



CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EQUALITY SCHEME SUMMARY

*Civic and Administrative Offices, Bradford Court,
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Section 1

Castlereagh Borough Council - its Role, Functions and Policies

The Council performs five principal roles within its Borough area:

- the direct provision of a number of services and facilities;
- the promotion of the arts, tourism, community and economic development;
- the regulation and licensing of certain activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection and public safety;
- a representative role on a number of bodies and Boards including Education and Health; and
- a consultative role in relation to functions conducted by other Government bodies and agencies on issues such as planning, water, roads and housing.

In the performance of the above roles the Council carries out functions in the following areas:

- the provision of facilities for recreational, social and cultural activities including leisure centres, community centres, parks, open spaces, sports grounds and places of entertainment;
- street cleansing;
- waste collection and disposal;
- the provision of burial grounds;
- the provision of grant aid to support the Arts, community development and the promotion of tourism and economic development;
- the administration and regulation of certain matters relating to the environment, public health and public safety including building control, food safety, statutory nuisance, dangerous buildings, air pollution, noise pollution, dog control, consumer protection, and health and safety;
- the licensing and regulation of street trading, places of entertainment, amusement centres, sex establishments, societies' lotteries, cinemas and petroleum stations; and
- the making of byelaws and regulation of same.

Section 2

Commitment to Equality

The Council is committed to the duties imposed by Section 75(1) and (2) in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland. It will 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.

The Council is also committed to having regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group.

The Council's Equality Scheme sets out this commitment, detailing the procedures and steps it will take to ensure equality of opportunity for all. The Scheme has been approved by the Equality Commission and a copy of the full Scheme is available on request from;

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Section 3

Key Elements of the Council's Equality Scheme

3.1 Screening of Policies

A screening process will be undertaken, considering the impact of each policy in terms of the nine categories listing in Section 2 above. A timetable will be established for the assessment of policies.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessments

Over the next 5 years the Council will carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) on those policies which have been identified as having an adverse impact on any affected groups.

3.3 Consultation

The Council will consult on EQIA and other functional areas with:

- Relevant interest groups
- The Equality Commission
- Other public authorities
- Voluntary groups
- Community groups
- Trade Union groups
- Other groups with a legitimate interest in the matter

Consideration will be given on how best to communicate information to young people and those with learning disabilities, also to making information available in accessible formats.

3.4 **Monitoring**

A system will be established to monitor the impact of policies in order to identify their effects on the relevant groups.

3.5 **Publication of Assessments and Monitoring**

The Council will make available the outcome of any equality impact assessment and of any monitoring undertaken. This will include the Council's website, press releases and public notices. If requested, the Council will produce such outcomes in Braille, on disk and to meet the needs of those who are found not to be fluent in English.

3.6 **Training**

The Council will ensure that all relevant staff receive training on the requirements of the equality scheme and equality impact assessments within the organisation. This will be appropriate to their grade and responsibilities.

3.7 **Public Access to Information and Services**

The Council is committed to effective communication with the public. It recognises, however, that there is a risk that some sections of the public will not enjoy equality of opportunity in accessing information provided by the Council.

The Council commits to providing information on the Council's website, and through press releases and public notices. If requested, the Council will produce information in Braille, on disk and to meet the needs of those who are found not to be fluent in English.