

**Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan 2021-24:
summary of consultation feedback**

Quantitative data

Response numbers overall were relatively low, both at meetings and survey returns. This is in line with other local councils as reflected at a recent meeting to discuss the statutory Section 75 duties.

The table below summarises the areas surveyed and the percentage of respondents who fully or generally agreed with the statements presented:

Do you agree with/ that:	% demonstrating broadly positive agreement
information contained in the Audit of Inequalities provides a sufficient evidence base for the development of appropriate actions to address inequalities?	75%
actions under Growing an inclusive economy?	75%
actions under Living here?	75%
cross-cutting actions?	80%
actions listed in Our organisational priorities?	63.6%
Equality Action Plan 2021-24 will have a positive impact on addressing inequalities?	58%

Qualitative data

Summary of observations:

- i. The consultation feedback demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the entrenchment of inequalities in the city and the tensions between sectarian divisions and broader identity groups.
- ii. The ambitious aims of the Belfast Agenda and the functional purpose of the Audit of Inequalities can lead to a misinterpretation of the remit of Council in addressing inequalities.
- iii. Much of the information gathered relates to particular programmes to be delivered
- iv. The needs of specific identity groups are reflected across a wide range of inequalities.

- v. Data gaps are having an increasingly detrimental impact on our understanding of inequalities, particularly in relation to BAME communities, young carers and younger members of the LGBTQ+ community
- vi. Intersectionality is increasingly understood in relation to equality and service provision. This relates to the intersection of Section 75 categories and occurs when an individual may face overlapping discrimination due to different aspects of their identity, eg a carer from the BAME community faces discrimination due to their dependent status as well as their ethnicity.
- vii. Support for the lobbying role of Council in addressing inequalities beyond our functions
- viii. Acknowledgement of Council's position in promoting inclusion, with momentum to continue in this regard

The feedback gathered in this consultation has provided a useful insight into inequalities in the city of Belfast.