Causeway Coast & Glens

Borough Council

SECTION 75 EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS

CONSULTATION ON SCREENING OF POLICIES July 2015 to September 2015

Name of Policy	Aim/Purpose of Policy	New or Revised Policy	Date of Screening	Recommendation
Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy	 This Facilities Strategy document provides an overview of Council's existing assets and resources for the provision of sport and leisure facilities; A visual portrayal of these assets showing demand / unmet demand; Representation of other provision (non-council); The decision-making process required for any new opportunities for investment in similar facilities by council and Other options to be considered when council is not in a position to provide such investment by itself. The strategy sets a framework against which Council can make decisions about resources, how best to maximise those resources and also provide clarity to external stakeholders about Council's plans. Such a framework is vital as Council seeks to consolidate and rationalise its sport and leisure service provision following the convergence from four councils into one, the increasing pressure on financial resources and the desire to ensure equality of access and parity in 	New	5.8.15	Screened out for EQIA without mitigation.

service provision across the new Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Whilst the availability of such a framework benefits the decision-making process for council it must not be used in isolation from input from external stakeholders and engagement with local people. The investment criteria within the strategy also provide for due consideration of other influencing factors such as;

- The current condition of existing facilities;
- The physical environment;
- Social return on investment / wider value considerations and
- Socio-economic and political considerations.

The Facilities strategy is set within the context of service delivery for the Health Well-being & Sport Unit and its service level mandate – namely;

A high quality service provision that is based on need, is affordable and sustainable and improves not only the lives of our community and visitors to the area, but also the way in which we do things.

It also links directly with the strategic aim for the unit:

To ensure leisure and sport contributes to making the new Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council a healthy, vibrant and inclusive community by;

• Ensuring the facilities and services on offer meet the needs of the community and visitors to the area for the betterment of their health and well-being and provides the opportunity to increase existing participation levels.

- Providing accessible and quality facilities and services for residents and visitors to the area which operate in an efficient and effective manner.
- Developing and improving partnerships designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.

This document highlights areas of need for facilities and it is a priority of Council to bring forward schemes that meet the identified needs in a manner that is affordable, sustainable and equitable in accordance with this strategy.

Accordingly, it is a basic requirement for any new Sport and Leisure facility or any major upgrade being put forward, that the Business Case for the work is consistent with the needs identified in this strategy and also that evidence is provided that each of the Investment Criteria is adequately satisfied.