

## Statement on Equality Impact Assessment

In preparing its Local Development Plan, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council must comply with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which requires that public authorities, in carrying out their functions in relation to Northern Ireland, have 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.

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.

The first stage in the Local Development Plan process is the publication of a Preferred Options Paper. The Preferred Options Paper identifies the main planning issues for the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area and presents options in relation to how these issues may be addressed within the Local Development Plan and an indication of the Council's preferred option. The options presented within the Preferred Options Paper are not policies, but rather are suggestive of particular policy approaches. At draft Plan Strategy stage, the Council will screen its policies to determine which would require a fuller equality analysis in the form of an impact assessment.

To inform the Preferred Options Paper the Council has prepared a series of topic papers on a wide range of planning related subjects. These include Position Paper One: Population and Growth which provides the evidential context for the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council population in respect of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability and dependants. The policy areas where a Local Development Plan is likely to have an impact on Section 75 groups is summarised in Table 17 of Paper One. This paper, alongside the other topic papers, has been used to inform the main planning issues particular to the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area, as contained within the Preferred Options Paper. These are available to view at [www.fermanaghomagh.com](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com) alongside the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Preferred Options Paper.

It is considered that the joint consultation events, with the general public and with specific Section 75 groups, for the Preferred Options Paper and new Community Plan will further refine the Council's understanding of the potential impact of the new Local Development Plan on Section 75 groups.

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for both the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. These will be further updated to reflect any amendments at the time of adopting both the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan.