment Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 Full Council

### Mono-Lingual New Road / Street Signage



#### Example signage

##### Specification

- Name Plate Dimensions: 200mm x length to suit road name
- Background Colour: White
- Font & Colour: Transport Medium; Black
- Road Name font size: Upper case; 70mm Lower case; 50mm
- Townland font size: Upper case; 30mm Lower case; 22mm
- Text Justification: Left hand

### Dual Language Street Signage



#### Example signage

##### Specification

- Name Plate Dimensions: 460mm x length to suit road name
- Background Colour: Dark Grey Value; C:77 M:63 Y:64 K:69  
Light Grey Value; C:0 M:0 Y:0 K:10
- Font Type: Transport Medium
- Font Colour: Dark Grey Value; C:77 M:63 Y:64 K:69  
Standard White
- Road Name font size: Upper case; 63mm Lower case; 50mm
- Townland font size: Upper case; 40mm Lower case; 30mm
- Text Justification: Left hand

## **Appendix D- Accessibility Statement**

The information included in this policy can be made available in alternative formats, such as audio, braille, easy read or large print and may be provided in alternative languages, upon request. Please contact Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Policy & Equality Officer on 03000 132 132 Ex 24612 or via [ann.mcaleer@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:ann.mcaleer@midulstercouncil.org)



Cumhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

Appendix E

18 February 2019

Our Ref:- «Ref»

The Occupier  
50 Ballyronan Road  
Townparks of Magherafelt  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

Ref: Application for Dual Language signs at Name of Street/Development

Dear Sir/Madam

Mid Ulster District Council have received an application to erect street nameplates in ??? in addition to the current name for the street as indicated above.

The Council's Policy on Street Naming & Dual Language Signage outlines that individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to register their preference on this matter:

A person who resides on the street in question and appears on the Electoral Register as maintained by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Our records would indicate that you meet the above criteria.

In accordance with these arrangements I would be grateful if you would complete the attached survey form and indicate your preference in this matter. The completed survey form should be returned to these offices in the addressed envelope provided by **Tuesday 19 March 2019**. Survey forms received after this date will not be considered.

On completion of this survey Council will provide a determination on this request on the basis of the majority preference as submitted. For approval to be considered, at least 51% of respondents must be in favour of the proposal (i.e. street nameplates being erected in ???, in addition to English for Name of Street/Development).

If you have any queries on the above please contact Willie Wilkinson in the Magherafelt Office by either:

Tel: 03000 132 132 (Ext 22208)

Email: [willie.wilkinson@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:willie.wilkinson@midulstercouncil.org)

Yours faithfully

W Wilkinson  
Head of Building Control

Enc

Cookstown Office Bun Buid Cookstown BT80 8DT	Dungannon Office Ulster St Road Dungannon BT71 6L0	Magherafelt Office Ballyronan Road Magherafelt BT45 6EN	Telephone 03000 132 132 <a href="mailto:willie.wilkinson@midulstercouncil.org">willie.wilkinson@midulstercouncil.org</a> <a href="http://www.midulstercouncil.org">www.midulstercouncil.org</a>
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19 February 2019

Our Ref:- MUDL0078

The Occupier (1)  
50 Ballyronan Road  
Townparks of Magherafelt  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

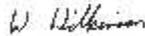
Ref: Application for Dual Language signs at Name of Street/Development

Dear Sir/Madam

Please read the following statements below carefully. Tick your preferred option in the appropriate box, print your name and address and sign the document. Then return this letter which has your reply in the addressed envelope provided by 19 March 2019.

Thank you for your time completing this survey.

Yours faithfully



W Wilkinson

Head of Building Control

#### Options

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1. I WISH to have a Dual Language nameplate erected at Name of Street/Development, the additional language being ???

2. I DO NOT WISH to have a Dual Language nameplate erected at Name of Street/Development, the additional language being ???

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The results of this survey will be available to view on [www.midulstercouncil.org](http://www.midulstercouncil.org) but should you wish to receive written correspondence detailing the outcome of the survey please tick this box.



**Equality & Good Relations  
Screening Report**

## **Mid Ulster District Council - Equality Screening Template**

Council has a statutory duty to screen all policies. Please note a policy can be written or unwritten, formal or informal. This includes our strategies, plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. Please note a policy can be written or unwritten, formal or informal. This screening template is designed to help all departments consider the likely equality and good relations impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training. To find out about the training contact [ann.mcaleer@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:ann.mcaleer@midulstercouncil.org)

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

### **Section 1 – Policy scoping**

Asks you to provide details about the policy/decision that is being screened.

### **Section 2 – Screening questions**

These are key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence. Please provide details of groups consulted with.

### **Section 3 – Screening decision**

This is a formal record of the screening decision. i.e. 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 1- Scoping

### Details about the policy / decision to be screened

**Title of policy / decision / programme to be screened: -**

Dual Language and Nameplate Signage Policy

**Is this an existing, revised or new policy/ decision / programme? :-**

This is an existing policy.

**What is it trying to achieve? (aims/outcomes)**

The primary purpose of this policy is:

- To ensure that requests for the erection of dual language signage are delivered in a fair, equitable and consistent manner.
- To lay out and facilitate a process whereby residents may request that their street be named in any other language other than English

**What others policies with a bearing on this policy/ decision/programme?**

<b>Policy Title</b>	<b>Policy Owners</b>
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995	NI Assembly
Irish Language Policy	Mid Ulster District Council
Ulster Scots Policy	Mid Ulster District Council
Street Naming and Numbering Policy	Mid Ulster District Council

Accessible Communication Policy	Mid Ulster District Council
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Are there any financial or legislative factors which could contribute to/ detract from intended aim/ outcome of the policy?	
Financial	The pace of implementation will be determined by the financial allocation of the relevant Council Department.
Legislative	Legislative provisions are currently in place to provide statutory guidance/requirements in relation to the implementation of the policy
Other	N/A

**Section 2- Screening Questions**

**1. Outline any consultation process achieved or planned in relation to the implementation of this policy/ decision/ programme:**

Consultation on this policy review was carried out internally via Council’s Environment Committee. The final policy will be presented to Full Council for ratification.

**2. Available evidence**

**What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy/decision/programme? Set out all evidence below to help inform your screening assessment.**

Please note: It is important to record information gathered from a variety of sources such as:

- Monitoring information
- Complaints
- Research /surveys
- Consultation exercise
- other public authorities

During the period April 2019-April 2021, 223 applications for dual language have been received and processed. 203 (91%) of these applications resulted in dual language signage being erected with 20 (9%) resulting in signage remaining in English only. All the dual language signs erected were for English & Irish. A recent application request has been received for dual language in Tetum (the language of East Timor).

**What is the likely impact (indicate if the policy impact is positive or negative) on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact? major/minor/none (See Appendix A for definitions)**

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>																		
Religious belief	<p>63.77% of the population in Mid Ulster 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).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="337 1184 1321 1575"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="344 1184 971 1243"><b>Religion or Religion brought up in</b></th> <th data-bbox="971 1184 1159 1243"><b>No.</b></th> <th data-bbox="1159 1184 1321 1243"><b>%</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1243 971 1302">Catholic</td> <td data-bbox="971 1243 1159 1302">88,375</td> <td data-bbox="1159 1243 1321 1302">63.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1302 971 1398">Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td> <td data-bbox="971 1302 1159 1398">46,372</td> <td data-bbox="1159 1302 1321 1398">33.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1398 971 1457">Other religions</td> <td data-bbox="971 1398 1159 1457">690</td> <td data-bbox="1159 1398 1321 1457">0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1457 971 1516">None</td> <td data-bbox="971 1457 1159 1516">3,153</td> <td data-bbox="1159 1457 1321 1516">2.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="344 1516 971 1575"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="971 1516 1159 1575"><b>138,590</b></td> <td data-bbox="1159 1516 1321 1575"><b>100</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Religion or Religion brought up in</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>	Catholic	88,375	63.77	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	46,372	33.46	Other religions	690	0.5	None	3,153	2.28	<b>Total</b>	<b>138,590</b>	<b>100</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>138,590</b>	<b>100</b>																	
Political opinion	Political party representation can be used as an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within Mid Ulster council area. The table below shows the results from the May 2019 local government/council elections -																		

percentage 1<sup>st</sup> preference vote share for each political party and current representation (seats) on Council. (Source: Electoral Office).

Party	Votes	Percentage	Council Seats
SF	23,553	39.8%	17
DUP	13,700	23.2%	9
SDLP	8,512	14.4%	5
UUP	8,021	13.6%	6
Independent	3,422	5.8%	2
Aontu*	846	1.4%	1
Alliance	729	1.2%	
TUV	230	0.4%	
Workers' Party	95	0.2%	

**\*A councillor who was elected as a representative of the SDLP resigned from that party and aligned with Aontu shortly after the 2019 local government elections**

Racial group

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:

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:

Place of Birth	No.
Great Britain	4,053
Republic of Ireland	2,250

	EU Countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia)	6,795
	Other	2,280
	<b>Main Languages of residents in Mid Ulster Council area</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	
	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)	
	<b>Mid Ulster</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
	Total Population	144,002
	0-15 years	33,123
	16-39 years	47,646
	40-64 years	583,116
	43,621	591,481
	65+ years	19,612
	Population Change % (2005-2015)	291,824
	15.3%	7.2%

Marital status	The below table sets out the marital status profile for Mid Ulster District Council area as extracted from results of the 2011 Census		
		<b>Mid Ulster</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
	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	<p>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%.</p> <p>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, transgender and transvestite) (LGBT).</p>							
	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%
	<b>N Ireland</b>	<b>93.00%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>	<b>1.60%</b>	<b>0.26%</b>	<b>3.98%</b>	<b>1.17%</b>
	Total	92.80%	1.06%	0.51%	1.57%	0.32%	3.89%	1.42%
Men and women generally	The gender profile of Mid Ulster LGD is detailed in the table below.							
		<b>Mid Ulster</b>		<b>Northern Ireland</b>				
	<b>Male</b>	69,362 (50.05%)		887,323 (49.00%)				
	<b>Female</b>	69,228 (49.95%)		923,540 (51.00%)				
Disability	<p>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</p> <p>In Northern Ireland the profile of persons with a disability has been reported by Disability Action as:</p> <p>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.</p>							
			<b>Mid Ulster</b>		<b>Northern Ireland</b>			
	Disability / long term health problem	26,870 (19.39%)		374,646 (20.69%)				
	No disability / long term health problem	111,720 (80.61%)		1,436,217 (79.31%)				
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 to Mid Ulster LGD.

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.

	<b>Mid Ulster</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
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%)

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of policy impact</b>	<b>Level of impact? minor/major/none</b>
Religious belief	<p>While language is not itself a section 75 category. However by proxy people of different religious belief have the potential to benefit from the opportunity afforded under the aspect of the policy related to dual language street signage.</p> <p>In terms of equality of opportunity, any potential positive impact of this policy for people of any specific religious belief does not</p>	Minor

	automatically create an adverse negative impact on people with other religious beliefs.	
Political opinion	<p>While language is not itself a section 75 category. However by proxy people of different political opinion have potential to benefit from the opportunity afforded under the aspect of the policy related to dual language street signage.</p> <p>In terms of equality of opportunity, any potential positive impact of this policy for people of any specific political opinion does not automatically create an adverse negative impact on people with other political opinions.</p>	Minor
Racial group	<p>While language is not itself a section 75 category. However by proxy people of different political opinion have potential to benefit from the opportunity afforded under the aspect of the policy related to dual language street signage.</p> <p>In terms of equality of opportunity, any potential positive impact of this policy for people of any specific political opinion does not automatically create an adverse negative impact on people with other political opinions.</p>	Minor
Age	No adverse impact anticipated	None
Marital status	No adverse impact anticipated	None
Sexual orientation	No adverse impact anticipated	None
Men and women generally	No adverse impact anticipated	None
Disability	No adverse impact anticipated	None

Dependents	No adverse impact anticipated	None
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### 3. Good Relations

**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)**

If yes please provide details of the opportunities below:

Yes	X
No	
If yes, please detail the opportunities:	While this policy is an outworking of the Misc Order of 1995, the use of the policy to introduce Irish Language signage has led to the opportunity duty, to better promote good relations between Section 75 equality categories, through tackling prejudice and/or promoting understanding. This is evident by the number of Irish language signs that has been defaced and damaged.

Please note that when it is identified that opportunities to better promote good relations between Section 75 equality categories, the policy/ decision/ programme will be referred to the Good Relations Working Group. The Working Group will then assess if and how the overall impact of a decision/policy can better promote good relations.

### 4. Multiple Identities

**Provide details of data on the impact of the policy with multiple identities**

**Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

N/A
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### Section 3- Screening Decision

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy/ decision/ programme is – (\*place an X in the appropriate box below)

\*Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA

\*Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)

Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:

\* Screened Out - Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)

Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:

Explain what mitigating actions and / or policy changes will now be introduced:

The Department responsible for Community Development within the Council have been contacted and made aware of the existence of this policy so they can perhaps inform Ethnic Community Groups/ Representatives of the potential benefits of same.

### Appendix A

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.

## Appendix B

### 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.**

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

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**

**Access to Electoral Office is required to obtain list of occupiers on any given street that may be eligible to vote for dual language.**

## Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

### SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Mid Ulster District Council

#### 1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

The development of a Policy to facilitate Mid Ulster District Council in meeting its statutory obligations with regard to local government (Dual Language) Street Signage Requirements.

#### 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Policy on Dual Language & Nameplate Signage

#### 1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

To facilitate a process that considers requests from residents to have their street sign displayed in their chosen language as well as in English in a consistent manner and identifying the mechanisms and processes by which Mid Ulster District Council will undertake to administer same.

**1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

N/A

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

N/A

## SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

N/A

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

N/A

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>

**If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.**

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

Legislative provisions are currently in place to provide statutory guidance/requirements in relation to the implementation of the policy and does not differentiate between either Rural or Urban areas. This Legislation is:

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

## SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

**3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

**3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

**3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.**

A total of 78 surveys have been carried out in rural areas in relation to Dual Language Signage. The following is the method used to obtain the relevant information:

1. A valid letter, signed by an occupier of the street must be made to Council to enable this matter to be considered.
2. The Environment Committee will be informed of requests which have been validated and are proceeding to survey. The Council will canvass, by post, each occupier within a household as listed on the Electoral Register; seeking their views on the request to erect a dual-language street nameplate. Each household will receive a letter accompanied by survey forms based on the number of occupiers listed on the Electoral Register. The requisite number of survey forms for individuals registered at that address will be forwarded to each household.
3. The occupiers will be advised of the date by which completed surveys must be returned. Incomplete or illegible survey returns will not be counted. Completed surveys must be returned in the self-addressed envelopes provided for that purpose. Only replies received by the specified date shall be considered.
4. For purposes of assessment where 51 % (rounded to nearest whole number) of occupiers that respond indicate that they are in favour of the erection of a dual language street nameplate, then the results of the survey will be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information confirming that the dual language nameplate will be erected.

Of the 81 surveys carried out, 68 have resulted in dual language signage being erected for these streets with 13 resulting in the street signage remaining in English only..

**3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?**

The surveys identified a social need which is to facilitate a process to accommodate requests from residents to have their street sign displayed in their chosen language as well as in English. 142 similar surveys were carried out in urban areas whereby the same social need was identified. Therefore no specific social need in rural areas identified.

No relevant economic needs identified in rural areas.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

**3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

N/A

## **SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

### **4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

In relation to social needs, no relevant issues identified. Legislative provisions are currently in place to provide statutory guidance/requirements in relation to the implementation of the policy. This Legislation is:

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

No relevant issues regarding economic needs identified.

## SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

**5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

**5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

N/A

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

No specific rural need identified that would differ from that of an urban need under this policy. Legislative provisions are currently in place to provide statutory guidance/requirements in relation to the implementation of the policy and does not differentiate between either Rural or Urban areas. This Legislation is:

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995

## SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

**6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.**

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	P.J. Fox
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Principal Building Control Officer
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Department of Public Health & Infrastructure
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	27/04/2021
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	W Wilkinson
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Head of Building Control
<b>Division/Branch:</b>	Directorate of Public Health & Infrastructure
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>W. Wilkinson</i>
<b>Date:</b>	27/04/2021