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| **INITIAL EQUALITY SCREENING FORM** |
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| DIVISION**:** | Food & Drink | **TEAM:** | n/a – Applicable to all teams in the Division |
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| **Name of Policy/Decision/Practice to be Equality Screened** |
| Agri-Food Investment Initiative |
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| **Is it New or Revised?** | New |
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| **Who Does the Policy Effect, e.g Service Users/Staff:** | Food & drink processing businesses in NI |
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| **Question 1** – Define the aim of the Programme or . What is it trying to achieve? (Intended aims/outcomes) |
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| The Agri-Food Investment Initiative (AFII) will provide a capital grant to support investment by food & drink SMEs and large agri-food processing businesses. It will focus on improving the economic performance and competitiveness of Northern Ireland’s food processing sector through providing financial assistance towards transformative capital investment. This investment will deliver against the 10X triple bottom line, and improve business productivity and the adoption of data analysis and digitalisation.  |
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| **Question 2** – Does the Programme or Policy have the potential to have an impact on the promotion of equality impact for any of the Section 75 groupings? (See Question 4 for list of equality groups.) | No |
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| If no go to Question 7 – Rationale for Decision. | If yes please continue. |
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| n/a |
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| **Consideration of Available Date/Research** |
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| **Question 3** – What information is there available – statistics or perception – to help you decide who the Programme or Policy might affect the most? i.e. What evidence, qualitative or quantitative, have you gathered to inform your decision making process? |
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| n/a |

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| **Assessment of Impact** |
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| **Question 4** – Explain if what you plan to do is likely to be perceived as having a high, medium or low impact upon the 9 Equality groupings according to their needs. Also if what you are planning to do is likely to be perceived as having a positive or negative effect upon the 3 different groups in relation to the promotion of good relations. |
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| **9 Equality Groups** | **Perceived Impact****High – (H)****Medium - (M)****Low – (L)** | **Why this rating?** | **Promotion of Good Relations****(Yes/No)** | **Why this rating?** |
| Religious Belief |       |       | - |       |
| Racial/Ethnic Group |       |       | - |       |
| Political Opinion |       |       | - |       |
| Age |       |       | - |       |
| Gender |       |       | - |       |
| Marital Status |       |       | - |       |
| Sexual Orientation |       |       | - |       |
| Disability |       |       | - |       |
| Dependants |       |       | - |       |
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| **Opportunities to better promote Equality of Opportunity** |
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| **Question 5** – Are there steps which could be taken to reduce any adverse impact upon the Section 75 groups as identified in Question 4? |
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| n/a |
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| **Good Relations** |
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| **Question 6** – Is there an opportunity in what you are trying to do to better promote Good Relations between the 3 groupings as identified in Question 4? |
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| n/a |

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| **Consultation** |
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| **Question 7** – Tell us about who have talked to about your proposals internally or externally to help you decide if the programme or policy needs further or no further equality investigation. |
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| Director of Food & Drink Division, and Equality Manager, Invest NI. |
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| **Question 8** – In light of the above should the be |
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| [ ]  | Screened Out – No Equality Issues – Please provide rationale for this decision. |
| The Agri-Food Investment Initiative will be open to applications from food & drink SMEs and large agri-food processing businesses which meet the Scheme criteria. Whilst it is recognised that the industry and its primary supply chain is comprised of more men than women, this Scheme does not have the potential to have an impact on the promotion of equality for that Section 75 grouping, however, nor will it present any barriers to any section 75 categories. All reasaonable adjustment requests will be met. |
| [ ]  | Screened Out with some adjustments. – What adjustments have you made? |
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| [ ]  | Screened In for a deeper level of analysis of what is being considered or intended to be undertaken. (EQIA) – Please provide rationale for this decision. |
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| Signed: | Gráinne Moody | Date: | 09/12/2022 |
|  | Policy /Programme Owner |  |  |
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| Approved | Pamela Marron      | Date: | 05/03/24 (prior to implementation) |
|  | Equality Manager |  |  |
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| Modifications made. | Date: |       |
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| Date: |       |
| Approved by Equality Manager |  |  |