



**Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council**

**Local Development Plan
Plan Strategy
Consultation and
Engagement Strategy with
Neighbouring Councils**

CONTENTS

Part 1

1.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

3.0 CURRENT APPROACH TO CONSULTATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

4.0 PROPOSED APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

Part 2

5.0 JOINT ENGAGEMENT ON AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST:

- COUNCIL GROWTH STRATEGIES
- HOUSING GROWTH
- EMPLOYMENT GROWTH
- RETAILING & OFFICES
- TOURISM & OPEN SPACE
- TRANSPORT
- OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING FLOODING; RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT)
- HISTORIC & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- MINERALS
- CEMETERY PROVISION

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Key Consultees LDP
- Appendix 2 LDP Stakeholder Group
- Appendix 3 Community Groups in Council area
- Appendix 4 Section 75 Groups in Council area
- Appendix 5 Details of duty to cooperate in England & Wales
- Appendix 6 Terms of Reference Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group
- Appendix 7 Terms of Reference Neighbouring Councils Working Group
- Appendix 8 Action Plan – Areas of Mutual Interest

PART 1

1.0 BACKGROUND

The purpose of this paper is to examine the process of consultation with our neighbouring councils in respect of the emerging Local Development Plan (LDP) having regard to the tests for soundness¹ as set out in Departmental Guidance.

This looks beyond the Council's **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** which sets out how the community can get involved in the preparation of the Council's Local Development Plan. The SCI, published in April 2016, describes who, how and when the community can participate in the different stages of the LDP process. The SCI also identifies the involvement of key consultees (**Appendix 1**); a LDP Stakeholder Group (**Appendix 2**); Community Groups in the Council area (**Appendix 3**); and under-represented Section 75 Groups (**Appendix 4**) in the LDP process.

Community Plan and LPD Linkages

Part 10 of the Local Government Act 2014 amended Section 8 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 by introducing the additional statutory requirement between the Community Plan and the LDP, in that the preparation of the LDP must take account of the Community Plan. It is intended that the LDP will be a spatial reflection of the Community Plan and the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for the council area and its communities. On this basis, the LDP will set the long term social, economic and environmental objectives for the Plan area.

Progress to Date

The progress of the LDP is captured in the Council's Timetable, which sets out:-

- information about the main stages in the Local Development Plan process and the indicative timeframe for meeting each stage;
- information on the Sustainability Assessment process that will run in parallel with the LDP process.

The Council (in accordance with the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 Regulations) approved its revised Timetable in November 2018 which was agreed by the Department of Infrastructure in December 2018.

¹ Development Plan Practice Note 06 Soundness, Department for Infrastructure

Stage 1 (the Preferred Options Paper) is complete and the Council is progressing towards Stage 2 with the publication of its **Plan Strategy**.

Aims of the Consultation Strategy

With the progression of the Plan Strategy we recognise that consultation with our neighbouring Councils provides the opportunity to fulfil the following aims:-

- identify cross boundary issues in the areas of economic development, housing, transport and general infrastructure;
- advise neighbouring Councils of matters of collective interest including the evidence base which informs the Plan Strategy;
- seek agreement and co-operation, where possible, on the cross boundary issues identified;
- ensure that regional policy development, local transport plans and joint working is appropriately linked to the decision making role.

This Consultation and Engagement Strategy will focus specifically on how we achieve these aims with those neighbouring Councils who are defined as a statutory consultee as set out in Part 1 Section 2 (1(b)) of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

2.0 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

In preparing the LDP, the Council must take account of the SPPS along with other policy and guidance issued by the Department. Sustainable development is at the heart of the SPPS and the planning system and the LDP should deliver on the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e.:-

- On the needs and aspirations of our society;
- On the economy; and
- On the environment.

In relation to the above three pillars of sustainable development, **Table 1** identifies the strategic cross-boundary issues that have been identified during the preparation of the Plan Strategy. The aim is to achieve, where possible, mutual co-operation and constructive engagement with our neighbouring Councils on this range of issues.

Table 1

SOCIETY	ECONOMY	ENVIRONMENT
Housing Growth	Employment Growth	International Environmental Designations: Lough Neagh
Transportation	Minerals	National Environmental Designations: Belfast Hills
Other Infrastructure (waste and water)	Energy infrastructure	Lagan Valley Regional Park AONB
		Historic & Built Environment

These issues are further addressed under Part 5 of this paper (see Joint Engagement on Areas of mutual interest).

Departmental Guidance

Soundness

A key feature of the local development plan system is ‘soundness’ which requires the Development Plan to be tested in terms of content, conformity and the process by which it is produced, at independent examination.

The twelve tests of soundness are based upon three categories – procedural, consistency, coherence and effectiveness and there is a degree of overlap in terms of the criteria used for each test. Of these tests:-

- C4 asks if the plan has regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the council’s district or to any adjoining councils’ district; and
- CE1 states the Development Plan Document must set out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and where cross boundary issues are relevant it is not in conflict with the Development Plan Document of neighbouring councils.

Development Plan Practice Note 6 ‘Soundness’ (DPPN6) advises that a council, ‘*must have regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies, not only in its own district but also in its adjoining area.*’ It suggests that topics such as transport, recreation and economic development may have cross boundary implications and by integrating the aims and objectives of these other plans and strategies, higher level regional planning aims and objectives can be facilitated.

Development Plan Practice Note 7 ‘The Plan Strategy’ (DPPN7) further advises that the Plan Strategy should ‘identify interdependencies and relationships between places both within and across administrative boundaries’.

DPPN6 also advises that linking to relevant plans, policies and strategies will be particularly important in *‘helping to justify policies and proposals which reflect local circumstances pertaining to a council and its adjoining area.’*

The guidance further advises that the council must ensure that its strategies are not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications and ensuring they are compatible with those of its neighbouring councils.

Strategic cross-boundary issues have been identified during the preparation of the Plan Strategy, and the aim of the Strategy is to achieve, where possible mutual co-operation and constructive engagement with our neighbouring Councils.

Legislation

In Northern Ireland there is no legislative duty to co-operate with neighbouring councils. The duty to cooperate was created in England and Wales under the Localism Act 2011 9 Section 110 owing to the recognition of the importance to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters (see **Appendix 5**). Whilst not bound by UK legislation, there are important lessons which can be incorporated as best practice to assist in the development of a sound plan.

3.0 CURRENT APPROACH TO CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS

The Council shares its boundaries with the following five neighbouring Councils as indicated on Map 1:-

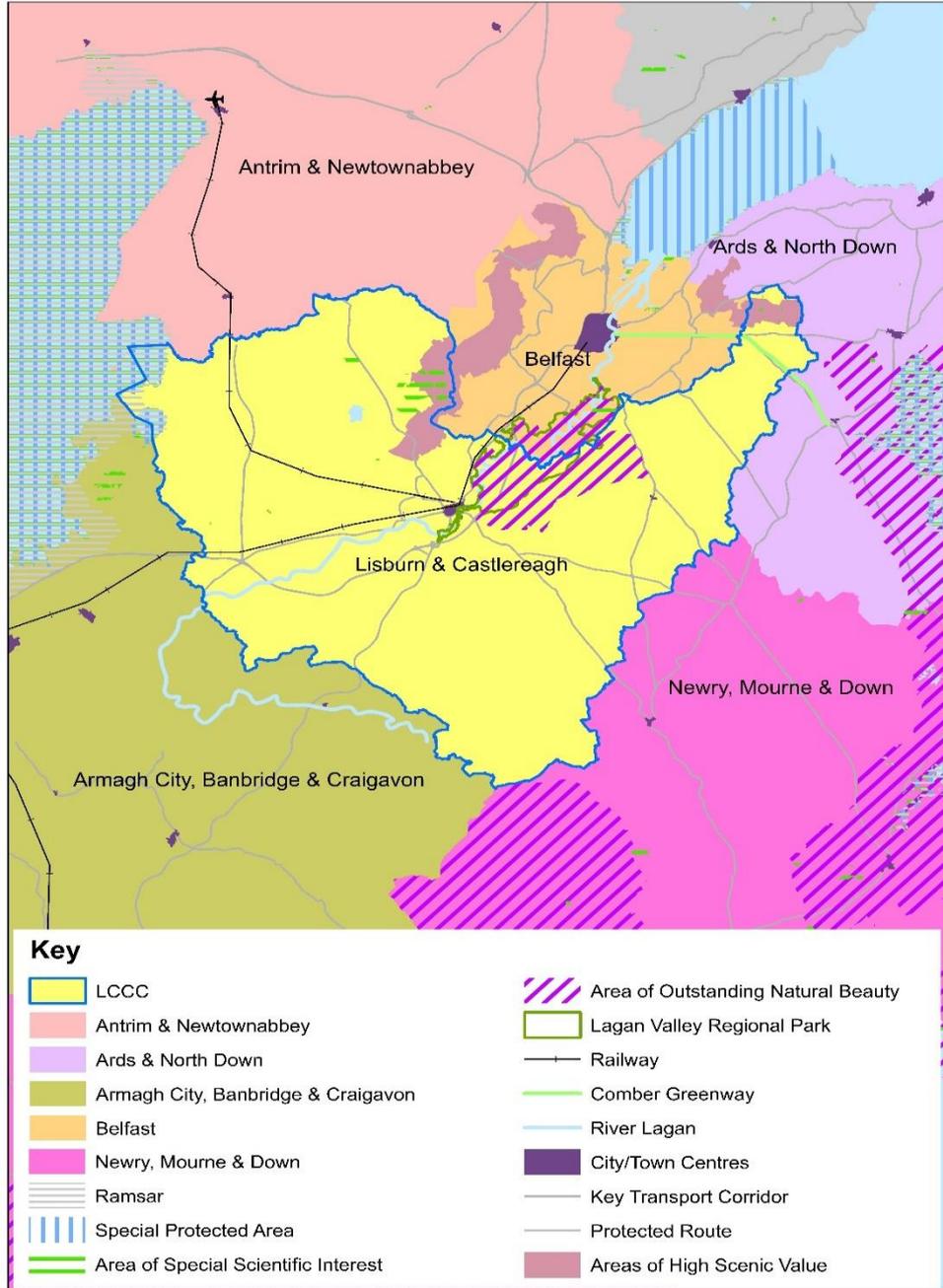
- Belfast City Council
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

The Preferred Options Paper (page 15) acknowledges that:-

“There are a host of inter-relationships between Council areas. People travel across boundaries for work, education and leisure and there can be considerable benefits from recognising the important linkages between Council areas and working in collaboration with neighbouring councils.”

With the publication of Belfast City Council’s draft Plan Strategy and the Preferred Options Papers of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council, we can further assess the obvious linkages between Councils which are emerging. This applies to both the wider Belfast Metropolitan Area and with those Councils who are more rural in nature sharing a common boundary to the south of our Council area on the key Belfast-Dublin economic corridor.

Map 1 Neighbouring Councils



Working Groups

The LDP team participate in a number of Working Groups to demonstrate that the LDP has been developed having cognisance of neighbouring authorities and the issues they face. Discussions with relevant local planning authorities have taken place throughout the preparation of the LDP. In addition to the Principal Officer Working Group where 11 Councils meet quarterly, the Working Groups involving neighbouring councils are:-

- Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group
- Neighbouring Councils Spatial Working Group
- Lough Neagh Forum
- Minerals Working Group

Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group

The Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group was established in September 2017 and meets quarterly. It is attended by officers and Members of the Council. Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards & North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council and various Government departments are also represented. The group provides a platform for the five Councils within the wider Metropolitan Area to consider issues in relation to the housing market, retail impact, transportation and infrastructure and to discuss emerging LDP policies, objectives, and proposals at a strategic level in an effort to minimise the potential for conflicts between the individual LDPs.

The agreed Terms of Reference for this group can be found in **Appendix 6**.

Neighbouring Councils Spatial Working Group

The Neighbouring Councils Spatial Working Group was established in June 2018 by LCCC and is attended by officers and Members from Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council – the two neighbouring Councils who do not form part of the Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group.

The agreed Terms of Reference for this group can be found in **Appendix 7**.

Lough Neagh Forum

The Lough Neagh Forum was established in April 2017 to promote discussion with relevant government agencies and to also initiate discussion between councils on a number of cross-boundary issues regarding Lough Neagh. It includes Mid Ulster District Council, and it was agreed at the inaugural meeting that the key issues to be discussed were:-

- Existing environmental designations, protection of natural heritage
- Minerals Development
- Sustainable Tourism
- Flooding

The aim of the Forum is to provide a common approach to cross boundary planning issues and to ensure that adjoining councils have regard to each other's relevant plans, policies and strategies.

Minerals Working Group

The Minerals Working Group membership includes all 11 Councils and was established in June 2018. The Working Group was set up to consider:-

- supply and demand for aggregates across each council and NI as a whole
- aggregates initially and later moving on to a broader consideration of mineral development issues including potential for high value and industrial minerals; and
- raising awareness of the Minerals Licensing Regime and Annual Minerals Return and potential economic benefits as well as environmental protections.

4.0 PROPOSED APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

The Council is committed to ensuring that effective pre-consultation is carried out on the range of objectives, policies and proposals identified in the draft Plan Strategy. The intention is to provide opportunity for meaningful and constructive engagement on the areas of mutual interest (identified under Part 5 of this Paper) by seeking feedback from our neighbouring Councils in advance of public consultation of the draft Plan Strategy. This goes further than the requirements of the legislation, recognising the importance of developing better communication and engagement locally.

Table 2 sets out an **Action Plan (see Appendix 9)** which will form the basis for response from our neighbouring Councils in relation to each issue of mutual interest identified in our emerging draft Plan Strategy.

Method of Engagement

The draft Consultation Strategy and Action Plan will be shared with our neighbouring Councils. The method of engagement with neighbouring Councils will be in the form of focused Workshops between Officers and Departmental officials (where relevant) subject to individual Council agreement.

Following the Workshops, comments sought within an 8 week timeframe. All comments received will be reviewed and any outstanding issues of concern will be further discussed with our neighbouring Councils in advance of publication of the draft Plan Strategy.

Provision will be made for political governance through each individual Council's Committee structure on the range of issues identified, where mutual co-operation/collaboration can be achieved.

Where possible we will identify measures for resolution/mitigation. Where this cannot be achieved a full explanation will be provided so as not to impede the plan making process for this Council or its neighbours.

PART 2

5.0 JOINT ENGAGEMENT ON AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The areas identified for mutual engagement form the following generic topic areas for discussion:-

- A. COUNCIL GROWTH STRATEGIES**
- B. HOUSING GROWTH**
- C. EMPLOYMENT GROWTH**
- D. RETAILING & OFFICES**
- E. TOURISM & OPEN SPACE**
- F. TRANSPORT**
- G. OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING FLOODING; RENEWABLE ENERGY & WASTE MANAGEMENT)**
- H. HISTORIC & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
- I. MINERALS**
- J. CEMETERY PROVISION**

A. COUNCIL GROWTH STRATEGIES

LDP Growth Strategy & Spatial Framework

The draft Plan Strategy for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) identifies a Growth Strategy and Spatial Framework along with series of Plan objectives, which build and reflect on those provided in the Preferred Options Paper (POP), taking into account comments received following public consultation. These are outlined in further detail below and, as stated previously in Part 1, form the basis of consultation with our neighbouring councils.

One of the key aims of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) will be to support the growth and regeneration of the area economically, environmentally and socially. The new Local Development Plan will have a significant role to play in achieving the strategic objectives and give effect to regional guidance set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS).

The Future Growth Strategy aims to:

- Support the growth and regeneration of our city, towns and villages whilst sustaining a living and working countryside and protecting areas that are environmentally sensitive;
- Provide a settlement hierarchy, designate development limits and zone land for housing growth in accordance with the sequential approach of the RDS and facilitate growth in settlements, where appropriate reflective of their size, scale and context, taking account of regional guidance;
- Outside settlements accommodate sustainable development in the countryside in accordance with prevailing regional planning policy;
- Designate employment land to make provision for an adequate and continuous supply, taking account of accessibility to major transport routes;
- Establish key site requirements to help achieve good quality development;
- Identify, define, designate and grow retailing, recreation, or community facilities where appropriate;
- Define transportation-related proposals in accordance with the regional transportation policy, promoting reduction in the need to travel by car and use of alternative modes of travel; and
- Identify, define and designate areas of built and natural heritage features.

The aims of the Growth Strategy can be achieved through the provision of a '**Spatial Framework**' (based on the Settlement Hierarchy in accordance with the RDS Spatial Framework Guidance) to ensure that the growth of settlements, including the provision for housing, employment land and other key land uses, are in the right places and benefit the community as a whole. The integration of transportation infrastructure will underpin the delivery of the spatial framework to ensure that the Council's Growth Strategy can be achieved.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

The Spatial Growth Strategy is stated at Para 4.119 of their Preferred Options Paper:

- Focus core growth on the Metropolitan Newtownabbey Area and Major Town/Main Hub of Antrim building upon existing committed development allocations and strengthen their roles as the primary locations for growth and investment in accordance with the Regional Development Strategy.
- Consolidate and strengthen the role of the towns of Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown as centres for employment, facilities and services to support the network of surrounding villages and the rural hinterland.
- Sustain and maintain the role of villages as local service centres providing opportunity for housing and employment taking account of the benefits of accessibility to key transport routes.
- Sustain and maintain our countryside through the accommodation of suitable employment and housing in the rural areas.
- Promote sustainable development and strengthen the role of regional gateways such as Belfast International Airport with the development of Strategic Employment Locations on key transport routes.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

The Spatial Growth Strategy of their Preferred Options Paper is stated on page 39 and seeks to:-

- Guide the majority of development, including local housing and employment opportunities, to locations within those large towns that have capacity to accommodate new development that can be well integrated with existing infrastructure, and which serve as accessible centres within the larger rural hinterland;
- Maintain and protect the diversity and quality of our rural area and encourage local development which supports the population and services of local communities;
- Provide opportunities for appropriate diversification of the rural economy.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

The key issues and preferred options in relation to the Spatial Growth Strategy are published in their Preferred Options Paper:-

- **Key Issue SGS 1: Defining a Settlement Hierarchy**
Preferred Option SGS 1A: Bring forward a new settlement hierarchy through reclassification of existing settlements where appropriate, and to include new settlements/new settlement nodes;
- **Key Issue SGS 2: Allocating Housing**
Preferred Option SGS 2A: Focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect regional direction; and
- **Key Issue SGS 3: Allocating Economic Development Lands**
Preferred Option SGS 3A: Apportion economic development lands in relation to former Council populations and in addition reflect Craigavon's sub-regional function.

The Spatial Growth Strategy (Page 32) states:

“The LDP is required to contain a Spatial Strategy setting out the direction for development and use of land for the period of the plan. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 ‘Building a Better Future’ sets objectives around promoting population growth and economic development in the main Hubs and sustaining rural communities living in small towns, villages, rural small settlements and the open countryside. The RDS identifies Armagh City, Banbridge Town and the Craigavon Urban Area as main Hubs and highlights the potential to cluster and capitalise on their strategic position on the Belfast/Dublin and Belfast/Enniskillen/Sligo Economic Corridors as detailed in the RDS Spatial Framework.”

Belfast City Council Plan Strategy

Belfast City Council’s Growth Strategy is found under Policy SP1 in their draft Plan Strategy. The Growth Strategy can be summarised as follows:-

- support 46,000 additional jobs
- supply 550,000m² of employment floorspace
- increase the population by 66,000 people
- provide 31,600 additional homes.

At Para 5.1.4, it outlines that:

“Land will be zoned for housing, employment uses and mixed-use sites within the Local Policies Plan to deliver the Council’s growth aspirations. The delivery of employment space and homes will be phased to align with infrastructure capacity and investment over the plan period.”

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

The five key issues with preferred options in relation to the Spatial Growth Strategy are published in their Preferred Options Paper:-

- Key Issue 1: Settlement Hierarchy
- Key Issue 2: Quantity of Housing Land
- Key Issue 3: Distribution of Housing Land
- Key Issue 4: Quantity of Employment Land
- Key Issue 5: Distribution of Employment Land

Para 5.3 states “Our proposed Spatial Growth Strategy will seek to achieve the RDS objectives of promoting growth and economic development opportunities in the Regional Gateway city of Newry and main hub of Downpatrick. The district’s main city and town will accommodate major economic development and residential development schemes...

Towns will provide opportunities for smaller economic development proposals, retailing and services and residential development. Villages will be sustained through the use of flexible plan designations supporting appropriately sized residential and employment opportunities...

Within the open countryside single dwellings will be managed and facilitated in a manner to strike a balance between the need to protect the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development while supporting local communities.”

Growth Strategy Key Issues

- Do the Council Growth Strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- What are the impacts of different growth strategies on neighbouring councils?
- How can mitigation be achieved?

Summary Table: Growth Strategies

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan 2015, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers: Population, Housing, Employment, Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Market Analysis, Belfast Region Place Shaping Team, April 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Study (see part B)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Study (see part C)
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Growth Strategies to be cognisant of potential conflicts with other Council strategies and provide mitigation measures where possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek central government engagement on the future establishment of a sub-regional Working Group for the BMA (in addition to the MASWG)

B. HOUSING GROWTH

LCCC Plan Strategy Housing Growth

Plan Objective: Enabling Sustainable Communities and the Delivery of New Homes

- To encourage sustainable communities with good access to jobs, housing, public transport, education, community and recreation services and facilitate their future development at accessible and connected locations.
- To support the existing settlement hierarchy across the Council area recognising Lisburn & Castlereagh as a growth area reflective of its strategic location.
- To support the Council's towns, villages and small settlements as vibrant and attractive local centres providing a level of homes and services appropriate to their role in the settlement hierarchy whilst protecting their identity from excessive development.
- To encourage good design and positive place-making through the development of schemes appropriate to their locality and context.
- To provide appropriate opportunities for housing and support the provision of a range of types and tenures, including affordable housing.
- To support the provision of adequate infrastructure (including water, sewage and transport) to support sustainable residential development.
- To support and provide for vibrant rural communities by providing appropriate opportunities for housing and sustainable development in the countryside.

LDP Housing Strategy

The LDP Housing Strategy is based on the Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) supplied by Central Government, which have been calculated for Northern Ireland as a whole. The projected new dwelling requirements for Northern Ireland from 2012 to 2025 is 94,000 dwelling units. The projected new dwelling unit requirement for Lisburn & Castlereagh Local Government District between 2012 and 2025 is **9,600 dwelling units**² (subject to revision).

In order to project this figure forward over the lifetime of the Plan, i.e. from 2017 to 2032, **11,070 dwelling units** is allocated for the new Local Development Plan.

Given existing commitments, Urban Capacity Sites and Windfall opportunities (see Table 1) Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council intend to broadly align with the HGI as current evidence indicates this is a sustainable level of growth for the Council area. A strategic housing allocation is also

² Housing Growth Indicators set by the former Department for Regional Development, now Department for Infrastructure

apportioned to West Lisburn to stimulate economic growth and support development of the Knockmore Link Road.

Table 1

Settlement	Potential Units Remaining (Undeveloped)	Potential Units Remaining (Ongoing Sites)	Total Potential Units Remaining (Undeveloped & Ongoing Sites)
HGI PROJECTION (+10%) 12,177			
Lisburn City	69 (0.5%)	4,464 (36.5%)	4,533 (37%)
Lisburn Greater Urban Area	0	209 (1.7%)	209 (1.7%)
Castlereagh Greater Urban Area- Newtownbreda/Cairnshill Area	360 (2.9%)	443 (3.6%)	803 (6.6%)
Castlereagh Greater Urban Area- Dundonald	0	1006 (8.3%)	1006 (8.3%)
Carryduff	410 (3.4%)	1,154 (9.5%)	1,564 (13%)
Hillsborough/Culcavy	0	468 (3.8%)	468 (4%)
Moira	269 (2.2%)	337 (2.8%)	606 (5%)
Villages & Small Settlements			1,368 (11%)
Countryside			810 (6.7%)
Total Units			11,367
Total % of HGI			93.0%
Strategic Housing Location West Lisburn			1,500 (12.3%)
Total % of HGI*			12,867 (105.6%)
Total Units % of HGI in Urban Footprint*			3,801 (31.2%)

Housing Market Areas (HMAs)

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) commissioned a study to enhance understanding of the concept of functional housing market areas (HMAs) that were originally defined in 2009. The updated HMA report (Mapping Northern Ireland's Housing Market Areas, August 2018)³, aims to provide clarification to local Councils regarding who they should collaborate with in planning for housing development across the broad HMA.

³ [Mapping Northern Ireland's housing market areas](#)

LCCC falls within the **Belfast Metropolitan HMA**, the largest and most populous housing market. As can be seen from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 below, the Belfast Metropolitan HMA covers our five neighbouring councils and also extends slightly into Mid & East Antrim Borough Council.

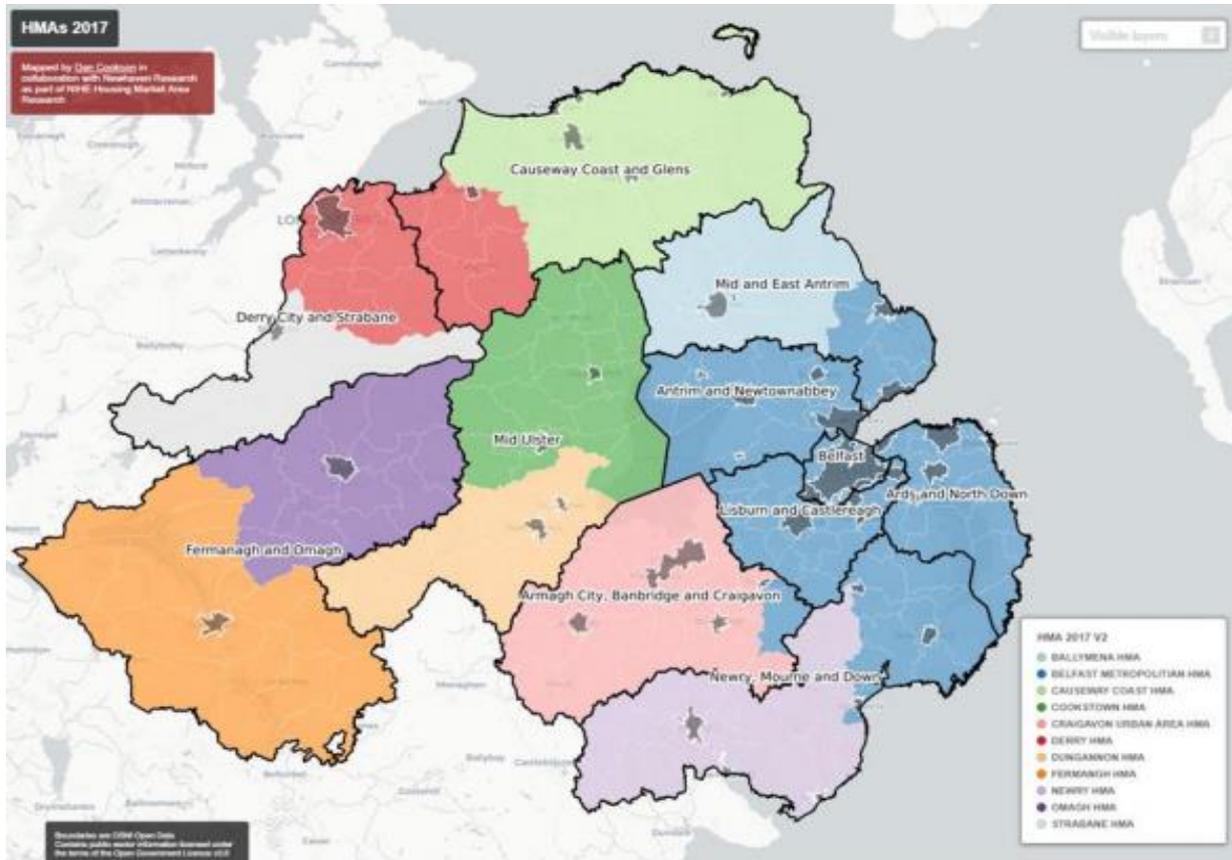


Fig 1 NI HMA Boundaries

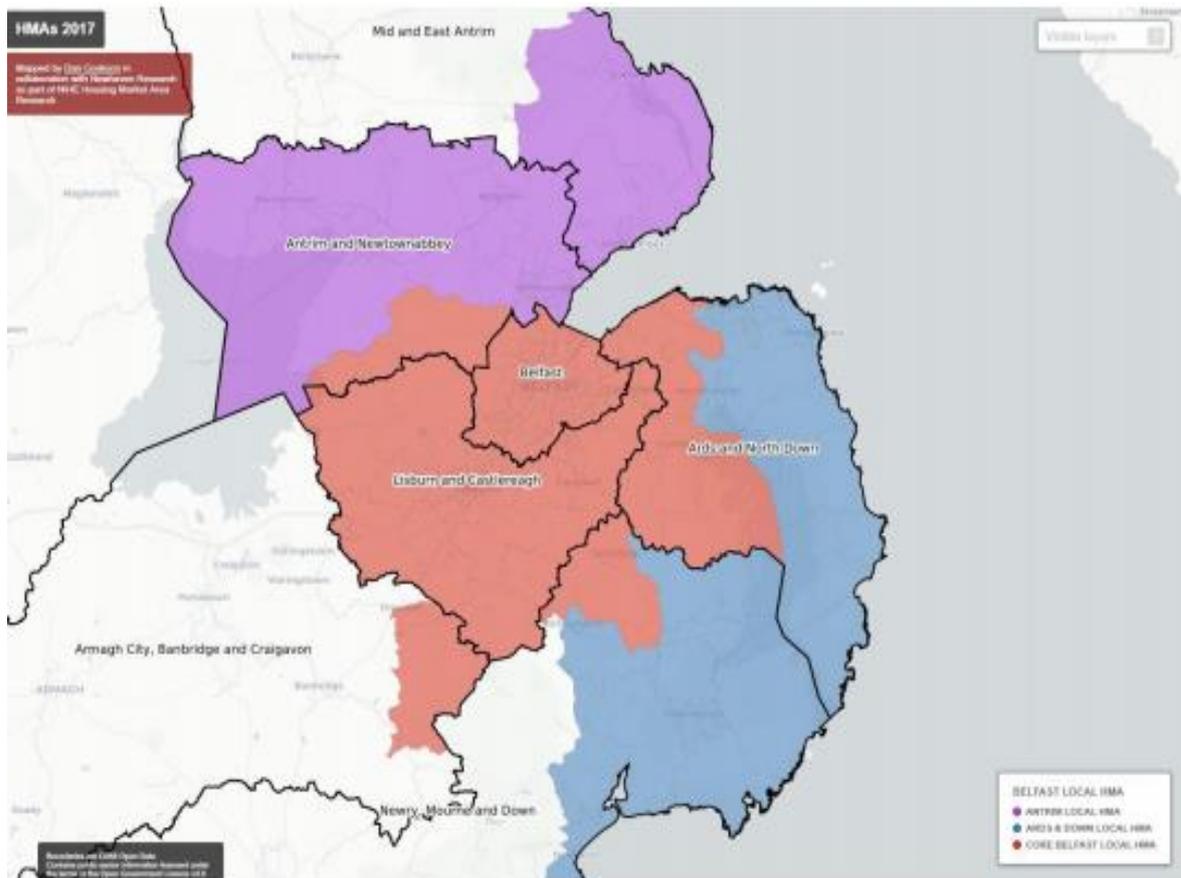


Fig 2 Belfast Metropolitan Local HMAs

The report identifies that residential mobility is shaped by work, housing market, family situation and other networks and is rarely defined by administrative boundaries. The geography of functional HMAs are shaped by where people live and work and the spatial area over which people search for and choose a new home without changing their place of work. The report identified that HMA boundaries can extend across local authority boundaries and policies to ease supply-side constraints by one local authority may have little effect on house prices and the overall requirement for housing, unless they form part of a co-ordinated approach to ease constraints across the broad HMA.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council - Housing Growth

This is found in Chapter 5: Housing Allocation and Distribution.

It is a 2-stage process:

1. Determining the amount of housing growth; and
2. Housing growth allocation.

Under Stage 1 the Preferred Option is number 4: Para 5.12

Option 4 of 13,000 dwellings is predicated on an assumed annual average build rate of 650 dwellings, which is derived from an average of the HGI growth rate of 554 dwellings per annum and the pre-crash build rate of 748 dwellings per annum. This would provide for growth of 9,750 dwellings during the Plan period and a 5-year housing land supply of 3,250 dwellings at the end of that period.

Justification is provided at Para 5.13; A housing growth of 9,750 dwellings during the Plan period and a 5-year housing land supply of 3,250 dwellings at the end of that period is considered as a balanced approach and the most appropriate option for the Borough. It does not depart too significantly from the HGI indicated in regional guidance, but will afford reasonable flexibility and a potential increase in build rates from those seen over the last 5 years as the housing market recovers.

Option 1 is the Preferred Option at Stage 2; Para 5.33-34 states:

Option 1 as illustrated in Figure 16 consolidates the growth planned in Metropolitan Newtownabbey and focusses enhanced growth in the towns and selected villages based upon key transport locations. This option fulfils the proposed Strategic Growth Strategy of the Plan and will adhere to the strategic aims of the RDS in consolidating growth in Metropolitan Newtownabbey and sustaining rural towns and villages.

Ards and North Down Borough Council – Housing Growth

The Preferred Options for Housing Growth can be found on page 57. The POP identified that there were large areas of zoned but undeveloped greenfield land, particularly from the Ards & North Down Area Plan. The HGI for the period (projected to 2030) is 8190 dwellings and it is estimated that the existing capacity on remaining zoned land is 8047. It is also estimated that a further 2240 additional dwellings are available on land that is not zoned for housing, resulting in a figure of 10 287, 27% above the HGI.

The preferred option, Option 3b seeks to re-evaluate existing housing zonings and allocate additional housing land, if required, to ensure continued modest housing growth (using the sequential approach in the SPPS). This option allows a review of all current zoned sites which have not yet come forward for development and to review any Key Site Requirements which may be presenting an obstacle to development.

Key Issue 6 aims to facilitate sustainable rural housing by introducing an approach to rural housing that is in line with existing policies but tailored to meet local circumstances whilst Key Issue 8 seeks to provide a proportion of Lifetime Homes in new developments, over a certain threshold.

Key Issue 7 aims to facilitate affordable housing through the use of the proportional approach, key site requirements or zoning of entire sites, dependent on a number of factors, including identified need.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council – Housing Growth

The Key Issue and Preferred Option for allocating housing are: Key Issue SGS 2: Allocating Housing and:

Preferred Option SGS 2A: to Focus housing growth on the Hubs whilst sustaining rural communities to reflect regional direction;

The preferred housing allocation is 19,850 over the plan period projected from the HGI figure of 14,400. Table 5.5 allocates a percentage and figure across the settlement hierarchy. 75% in hubs, local towns and villages and 25% in small settlements and the rural area.

Belfast City Council Plan Strategy - Housing Growth Strategy

Belfast City Council under Policy SP1 proposes 31,600 new homes (the HGI for Belfast is 13,700 dwellings) area over the lifetime of the plan. Policy HOU1 Accommodating New Homes gives details of how this number will be delivered and where.

Specific policies for housing are found under the section ‘Shaping a Liveable Place’ 7.1 Housing. Under the policy aims at 7.1.5 “The residential accommodation policies within the LDP will seek to address current and future residential needs by ensuring sufficient land is made available to meet future housing requirements.” Ten aims are then listed for these policies.

The draft Plan Strategy contains 13 policies directly related to housing. At 7.1.6 it states: “The housing supply adopts a sequential approach to new development, where the focus of new growth will be on the principal city of Belfast, particularly Belfast city centre and the existing urban footprint. The three rural small settlements therefore have a very modest provision.”

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council – Housing Growth

Newry Mourne and Down has a HGI allocation of 10,900, projected to 15,092 to take account of the Plan period to 2030. The key issues for housing growth are:-

- Key Issue 2: Quantity of Housing Land
- Key Issue 3: Distribution of Housing Land

Under Key Issue 2, the Preferred Option is to: Retain the current level of zoned housing land (Page 52).

Under Key Issue 3 the Preferred Option is: Option 3 Balanced approach between Options 1 and 2 the justification is as follows:

Option 3 is considered to represent a balanced and sustainable approach. It strikes a balance between the need to promote the development of our city and towns in line with the RDS whilst

recognising the need to support our rural communities. Whilst not fully meeting the RDS target of 60% development in hubs and towns over 5,000 population it makes significant progress towards this target. It also affords the opportunity to retain the majority of rural planning policy in its current form and so continues to deliver sustainable development in the countryside.

Housing Growth Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives for housing acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council housing strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Have the housing strategies taken account of the HGI?
- What are the impacts of different housing strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Housing Growth

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan 2015, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Population, Housing, Employment, Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Market Analysis, Belfast Region Place Shaping Team, April 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Study⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Capacity Study⁵
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 Council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's Housing Strategy takes account of all 5 council areas and the Department's HGI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the housing policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

⁴ Housing Study for LCCC not yet finalised

⁵ Urban Capacity Study for LCCC

C. ECONOMIC GROWTH

LCCC Plan Strategy - Economic Growth

Plan Objective: Driving Sustainable Economic Growth

- To support a thriving and diverse economy by providing sufficient supply of land and locations for a range of employment facilitating the creation of new jobs to accommodate population growth and encourage existing and new businesses to invest with confidence.
- To promote our Strategic Mixed Use Employment Locations at West Lisburn and Purdysburn including appropriate mixed use and facilitate opportunities for growth and inward investment
- To promote the provision of accessible higher and further education to meet employment needs.
- To support Lisburn & Castlereagh city, towns and villages as centres of employment and services for their surrounding hinterland.
- To manage mineral resources in a sustainable manner, protecting vulnerable landscapes and also safeguarding where appropriate.
- To support the provision of adequate infrastructure (physical and digital) in facilitating new employment growth and attracting investment, economic regeneration and physical renewal.

LDP Economic Strategy

The LDP Economic Strategy aims to provide a generous and continuous supply of land for employment purposes through provision of a range and type of business and employment opportunity sites across the Council area and providing a hierarchy of sites for employment purposes which consist of:

Strategic Mixed Use sites at the following 2 locations:

- **West Lisburn/Blaris:** The West Lisburn/Blaris lands provide for 119.48 hectares of land in a highly accessible location of which 60 hectares is retained for employment purposes. . The development of this site will only be permitted in accordance with an overall Master Plan/key site requirements, including Industrial and business/light industrial/general industrial/storage or distribution, education and healthcare. Proposals for office development include the provision of office development in this location not exceeding 16,000m², as identified through the Council's **Office Study**. As referred to previously, a housing allocation is also provided at this strategic location as identified through the Council's **Housing Study**.
- **Purdysburn:** provides for 85.54 hectares of land zoned for mixed use in a central area on the main A24 Saintfield Road. The development of this site will only be permitted in accordance with an overall Masterplan/key site requirements as part of any development

proposal. Industrial and business (offices/call centre/research and development), residential institutions, and medical or health services are deemed to be acceptable uses within this site. Housing will not be provided on the site.

- **Zoned Employment Land:** It is considered fundamentally important to provide a range and type of business and employment opportunity sites across the Council area. Protecting sufficient employment land from other types of development provides a measure of certainty about availability of land for employment purposes. Employment land for the purpose of this Plan Strategy consists of land zoned in the extant Development Plan (draft BMAP⁶) which comprises both developed and undeveloped land of 0.5 hectares and over. The Council's **Employment Study** will identify where opportunities for changes to employment sites may occur however these will not be identified until the Local Policies Plan stage through appropriate designations.
- **Strategic Land Reserve of Regional Employment:** The Maze Lands whilst not identified as an employment zoning, is designated as a Strategic Land Reserve of Regional Importance in accordance with the RDS. It encompasses approximately 141 hectares of land located within a rural location to the west of the Council area. This site is a substantial land reserve with significant potential for future development in the wider public interest. It is safeguarded from development proposals that could undermine its regional/strategic significance. Responsibility for the development of this site rests with The Executive Office. The unique location of the site, between two key transport corridors, provides many opportunities for employment and complementary uses and will support the growth of West Lisburn.

Within the countryside, the Economic Strategy aims to encourage appropriate development in line with prevailing regional policy.

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council - Economic Growth

The proposed plan objectives relating to employment are:

- To provide an adequate range and quality of land and premises for business and industry.
- To protect strategically important business and employment opportunities.

Option 2 with sub-option 2b is the Preferred Option:

Identify existing employment sites of over 10 hectares in the Borough's largest settlements (Metropolitan Newtownabbey, Antrim and Ballyclare) as Strategic Employment Locations (SELs) and only identify existing employment sites of over 10 hectares as SELs.

There are Preferred Options included in relation to Belfast International Airport and Nutt's Corner. The Preferred Option is to consider these as an SEL and rural SEL respectively. In terms of planning policy, Para 6.29 concludes: We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

⁶ For the purposes of this document, draft BMAP is referred to as the extant Plan

Ards & North Down Borough Council - Economic Growth

Key Issue 26 seeks to provide a generous supply of land for economic development within settlements. The Preferred Option is to evaluate existing zonings for economic/employment land and identify new sites to meet local employment and economic development needs.

Of the total 203.23ha currently zoned for employment/industrial uses, 62.68ha remains undeveloped. The preferred option will allow the evaluation of the existing economic/employment land zonings to assess their continued suitability for economic development and will also allow new sites to be identified where economic land is needed. An Employment Land Review has been commissioned and will consider retaining or rezoning extant employment zonings.

There are also preferred options for:-

- Key Issue 27 - identifying specific sites with economic/employment zonings that are suitable for business start-ups and flexible co-working spaces;
- Key Issue 28 - Sustaining a vibrant rural economy by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale;
- Key Issue 29 - permitting B1 business uses in town centres and other suitable locations outside town centres and within certain district centres and land zoned for economic development on the basis of evidenced need; and
- Key Issue 30 – safeguarding existing employment land

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council - Economic Growth

It states at Page 48 of the POP that “approximately 12,233 new jobs are needed to match the projected increase in the Borough’s working age population by 2030. This need for 12,233 new jobs is estimated as equating to 245 ha of economic development lands at a density of 50 jobs per hectare.” It further states “At 2015 within the Borough, we had 226ha of remaining zoned employment lands and approximately 125ha of vacant/mixed use/undeveloped unzoned lands suitable for employment uses. If we accept that this has the potential to return a total of approximately 350 hectares of zoned economic/potential development land remaining across the Borough, there would appear to be no immediate need to identify additional land”.

Additionally it is stated that: “there is a need to assess the ‘fitness for purpose’ including environmental implications of existing employment land provision, location and availability. This will help to identify the ‘best’ employment sites to be retained and protected, replaced or released for other uses.”

The preferred option for economic growth is Option SGS 3A: Apportion economic development lands in relation to former Council populations and in addition reflect Craigavon’s sub-regional function.

The justification provided is: “This Preferred Option would ensure an adequate supply of employment land across the Borough to 2030 and meet the RDS guidance to direct employment lands to the Hubs. It would provide each of the 3 Hubs and 6 local towns with an appropriate allocation of economic development lands whilst safeguarding the existing lands zoned for economic development uses.”

Belfast City Council Plan Strategy - Economic Growth

Belfast City Council under Policy SP1 has a target of supporting 46,000 additional jobs and the need for approximately 550,000m² of employment floor space over the plan period. Under Policy EC2 this number is confirmed and the allocation/location of those lands identified. However at Paragraph 8.1.20 it is stated that: "The exact locations and associated boundaries will be reviewed as part of the Local Policies Plan (LPP)."

Economic growth policies are located in the 'Creating a vibrant economy' section of their draft Plan Strategy. Under the policy aims 8.1.7 it states: "The economic growth policies within the LDP seeks to proactively drive forward the sustainable economic growth of Belfast over the plan period." There are five policies specifically related to economic growth.

Para 8.1.22 states: To ensure the Belfast economy continues to grow, a key priority is to focus economic development in the city's key employment areas. This Policy (EC3) therefore directs new employment development towards Belfast Harbour Major Employment Location and the various designated SEL's in the city. These areas have been identified as the focus of the city's industrial activity and contain some of Belfast's major employers.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Economic Growth

The key issues for economic growth are:

- Key Issue 4: Quantity of Employment Land
- Key Issue 5: Distribution of Employment Land

Para 5.36 states: Estimates for the growth in employment in the Newry, Mourne and Down district over the period 2015-2030 range from 9,066 to 9,213 jobs based on 2012 NISRA population projections, depending on the model used to calculate growth. The LDP must therefore ensure there is an adequate supply of land to allow for this growth and ensure there are appropriate planning policies in place which facilitate economic development....based on applying a density of 50 jobs per hectare. Using this density it has been identified that there is a need for between 166 and 169 hectares of employment land across the district up to 2030.

Under Key Issue 4 the Preferred Option is Option 2: Uplift the overall amount of land zoned for employment use by 20%.

Under Key Issue 5 the Preferred Option is Option 2; Retain broad balance of remaining employment land provision across the district - currently 132ha (former Newry and Mourne district) and 42ha (former Down district).

Economic Growth Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives for employment acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council employment strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Has an Employment Study/Land Review been prepared for each council area?
- What are the impacts of different employment strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Economic Growth

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan 2015, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for the Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Population, Housing, Employment, Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Study⁷
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's Employment Strategy takes account of all 5 council areas and the outcome of the Employment Land Reviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the employment policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

⁷ Employment Study for LCCC not yet finalised

D. TOWN CENTRES, RETAILING & OFFICES

LCCC Plan Strategy - Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

Plan Objective: Growing Our City, Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

- To protect and promote the city and town centres as quality places to work, shop and visit.
- To promote Lisburn City Centre as a vibrant destination offering a mix of shopping, employment, high grade office development, leisure and community uses and improve connectivity better linking people and places.
- To support the role of Sprucefield as a regional retailing destination at a key strategic location within Northern Ireland.
- To protect and promote our towns and villages through encouraging appropriate opportunities for retailing, offices, mixed use and housing.
- To promote the development of the night-time economy to ensure vibrant and thriving city and town centres to maximise economic growth and create further opportunity for enhancing their vitality and viability.
- To promote the regeneration and reuse of existing buildings and previously developed land for mixed use development, whilst maintaining environmental quality and residential amenity.

LDP Retailing Strategy

The LDP retailing strategy aims to provide a vibrant hierarchy of retailing development that can support the City and town centres, District and Local Centres in accordance with a Sequential Approach in the following order of preference:-

- Primary Retail Core (designated in Lisburn City Centre);
- City or Town Centres;
- District and Local Centres;
- Edge of Centre; and
- Out of Centre locations – only where sites are accessible by a choice of good public transport.

Policy development in relation to Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre remains under consideration. The intention will be to ensure that retail growth and job creation provides mutually beneficial advantages that do not adversely impact on the vitality and viability of the existing City and Town Centres.

LDP Office Strategy

The LDP office strategy aims to direct office development to:-

- **Lisburn City and Towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough and Moira** (Classes A2 and B1 of the Planning (Use Classes) Order (NI) 2015)
- **Forestside District Centre and Dundonald Local Centres** (Classes A2 and B1 of the Planning (Use Classes) Order (NI) 2015 where it meets a demonstrable need up to 400m²)
- **Strategic Mixed Use Locations at Purdysburn and West Lisburn/Blaris** (Class B1 of the Planning (Use Classes) Order (NI) 2015 as per Key Site Requirements)
- **Villages and Small Settlements** - where it meets a demonstrable local need

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council – Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

Retailing and Offices

The POP considers options pertaining to the hierarchy of settlements, new villages, new hamlets, hierarchy of centres, new centres, new local, village and neighbourhood centres and out of centre shopping areas.

The role of the plan relating to retail and other uses is given at Para 4.79 and 4.81.

As well as defining and identifying a hierarchy of centres and bringing forward new planning policy, our new Plan will be required to define the spatial extent of our centres. Our centres should provide for a diverse retail offer and mix of uses which reflect local circumstances and as part of the Plan preparation process, we will carry out a number of assessments to inform our future decisions.

The LDP will have the option to identify primary retail cores within our town centres. A primary retail core is an area which is identified in the LDP as the central shopping area and where the loss of shops to other competing uses will be controlled through planning policy. However, in a changing retail environment this may be seen as inflexible in certain locations and could simply result in a high proportion of vacant premises.

No specific option has been identified relating to office development.

Para 6.45 states: Our new LDP will bring forward new policy taking into account the provisions of the SPPS in relation to retailing and commercial development.

Ards and North Down Borough Council - Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

Retailing & Offices

The POP aims to promote a sequential approach to main town centre uses as directed by the SPPS. Key Issue 32 looks at the hierarchy of centres and the preferred option seeks to review the existing hierarchy and identify new centres, where appropriate, based on the preferred settlement hierarchy and the relevant roles and functions of the centres. Key Issue 33 aims to review and define the spatial extent of Town Centre boundaries and Primary Retail Cores and an assessment of the need for retail and other main town centre uses across the Plan area will be undertaken.

Other Key Issues relating to retail are:-

- Key Issue 34 – Protecting and designating diversity of use – Designated Primary Retail Cores. The Preferred Option would allow consideration of complimentary uses such as offices within the Primary Retail Core.
- Key Issue 35 – Protecting and enhancing diversity of use – Protection of existing areas of housing within town centres
- Key Issue 36 – Protecting and enhancing diversity of use – Development Opportunity Sites – Encouraging ‘meanwhile uses’ until development is commenced.

Key Issue 29 seeks to permit B1 business uses in town centres and other suitable locations that may not be specified in the LDP such as certain district centres and economic/employment zonings.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council – Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

Retailing

Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon’s POP aims to review its Hierarchy of Centres in order to consistently reflect the role and functions of their centres in terms of retail provision and services they provide. It aims to promote a town centre first approach for retail and other main town functions in line with strategic regional direction.

In line with the Council’s Regeneration and Development Strategy (R&DS) 2015-2020 it states “Critically, the R&DS identifies a need to review town centre designations for Craigavon Urban Area, Armagh and Banbridge to ensure compact retail centres, in addition to acknowledging the changing role of town centres from retail led to multi-functional.”

Preferred Option ECN 5A is to “Identifying a new hierarchy of centres, within settlements based upon the current role and function of our centres, and identify new centres where appropriate.”

Two other preferred options are noted;

ECN 6A Review and Identify Town Centre Boundaries and Primary Retail Cores, where appropriate, accompanied by policy to protect and strengthen town centres.

ECN 7A Promote town centres as first choice locations for a variety of complementary town centre uses to facilitate growth of the evening and night time economy.

Other options are provided.

Offices

The Preferred Option for facilitating office development is Option ECN 8A Bring forward a sequential approach towards Office Development (UCO Use Class A2: Financial, professional and other services) in town centres.

The justification is “as opposed to restricting office development to town centres only, the preferred approach is flexible to ensure that opportunities for office development in circumstances where there is no appropriate site in the town centre, which is reflective of the SPPS.”

Belfast City Council Plan Strategy - Town Centres, Retailing, and Offices

Retailing

The retailing strategy is found at 8.2 and at 8.2.1 it states “The strategy is creative and permissive to adopt to changing trends and promote resiliency whilst maintaining the function of core areas for retailing”. Then at 8.2.4 under the Policy aims it states “The retail policies within the LDP will seek to address current and future retailing needs over the plan period.” Eight aims are then listed. Policy RET1 establishes a centre hierarchy which is to be maintained to ensure that proposals for main town centres uses, including retail, are directed to the appropriate level of centre based on size, function and catchment. Such proposals will be considered in the following order of preference:

- a. Belfast City Centre primary retail core and frontage (retail applications);
- b. Belfast City Centre;
- c. District Centres; then
- d. Local Centres.

The exact locations and associated boundaries of the above hierarchy will be reviewed as part of the LPP.

Offices

The Strategy for Offices is located within the economic growth policies at Policy EC6 Office development. Policy EC6 advises that office development will be permitted within the City Centre while certain types of offices will be permitted at designated office nodes and district and local centres.

Paras 8.1.37 - 8.1.38 state; The Council’s policy, in line with the SPPS seeks to support the promotion of the role of Belfast City Centre as the primary location for office development in order to reinforce the role of Belfast as a regional city.

Outside Belfast City Centre, office development will, in general, be directed to designated centres or other specified areas in order to assist regeneration of established foci of community life and to provide opportunities for job creation in local areas.

Proposals for office development outside designated centres or other specified areas will be required to comply with the sequential and those above 1000sq.m gross floorspace with impact tests set out in Policy RET2.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

No specific key issue relating to these subject areas is identified in the POP however it is acknowledged under the Spatial Growth Strategy (Chapter 4, Page 41) that city and town centres will be supported through retail, office and mixed-use development.

Town Centres, Retailing and Offices Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council's retailing and office strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Have retail/office capacity studies been prepared by each council?
- What are the impacts of different retailing/office strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Town Centres, Retailing and Offices

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan 2015, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Population, Employment, Transportation, Retailing, Offices and Town Centres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Market Analysis, Belfast Region Place Shaping Team, April 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Capacity Study/Town Centre Health Checks⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Study⁹
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's Retailing and Office Strategy takes account of all 5 council areas and the outcome of the Retail Impact Assessment and Office Capacity Study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the retailing and office policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

⁸ Retail Capacity Study and Town Centre Healthchecks for LCCC

⁹ Office Study for LCCC

E. TOURISM & OPEN SPACE

LCCC Plan Strategy - Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Plan Objective: Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Open Space & Recreation

- To support and develop tourism infrastructure as a key growth area within the Council.
- To support tourism development whilst protecting tourism assets and encouraging development in appropriate locations, including a wide range of tourist accommodation.
- To support the recreation and leisure offer within the Council to grow in a sustainable manner.
- To recognise the value of open space in promoting health and wellbeing and resolving flood issues through the introduction of sustainable urban drainage infrastructure.
- To support and encourage accessibility to open space including the Lagan Valley Regional Park and Lagan Navigation as key environmental assets within the Council area.

LDP Tourism Strategy

For the purposes of the LDP, the Council's draft Tourism Strategy¹⁰ will provide the basis for the Plan Strategy. This Strategy provides a blueprint for developing tourism across the Council area and has been developed in accordance with Regional Policy which aims to:-

- Promote a sustainable approach to tourism development;
- Protect tourism assets; and
- Provide further opportunities for tourism growth.

The Strategy appreciates the Council's close proximity to Belfast but also recognises that major opportunity exists for the expansion of the tourism industry across the Council area to attract investment, jobs and visitors, in particular with the opening of Historic Royal Palaces at Hillsborough.

Open Space

For the purposes of the LDP, the Council's new Open Space Strategy¹¹ will provide the basis for the Plan Strategy. The Council's Open Space Strategy for open space, sport and outdoor recreation aims to:-

- Protect existing open space
- Ensure new open space proposals do not negatively impact on their surrounding environment

¹⁰ Lisburn & Castlereagh Tourism Strategy 2018-2022 (as yet unpublished)

¹¹ Open Space Strategy for LCCC not yet finalised

- Support and protect a network of accessible green open spaces.

Open space is not only used for exercise and relaxation purposes but that it can also enhance the character of an area and improve the quality of urban life by providing important green lungs, health benefits, visual breaks from development, reducing flood risk and protecting wildlife habitats in built up areas. This Strategy will include an analysis of all open space across the Council area, and will be accompanied by an Action Plan which will prioritise schemes and investment in open space.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council – Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Tourism

Tourism is considered at Page 106 and Para 6.30 concludes: We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

Open Space

Open Space and Recreation is considered at Page 121-122. Para 6.57-58 states: The role of the Plan will be to identify any new areas of open space and to safeguard existing areas. It will also bring forward new planning policy in relation to open space. As part of our policy development, we have reviewed the current operational planning policy in a number of planning policy documents including PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Recreation. We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

Ards and North Down Borough Council - Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Tourism

Key Issue 37 relates to tourism and the preferred option is to promote appropriate sustainable tourism developments throughout the Borough. It aims to allow for tourism development which requires a countryside or coastal location due to its unique specific requirements but at the same time, safeguard the integrity of the assets upon which the tourism draw depends.

Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Key Issue 9 of the POP aims to protect existing open space, re-evaluate existing open space zonings and provide new areas of open space. This approach may help facilitate new community facilities, infrastructure, or allow for the development of affordable housing to meet an identified local need. Key Issue 10 seeks to identify and facilitate the development of Community Greenways by establishing corridor links between areas of open space, the coast and the countryside.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council – Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Tourism

The preferred option is ECN 10A; Carry forward an approach in line with existing policy and further regional direction to support and facilitate appropriate sustainable tourism development in both

settlements and the countryside, with additions that are tailored to meet specific local tourism needs and protect tourism assets within the Borough.

This option is to promote the document “Transform: A Tourism Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon 2017-2022.

Open Space, Sport & Recreation

The preferred option is SOC 4A: Protect existing open space (in addition to identifying and zoning land for new provision) in line with existing policy and regional direction, tailored to meet local circumstances.

The justification is: “Beyond the limited identified areas for further appraisal, there will be a presumption against the loss of open space, existing or zoned, subject to a review when preparing the LDP Open Space Strategy.”

Belfast City Council Plan Strategy - Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Tourism

More specifically tourism is located at section 8.4 of the Plan Strategy. Para 8.4.2 outlines the Council’s approach “Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020” outlines the priorities to double the value of tourism to £870 million per year by 2020. It builds upon the work undertaken by the sector over the past 10 years, and responds to the emerging global trends for city tourism. There is a clear industry-wide desire to grow Belfast as a city destination within Europe, for leisure and business tourism.”

Policies and aims are then included “to support sustainable growth in tourism, leisure and culture over the plan period.”

Open Space, Sport & Recreation

There is reference to open space under strategic Policy SP3 Para 5.3.1 of the Councils draft Plan Strategy.

Further detailed reference to open space is found at Section 10 of the Plan Strategy under the section on Promoting green and active place.

Para 10.1.5 states that: “In recognition of the multi-benefits of open space, including for health, amenity and environmental quality, the LDP policies aim to protect and enhance existing open space and secure the creation of new open space within Belfast, with particular consideration given to: five issues are listed.”

The Policy 10.1.6: “seeks the retention, enhancement and creation of open spaces, including parks, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, large tracts of countryside, landscape features and many other areas that make up the provision of green infrastructure, aligning with the SPPS and Belfast Agenda.”

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Tourism

Tourism is identified as Key Issue 13 Tourism development.

The Preferred Option is 2: As per Option 1 and in addition bring forward

Tourist Opportunity Zones. This is justified as follows; Option 2 would facilitate appropriate tourism related development close to key tourism assets within the district, facilitating growth in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Tourism Strategy.

Open Space, Sport & Recreation

Open space is identified as Key Issue 10: Open Space Provision.

Option 2 is the Preferred Option: Identify and evaluate current open space provision in the district. Protect existing and any subsequent additional land required for open space, sport and recreation. Justified as follows; Option 2 is the Council's Preferred Option as it offers the opportunity to identify and evaluate the current provision of open space across the district in an equitable way in addition to identifying any future need.

Tourism and Open Space Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council's tourism and open space strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Have tourism and open space studies been prepared by each council?
- What are the impacts of tourism and open space strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Tourism and Open Space Growth

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan 2015, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan, Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers (Population, Employment, Transportation, Tourism, Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation) Tourism Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Strategy¹²
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's Tourism and Open Space Strategies take account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the tourism and open space policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

¹² Open Space Strategy for LCCC not yet finalised

F. TRANSPORT

LCCC Plan Strategy - Sustainable Transport

Plan Objective: Supporting Sustainable Transport

- To support the growth of the Council area and exploit its strategic location on the Key Transport Corridors and rail network and in particular its proximity to the Belfast-Dublin economic corridor.
- To protect the designation of strategic infrastructure and promote strategic transport schemes and linkages, maximising accessibility by sustainable modes across the Council area, ensuring development is flood resilient.
- To promote increased opportunities for sustainable travel through the development of Active Travel Networks to support walking, cycling and public transport and reduce the need to travel by private car and traffic dominance in Lisburn Town Centre.
- To develop and promote our Strategic Greenways to provide opportunities for walking, cycling, biodiversity, health and wellbeing.

Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP)

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is working with Councils across Northern Ireland to produce a new family of Transport Plans to integrate with the Local Development Plans. The integration of land-use and transport planning processes is seen as providing a unique opportunity to combine shared regional and local ambitions which are set out in the Programme for Government and also in the Councils' Local Development and Community Plans.

A draft **Belfast Metropolitan Transport Strategy** covering the number of interactions in the transport networks which serve the Belfast metropolitan area is expected to be published in Quarter 3 2019 with a **Local Transport Strategy** for each council to be published separately.

Five Councils form the area covered by the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards & North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Mid & East Antrim Borough Council.

Role of Plan Strategy and Local Transport Strategy:

In accordance with the SPPS, the Local Transport Strategy will assist the LDP in assessing the transport needs, problems and opportunities within the plan area including appropriate integration between transport modes and land use.

- **Land Use Allocations and Associated Transport Infrastructure:** the LDP provides the means to promote, influence and deliver a shift to more sustainable travel modes within the council area. This will be delivered through a range of operational policies including active travel.
- **Zoned sites:** the LDP will address active travel through provision of operational policy.

- **Efficient movement of freight and storage:** the LDP will allocate land at LPP stage for the storage and distribution of goods at edge-of-urban areas, readily accessible to the Regional Strategic Transport Network and will, where feasible, take account of the potential for use of railway freight.
- **New Transport Schemes, Walking and Cycling:** New transport schemes (including major proposals for road, rail and public transport provision, park and ride proposals and cycle/pedestrian networks) should be identified at Plan Strategy stage through the Local Transport Strategy¹³. More detailed provisions will be provided at the LPP stage.
- **Disused Transport Routes:** the LDP will identify and safeguard disused transport routes (such as the Lisburn-Antrim railway line and the Lagan Navigation) to protect their reopening for future transport purposes in the future. Where it is not reasonably possible to reopen the route for transport, the LDP will consider alternative uses, such as recreation, tourism, nature reserve or similar use.
- **Car Parking:** the LDP, as part of an overall car parking strategy carried out by DfI, will identify provision of parking in new developments. A collaborative approach to overall car parking provision is required through consultation with DfI.
- **Park & Ride Sites:** as part of the LDP, new Park & Ride/Park & Share sites require to be identified in appropriate locations. The Plan must have cognisance of the role of car parking in influencing the modal shift from the private car to bus/rail/active travel through its operational policies.
- **Protected Routes:** the Plan Strategy will list and display these for information purposes

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council – Sustainable Transport

Transport and Accessibility are considered at Pages 118-120. Para 6.53-54 gives the position: Our LDP will also have a role in bringing forward transport proposals, protecting land for future transport uses and promoting sustainable forms of transport in new proposals. In addition, our new Plan will also contain policy in response to our transport and accessibility needs....We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

Ards and North Down Borough Council - Sustainable Transport

The POP aims to integrate transportation and land use in ways which enable people to carry out their everyday activities with less need to travel and with the maximum modal choice.

Key Issue 38 seeks to promote sustainable transport and active travel by introducing a policy requiring applicants to demonstrate how the promotion of sustainable transport and active travel has been considered in all new development proposals, not just residential development. Other Key Issues in relation to transport are:-

- Key Issue 39 – Identify sites suitable for Park & Ride / Share facilities
- Key Issue 40 – Reducing reliance on the private car (introducing areas of parking restraint in town centres and other areas where appropriate)
- Key Issue 41 – Protection of proposed routes for transport schemes

¹³ Approach to be agreed with DfI

- Key Issue 42 – Identifying and safeguarding disused former transport routes for transport or recreational, nature conservation or tourism related uses.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council – Sustainable Transport

Within the transportation section of the Preferred Options Paper it states that “The challenge of the LDP process in respect of transportation is to deliver a modern transportation system that meets wider economic and social needs, while limiting environmental impacts and reducing our consumption of fossil fuels but not to the detriment of the rural population.” The final sentence reads “Through encouraging a modal shift from private car usage to public transport and active travel, it will improve the physical health of our citizens, connectivity and reduce the impact upon our environmental assets.”

There are preferred options covering:

- Protected routes
- Strategic schemes
- Disused transport routes
- Park and Ride facilities
- Active travel; and
- Greenways

Belfast City Council Plan Strategy - Sustainable Transport

Belfast’s Plan Strategy includes this under Strategic Policy SP7 - Connectivity; the Council will support connectivity to and within the city by sustainable transport modes, such as public transport, walking and cycling. Land for sustainable transport infrastructure projects will be safeguarded and opportunities to protect and enhance existing provision will be maximised. Also it is noted in Strategic Policy SP8 Green and blue infrastructure. The Council will support the development of a green and blue infrastructure network, designating and safeguarding sites and accesses required for the green and blue infrastructure network across the plan area.

Figures 5.4 - Belfast’s Connectivity and Figure 5.5 - Belfast’s Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (draft) show direct linkages into LCCC.

More specifically transportation is found at section 9.4 of their draft Plan Strategy. Para 9.4.4 “The Plan Strategy will facilitate future transport initiatives for the city including promoting walking and cycling, modal change and supporting public transport measures. A key element throughout the plan is to ensure the integration of land use and transportation planning”.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Sustainable Transport

This issue is identified under the following key issues:

- Key Issue 15: Proposed Transportation Schemes
- Key Issue 16: Park & Ride/Share Sites
- Key Issue 17: Sustainable/Active Travel and Identification of Greenways

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 15 is: Include non-strategic transportation schemes in the LDP which have been justified by DfI through a Local Transport Strategy for which there is a reasonable prospect of delivery.

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 16 is: Identify and protect existing and proposed park and ride sites across the district and consider the potential for additional Park & Ride/Share sites to be identified across the district.

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 17 is: As per Option 1 and in addition identify and protect community greenways. Option 1 was: Retain the existing policy approach toward sustainable transport and active travel.

Transport Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives for transport acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council's transport strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Has each Council strategy been informed by the BMA Transport Strategy?
- Have transport strategies been prepared for each Council?
- What are the impacts of different transport strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Sustainable Transport

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Approach to Regional Transportation (DfI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan 2015 (DfI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (DfI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Metropolitan Transport Strategy (DfI)
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Population, Housing, Employment, Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport Strategy (DfI)
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's Transport Strategy within the BMA takes account of the wider BMA Transport Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the transport policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

G. OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE (FLOODING, RENEWABLES AND WASTE)

LCCC Plan Strategy - Other Infrastructure

Plan Objective: Supporting Other Infrastructure

- To recognise the value of green and blue infrastructure to contribute to sustainable urban drainage infrastructure and its contribution to human health.
- To prevent inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding or that increase flood risk elsewhere, whilst managing flood risk and providing mitigation where necessary
- To contribute to reducing climate change by minimising greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- To support renewables infrastructure whilst affording protection to the environment.
- To support effective waste management through recycling and reduction of waste, reducing environmental impacts.

LCCC

Flooding

The Plan Strategy will continue to take account of the precautionary principle in its flood policy. The Council will seek to manage development so as to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding.

Renewable Energy

The Plan Strategy supports a diverse range of renewable energy development, including the integration of micro-generation and passive solar design. A cautious approach for renewable energy development proposals will apply within designated landscapes which are of significant value, such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and their wider settings.

Waste Management

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is part of ARC21, a waste management group in Northern Ireland representing 6 councils in the east of the region. ARC21 works on behalf of its member councils to guide, support and help them meet their legal requirements and drive forward innovative waste management programs.

The Plan Strategy will retain the policy-led approach in relation to waste management within the Council area to ensure that any detrimental effects on people, the environment, and local amenity associated with waste management facilities (e.g. Pollution) are avoided or minimised. The existing policy in relation to waste storage and access arrangements has been adapted to further minimise negative impacts.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Flooding

This is considered under Environmental protection Pages 131-132;

Para 6.77 notes; We have reviewed the current operational policies relating to flooding as set out in PPS 15 and concluded with one exception that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy is generally acceptable.

Renewable Energy and Waste

These are considered under Environmental Resources on Pages 107-111:

At Para 6.37 As part of our policy development, we have reviewed the current operational policies in a number of planning policy documents relating to these topics including the relevant provisions of.....PPS18 (Renewable Energy) and PPS11 (Planning and Waste Management). We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

They are noted separately on Page 107 as follows:

Renewable energy comes from a variety of sources including wind, rain, tides, waves, sun and geothermal heat. Greater use of renewable energies in our Borough will reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels which in turn will help to reduce consumer costs and lessen climate change.

Waste is often regarded as the unwanted by product of industrial, commercial and domestic activities. Treated in the right way, it can actually be a valuable resource used to (re)produce goods, energy, and fuel that can also reduce our reliance on landfill. However, it also has the potential to have an adverse impact on our environment and therefore there is a need to manage its use sustainably and effectively.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Flooding

Key Issue 19 deals with developing within areas of flood risk and the preferred option seeks to adopt a precautionary approach in line with existing policy. The POP also seeks to bring forward policy to require the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new developments in Key Issue 20.

Renewable Energy

The POP aims to facilitate development of energy infrastructure whilst minimising impact on visual amenity and the environment. Key Issue 4 seeks to consider all renewable energy proposals on a case by case basis whilst adopting the 'cautious approach' within designated landscapes such as AONB's. Key Issue 5 seeks to introduce a policy requiring applicants to demonstrate how the integration of on-site renewable generation and measures to reduce energy consumption have been considered and incorporated in all proposals for new development.

Waste

The POP aims to facilitate sustainable waste management. Key Issue 15 seeks to identify and safeguard appropriate lands to meet the anticipated needs of the Borough in relation to waste management but also wants to introduce policy in relation waste management proposals coming forward on un-zoned sites.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Flooding

The Preferred Option is found at Option ENV 7A: Adopt a precautionary approach in line with existing policy and regional direction by having a presumption against development in flood plains other than in exceptional circumstances.

The precautionary principle will be applied to areas which are currently subject to flood risk or in the future.

It goes on to include a preferred option to encourage SuDS which updates and goes further than current policy provision ENV 8A: Bring forward policy to encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new development where appropriate.

Renewable Energy

The Preferred Option is found at option ENV 9A: An approach to renewable energy development in line with existing policy but in addition, identify areas of sensitive landscape which may be unsuitable for particular forms of renewable energy development.

Included in the justification “The preferred option would support this approach, but in addition it would also identify sensitive landscapes that may not be able to support certain forms of renewable energy technology, in particular wind turbines.....Therefore, the preferred approach would seek to provide a balanced approach to facilitating sustainable renewable energy development in the Borough.

Waste Management

The Preferred Option is found at Option ENV 10A: An approach to waste management in line with existing criteria based policy but tailored to meet local circumstances; and in addition identify suitable locations for waste management facilities where appropriate.

The policy is to support the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

Belfast City Council

Flooding

This area is referred to in Strategic Policy SP6 Environmental Resilience. It is more specifically located under Section 9.5 of the draft Plan Strategy. Para 9.5.4 states: In January 2014 ‘A Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme’ was published. It recognises the need to adjust to the changes in our climate and prepare for the future. The RDS and SPPS recognise the commitment in the adaptation programme to identify and implement opportunities to build resilience into the built and natural environment and to develop and implement sustainable strategies to explore, address and manage significant flood risk.

Therefore there are five policies under this heading with the aim “to enhance environmental quality, where possible, and protect communities from materially harmful development. In assessing proposed development, the LDP will consider issues of environmental quality, including those relating to ground contamination, air, water, noise and light pollution.”

In relation to flooding the aim is to: Manage development within areas of flood risk and ensure the sustainable design of new development reduces future risk from flooding. Encourage flood resilient design to build the city’s resilience for future generations; and working with natural environmental

processes, for example through promoting the development of green infrastructure and also the use of SuDS, to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.

Renewable Energy

Belfast's Plan Strategy address this issue under specific Policy ITU4 Renewable Energy Development. Para 9.1.20 states: The Council seeks to support renewable energy generating facilities at appropriate locations compatible with the built and natural environment in order to help achieve renewable energy targets. The policy also aims to encourage and support the incorporation of renewable energy technologies, including micro-generation and passive design, into appropriate new development proposals.

Waste Management

This is found under Section 9.2 Waste Infrastructure of the Draft Plan Strategy. Para 9.2.1 outlines the approach to be taken. "The Plan Strategy will have regard to the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland (WMS) and the Council's Waste Management Plan (WMP). Both the WMS and WMP are important material considerations in assessing development proposals for waste management facilities."

There are five policies directly related to waste and the aim is stated at Para 9.2.4: Our policy aim for waste infrastructure is to facilitate the development of new waste management infrastructure in appropriate locations or the upgrade of existing facilities to increase resource efficiency and enable a shift towards a circular economy, as well as having regard to the proximity principle and the need to ensure that the environment is afforded appropriate protection.

Newry, Mourne and Down Borough Council

Flooding

Flooding is identified as Key Issue 24.

The Preferred Option is as follows: Precautionary approach toward development in flood prone areas as with Option 1. In addition the Council would seek to address the issue of surface water flooding with SuDS being required on zoned sites through the use of key site requirements or alternatively incorporated into a new policy covering SuDS for all new development.

Renewable Energy

This is covered under key issues:

- Key Issue 18: Renewable Energy
- Key Issue 9: Integrated Renewable Energy and Passive Solar

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 18 is: This option would adopt the current policy-based approach as set out in PPS18 and the SPPS subject policy for renewable energy projects.

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 9 is: The integration of renewable energy and/or passive solar design should be a requirement in certain new development eg public sector and on private developments over a certain threshold.

Waste Management

There is no key issue identified for waste management in the POP.

Other Infrastructure Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council's flooding/renewables/waste strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Have flooding/renewables/waste strategies been prepared for each council?
- What are the impacts of different flooding/renewables/waste strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Other Infrastructure (Flooding, Renewables and Waste)

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering Resource Efficiency - Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy (DAERA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering energy in Northern Ireland to 2050 (DfE)
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Population, Employment, Telecommunications Public Services and Utilities, Development Constraints, Waste Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC21 Waste Management Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfI Flood Mapping
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's flooding/renewables/waste strategies takes account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the flooding/renewables/waste policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

H. HISTORIC & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

LCCC Plan Strategy

Plan Objective: Protecting and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment

- To support the protection of our built and natural environment recognising its contribution to sustainable communities, economic growth, health and wellbeing.
- To protect, conserve and enhance historic environment assets, optimising use of brown field sites and fostering heritage led regeneration.
- To conserve and where possible enhance our Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape/Village Character as important heritage assets.
- To protect our heritage assets and promote their sensitive re-use to help create a sense of place.
- To enhance the design quality of new buildings and town and village centres to promote place shaping and maximise benefits for communities.
- To protect and enhance biodiversity, by ensuring new development does not cause harm to biodiversity and other natural resources such as air, water and soil.
- To protect and enhance the natural heritage assets including the Lagan Valley Regional Park, AONBs and other high quality landscapes and secure through appropriate designations to ensure they remain unspoilt for future generations.

LCCC

Historic Environment

The Council seeks to promote economic vitality and growth through the on-going regeneration of our built environment. One way this may be achieved is by ensuring that the built heritage remains in continuing use or active re-use, as an integral part of the living and working community.

Conservation can play a key part in promoting economic prosperity which can help to secure an attractive living and working environment.

The erosion of areas which have historic value can have a negative impact on the economy by appearing less attractive to investors. It is therefore important that a balanced approach is adopted in terms of achieving growth and protecting and enhancing these assets in order to maintain the character and attractiveness of the area. Any new development should be of a high quality design in order to promote the Council area as an attractive area to live, work and invest.

Natural Environment

It is considered fundamentally important to protect, conserve, and, where possible, enhance and restore the natural heritage assets within the Council area. A significant proportion of the area is designated for its natural heritage value and it plays an important role in balancing the growth of the area whilst protecting and enhancing these assets as part of maintaining the landscape quality, distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area.

There are a number of key environmental assets within the Council area, including the International level designation (Special Protected Area and Ramsar Site at Lough Neagh) and National designations including the Nature Reserve at Belshaw's Quarry, the Lagan Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a total of nine Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). A number of Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs), Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSVs) and Landscape Wedges are identified which are designated through the extant Development Plan.

Given the significant contribution of these designations, it is proposed that all the existing natural heritage assets as identified within the existing Development Plan should be afforded protection from undesirable or damaging development under the new Local Development Plan.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Historic Environment

This is covered under Built Heritage at Pages 129-130:

Para 6.71 and 6.72: The role of the Plan will be to ensure that these assets are protected from inappropriate development. This will be taken forward in the consideration of the zoning of any new land for development and also through planning policy. The Plan will also be able to bring forward protection for areas of character such as areas of townscape character and areas of village character. Other forms of protection will be enacted through central government such as listed buildings...We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

Natural Environment

This is covered at Pages 126-128 Para 6.68 concludes...Where designated the Council will have the power to bring forward policies to ensure their protection from unnecessary and inappropriate development.

Para 6.69 concludes.....We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Historic Environment

The aim of the POP (Key Issue 21) is to conserve, protect and enhance the historic environment of the Borough by maintaining the existing approach, whilst reviewing existing designations and identifying new areas for designations as appropriate. The POP also wants to safeguard non-designated heritage assets by bringing forward specific measures to safeguard against the loss of non-designated heritage assets (Key Issue 22)

Natural Environment

Key Issue 23, the POP seeks to protect and enhance international and national conservation sites that are not LDP designations, in line with existing policy direction. Key Issue 24 deals with local nature conservation sites and looks to review local nature conservation sites and scenic landscapes and formulate appropriate accompanying policy for their protection and enhancement. It is intended that this will deal with any inconsistencies in approach across the existing Development Plans.

Key Issue 25 seeks to bring forward bespoke policies to guide future development and protection of Strangford and Lecale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, recognising their unique characteristics.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Historic Environment

The preferred option is found at Option ENV 1A: An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets within the Borough; and review existing areas/designations and identify new areas/designations as appropriate.

Natural Environment

The preferred options are found at Options ENV 2A; An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing international, national and local nature conservation sites that are not LDP designations and;

- ENV 3A; An approach in line with the existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing local nature conservation designations; and review existing and identify new LDP designations as appropriate.

The justification is that “This will ensure that habitats, species and features (both protected by law and of natural heritage importance) are not harmed or adversely impacted by development proposals.”

Belfast City Council

Historic Environment

This area is covered at Section 7.4 Built Heritage of the draft Plan Strategy. Para 7.4.2 states “The council aim will be to ensure that its heritage assets are preserved for their aesthetic qualities and their contribution to the character of the city. They ascribe to the city a sense of place and unique identity – they are what gives the city a sense of itself.

Natural Environment

The Plan Strategy acknowledges at Para 10.2.1 the district’s diversity of landscape, habitats, species and geology, and their relationship with the urban area and how they contribute to the area’s distinctive and attractive character. Hence at Para 10.2.6 The LDP policies for natural heritage aim to protect all designated sites and priority habitats and species from damaging or inappropriate development. The policies also aim to protect and enhance the other important nature conservation and biodiversity interests within the district, irrespective of specific designations. This takes account of the important role that natural heritage and biodiversity plays in the quality of life, the environment and the economy of Belfast, as well as ecosystem services. These include their roles that benefit people, such as food, recreation and amenity, as well as environmental resilience, including flood protection and improved air and water quality. A precautionary approach will be adopted in assessing development proposals.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Historic environment is identified under the following Key Issues;

- Key Issue 20: Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character
- Key Issue 21: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 20 is: Review existing Conservation Area and Area of Townscape Character designations to consider whether they should be extended, reduced, removed or re-graded.

The Preferred Option under Key Issue 21 is; Carry forward existing policy and consider scope to strengthen existing policy to afford further protection to non-designated heritage assets.

Natural heritage is identified as Key Issue 22 and the Preferred Option is; Review and extend Special Countryside Areas. It is justified as follows: Option 3 is the Council's Preferred Option as it will allow for a uniform approach across the entire district, ensuring that the most exceptional and vulnerable landscapes are afforded appropriate protection. It also provides the opportunity to review the existing designations to ensure their integrity is protected.

Historic and Natural Environment Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council historic and natural environment strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Have historic and natural environment studies been prepared for each council?
- What are the impacts of different historic/natural environment strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Historic and Natural Environment

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Built Heritage, Natural Heritage, Tourism, Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment¹⁴
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives for Historic and Built environment taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how each Council's Historic and Natural Environment Strategies take account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the historic and natural environment policy approach across all 5 council areas and where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness

¹⁴ Landscape Character Assessment for LCCC

I. MINERALS

LCCC

The Plan acknowledges that minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and it is vital that there is a sufficient supply of raw materials for manufacturing, construction, power generation, transportation and agriculture. The Council supports the careful exploitation of minerals in accordance with regional policy. Areas of Mineral Constraint and Mineral Safeguarding Areas may be identified as part of the Local Policies Plan subject to sufficient and robust evidence being made available from Central Government.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Minerals is covered under Environmental resources at Page 107 and Para 6.33 states; Mineral extraction in the form of quarrying plays an important part in Antrim & Newtownabbey's economy, employing a large number of people in the industry itself as well as in the manufacturing process, including the production of asphalt and concrete.

Para 6.37 concludes....We have found that the broad thrust and direction of current operational planning policy to be generally acceptable.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Ards and North Down has a considerable mineral resource which generates substantial revenue. Key Issue 31 seeks to safeguard minerals and the preferred option wants to adopt a policy led approach to deal with applications for minerals development based on their merits, with the identification of protection areas for existing quarries to allow appropriate expansion.

This preferred option would consider a number of factors such as landscape character, residential amenity, safety and impact on the built and natural environment. This approach allows for the protection of the Borough's landscape assets whilst ensuring mineral resources are available for future extraction.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

The preferred option is found at Option ECN 11A: Support a balanced approach between the need for mineral resources and the need to protect the environment and other interests of acknowledged importance, in line with existing policies and further regional direction, by designating Mineral Safeguarding Zones (MSZs) and Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development (ACMDs) where appropriate.

Belfast City Council

The strategy for minerals is at Section 9.3 of the Draft Plan Strategy. One specific policy - Policy M1 – Minerals is included and Para 9.3.5 clarifies the policy aim:- The RDS and SPPS sets out policies for minerals development and the council will take full account of these in assessing development proposals. In particular, the council will seek to balance the need for mineral resource exploitation to support growth and development against the need to protect and preserve the environment.

There are also five over-arching policy aims listed at Para 9.3.4.

The justification states “It allows for mineral reserves to be identified for exploitation; valuable resources to be safeguarded within designated Mineral Safeguarding Zones; and the Borough’s most sensitive environments to be protected in designated Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development”.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Minerals is identified as Key Issue 14 the Preferred Option being; As per Option 1 but also identify Mineral Safeguarding Zones. Option 1 is: Adopt a policy-led approach in relation to Minerals Development.

Minerals Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Do the Council’s Mineral strategies contribute collectively to sustainable development?
- Have mineral studies been prepared for each council?
- What are the impacts of different mineral strategies on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Minerals

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northern Ireland Economic Strategy (March 2012), Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy 2030 - A consultation on an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015 – 2040), Department for Infrastructure
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council's Evidence/Position Papers Built Heritage, Natural Heritage, Employment and Economic Growth, Development Constraints
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide feedback on Plan objectives for Mineral development taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a Mineral Strategy taking account of all 5 council areas

J. CEMETERY PROVISION

LCCC

Provision and maintenance of cemeteries is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Should a need for a new cemetery be identified, the LDP will take account of this and may identify land through the Local Policies Plan, where appropriate.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

In the fact-box on Page 125 the final point is “There is a diminishing cemetery provision within the Borough” there is no further mention of this issue under this topic heading.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Key Issue 14 seeks to identify and safeguard specific locations in the Borough for new or extended cemetery and other end of life development based on projected need and capacity with a complimentary policy in relation to proposals on un-zoned sites.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Reference to cemeteries is found on Page 87 in the notes section: The LDP will confirm the policy approach to such facilities at Plan Strategy stage.....Should a need for a new cemetery or an extension to an existing cemetery be identified, the LDP will take account of this and zone land where appropriate.

Belfast City Council

The Draft Plan Strategy Para 7.7.6 recognises there is currently insufficient suitable land for new cemetery provision to meet current and future need within the Belfast Council area. It is therefore likely that future provision will be outside the Council area and this will require joint working with adjoining Councils. There is one specific policy noted that being Policy C12 Cemeteries and crematoria.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

The POP is silent on cemetery provision.

Cemetery Provision Key Issues

- Are the Plan Objectives acceptable in principle across all 5 council areas?
- Has each Council identified a need for future cemetery provision?
- What are the impacts of future cemetery needs on neighbouring councils?

Summary Table: Cemetery Provision

Evidence Base
Regional:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Policy Statement SPPS, September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries, Burials and the Water Environment A good practice guide for applicants and planning authorities when planning cemetery developments or extensions Version 1.1 / April 2016
Local:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant Development Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Evidence/Position Papers Built Heritage, Natural Heritage, Development Constraints, Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities
Opportunity for Joint Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback on Plan objectives taking account of all 5 council areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Strategy to meet future cemetery provision taking account of all 5 council areas

APPENDIX 1

Statutory Consultees Local Development Plan¹⁵

The following consultation bodies are statutory consultees for the Local Development Plan process.

1. Northern Ireland Government departments;
2. The adjoining council(s);
3. Water or sewerage undertakers;
4. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
5. The Civil Aviation Authority;
6. Any person to whom the electronic communications code applies;
7. Any person who has a licence granted under Article 10(1) of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992;
8. Any person who has a licence granted under Article 8 of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

¹⁵ As set out in The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 Part 1 Section 2 (1 a-h)

APPENDIX 2

LDP STAKEHOLDER GROUP

LCCC Director of Service Transformation	LCCC Statistician	LCCC Director of Service Support
LCCC HOS Planning	LCCC Director of Leisure Services	LCCC Biodiversity Officer
LCCC HOS Economic Development	LCCC HOS Building Control	LCCC Community Planner
LCCC Director Environmental Services	LCCC Community Support Team	Shared Environmental Service
LCCC HOS Parks and Leisure	NI Water	RDS - Plan Scrutiny Team
Translink	Rivers Agency	DFI, Advice and Guidance Team
Historic Building Council	Inland Fisheries	Education Authority
Ministerial Advisory Group	Lagan Canal Trust	Department for Infrastructure Transport NI, Eastern Division
Lagan Valley Regional Park	Natural Environment Division, NIEA	SERC
NIHE	Historic Environment Division Heritage Records & Designation Branch	SIB
Invest NI	LCCC Performance Improvement Officer	Tourism NI
DETI Minerals & Petroleum Branch	LCCC Waste Services Manager	Quarry Products Association NI

APPENDIX 3

LCCC COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. 2nd Lisburn Boys Brigade3D Youth Centre
2. Aghalee Village Hall
3. ASCERT
4. ATLAS Women's Centre
5. Autism NI Support Group
6. Ballinderry War Memorial Committee
7. Ballybeen Improvement Group
8. Ballybeen Men's Motivation Group
9. Ballybeen Women's Centre
10. Ballymacash Regeneration Network
11. Ballymacward Pre-School Play Group
12. Ballycarrickmaddy Primary School
13. Ballyoran Community & Arts Group
14. Bandanas for the Brave
15. Beechland Community Group
16. Brookmount Cultural & Educational Society
17. Calligraphy Group
18. Carryduff Historical Society
19. Carryduff Playcare Centre
20. Carryduff Pre School
21. Carryduff Regeneration Forum
22. Carryduff Retirement Group
23. Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum
24. Causeway Meadows Community Association
25. Community Advice Lisburn & Castlereagh
26. Community Dementia Care NI
27. Compassionate Friends (The)
28. Crosspoint Youth
29. Damask Community Outreach
30. Derriaghy Village Community Association
31. Dream Scheme NI
32. Dromara Community Group
33. Dromara Connect

34. Dromara Connect
35. Dromara Local History Group
36. Drumbeg Community Association
37. Drumbeg Women's Institute
38. Drumbo & District Community Association
39. Drumlough Community Association
40. Dundonald Bowling Club
41. Dundonald Elim
42. Dundonald FC
43. Dundonald Food Bank
44. Dundonald Ladies Group
45. Dundonald Women's Institute
46. Dundonald Historical Society
47. Edgar Boyd Tenants Association
48. Emerge Counselling
49. Friday Fun Club
50. Gap Community Centre Moira
51. Glenavy Community Partnership
52. Glenavy Youth Project
53. Glenclare Friendship Group
54. Halftown Residents' Association
55. Harmony Hill Community Group
56. Hilden Community Association
57. Hillhall Regeneration
58. Hillsborough District & Village Committee
59. Hillsborough Community Centre Ltd
60. Homestart Lisburn/Colin
61. Intercultural Friendship
62. Killynure Community Association
63. Knockbreda Parish Thursday Club
64. Knockmore Community Association
65. Laganvalley Vineyard Church
66. Laganview Enterprise Centre
67. Lambeg & District Ratepayers
68. Larchfield Community Development Association
69. LCC Community Trust
70. LCCC Community Choir

71. LCCC Cross Community Group
72. Lisburn Downtown Centre
73. Lisburn LEO Talking Newspaper Association
74. Lisburn North Community Association
75. Lisburn Historical Society
76. Lisburn Outlook
77. Lisburn Sea Cadets
78. Lisburn Temperance Junior
79. Lisburn YMCA
80. Logic
81. Lurganville & District Community Association
82. Maghaberry Community Association
83. Maghaberry Parent Teacher Association
84. Manor Park Community Association
85. Manor Park Residents' Association
86. Maze Brookfield Women's Institute
87. Mazetown Rural Action Collective
88. Moira Friendship Group
89. Moneyreagh & District Community Association
90. Needlecraft
91. Newtownbreda Community Association
92. Newtownbreda WI
93. Old Mills Bowling Group
94. Old Warren Community Association
95. Pride of Ballybeen Community Flute Band
96. Pound Bridge & District Community Association
97. Redwoods Tenants Association
98. Resurgam Community Development Trust
99. Resurgam Youth Initiative
100. Rural Community Network
101. Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church
102. Saint Patrick's Youth Club
103. Saint Patrick's Pastoral Centre
104. Sarah Crothers Centre
105. Senior Citizens Saturday Club
106. Seymour Hill & Conway Residents Association
107. Shopmobility Lisburn

- 108.Stoneyford Community & Youth Association
- 109.Stoneyford Jubilee Committee
- 110.Supporting Communities
- 111.Surestart
- 112.The Thursday Club
- 113.The Lambeg Project
- 114.The Waterways Community
- 115.The Welcome Project
- 116.Timeout
- 117.Toddle In Pre School (Moneyrea)
- 118.Tonagh Neighbourhood Initiative
- 119.Ulster New Zealand Trust
- 120.University of the 3rd Age
121. Whitemountain & District Community Association
- 122.Yallaa
- 123.YOGA

APPENDIX 4

LCCC SECTION 75 GROUPS

Save the Children (NI)	Department for Infrastructure
Baptist Union of Ireland	Department of Education
Law Centre NI	Belfast City Council
Cara Friend	Department for the Economy
Council for Homeless NI	Department of Finance
Lagan Valley Rural Transport	Department of Justice
Sinn Fein	Muscular Distrophy
Guide Dogs (NI)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
Mid Ulster Council	Disability Sport NI
Carers Forum on Learning Disability (Lisburn)	NI Downs Syndrome Association
L&CCC	Pobal
Bahai Council NI	Ultach
Community Development & Health Network NI	Equality Coalition
British Deaf Association	Department of Agriculture, Environmnet & Rural Affairs
Accord NI (Marriage/Relationship Counselling)	Translink
Family Planning Association	Fermanagh & Omagh Council
Causeway Coast & Glens Council	NI Youth Forum
Action Mental Health	Cancer Focus NI
Lisburn Enterprise	Employers for Childcare
Chrysalis Womens Centre	Inspire Mental Health
Democratic Unionist Party	Respond (Ostomy Supplier)
Newry, Mourne & Down Council	Praxis Care
NI Association Care & Resettlement of Offenders	Disability Action
Chinese Welfare Association NI	Action Cancer
Diabetes UK	Action MS
	Arts & Disability Forum
	Adopt NI
	Advice NI
	Age NI

Age Sector Platform	Local Government Staff Commission
Arts Council NI	Mind Wise NI
Autism NI	Democratic Unionist Party
Aware NI (Depression)	Inspire - wellbeing for all
Belfast Islamic Centre	NI Commissioner Children & Young People
Bryson Charitable Group	NI Community Relations Council
Committee on the Administration of Justice	NICVA (NI Council Voluntary Action)
Carers NI	NI Public Service Alliance
Community Development & Health Network NI	NI Youth Forum
Cedar Foundation	National Society Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Childrens Law Centre	Polish Educational & Cultural Association
Children in NI	Polish Association NI
Chief Officers 3rd Sector	Presbyterian Ireland
Coiste (Political Tours/Projects)	Radar NI
Community Places (Planning Advice)	Rural Development Council NI
Consumer Council NI	Rethink Mental Illness
Commissioner Older People NI	Rural Community Network
Diabetes UK	Rural Support
Education Authority NI	SAIL (Support - Families of Trans, Non-Binary & Questioning People)
Early Years	SDLP (Social Democratic & Labour Party)
East Belfast Community Development Agency	South Eastern Regional College
Employers for Disability NI	Simon Community NI
Enable NI (Learning Disability, Southern Area)	Sport NI
The Executive Office (TEO)	Disability Forum
Extern NI	Tourism NI
Gender Jam NI	Ulster Scots Agency
Irish Congress of Trade Unions NI	Volunteer Now
IMTAC (Inclusive Mobility & Transport Advisory Committee)	Womens Aid NI
Irish Council of Churches	Womens Resource & Development Agency

Youth Link	Alliance Party
Action on Hearing Loss	Womens Support Network
Equality Commission NI	SE Health & Social Care Trust
Extern NI	Queens University Belfast
Training for Women Network	PUP (Progressive Unionist Party)
Irish Congress of Trade Unions NI	Jewish Faith
Derry City & Strabane Council	RNIB NI
Institute of Directors	NI Housing Executive
Ulster Scots Agency	Muscular Dystrophy UK
PSNI	Mid & East Antrim Council
NIHE (NI Housing Executive)	Chief Officers 3rd Sector
An Munia Tober	Irish Methodist
NI Chest Heart & Stroke	Department for Communities
Playboard NI	Womens Centre
Parenting NI Ltd	Ards & North Down Council
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Council	Department for Communities
Mencap	Youthlink
Mind Yourself (Mental Health)	Rural Community Network
Sense NI	CARE NI
NI Muslim Family Association	Belfast Butterfly Club
Action for Children NI	Transgender NI
National Deaf Childrens Society	Unison
Alzheimers Society NI	Ulster Unionist Party
MS Society NI	Department of Health
Arthritis Care NI	Workers Party
Cruse Bereavement Care	
Leonard Cheshire Disability	
Lisburn Chamber of Commerce	
Include Youth	
Womens Forum NI	

APPENDIX 5

Duty to Co-operate in England and Wales

In England and Wales, the 'Duty to Co-operate' has been a legal requirement under the provisions of the Localism Act since November 2011. In essence it requires planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to co-operate on strategic matters so as to maximise the effectiveness of preparing development plan documents.

The guidance on 'Plan-making' (published by the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government in September 2018) advises that strategic policy-making authorities are required to co-operate with each other, and other bodies, when preparing, or supporting the preparation of policies which address strategic matters.

It advises that these authorities should produce, maintain and update one or more statements of common ground throughout the plan making process. This is a written record of the progress made by strategic policy-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It documents where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process, and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries. It also forms part of the evidence required to demonstrate that they have complied with the duty to co-operate.

APPENDIX 6

DRAFT METROPOLITAN AREA SPATIAL WORKING GROUP

Members: Official and Political Representatives from:-

- **Belfast City Council**
- **Mid & East Antrim Council**
- **Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council**
- **Ards & North Down Borough Council**
- **Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council**

Terms of Reference

Aim and Objectives

- To provide a liaison forum on spatial planning including cross boundary aspects of economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues arising at regional and sub regional level.
- To lead and co-ordinate the activity to support the 2011 Planning Act and SPPS suggestions that the LDP process should include a joined up approach to addressing issues that consider to cross administrative boundaries
- To advise strategic consultees and partners on matters of collective interest in the fields of activity listed above.
- To seek agreement on local cross boundary priorities in the fields of activity set out above.
- To ensure that regional policy development, local transport plans and joint working is appropriately linked to the decision making role of the Local Planning Authorities on Local Development Plan documents and related Community Planning.
- To assist in the establishment of detailed arrangements for integration between spatial, infrastructure and public service planning activity in appropriately defined localities, where appropriate linked to the Programme for Government.

Purpose

Specifically the Partnership will:

- share information and analysis on spatial planning, economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues at regional and sub regional level;
- share information and analysis on cross administrative boundary spatial planning, economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues;
- review progress against any Timetables, Implementation Plans or monitoring agreements— including relevant national and local targets;
- develop and communicate consensus views that seek to inform, assist and influence Government, Government agency and Regional institutions / bodies in their policy formulation and decision making roles;

- inform consideration of economic development, housing, transport, general infrastructure funding requirements by providing partners with advice and support to ensure they have the capacity to engage in the LDP process;
- make links with the DfC/NIHE and inform the commissioning of delivery work that assists partnership working on housing and a shared evidence base;
- make links with the other sub-regional structures that inform the plan development and other process relevant to the spatial development of the region.

Accountability and Working Methods

The Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group can only operate by consensus or reference to the parent organisations of the participants. Through consensus it is accountable to the constituent District Councils and any other organisations that are agreed to form part of the working group.

The Working Group will report to the respective councils on its progress in delivery of any agreed objectives.

The Working Group will should be assisted in achieving agreed objectives by the existing delivery bodies/agencies or structures including:

- Economic and broader development issues
District Councils and through the other sub-regional partnerships, including where appropriate existing Community Planning structures.
- Spatial and Infrastructure Planning
District Councils and District Community Planning Partnerships, supported by the Heads of Planning and Strategic Planning groups to pick up common and cross boundary issues.
- Housing
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Housing Organisations
- Transport/Accessibility
DfI through its officer level joint working arrangements on transport. The Working Group should receive reports on and provide input to the Local Transport Plans. There will need to be a strong reporting and delivery link to transport planning studies and projects developed for specific localities to feed into District led work on LDPs.

Working Group Principles

The Working Group is formed as a thematic partnership and committed to working to the general principles and procedures established for Community Planning and other structures:

- Visible commitment and 'ownership' by the various member organisations and individual representatives

- Mutual trust and respect
- Openness and transparency
- Effective communication and accountability
- Removal of barriers to equality of access and opportunity
- Effective decision making
- The working group is a forum for liaison and information sharing and the development of consensus views on matters of mutual interest.
- Consensus views will be used to advise and influence the relevant decision making bodies including:
 - Government and its agencies (including specific Departments)
 - Regional agencies particularly Northern Ireland Housing Executive and NIEA
 - The Department for Infrastructure as the Transport Authority
 - The District CPPs (as the broader locality based co-ordinating partnership)

Other infrastructure and service providing bodies and partnerships that are affected by, and can influence, local economic development, housing, transport, general infrastructure and spatial planning activity.

The working group should work closely with other partnerships where there are cross over issues. It will work with CPPs and other locality based partnerships where it is appropriate that a more detailed level of partnership working is undertaken on areas covered by the terms of reference.

Membership/Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Local authorities will take the roles of Chair and Vice Chair on an annual rotation as follows:

Year	Chair	Vice Chair

APPENDIX 7

NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS SPATIAL WORKING GROUP

Members: Official Representatives from:-

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Terms of Reference

Aims and Objectives

- To provide a liaison forum on spatial planning including cross boundary aspects of economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues arising at regional and sub regional level.
- To lead and co-ordinate the activity to support the 2011 Planning Act and SPPS suggestions that the LDP process should include a joined up approach to addressing issues that consider to cross administrative boundaries
- To advise strategic consultees and partners on matters of collective interest in the fields of activity listed above.
- To seek, where possible, agreement on local cross boundary priorities in the fields of activity set out above.
- To ensure that regional policy development, local transport plans and joint working is appropriately linked to the decision making role of the Local Planning Authorities on Local Development Plan documents and related Community Planning.
- To assist in the establishment of detailed arrangements for integration between spatial, infrastructure and public service planning activity in appropriately defined localities, where appropriate linked to the Programme for Government.

Purpose

Specifically, the Partnership will:

- share information and analysis on spatial planning, economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues at regional and sub regional level;
- share information and analysis on cross administrative boundary spatial planning, economic development, housing, transport, and general infrastructure issues;
- review progress against any Timetables, Implementation Plans or monitoring agreements– including relevant national and local targets;
- develop and communicate consensus views that seek to inform, assist and influence Government, Government agency and Regional institutions/bodies in their policy formulation and decision making roles;

- inform consideration of economic development, housing, transport, general infrastructure funding requirements by providing partners with advice and support to ensure they have the capacity to engage in the LDP process;
- make links with the DfC/NIHE and inform the commissioning of delivery work that assists partnership working on housing and a shared evidence base;
- make links with the other sub-regional structures that inform the plan development and other process relevant to the spatial development of the region.

Accountability and Working Methods

The Metropolitan Area Spatial Working Group can only operate by consensus or reference to the parent organisations of the participants. Through consensus it is accountable to the constituent District Councils and any other organisations that are agreed to form part of the working group.

The Working Group will report to the respective Councils on its progress in delivery of any agreed objectives.

The Working Group will should be assisted in achieving agreed objectives by the existing delivery bodies/agencies or structures including:

- Economic and broader development issues
District Councils and through the other sub-regional partnerships, including where appropriate existing Community Planning structures.
- Spatial and Infrastructure Planning
District Councils and District Community Planning Partnerships, supported by the Heads of Planning and Strategic Planning groups to pick up common and cross boundary issues.
- Housing
Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Housing Organisations
- Transport/Accessibility
DfI through its officer level joint working arrangements on transport. The Working Group should receive reports on and provide input to the Local Transport Plans. There will need to be a strong reporting and delivery link to transport planning studies and projects developed for specific localities to feed into District led work on LDPs.

Working Group Principles

The Working Group is formed as a thematic partnership and committed to working to the general principles and procedures established for Community Planning and other structures:

- Visible commitment and ‘ownership’ by the various member organisations and individual representatives
- Mutual trust and respect
- Openness and transparency
- Effective communication and accountability
- Removal of barriers to equality of access and opportunity
- Effective decision making
- The working group is a forum for liaison and information sharing and the development of consensus views on matters of mutual interest.
- Consensus views will be used to advise and influence the relevant decision making bodies including:
 - Government and its agencies (including specific departments)
 - Regional agencies particularly Northern Ireland Housing Executive and NIEA
 - The Department for Infrastructure as the Transport Authority
 - The District CPPs (as the broader locality based co-ordinating partnership)

Other infrastructure and service providing bodies and partnerships that are affected by, and can influence, local economic development, housing, transport, general infrastructure and spatial planning activity

The working group should work closely with other partnerships where there are cross over issues. It will work with CPPs and other locality based partnerships where it is appropriate that a more detailed level of partnership working is undertaken on areas covered by the terms of reference.

Membership

Members of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council expressed a view that meetings could be held by Officials and reported as necessary through Committee.

Meetings consist of Officials from:-

- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
- Newry Mourne & Down District Council
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

APPENDIX 8

ACTION PLAN

Table 2: Areas of Mutual Interest

	Description - Key Issue	Impact (summary of why it is an issue for neighbouring councils)	Councils affected by the issue	Supporting Evidence for LDP	Resolution/Mitigation (how the issue can be overcome or managed)	Action/Response (including who is in lead and timescale)	Monitoring
1	GROWTH STRATEGY	The exponential growth of a single council (for example within the wider BMA) may affect/impact on the growth of neighbouring councils	All	Housing Market Analysis Belfast Region (NIHE) Council Housing Growth Review (Ongoing) Council Employment Land Review (Ongoing)	Joint working/consideration of approach to delivery of housing and employment within the wider Housing Market Area/Functional Economic Area (see Housing and Economic Growth below)	All Councils with focus on Councils within wider BMA	
2	HOUSING GROWTH	Differing approaches to HGI application and housing strategies may negatively impact neighbouring Councils	All	Housing Growth Review (Ongoing) Urban Capacity Study	Consider Housing Growth Strategy & policy approach across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).	All Councils	Housing growth monitored through Annual Reports prepared by Council
3	ECONOMIC GROWTH	Differing employment strategies and approach to Employment Land Reviews may impact on economic growth of neighbouring Councils	All	Employment Land Review (Ongoing)	Consider Employment Strategy & policy approach across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).	All Councils	Employment growth monitored through Annual Report prepared by Council

4	RETAILING AND OFFICES	Differing retail office strategies and approach to retail/office policy may impact on retail/office growth in neighbouring councils	All	Retail Capacity Study Town Centre Health Check Office Capacity Study	Consider Retailing & Office Strategy & policy approach across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).	All Councils	
5	TOURISM & OPEN SPACE	Differing approaches to tourism and open space strategies may impact on tourism/open space in neighbouring councils	All	Tourism Strategy Open Space Review (Ongoing)	Consider Tourism / Open Space Strategies & policy approach across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).	All Councils	
6	TRANSPORT	Differing approaches to transport strategies and whether or not Transport policies & proposals have been informed by the BMA Transport Strategy may impact on neighbouring councils.	All	Local Transport Strategy (DfI) Belfast Metropolitan Transport Study (DfI) Existing Baseline Position Papers	Consider Transport Strategy & policy approach and wider BMA Transport Strategy across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).	All Councils with focus on Councils within wider BMA	
7	OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE	Differing approaches to other infrastructure	All	Existing Baseline Position Papers	Consider Other Infrastructure Strategy &	All Councils	

		strategies may impact on flooding, renewables or waste management proposals in neighbouring Councils.			policies across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).		
8	HISTORIC AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Differing approaches to Historic and Natural Environment strategies may impact on how neighbouring Councils manage proposals relating to their historic and natural environment.	All	Landscape Character Areas Review	Consider Historic and Natural Environment Strategies & policies across all 5 council areas (acknowledging where differences exist to reflect local distinctiveness).	All Councils	
9	MINERALS	Differing approaches to a Minerals Strategy may impact on neighbouring Councils approach to Minerals proposals.	All	Existing Baseline Position Papers	Develop a Minerals Strategy taking account of all 5 neighbouring council areas.	All Councils	
10	CEMETERY PROVISION	Issues arise where Councils have identified that their future cemetery need cannot be met within their Council area	All	Existing Baseline Position Papers	Develop a Strategy to meet future cemetery provision within all 5 neighbouring council areas.	All Councils	

