

ARDS AND
DOWN AREA
PLAN 2015



EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

March 2009



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires a public authority, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:
- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.
- 1.2 In addition, without prejudice to the above obligations, public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or race.
- 1.3 The Department of Environment (the Department) is committed to assessing the Ards and Down Plan 2015 for equality impact, under the obligations of Section 75.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Planning Service (an agency within the Department of the Environment) aims to Plan and manage development in ways that will contribute to a quality environment and seek to meet the economic and social aspirations of present and future generations. As part of the pursuit of this aim, Planning Service produces a series of Area Plans, which cover one or more District Council Areas. The Area Plan provides amongst other things specific land allocations for the full range of land uses needed to support the life of the local community and social and economic progress. These can include for example specific allocations of land for housing, industry, recreation, nature conservation and infrastructure. The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (the 'Plan') is one such Area Plan prepared by Planning Service. The Plan process to date is set out below.
- 2.2 The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 is prepared under the provisions of Part III of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 by the Planning Service, an Agency within the Department of the Environment.
- 2.3 Notice was given to Ards Borough Council on 12th January 1999 and to Down District Council on 27th January 1999 that the Department intended to prepare a new development Plan for the Borough and District for the period 2000 to 2015. A Notice of Intention to prepare the Plan was published in the local and provincial press in the week beginning 15th March 1999 and comments were invited from the public and interested parties in respect of the issues to be addressed in the Plan. In April 2000 the Department informed Ards Borough and Down District Councils that the Plan would be prepared under new procedures which replaced the publication of Preliminary Proposals with the publication of an Issues Paper. All representations received were taken into account in preparing the Issues Paper of the Plan.
- 2.4 The Department published the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 Issues Paper on 15th December 2000. Representations were subsequently received from the Borough and District Councils, a number of statutory and voluntary bodies and individual members of the public and these were considered by the Department in preparing the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 – Draft Plan.
- 2.5 The Department appointed independent consultants, Community Technical Aid, (CTA), to facilitate the public and community debate on issues of strategic importance in the preparation of the Plan. CTA arranged and facilitated a series of public meetings and community sector events throughout the Plan area in January 2001. Copies of the Issues Paper were available at each meeting and Planning staff from the Area Plan team were on hand to answer questions. Issues debated in these meetings were not confined to those contained in the Issues Paper.
- 2.6 The draft EQIA was published in conjunction with the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 – Draft Plan, on 10th December 2002. Representations in support of or objections to any of the policies or proposals contained in the Draft Plan were sought over a six-week period thereafter. Representations in support of or

objections to the Draft Equality Impact Assessment were sought over an eight-week period thereafter.

- 2.7 The statutory period for objection to the Draft Plan expired on 21 January 2003. In view of the number and nature of the objections received within the statutory period, the Department requested the Planning Appeals Commission to hold a Public Inquiry into the relevant objections and to report to the Department on the Inquiry. The Public Inquiry opened on Tuesday 3rd May 2005 in the Queen's Hall, West Street, Newtownards. The Planning Appeals Commission formally closed the Public Inquiry on Wednesday 17th January 2007. The Planning Appeals Commission completed its report into the objections to the Draft Plan and submitted its report to the Department on the 14th March 2008. The recommendations contained in the Commission's report have been fully considered by the Department and revisions have been made to the Written Statement and to the maps as appropriate. Full details of the Department's response to the Commission's recommendations are set out in the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 Adoption Statement and its Appendices.
- 2.8 The Department is now publishing the Equality Impact Assessment for the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015

3.1 Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Plan is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will be used to guide development decisions within Ards Borough and Down District over the Plan period 2000 -2015.

3.2 Plan Aim

To provide a Planning framework which is in conformity with the RDS in facilitating sustainable growth and a high quality of development in Ards Borough and Down District throughout the Plan period, whilst protecting and where appropriate, enhancing the natural and man-made environment of the Plan area.

3.3 Plan Policies and Proposals

The policies and proposals contained in the Plan constitute considerations that the Department will take into account in determining Planning applications within the Plan area. The contents of the Plan must be read as a whole as often several policies may be relevant to a particular development proposal.

The policies and proposals contained in the Plan should not, however, be read as the only tests of acceptability for development proposals. In making its decisions, the Department will also assess proposals against all Planning policies and other material considerations that are relevant to it. The contents of the Plan must therefore be read in conjunction with the relevant contents of regional policy publications and supplementary Planning guidance documents.

In order to ensure that there is no public misunderstanding of these Plan policies and proposals, it must be recognised that there may be occasion when other material considerations outweigh one or more of these. Each case must be considered on its merits to assess whether an exception would be justified but the provisions of the Plan policies and proposals will prevail unless there are other overriding policy or material considerations which outweigh them and justify a contrary decision.

3.4 Plan Objectives

- to facilitate sustainable patterns of growth and development throughout the Plan area in accordance with the sustainability related strategic objectives of the RDS;
- to promote Newtownards and Downpatrick as main towns within Northern Ireland and to strengthen their role as the principal administrative, trade, employment and residential centres within the Plan area;

- to allocate land for additional housing development over the Plan period in accordance with the strategic objectives and guidelines contained in the RDS relating to managing future housing growth, the distribution of housing and the drive for greater housing provision within existing urban areas;
- to facilitate appropriate development within existing urban areas that will promote urban renaissance, create ease of access to services and community facilities, and to maximise the use of existing infrastructure;
- to promote compact urban forms that respect the individual character and identity of settlements, avoid urban sprawl and conserve the countryside;
- to facilitate economic development and the creation of employment, taking into account the Government initiative, New Targeting Social Need;
- to facilitate integration between land-use planning and transportation in order to reduce congestion and the need for car journeys and to encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, in particular walking and cycling;
- to promote vital and viable town centres;
- to protect and enhance the character, quality and biodiversity of natural and man-made environments; and
- to facilitate the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different religions belief, political opinion or racial group.

4.0 SCREENING CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In preparing the EQIA a screening exercise was carried out to determine whether the policy should be the subject of an EQIA. The first step taken was the grouping of all policies within the Draft Plan into 10 manageable groups, as set out in Appendix 1. Each policy group and their proposals were then assessed against each of the 9 equality groupings.
- 4.2 The following criteria (identified in the Equality Commission’s guidance on the preparation of an EQIA) were used to determine the potential for equal opportunity implications for each of the 9 equality groupings.
1. Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?
 2. Is there any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to the particular policy?
 3. Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or better community relations by altering the policy or working with others in government or in the larger community?
 4. Have consultations with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that particular policies create problems, which are specific to them?
- 4.3 The wording of the criteria was amended slightly to reflect the particular circumstances of the policies under consideration, in this case all policies contained within the Plan. The result of this screening exercise, in the form of a matrix, is set out in Appendix 2. On the basis of this exercise, it was concluded that the following Section 75 groups were affected by certain policy groupings and should be the subject of a fuller assessment under the formal EQIA process¹.

Religious Belief and Political Opinion	Group 1 Housing
	Group 2 Industry
	Group 3 Recreation and Open Space
	Group 5 Development Opportunity Sites
	Group 7 Transportation
	Group 8 Environment and Conservation
	Group 10 Countryside
Racial Group	Group 1 Housing

¹Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Age	Group 1 Housing Group 2 Industry Group 3 Recreation and Open Space Group 6 Community Uses
Gender	Group 2 Industry
Disabilities	Group 1 Housing Group 3 Recreation and Open Space
Dependants	Group 1 Housing Group 3 Recreation and Open Space

- 4.4 It was decided at the outset of this study to consider religious grouping and political opinion under the same consequences and conditions. This is due to the correlation of over 0.9 between these Section 75 groups at council area level.
- 4.5 It should also be noted that Racial Group only refers to travellers as the screening exercise revealed that no other Racial Group would have differential needs in relation to housing.

5.0 CONSIDERATION OF AVAILABLE DATA AND RESEARCH

5.1 The following data and consultations were taken into account in conducting the EQIA:

- Results of the Census of Population (2001) were used to identify, at ward level, the geographical distribution for different religious communities within the Ards Borough and Down District. Wards were identified as either predominantly Protestant or Roman Catholic. This allowed inferences to be drawn on the likely adverse equality impacts of the policies contained within the Plan on both communities. This statistical information was supplemented by local knowledge of the area.
- 2005 Local Government Election Results were analysed to reflect first preference votes cast, following assessment of this data, the findings were:
 - 61% of the votes cast in Down District were for Nationalist parties compared to 5% of votes cast in Ards Borough.
 - 77% of the votes cast in the Ards Borough were for Unionist parties compared to 34% of votes cast in Down District.
 - Votes cast for other parties amounted to 18% in the Ards Borough and 5% in the Down District.
 - 49% of the voting population in Ards Borough cast no vote, compared to 38% in Down District.
- 2001 Census Report – Population Report – Population by Age. Other detailed census information is not available at this time.
- NI Labour Force Survey Local Area Database 2000
- The Draft Area Plan has already been the subject of consultation as part of the publication of the Issues Paper in December 2000. During this process representatives of Section 75 groups were contacted by Community Technical Aid in relation to the publication of the Issues Paper.
- Discussions have taken place with officers and members of Ards Borough Council and Down District Council in relation to the Plan.

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

- 6.1 The objectives for the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (hereafter referred to as ADAP 2015) are such that its outcomes are intended to affect the whole community in a beneficial way. As the policies are not targeted at any individual or group, any differential impact arises because populations are often geographically segregated so that the site-specific location of an initiative becomes important.
- 6.2 The screening exercise identified seven groups (Religious Belief, Political Opinion, Racial Group, Age, Gender, people with Dependents and people with Disabilities), which could be spatially differentiated in the ADAP 2015. It is therefore reasonable to focus attention on the consideration of the specific issues that will affect these groups as a consequence of the ADAP 2015. The results of the assessment are detailed below and summarised in Table 1: Summary of Impacts.

6.3 Religious Belief and Political Opinion

- 6.3.1 As mentioned earlier, it was decided at the outset of this study to consider religious grouping and political opinion under the same consequences and conditions. This is due to the correlation of over 0.9 between these Section 75 groups at council area level.
- 6.3.2 The location of land for the following uses may have a differential impact on the religious and political opinion groupings, because of the spatial implications of these policies.
- 6.3.3 **Group 1: Housing**
The housing policies contained in this group manage the future housing growth, the distribution of housing and the concentration of housing within urban areas by zoning housing lands, managing the release of housing land through phasing and promoting a range of quality housing development through key design considerations.

In Ards Borough 317 hectares of housing land are identified in the main towns of Newtownards, Comber and Donaghadee. Table 1 overleaf shows a breakdown of the wards throughout the Ards Borough Council Area the religious makeup of these wards and those, which have a housing zoning, or a housing policy area within their boundary.

Table 1: Table showing religious makeup of Wards and Housing Zonings and Housing Policy Areas, in Ards Borough.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Housing Zonings or Policy Areas
Ballygowan	11%	69%	Yes
Ballyrainey	8%	77%	Yes
Ballywalter	4%	78%	Yes
Bradshaw's Brae	5%	77%	Yes
Carrowdore	2%	76%	Yes
Central	8%	67%	No
Comber East	2%	77%	Yes
Comber North	2%	77%	Yes
Comber West	3%	79%	Yes
Donaghadee North	4%	74%	Yes
Donaghadee South	3%	77%	Yes
Glen	7%	66%	Yes
Gregstown	5%	69%	Yes
Killinchy	3%	77%	Yes
Kircubbin	59%	26%	Yes
Lisbane	2%	80%	Yes
Loughries	4%	68%	Yes
Millisle	2%	77%	Yes
Movilla	6%	71%	Yes
Portaferry	81%	8%	Yes
Portavogie	10%	72%	Yes
Scrabo	2%	74%	Yes
Whitespots	8%	71%	Yes
TOTALS	10%	69%	Yes

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

In Down District 218 hectares of Phase 1 housing land and 22 hectares of phase 2 housing land are identified in the main towns of Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Table 2 overleaf shows a breakdown of the wards throughout the Down District Council Area the religious makeup of these wards and those, which have a housing zoning or a housing policy area within their boundary.

Table 2: Table showing religious makeup of Wards and Housing Areas in Down District.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Housing Zonings or Policy Areas
Ardglass	78%	11%	Yes
Audley's Acre	86%	5%	Yes
Ballymaglave	12%	70%	Yes
Ballymote	80%	7%	Yes
Ballynahinch East	47%	38%	Yes
Castlewellan	83%	8%	Yes
Cathedral	88%	5%	Yes
Crossgar	47%	38%	Yes
Derryboy	28%	57%	Yes
Donard	57%	26%	Yes
Drumaness	81%	10%	Yes
Dundrum	57%	30%	Yes
Dunmore	35%	49%	Yes
Killough	60%	19%	Yes
Killyleagh	33%	52%	Yes
Kilmore	20%	66%	Yes
Murlough	65%	18%	Yes
Quoile	64%	20%	Yes
Saintfield	19%	64%	Yes
Seaforde	53%	36%	No
Shimna	63%	23%	Yes
Strangford	78%	10%	Yes
Tollymore	78%	13%	No
TOTALS	57%	29%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

By concentrating housing zonings within settlements in the Plan area there may be a positive impact on those religious groupings/ political opinion groupings, which have a higher population in these specific areas. The dominant group in these areas may therefore benefit from any additional residential zoning as well as the provision of infrastructure, such as new roads, health, and education and recreation facilities, which go along with this.

With the exception of Central in Ards Borough, and Seaforde and Tollymore wards in Down District, there are lands zoned for housing in all the remaining wards of the Plan area. With reference to Table 1, Appendix 3, it can be seen that Central ward in Ards Borough is one of numerous wards contained partly or wholly within Newtownards. All remaining wards in Newtownards have lands zoned for housing. With reference to Table 2, Appendix 3, it can be seen that Kilmore ward does not contain any towns or villages and Tollymore ward is one of several wards contained partly or wholly within Newcastle. Murlough,

Shimna and Donard wards also comprise Newcastle and all have lands zoned for housing.

Through the Plan process an assessment of the religious and political make up of the Plan area was carried out. This showed that Ards Borough as a whole had a 69% Protestant and other population, where as Down District as a whole had a 57% Roman Catholic population. (See Appendix 3 – Table 3 and 4 Census Data) These figures also vary between wards, but the Department feels that by providing housing opportunities in all settlements throughout the Plan area all religious groups and people with differing political opinions have been catered for.

6.3.4 Group 2: Industry

The main aim of the policies contained within this group is as previously stated to protect and promote industrial land throughout the Plan area. Although industrial lands have been zoned in the main towns in both council areas, and Industrial Policy Areas designated in some villages throughout the Plan area, there may be a differential impact due to the spatial implications of these policies.

In Ards Borough 32 hectares of industry and employment land are identified in the main towns of Newtownards, Comber and Donaghadee. Table 3 below overleaf shows a breakdown of the wards throughout the Ards Borough Council Area the religious makeup of these wards and those, which have an industrial zoning, or an industrial policy area within their boundary.

Table 3: Table showing religious makeup of Wards in relation to Industrial Areas in Ards Borough.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Industrial Zonings or Policy Areas
Ballygowan	11%	69%	No
Ballyrainey	8%	77%	No
Ballywalter	4%	78%	Yes
Bradshaw's Brae	5%	77%	Yes
Carrowdore	2%	76%	No
Central	8%	67%	Yes
Comber East	2%	77%	Yes
Comber North	2%	77%	No
Comber West	3%	79%	No
Donaghadee North	4%	74%	Yes
Donaghadee South	3%	77%	No
Glen	7%	66%	No
Gregstown	5%	69%	No
Killinchy	3%	77%	No
Kircubbin	59%	26%	No
Lisbane	2%	80%	No
Loughries	4%	68%	No
Millisle	2%	77%	No
Movilla	6%	71%	Yes
Portaferry	81%	8%	No
Portavogie	10%	72%	No
Scrabo	2%	74%	Yes
Whitespots	8%	71%	Yes
TOTALS	10%	69%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

In Down District 25 hectares of industry and employment land are identified in the main towns of Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Table 4 below shows a breakdown of the wards throughout the Down District Council Area the religious makeup of these wards and which have either an industrial zoning or an industrial policy area within their boundary.

Table 4: Table showing religious makeup of Wards in relation to Industrial Areas in Down District.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Industrial Zonings or Policy Areas
Ardglass	78%	11%	Yes
Audley's Acre	86%	5%	No
Ballymaglave	12%	70%	Yes
Ballymote	80%	7%	Yes
Ballynahinch East	47%	38%	Yes
Castlewellan	83%	8%	Yes
Cathedral	88%	5%	Yes
Crossgar	47%	38%	Yes
Derryboy	28%	57%	Yes
Donard	57%	26%	No
Drumaness	81%	10%	No
Dundrum	57%	30%	No
Dunmore	35%	49%	No
Killough	60%	19%	No
Killyleagh	33%	52%	No
Kilmore	20%	66%	Yes
Murlough	65%	18%	Yes
Quoile	64%	20%	Yes
Saintfield	19%	64%	No
Seaforde	53%	36%	No
Shimna	63%	23%	No
Strangford	78%	10%	No
Tollymore	78%	13%	No
TOTALS	57%	29%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

Although the Down District figure for employment and industry land is less than Ards, this does not take into account the Down Business Park in the greenbelt outside Downpatrick (Quoile Ward), which is 33.9 hectares.

Analysis of the tables above show that the eight wards with industrial zonings in the Ards Borough all have a majority Protestant population. In the Down District there are 11 wards which contain zonings for industry. Of these, six of the wards have a majority Catholic population and three have a majority Protestant population. However Portaferry and Kircubbin wards in the Ards Borough with a majority Roman Catholic population do not contain lands zoned for industry. The Department aims to concentrate industrial land within the main towns and therefore accepts that not all villages and settlements contain industrial lands. In Down District, Saintfield and Killyleagh with a majority Protestant do not contain any zoned industrial lands. The Department considers that there is adequate provision of industrial land throughout the Plan area for religious and political opinion groups.

6.3.5 Group 3 Recreation and Open Space

The geographical location of these policies may have a differential impact on accessibility for certain religious or political groupings.

Table 5 below shows a breakdown of the wards throughout the Ards Borough Council Area, the religious makeup of these wards and those with zonings for existing and proposed recreation and open space.

Table 5: Table showing religious makeup of Wards and Area of recreation and open space within the Ards Borough.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Recreation and Open Space Zonings
Ballygowan	11%	69%	Yes
Ballyrainey	8%	77%	Yes
Ballywalter	4%	78%	Yes
Bradshaw's Brae	5%	77%	Yes
Carrowdore	2%	76%	Yes
Central	8%	67%	Yes
Comber East	2%	77%	Yes
Comber North	2%	77%	Yes
Comber West	3%	79%	Yes
Donaghadee North	4%	74%	Yes
Donaghadee South	3%	77%	Yes
Glen	7%	66%	Yes
Gregstown	5%	69%	Yes
Killinchy	3%	77%	Yes
Kircubbin	59%	26%	Yes
Lisbane	2%	80%	Yes
Loughries	4%	68%	Yes
Movilla	6%	71%	Yes
Portaferry	81%	8%	Yes
Portavogie	10%	72%	Yes
Scrabo	2%	74%	Yes
Whitespots	8%	71%	Yes
TOTALS	11%	69%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

Table 6 overleaf shows a breakdown of the wards throughout the Down District Council Area, the religious makeup of these wards and those with zonings for existing and proposed recreation and open space.

Table 6: Table showing religious makeup of Wards and zonings for Recreation and Open Space with the Down District.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Recreation and Open Space Zonings
Ardglass	78%	11%	Yes
Audley's Acre	86%	5%	Yes
Ballymaglave	12%	70%	Yes
Ballymote	80%	7%	Yes
Ballynahinch East	47%	38%	Yes
Castlewellan	83%	8%	Yes
Cathedral	88%	5%	Yes
Crossgar	47%	38%	Yes
Derryboy	28%	57%	Yes
Donard	57%	26%	Yes
Drumaness	81%	10%	Yes
Dundrum	57%	30%	Yes
Dunmore	35%	49%	Yes
Killough	60%	19%	Yes
Killyleagh	33%	52%	Yes
Kilmore	20%	66%	No
Murlough	65%	18%	Yes
Quoile	64%	20%	Yes
Saintfield	19%	64%	Yes
Seaforde	53%	36%	Yes
Shimna	63%	23%	Yes
Strangford	78%	10%	Yes
Tollymore	78%	13%	No
TOTALS	57%	29%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

Analysis of Table 5 and 6 shows that there are only two wards in the Plan area which do not contain any recreation and open space zonings. These are both contained within the Down District and are Kilmore and Tollymore wards. Kilmore has a majority Protestant and other population and Tollymore has a majority Roman Catholic population. Neither of these wards contains a town or village and therefore no zonings are applicable. The Department considers that over all a positive impact will be felt due to the amount of land zoned and, that the Plan facilitates, in conjunction with the councils, adequate access to recreation and open space for the Plan area.

6.3.6 Group 5 Development Opportunity Sites

This policy identifies areas within the Settlement Limits of main and large towns, which are considered particularly suitable for a specified type of development. The majority of these sites are located within the town centres of the main towns in the Plan area, and may have a positive impact on those able to avail of the opportunities created by these sites. Tables 7 and 8 below show the wards within which these development opportunity sites are contained. It is the nature of this

policy only to designate Development Opportunity Sites in the towns, namely Newtownards, Comber and Donaghadee in Ards Borough and Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle in the Down District.

Table 7: Table showing religious makeup of Wards and the location Development Opportunity Sites within the Ards Borough.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Development Opportunity Sites
Ballygowan	11%	69%	No
Ballyrainey	8%	77%	No
Ballywalter	4%	78%	No
Bradshaw's Brae	5%	77%	No
Carrowdore	2%	76%	No
Central	8%	67%	Yes
Comber East	2%	77%	Yes
Comber North	2%	77%	No
Comber West	3%	79%	No
Donaghadee North	4%	74%	Yes
Donaghadee South	3%	77%	No
Glen	7%	66%	No
Gregstown	5%	69%	No
Killinchy	3%	77%	No
Kircubbin	59%	26%	No
Lisbane	2%	80%	No
Loughries	4%	68%	No
Millisle	2%	77%	No
Movilla	6%	71%	No
Portaferry	81%	8%	No
Portavogie	10%	72%	No
Scrabo	2%	74%	Yes
Whitespots	8%	71%	No
TOTALS	10%	69%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

Table 8: Table showing religious makeup of Wards and the location Development Opportunity Sites within the Down District.

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant and Other	Development Opportunity Sites
Ardglass	78%	11%	No
Audley's Acre	86%	5%	No
Ballymaglave	12%	70%	Yes
Ballymote	80%	7%	Yes
Ballynahinch East	47%	38%	Yes
Castlewellan	83%	8%	No
Cathedral	88%	5%	Yes
Crossgar	47%	38%	No
Derryboy	28%	57%	No
Donard	57%	26%	Yes
Drumaness	81%	10%	No
Dundrum	57%	30%	No
Dunmore	35%	49%	No
Killough	60%	19%	No
Killyleagh	33%	52%	No
Kilmore	20%	66%	No
Murlough	65%	18%	No
Quoile	64%	20%	No
Saintfield	19%	64%	No
Seaforde	53%	36%	No
Shimna	63%	23%	Yes
Strangford	78%	10%	No
Tollymore	78%	13%	No
TOTALS	57%	29%	

Source: 2001 Census and Plan Zonings

Within the Ards Borough all the wards that contain Development Opportunity Sites have a majority Protestant population. In Down District, the wards which contain Downpatrick and Newcastle town centres have a majority Roman Catholic population. However, of the two wards which comprise Ballynahinch town centre, Ballymaglave has a Protestant majority of 70%, whilst Ballynahinch East has a corresponding figure of just 38%. The religious and political break down of the population in the Plan area shows that by identifying these sites within the main towns caters for all religious and political groups.

6.3.7 Group 7 Transportation

This policy grouping identifies and protects road lines for roads schemes, development reliant on the provision of road schemes, disused rail track beds and land for informal Park and Ride and Park and Share Sites. The routes to be safeguarded may have a differential impact on religious and political groups as they provide increased accessibility for a particular section of the community represented in that area. With the positive impact of increased accessibility to housing, employment and recreation opportunities there is also a negative

impact due to the environmental disturbance associated with such road schemes.

The Department has considered the locations of these roads and associated schemes and concluded that these are spread evenly throughout the Plan area. Because of this it is considered that the impact of these schemes on religious and political groups is balanced across the Plan area.

6.3.8 Group 8 Environment and Conservation

Plan policies CON 1 to 5 are aimed at the protection and enhancement of the character, quality and biodiversity of the natural and man-made environments. All these policies have spatial implications for the entire Plan area and, because of the locational and restrictive nature of these policies there may be a differential impact on religious and political groups. Another differential impact to these groups is that the protection of these specific areas will afford special environmental and conservation benefits for the local religious and political groups.

The Department has carried out, in conjunction with Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), a detailed and comprehensive assessment of the environmental and conservation aspects of the Plan area, which is based on environmental merits and not the religious or political make up of any area. For this reason and because of the widespread location of these designations it is considered that the benefits and disbenefits for all are balanced.

6.3.9 Group 10 Countryside

The two policies contained within this policy grouping are Green Belt and Countryside Policy Area (CPA) Designation. The Department considers that due to the proposed extension to these areas that there will be a differential impact upon the whole community. It is the aim of these policies to promote compact urban forms that respect the individual character and identity of settlements, avoid urban sprawl and conserve the countryside. This positive differential impact may be felt to varying degrees within religious and political groups depending on their location and individual nature.

It is important to note that while most of the Plan area is covered by Countryside Policy Area (CPA), greenbelt or both, there is a small area west of Kilcoo in the Down District, which has been left as rural remainder (land with neither policy zoning). The Department has designated CPA to cover the extent of all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) within the Plan area, and designated Greenbelt where development pressures have been identified; neither of these applied to this area. The Department considers that the identification of Greenbelt and CPA is to provide a greater degree of protection to the countryside and promote a more sustainable pattern of development. The religious or political make up of the area was not used as criteria in identifying these designations.

6.4 Racial Group

Racial Group only refers to travellers as the screening exercise revealed that no other Racial Group would have differential needs in relation to housing.

6.4.1 Group 1: Housing

Within this policy grouping a policy exists to respond to any proposals which may come forward over the lifetime of the Plan for travellers accommodation, subject to an identified need. The Plan area has a transient traveller population and to date no need has been established. The Department considers this policy to have a positive differential impact on this racial group as this policy allows for their needs to be accommodated when necessary.

6.5 Age

The Department considered that the need for housing, industry, recreation and open space and community uses may differ according to age.

6.5.1 Group 1 Housing

The location, siting and design of housing developments throughout the Plan area may have differential impacts across the age groups depending upon their housing needs. Group 1 Housing policies manage the future housing growth, the distribution of housing and the concentration of housing within urban areas by zoning housing lands, managing the release of housing land through phasing and promoting a range of quality housing developments through key design considerations.

The concentration of housing within urban areas may have a positive differential impact upon those age groups that prefer to live close to social and employment opportunities and a negative differential impact upon those who prefer to live in the rural area. The issue of rural isolation amongst the aged population was raised by Age Concern through the consultation process during the preparation of the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 – Draft Plan. In the 2001 Census, 16.5% of Ards Borough and 14.9% of Down District were aged 60/65 and over.

317 hectares of land have been zoned for housing in Ards Borough and there is capacity within the villages to accommodate approximately 2300 dwellings. A further capacity exists within the designated limits of the small settlements. 240 hectares of land have been zoned for housing in Down District and there is capacity within the villages to accommodate approximately 2500 dwellings. A further capacity exists within the designated limits of the small settlements. With the exception of Central in Ards Borough, and Seaforde and Tollymore wards in Down District, there are lands zoned for housing in all the remaining wards of the Plan area. With reference to Table 1, Appendix 3, it can be seen that Central ward in Ards Borough is one of numerous wards contained partly or wholly within Newtownards. All remaining

wards in Newtownards have lands zoned for housing. With reference to Table 2, Appendix 3, it can be seen that Kilmore ward does not contain any towns or villages and Tollymore ward is one of several wards contained partly or wholly within Newcastle. Murlough, Shimna and Donard wards also comprise Newcastle and all have lands zoned for housing.

The Department considers that by managing the growth of all tiers of settlement and promoting a range of housing development through key design considerations throughout the Plan area, there would be adequate housing opportunities to accommodate rural housing needs of the Plan population.

6.5.2 Group 2 Industry

The identification and protection lands for industry may have a positive differential impact upon the population of working age i.e. between 16-59/64. In the 2000 NI Labour Force Survey, out of a NI total working age population of 1 million, 4.4% were in Ards Borough compared to 3.6% in Down District.

In Ards Borough 32 hectares of industry and employment land are identified in the main towns of Newtownards, Comber and Donaghadee. In Down District 25 hectares of industry and employment land are identified in the main towns of Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle. The positive differential impact upon the working age population may be higher in Ards Borough than Down District due to the larger amount of industrial and employment lands zoned in the former. However, this shows the higher percentage of NI working age population in Ards Borough 4.4% compared to 3.6% in Down District. In the 2001 Census Population Report, 62.3% of Ards Borough were of working age compared to 60% of Down District.

Although, the zoning of industrial lands may have a positive impact upon the working age population, the young and older age groups may be disadvantaged. In 2001 Census Population Report, 16.5% and 21.3% of Ards Borough and 15% and 25% of Down District were aged under 16 and 60/65 plus, respectively. The population age structure of both Ards Borough and Down District is similar and any positive or negative impacts of zoning industrial land upon different age groups would be relatively balanced.

The Department considers that by providing employment opportunities which benefits the working age population there would also be indirect positive impacts for the youth and older age groups. Zoning industrial lands throughout the Plan area provides future training and employment opportunities for the youth which in turn helps to provide financial security as they age. In terms of the older age groups, there may be indirect economic benefits through increased employment opportunities for the working age population decreasing the financial

burden of family support on the older age groups and thereby increasing their standard of living.

The Department considers that zoning industrial lands will have a positive impact mainly upon the working age population but in the long term will benefit all groups as they age.

6.5.3 Group 3 Recreation and Open Space

The identification of lands for recreation and open space may have a differential impact upon age more than any other Section 75 equality group as the tendency to use recreation and amenity lands may differ according to age group. Lands zoned for recreation and open space serve different needs depending upon their size, location, accessibility, landscape design and facilities. The needs of the youth and aged may differ in relation to active or passive recreation and open space provision.

The Department has zoned in excess of 180 hectares of recreation and open space in Ards and Down respectively. With the exception of Kilmore and Tollymore wards in Down District, there are lands zoned for recreation and open space in all the remaining wards of the Plan area (refer to Table 5 and 6)). With reference to Table 1, Appendix 1, Towns and Villages, partly or wholly contained within wards, it can be seen that Kilmore ward does not contain any towns or villages and Tollymore ward is one of several wards contained partly or wholly within Newcastle. Murlough, Shimna and Donard wards also within Newcastle, all have lands zoned for recreation and open space.

The Department considers that zoning lands for both recreation and amenity across the main towns and villages facilitates fair and equal access to recreation and open space for all age groups throughout the Plan area.

6.5.4 Group 6 Community Uses

The development of appropriate community facilities may have a differential impact upon age, as there may be a greater tendency to use community facilities among the youth age groups. However, it was considered that the policy applies equally to the population of the Plan area as it does not designate any lands for community use but seeks to facilitate appropriate development through set criteria. There may be a positive differential impact for the youth and unemployed due to the higher tendency for these groups to use community facilities, but the policy does not exclude other groups. The Department consider that overall the policy will have a positive impact as it facilitates the development of appropriate community facilities that may be used by all Section 75-equality groups throughout the Plan area.

6.6 Gender

6.6.1 Group 2 Industry

The identification and protection of lands for industry may have a positive differential impact upon males / females of working age i.e. 16 – 59/ 64yrs by providing and safeguarding employment which may provide different opportunities for males and females. In 2007 Census of Employment, there were approximately 17,668 and 18,182 employees in Ards Borough and Down District, respectively. In Ards Borough 43.0% of employees were male and 57.0% female compared to 42.7% male and 57.3% female in Down District. Employment between males and females seems relatively balanced for both Ards Borough and Down District, though slightly higher for females due to higher proportion of females in part time employment.

In 2007 Census of Employment, out of those in part time employment in Ards Borough 21.0% were male and 79.0% female compared to 22.9% male and 77.1% female in Down District.

The Department aims to zone development lands based upon the principles of sustainability. Group 2 Industry policies facilitate sustainable industrial development by concentrating development in the urban area in relation to existing social, economic and physical infrastructure. Certain types of industry may be more likely to employ males than females or vice versa. However, in Group 2 Industry policies/ proposals are not limited to any particular type of industry there is open opportunity for all genders.

6.7 Disabilities

6.7.1 Group 1 Housing

The location, siting and design of housing developments throughout the Plan area may have differential impact for the disabled due to different housing needs. Group 1 Housing policies manage the future housing growth, the distribution of housing and the concentration of housing within urban areas by zoning housing lands, managing the release of housing land through phasing and promoting a range of quality housing developments through key design considerations.

The NIHE is responsible for undertaking housing needs assessment. The Department intends to respond to any identified need in order to promote equality of opportunity. The Department considers that the promotion of a range of quality development through key design considerations which, as appropriate will relate to different house types, provides for the needs of the disabled as well as the other Section 75 equality groups throughout the Plan area.

6.7.2 Group 3 Recreation and Open Space

The identification of lands for recreation and open space may have a differential impact upon the disabled due to different needs. Lands zoned for recreation and open space serve different needs depending upon their size, location, accessibility, landscape design and facilities. The needs of the disabled may differ in relation to type of open space provision, location and accessibility. The Department considered that zoning lands for both recreation and amenity across the main towns and villages provides for the needs of the population throughout the Plan area.

With the exception of Kilmore and Tollymore wards in Down District, there are lands zoned for recreation and open space in all the remaining wards of the Plan area (refer to Tables 5 and 6).

There is no evidence to suggest that the locational range of people with disabilities is inconsistent with the spread of opportunity for housing and recreation and open space.

6.8 Dependants

6.8.1 Group 1 Housing

The location, siting and design of housing developments throughout the Plan area may have differential impact for people with dependants due to different housing needs relating to house type, layout and location. Group 1 Housing policies manage the future housing growth, the distribution of housing and the concentration of housing within urban areas by zoning housing lands, managing the release of housing land through phasing and promoting a range of quality housing developments through key design considerations.

The NIHE is responsible for undertaking housing needs assessment. The Department intends to respond to any identified need in order to promote equality of opportunity. The Department considers that the promotion of a range of quality development through key design considerations, which may relate to different house types, provides for the needs of people with dependants throughout the Plan area. In addition the concentration of housing potential within urban areas may have a beneficial impact for the people with dependants in terms of access to facilities.

6.8.2 Group 3 Recreation and Open Space

The identification of lands for recreation and open space may have a differential impact upon those with dependants due to different needs. Lands zoned for recreation and open space serve different needs depending upon their size, location, accessibility, landscape design and facilities. The needs of those with dependants may differ in relation to type of open space provision, location and accessibility.

There is no evidence to suggest that the locational range of people with dependants is inconsistent with the spread of opportunity for housing

and recreation and open space.

7.0 CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES

- 7.1 Table 9 overleaf is a summary of the consequences of each policy groups in relation to the Section 75 groups, the potential effect of that group and the mitigation of the impacts.

Table 9: Table Showing The Potential Impacts And Mitigation For Each Policy Group.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 1 HOUSING	Proposal HOU 1 Zonings Ards Borough		
	Proposal HOU 2 Zonings and Phasing Down District		
	Policy HOU 3 Protected Housing Areas		
	Policy SETT 1 Settlement Limits		
	Policy SETT 2 Land Use Policy Areas		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY GROUP	To allocate land for additional housing development over the Plan period in accordance with the strategic objectives and guidelines contained in the Regional Development Strategy relating to managing future housing growth, the distribution of housing and the drive for greater housing provision within existing urban areas.		
SECTION 75 GROUP RELIGION	<p>Consequence of policy</p> <p>1. Identification of lands for residential development across a wide spatial framework and varying levels of infrastructure in certain cases within the hierarchy of settlements throughout the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Potential Effect on Section 75 Group</p> <p>1. Due to the spatial implications of zoned housing lands, this could have a differential impact on religious groups.</p>	<p>Mitigation of Impact</p> <p>1. Assessment of religious breakdown from 2001 census shows the religious make up of the Plan area. By providing housing opportunities in all settlements throughout the Plan area all religious groupings have been catered for.</p>

POLITICAL OPINION	1. Identification of lands for residential development across a wide spatial framework and varying levels of infrastructure in certain cases within the hierarchy of settlements throughout the lifetime of the Plan.	1. Due to the spatial implications of zoned housing lands, this could have a differential impact on political opinion. .	1. Assessment of religious breakdown from 2001 census shows the religious make up of the Plan area. By providing housing opportunities in all settlements throughout the Plan area all religious groupings have been catered for. DUE TO THE CORRELATION OF OVER 0.9 BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION AT DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL, THE CONSEQUENCES AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARE REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.
RACIAL GROUP	1. Response to proposals for traveller's accommodation subject to identified need.	1. Accommodating local housing needs for travellers, as a specific racial group.	1.The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) has carried out a Housing Needs Assessment and there are no Traveller accommodation needs currently identified for the Plan area. Future review of this assessment will be carried out by the NIHE on an annual rolling basis to reflect changes in need.
AGE	1. Concentration and location of zoned lands within Settlement Limits.	1. Urbanisation of population by concentrating and locating zoned housing lands within the Settlement Limit may have an impact on the quality of life and opportunity for the aging rural population.	1. By concentrating lands within Settlement Limits policy does not specifically address the needs of rural isolation. But by maintaining and managing the growth of villages and small settlements in the countryside the policy is catering for their population and the rural hinterland.
	2. Promotion of a range of housing types.	2. The older age group would have a greater dependency on sheltered housing.	2. By promoting a range of house types through towns and villages throughout the Plan area provides increased housing choice for the rural hinterland.
DISABILITY	1. Provision of a range of housing types.	1. The needs of those with disabilities might be prejudiced by the locational spread.	1. People with disabilities might require differential housing needs in comparison to the other Section 75 groups. Sufficient flexibility exists to meet specific identified needs through design and house type.

			There is no evidence to suggest that the locational range of people with disabilities is inconsistent with the spread of opportunity for housing.
DEPENDANTS	1. Provision of a range of housing types.	1. The needs of those with dependants might be prejudiced by the locational spread.	1. The Plan caters for the needs of those with dependants, by concentrating housing within the urban fabric which is accessible to health, education, open space and recreation and community facilities. There is no evidence to suggest that the locational range of people with dependants is inconsistent with the spread of opportunity for housing.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 2 INDUSTRY	Policy IND 1 Existing Industrial Sites		
	Proposal IND 2 Proposed Industrial Land, Ards Borough		
	Proposal IND 3 Proposed Industrial Land, Down District		
	Proposal COU 11 Industrial Site, Ballynahinch Road, Crossgar		
	Policy SETT 1 Settlement Limits		
	Policy SETT 2 Land Use Policy Areas		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY GROUP	To preserve current industrial lands and zone new industrial land to meet anticipated needs of the local area.		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Mitigation of Impact
RELIGION	Identification of lands for industry and employment use, and affording protection to existing industrial lands.	Differing levels of accessibility to employment depending on location of lands identified.	This policy concentrates new industrial provision in the main towns, and identifies existing industrial areas in the main towns and certain villages. The Department considers that the most sustainable sites have been identified in relation to need, location and infrastructure. There is no evidence that any religious group has less accessibility, apart from what has already been explained about Portaferry and Kircubbin.

POLITICAL OPINION	Identification of lands for industry and employment use, and affording protection to existing industrial lands.	Differing levels of accessibility to employment depending on location of lands identified.	This policy concentrates new industrial provision in the main towns, and identifies existing industrial areas in the main towns and certain villages. The Department considers that the most sustainable sites have been identified in relation to need, location and infrastructure. There is no evidence that any group is less accessible, apart from what has already been explained about Portaferry and Kircubbin. DUE TO THE CORRELATION OF OVER 0.9 BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION AT DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL, THE CONSEQUENCES AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARE REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.
AGE	Identification of lands for industry and employment use, and affording protection to existing industrial lands.	An opportunity more directly for those in the working age group, i.e. 16-58/ 64 years.	Although the working age group is the target of this policy there are indirect benefits to the young and aged; For example, standard of living and future employment. This is the only age group which would have particular needs, with relation to this policy.
GENDER	Identification of lands for industry and employment use, and affording protection to existing industrial lands.	Implications of policy would imply that past trends indicate there are differentials in opportunity for both. And therefore by zoning industrial lands more land could be construed to be more available to one gender.	This policy does not seek to control the type of industry located on these lands and therefore does not target one gender or the other.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 3 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE	Policy Sett 1 Settlement Limits		
	Policy Sett 2 Land Use Policy Areas		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY	To safeguard existing and proposed recreational open space and amenity land designated in this Plan against inappropriate development.		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Mitigation of Impact
RELIGION	The identification of lands for recreation and open space and the protection of existing recreation and open space.	Differential impacts on religious groupings due to the identification of recreation and open space in certain geographical areas, which may affect accessibility.	The amount of land zoned for proposed recreation and open space reflects the council's proposals over the Plan period. Lands have been identified in all the main towns and villages to facilitate a fair and equal access to all religious groups.
POLITICAL OPINION	The identification of lands for recreation and open space and the protection of existing recreation and open space.	Differential impacts on religious groupings due to the identification of recreation and open space in certain geographical areas, which may affect accessibility.	The amount of land zoned for proposed recreation and open space reflects the council's proposals over the Plan period. Lands have been identified in all the main towns and villages to facilitate a fair and equal access to all religious groups. DUE TO THE CORRELATION OF OVER 0.9 BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION AT DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL, THE CONSEQUENCES AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARE REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.
AGE	The identification of lands for recreation and open space and the protection of existing recreation and open space.	Differential in accessibility of suitable types of open space provided to differing age groups.	Lands have been identified throughout the Plan area to facilitate a fair and equal access for all age groups.
DISABILITY	The identification of lands for recreation and open space and the protection of existing recreation and open space.	Differential in accessibility of suitable types of open space provided to those with differing disabilities.	Lands have been identified throughout the Plan area to facilitate a fair and equal access for all with disabilities. There is no evidence to suggest that the locational range of people with disabilities is inconsistent with the spread of opportunity for recreation and open space.

DEPENDANTS	Provision of a range of types of open space to facilitate access for all.	The provision of suitable types of open space to provide for all with dependants.	Lands have been identified throughout the Plan area to facilitate a fair and equal access for all with dependants. There is no evidence to suggest that the locational range of people with dependants is inconsistent with the spread of opportunity for recreation and open space.
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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 5 DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY SITES	Policy SETT 3 Development Opportunity Sites		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY GROUP	To indicate areas within the Settlement Limits of Main Towns which are considered particularly suitable for a specified type of development.		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Mitigation of Impact
RELIGION	Identification of sites to enhance the viability and vitality of towns throughout the Plan area.	The location of these sites may have a differential impact on religious groups.	Assessment of religious breakdown from 1991 census shows the approximate religious make up of the Plan area. By providing development opportunities in all settlements throughout the Plan area all religious groupings have been catered for. The nature of the town centre is that it is located in the centre of the settlement and is accessible to all.
POLITICAL OPINION	Identification of sites to enhance the viability and vitality of towns throughout the Plan area.	The location of these sites may have a differential impact on those with differing political opinions.	Assessment of religious breakdown from 1991 census shows the approximate religious make up of the Plan area. By providing development opportunities in all settlements throughout the Plan area all religious groupings have been catered for. The nature of the town centre is that it is located in the centre of the settlement and is accessible to all. DUE TO THE CORRELATION OF OVER 0.9 BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION AT DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL, THE CONSEQUENCES AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARE REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 6 COMMUNITY USES	Policy COY 1 Community Uses		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY	To provide for community uses where demands may arise over the lifetime of the Plan, subject to stated and normal Planning criteria.		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Mitigation of Impact
AGE	To facilitate the appropriate development of community facilities.	The need for community uses may be greater in relation to age than any other Section 75 group.	There may be a greater need for community uses between certain age groups, e.g. the provision of youth facilities, this policy provides for a consistent consideration of proposals for community uses throughout the Plan area. Although this policy does not have any proposals identified in the Plan, the spatial implications of the impact of community uses upon certain Section 75 groups will only become apparent as proposals are considered throughout the lifetime of the Plan. There is no evidence to suggest that this policy would have any differential impact.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 7 TRANSPORTATION	Policy TRAN 1 Planning Protection for Roads Schemes		
	Policy TRAN 2 Development reliant on the provision of Road Schemes		
	Proposal COU 9 & 10 Informal Park and Ride and Park and Share Sites		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY GROUP	Transportation To facilitate integration between land-use Planning and transportation in order to reduce congestion and the need for car journeys and to encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, in particular walking and cycling;		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Mitigation of Impact
RELIGION	Safe guarding specific transport routes in various locations throughout the Plan area for future development in line with the transportation programme for the Plan area over the lifetime of the Plan. Provision of the appropriate standards of roads infrastructure to serve the needs of specified development proposals. Promotion of alternative modes of transport. E.g. Park and Ride Sites.	Transport routes to be safeguarded may have a differential impact on religious groups as they provide increased accessibility to housing, employment and recreation opportunities. Other environmental disbenefit associated with protection of a road line	While the location of road schemes might in particular areas have a combination of positive and negative differential impacts on religious groupings, policies and proposals involve a wide range of impact incidence for transportation schemes in various locations throughout the Plan area. This impact is thus considered likely to be balanced across the members of the group.

POLITICAL OPINION	Safe guarding specific transport routes for future development in line with the transportation programme for the Plan area over the lifetime of the Plan. Provision of the appropriate standards of roads infrastructure to serve the needs of specified development proposals. Promotion of alternative modes of transport. E.g. Park and Ride Sites.	Transport routes to be safeguarded may have a differential impact on religious groups as they provide increased accessibility to housing, employment and recreation opportunities.	While the location of road schemes might in particular areas have a combination of positive and negative differential impacts on religious groupings, policies and proposals involve a wide range of impact incidence for transportation schemes in various locations throughout the Plan area. This impact is thus considered likely to be balanced across the members of the group. DUE TO THE CORRELATION OF OVER 0.9 BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION AT DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL, THE CONSEQUENCES AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARE REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.
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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 8 ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION	Policy CON 1 Areas of High Scenic Value		
	Policy CON 2 Local Landscape Policy Areas		
	Policy CON 3 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance		
	Policy CON 4 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest		
	Policy CON 5 Areas of Archaeological Potential		
	Proposal COU 7 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY	To protect and enhance the character, quality and biodiversity of natural and man-made environments.		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Mitigation of Impact
RELIGION	<p>1. Identification and protection by designation of areas of landscape, archaeological and conservation value, to facilitate control of development which would be liable to adversely affect the environmental quality, integrity and character of these areas.</p> <p>2. The requirement for detailed site assessment to determine the effect of proposed development on archaeological potential and interest.</p>	Due to the spatial implications of these policies there may be a restrictive impact on one religious grouping or another. Conversely the protection of these specific areas could produce benefits for the local religious groups in respect of the quality of their local environment.	The identification of these areas has been based upon a balanced assessment of the environmental and conservation aspects of the Plan area. The identification of these areas for protection is based upon individual merits and not the religious breakup of the Plan area. Due to the geographical spread of these designations it is considered that there is significant balance between the two religious groups, in terms of benefit or disbenefit.

POLITICAL OPINION	<p>1. Identification and protection by designation of areas of landscape, archaeological and conservation value, to facilitate control of development which would be liable to adversely affect the environmental quality, integrity and character of these areas.</p> <p>2. The requirement for detailed site assessment to determine the effect of proposed development on archaeological potential and interest.</p>	<p>Due to the spatial implications of these policies there may be a restrictive impact on one religious grouping or another. Conversely the protection of these specific areas could produce benefits for the local religious groups in respect of the quality of their local environment.</p>	<p>The identification of these areas has been based upon a balanced assessment of the environmental and conservation aspects of the Plan area. The identification of these areas for protection is based upon individual merits and not the religious breakup of the Plan area. Due to the geographical spread of these designations it is considered that there is significant balance between the two religious groups, in terms of benefit or disbenefit.</p> <p>DUE TO THE CORRELATION OF OVER 0.9 BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION AT DISTRICT COUNCIL LEVEL, THE CONSEQUENCES AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARE REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.</p>
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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ARDS AND DOWN AREA PLAN 2015			
GROUP 10 COUNTRYSIDE	Policy COU 1 Green Belt		
	Policy COU 2 Countryside Policy Areas		
GENERAL AIM OF POLICY	To promote compact urban forms that respect the individual character and identity of settlements, avoid urban sprawl and conserve the countryside.		
SECTION 75 GROUP	Consequence of policy	Potential Effect on Section 75 Group	Assessment of Potential Impacts
RELIGION	1. Designation of policy areas to control the location of development. 2. Concentration of development within the urban area. 3. Protection of the countryside	The extension of these Greenbelt and CPA policies will have a positive differential impact upon the whole community, by safe guarding the open countryside and concentrating development in urban areas.	Although there is an overall positive differential impact this may vary in degree in relation to religious grouping depending on location and individual circumstance. The identification of Greenbelt/ CPA is to provide a greater degree of protection to the countryside and promote a more sustainable pattern of development, and doesn't seek to address any perceived religious imbalance.
POLITICAL OPINION	1. Designation of policy areas to control the location of development. 2. Concentration of development within the urban area. 3. Protection of the countryside	The extension of these Greenbelt and CPA policies will have a positive differential impact upon the whole community, by safe guarding the open countryside and concentrating development in urban areas.	Although there is an overall positive differential impact this may vary in degree in relation to religious grouping depending on location and individual circumstance. The identification of Greenbelt/ CPA is to provide a greater degree of protection to the countryside and promote a more sustainable pattern of development, and doesn't seek to address any perceived religious imbalance. DUE TO THE 0.9 CORRELATION BETWEEN POLITICAL OPINION AND RELIGION CONSEQUENCES AND EFFECTS AS REGARDED TO HAVE THE SAME IMPACTS.

APPENDIX 1

Policy Groupings within Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 for Equality Impact Assessment Screening.

Group 1 Housing
Proposal HOU 1 Zonings Ards Borough
Proposal HOU 2 Zonings and Phasing Down District
Policy HOU 3 Protected Housing Areas
Policy Sett 1 Settlement Limits
Policy Sett 2 Land Use Policy Areas

Group 2 Industry
Policy IND 1 Existing Industrial Sites
Proposal IND 2 Proposed Industrial Land, Ards Borough
Proposal IND 3 Proposed Industrial Land, Down District
Proposal COU 11 Industrial Policy Areas/Industrial Site, Ballynahinch Road, Crossgar
Policy Sett 1 Settlement Limits
Policy Sett 2 Land Use Policy Areas

Group 3 Recreation and Open Space
Policy Sett 1 Settlement Limits
Policy Sett 2 Land Use Policy Areas

Group 4 Commerce
Proposal NS 44 Town Centre
Proposal NS 45 Primary Retail Core
Proposal NS 48 Local Centres
Proposal CR 19 Town Centre
Proposal DE 22 Town Centre
Proposal DK 23 Town Centre
Proposal DK 24 Primary Retail Core
Proposal DK 27 Local Centre
Proposal BH 25 Town Centre
Proposal BH 26 Primary Retail Core
Proposal NE 22 Town Centre
Proposal NE 23 Primary Retail Core

Group 5 Opportunity Sites
Policy Sett 3 Development Opportunity Sites

Group 6 Community Uses
Policy COY 1 Community Uses

Group 7 Transportation

Policy TRAN 1 Planning protection for Roads Schemes
Policy TRAN 2 Development reliant on the provision of Road Schemes
Proposal COU 9 & 10 Informal Park and Ride and Park and Share Sites

Group 8 Environment and Conservation
Policy CON 1 Areas of High Scenic Value
Policy CON 2 Local Landscape Policy Areas
Policy CON 3 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Policy CON 4 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest
Policy CON 5 Areas of Archaeological Potential
Proposal COU 7 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

Group 9 Minerals
Policy MN 1 Hydrocarbon Exploration

Group 10 Countryside
Policy COU 1 Green Belt Designation
Policy COU 2 Countryside Policy Area Designation

APPENDIX 2
RESULTS OF SCREENING: MATRIX SHOWING WHICH POLICY GROUPINGS
AFFECTS THE SPECIFIC SECTION 75 GROUPS.

Equality Impact Assessment

	Religious Belief	Political Opinion	Racial group	Age	Marital status	Sexual Orientation	Gender	Disability	Dependency
Group 1 Housing	√	√	√	√	X	X	X	√	√
Group 2 Industry	√	√	X	√	X	X	√	X	X
Group 3 Recreation and Open Space	√	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√
Group 4 Commerce	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group 5 Development Opportunity Sites	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group 6 Community Uses	X	X	X	√	X	X	X	X	X
Group 7 Transportation	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group 8 Environment and Conservation	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group 9 Minerals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Group 10 Countryside	√	√	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Totals	7	7	1	4	0	0	1	2	2

**APPENDIX 3
CENSUS DATA**

Table 1: Table Showing Wards and the Settlements contained within them, Ards Borough

Wards	Towns and Villages partly or wholly contained within these wards
Ballygowan	Ballygowan
Ballyrainey	Newtownards
Ballywalter	Ballywalter Greyabbey Ballyhalbert
Bradshaw's Brae	Newtownards
Carrowdore	Carrowdore Millisle Ballywalter
Central	Newtownards
Comber East	Comber
Comber North	Comber
Comber West	Comber
Donaghadee North	Donaghadee
Donaghadee South	Donaghadee
Glen	Newtownards
Gregstown	Newtownards
Killinchy	Killinchy Balloo Whiterock
Kircubbin	Kircubbin Cloughey
Lisbane	Comber
Loughries	Newtownards
Millisle	Millisle Donaghadee
Movilla	Newtownards
Portaferry	Portaferry
Portavogie	Portavogie Ballyhalbert
Scrabo	Newtownards
Whitespots	Newtownards

Table 2: Table Showing Wards and the Settlements contained within them, Down District

Wards	Towns and Villages partly or wholly contained within these wards
Ardglass	Ardglass
Audley's Acre	Downpatrick
Ballymaglave	Ballynahinch
Ballymote	Downpatrick
Ballynahinch East	Ballynahinch
Castlewellan	Castlewellan
Cathedral	Downpatrick
Crossgar	Crossgar
Derryboy	Shrigley
Donard	Newcastle
Drumaness	Drumaness
Dundrum	Annsborough Dundrum
Dunmore	Ballynahinch The Spa
Killough	Killough Ballykinler
Killyleagh	Killyleagh
Kilmore	Ballynahinch Crossgar
Murlough	Newcastle
Quoile	Downpatrick
Saintfield	Saintfield
Seaforde	Clough
Shimna	Newcastle
Strangford	Strangford Downpatrick
Tollymore	Newcastle Castlewellan

Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Other	None / Not Stated	Total Pop
Ballygowan	368	2444	3	588	3403
Ballyrainey	190	1735	8	553	2486
Ballywalter	131	2606	-	611	3348
Bradshaw's Brae	138	2265	8	542	2953
Carrowdore	55	2245	6	654	2960
Central	201	1763	33	638	2635
Comber East	67	2203	13	570	2853
Comber North	70	2180	6	575	2831
Comber West	76	2324	7	538	2945
Donaghadee North	119	2339	5	679	3142
Donaghadee South	97	2505	10	630	3242
Glen	202	1853	15	727	2797
Gregstown	239	3029	22	1122	4412
Killinchy	88	2144	4	566	2802
Kircubbin	1726	772	4	429	2931
Lisbane	72	2328	-	516	2916
Loughries	145	2440	6	1006	3597
Millisle	62	2524	4	695	3285
Movilla	286	3480	22	1095	4883
Portaferry	2646	276	4	360	3286
Portavogie	347	2494	8	655	3504
Scrabo	50	2083	6	681	2820
Whitespots	266	2286	9	652	3213
TOTAL	7641	50318	203	15082	73244

Table 4: Population by Religious Composition – Down District (Electoral Wards and Enumeration Districts – Eds.)					
Wards	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Other	None / Not Stated	Total Population
Ardglass	2274	280	8	360	2922
Audley's Acre	2084	126	3	213	2426
Ballymaglave	364	2045	3	523	2935
Ballymote	1987	184	6	300	2477
Ballynahinch East	1112	911	-	346	2369
Castlewellan	2515	240	3	267	3025
Cathedral	2867	146	-	232	3245
Crossgar	1304	1040	-	404	2748
Derryboy	793	1630	3	441	2867
Donard	1710	770	5	498	2983
Drumaness	2661	322	-	291	3274
Dundrum	1322	700	3	281	2306
Dunmore	874	1241	3	398	2516
Killough	2184	682	7	778	3651
Killyleagh	846	1338	-	404	2588
Kilmore	592	1919	13	402	2926
Murlough	1553	431	8	383	2375
Quoile	1748	543	-	426	2717
Saintfield	582	1931	-	523	3036
Seaforde	1382	933	-	295	2610
Shimna	1586	571	-	357	2514
Strangford	1828	244	-	277	2349
Tollymore	2297	394	-	271	2962
TOTAL	36465	18622	71	8670	63828

Table 5: Population by Political Opinion – Ards Borough (Electoral Wards and Enumeration Districts - 2005 Local Government Elections)			
District Electoral Area	Nationalist	Unionist	Other
Ards East Includes: Donaghadee North and South. Gregstown Loughries Millisle Movilla	0%	85%	15%
Ards Peninsula Includes: Ballywalter Carrowdore Kircubbin Portaferry Portavogie	20%	60%	20%
Ards West Includes: Ballygowan Comber east, west and north. Killinchy Lisbane	0%	85%	15%
Newtownards Includes: Ballyrainey Bradshaw's Brae Central Glen Scrabo Whitespots	0%	75%	25%
TOTAL	5% (1205)	77% (20390)	18% (4921)

Note: Total Electorate 51,859

Table 6: Population by Political Opinion – Down District (Electoral Wards and Enumeration Districts - 2005 Local Government Elections)			
District Electoral Area	Nationalist	Unionist	Other
Ballynahinch Includes: Ballymaglave Ballynahinch east Drumaness Dunmore Seaforde	53%	47%	0%
Downpatrick Includes: Ardglass Audley's Acre Ballymote Cathedral Killough Quoile Strangford	83%	8%	9%
Newcastle Includes: Castlewellan Donard Dundrum Murlough Shimna Tollymore.	73%	22%	5%
Rowallane Includes: Crossgar Derryboy Killyleagh Kilmore Saintfield.	27%	65%	8%
TOTAL	61% (16612)	34% (9219)	5% (1582)

Note Total Electorate: 44,434

