



# Local Development Plan 2032

## Rural Needs Impact Assessment

October 2019

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## **Draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment Background**

The draft Plan Strategy (draft PS) is the first stage of a two-stage Local Development Plan (LDP) process introduced in April 2015 on the transfer of planning powers to Local Government. In summary, the draft PS details the spatial growth strategy for the Council and provides the policy framework for day-to-day decisions on future development across the Council area. The LDP forms a spatial representation of the Council's Community Plan. Once adopted by the Council, the Plan Strategy will be followed by the Local Policies Plan (second stage) which provides more detailed policy on the local allocation of land for development and designations.

The Rural Needs Act 2016 requires district councils and other public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services. The principles of rural proofing are incorporated in the RNIA process.

This Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) accompanies the draft PS and will be subject to consultation prior to Independent Examination, following which (and subject to receipt of the Department's Direction) it will be adopted by the Council. Prior to publishing the draft PS, the Council published a Preferred Options Paper (March 2017) for public consultation which considered a detailed range of issues for the Council area and provided options, including a preferred option, for how these issues could be addressed.

It should be noted that the RNIA, and the consideration of rural needs is only one element that requires to be taken into account when developing the draft PS and its related policies. This includes the Council's Community Plan, as well as the regional planning framework set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and other assessments including a Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The RNIA has been produced by the Council's LDP Team, consisting of professional Planners with a working knowledge of the draft PS. It has been undertaken in accordance with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' (DAERAs') Rural Needs Act (NI) guidance and template (April 2018).

## SECTION 1 – DEFINING THE ACTIVITY SUBJECT TO SECTION 1(1) OF THE RURAL NEEDS ACT (NI) 2016

### 1A Name of Public Authority

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

### 1B Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to the Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Development and publication of a Local Development Plan draft PS for the years 2017 to 2032 which includes a suite of operational polices that will guide development in the Council area over this period.

### 1C Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

The preparation and development of a draft PS forming part of the Local Development Plan.

### 1D Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan 2017-2032 (Draft Plan Strategy)

### 1E Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

#### Aim

The aim of the draft PS is to set out the Council's spatial development framework for the period 2017-2032. The aim is encompassed in the Council's vision that: *'The Local Development Plan (LDP) will respond to the needs of the community in providing a sustainable economy, society and environment. It will support a thriving, vibrant and connected place in which people live, work, visit and invest; And an attractive, green and quality place which will enhance the well-being and quality of life for all.'* This reflects the Council's corporate vision to be; *'a progressive, dynamic and inclusive council, working in partnership to develop our community and improve the quality of people's lives' and the values we operate by'*. It is also reflective of the Council's Community Plan vision of; *'An empowered, prosperous, healthy and inclusive community.'*

#### Objectives

The draft PS is a plan-led policy framework, set out in two parts that seeks to achieve its vision through a series of six Plan objectives. These objectives, as set out in Part One of the draft PS, are as follows:

**A Quality Place** - Enabling Sustainable Communities and Delivery of New Homes

**B A Thriving Place** - Driving Sustainable Economic Growth

**C A Vibrant Place** - Growing our City, Town Centres, Retailing and Other Uses

**D An Attractive Place** - Promoting Sustainable Tourism, Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation

**E A Green Place** - Protecting and Enhancing the Historic and Natural Environment

**F A Connected Place** - Supporting Sustainable Transport and Other Infrastructure

**These Plan objectives** form an approach that offers appropriate balances between improving quality of life and economic prosperity for all, whilst protecting the Council's environmental assets and ensuring that development is sustainable in the interests of future generations.

Part Two of the draft PS sets out those operational planning policies that will be used in the assessment of all planning applications to ensure the objectives of the plan are secured with all future development proposals.

**1F What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

The default definition of rural used in Northern Ireland is that developed by the Interdepartmental Urban-Rural Definition Group. Initially proposed in 2005, and amended in the Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (NISRA 2015). This definition classifies those settlements with a population of less than 5,000 together with the open countryside as rural. Therefore this RNIA is based on the following areas, taking account of the 'Headcount and Household Estimates for Settlements' published in March 2015 by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Villages

Aghalee; Annahilt; Dromara; Drumbeg; Drumbo; Glenavy; Lower Ballinderry; Maghaberry; Milltown; Moneyreagh; Ravernet; Stoneyford; Upper Ballinderry.

Small Settlements

Ballyaughlis; Ballycarn; Ballyknockan; Ballylesson; Ballynadolly; Ballyskeagh; Boardmills; Carr; Crossnacreevy; Drumlough; Drumlough Road; Dundrod; Duneight; Feumore; Halfpenny Gate; Halftown; Hillhall; Kesh Bridge; Lambeg; Legacurry; Long Kesh; Lower Broomhedge; Lurganure; Lurganville; Lurgill; Magheraconluce; Morningside; Purdysburn; Ryan Park; St James; The Temple; Tullynacross; Upper Broomhedge.

Countryside

Paragraph 6.61 of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) defines "the countryside" as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in Local Development Plans (LDPs).

## **SECTION 2 – UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF THE POLICY, STRATEGY, PLAN OR PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **2A Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

Yes

### **2B Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

The draft Plan Strategy (draft PS) contains a spatial strategy and strategic and operational policies which will apply across the Council area. The overall aim of the draft PS is to further sustainable development across the entire area. To achieve this, the draft PS sets the direction and approach through its strategic policies to achieve its six Plan objectives across the Council area with the Operational Policies forming the basis for the management of planning decisions. Annex A of this RNIA summarises the impact of the policies on people in rural areas.

The draft PS aims to deliver on the three main pillars of sustainable development which are the economy, the environment and the needs and aspirations of our society. In so doing, the impact that will be had upon the rural area will relate to these three themes. Through its operational policies on topics such as housing, economic growth, retailing and town centres, tourism, the natural and historic environment and infrastructure, the draft PS will have a direct influence on development which can lead to positive improvements, for example, generating jobs in the rural area to help sustain rural settlements as vibrant communities. Overall the implementation of the draft PS is likely to have a positive impact on rural dwellers and the rural area in terms of economic growth, social inclusion and its future sustainability. It must be recognised that some policies will have a more direct impact on the rural areas while other policies may be more indirect in their manifestation on the lives of rural dwellers.

### **2C If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.**

Annex A provides a summary of how the draft PS policies will impact on people in rural areas compared to people in urban areas. The draft PS aligns with regional policy contained in the RDS with the focus of growth being in settlements as identified in the Settlement Hierarchy. Therefore the spatial strategy and policies in the draft PS seek to ensure appropriate sustainable development opportunities across the Council area, including urban and rural areas. Similarly, the LDP seeks to support and sustain all our communities, both urban and rural. Whilst the policies may make distinctions between the application of policy in settlements and the countryside, ultimately the aim is to deliver sustainable development irrespective of location.

Therefore it is considered that the policies do not seek to impact on urban and rural people differently, but aim to deliver positive outcomes across the range of land use areas, such as housing and economic development, in a sustainable way benefiting everyone across the Council area.

The Council area has a diverse mix of both urban and rural areas, with approximately 85% of the total population residing in settlements and 15% outside settlements in the rural area. The interdependence in the relationship between urban and rural areas needs to be recognised. Settlements, irrespective of size, provide support to the wider rural hinterland in

terms of service, facilities, entertainment and employment. Therefore it is important to acknowledge that the needs of people in rural areas can be met both in an urban or rural context. The fact that a policy is viewed as a rural or urban policy does not mean that the out-workings of that policy are confined to the rural or urban area of the Council but viewed in the wider context of delivering the overall vision of the draft PS.

**2D Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Given the interrelationship between urban and rural areas, the strategies and policies of the draft PS will primarily impact upon the following social, economic and environmental aspects of rural areas:

- Rural Businesses;
- Rural Tourism;
- Rural Housing;
- Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas;
- Education or Training in Rural Areas;
- Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas;
- Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas;
- Poverty in Rural Areas;
- Deprivation in Rural Areas;
- Rural Crime or Community Safety;
- Rural Development; and
- Agri-Environment.
- The landscape (natural and built)
- Extraction of minerals
- Renewable energy provision

**2E Please explain why Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The strategies and policies will impact on people in rural areas, as described above.

## **SECTION 3 – IDENTIFYING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF PERSONS IN RURAL AREAS**

**3A Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Yes

**3B Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

The following methods as listed were employed

- consultation with the community (as per the Council's SCI)
- consultation with other organisations (Stakeholder and Statutory/Non Statutory Consultees)
- published statistics
- evidence position papers
- other council and government publications.

**3C Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.**

A series of 14 evidence position papers were produced to inform the LDP process. Each position paper identified a separate topic area and provided a summary of the current position in relation to that topic area. This baseline was used to justify the policy direction for each topic area which is carried through to the draft PS.

Information for these position papers was gathered through research, consultation and discussion with government departments, agencies and public bodies. Desk based research was undertaken of local and central government websites, published research and reports. Sources are identified within each position paper which can be viewed on the Council's website.

The final topic papers were published as part of the Preferred Options Paper following consultation and agreement with Members. The POP was published for consultation in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. This consultation included all interested parties, Community and Section 75 Groups and any other interested groups or individuals.

The public consultation covered an 8 week period (30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 until 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017) for the receipt of responses. Public consultation events were held at various venues/locations and at various times throughout the Council area between the 6<sup>th</sup> April and the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Council officers attended these meetings to aid interested parties in understanding the Preferred Options Paper and how to respond to it. At these events various topics were discussed and expanded upon. Views expressed largely included the specific housing, economic and social needs relating to the rural areas of the council.

The Preferred Options Paper was also forwarded to statutory consultees, including government departments, NI Water, DfI Rivers and DfI Roads, and all neighbouring council's for their comments.

At the end of the consultation period all the responses received were collated and a Public Consultation Report produced to inform the LDP process going forward. This is available on the Council's website.

The evolution of the LDP has involved active and regular engagement with Members, both through a series of policy work-shops and Committee meetings where members actively engaged in the process of drafting and reviewing specific policies. As many of the Members represent rural areas and constituents they are particularly aware of the social and economic needs of those areas which play a pivotal role within the Council as a whole.

### **3D Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority.**

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 sets out at a strategic level the approach to the delivery of growth across the whole of Northern Ireland which includes the rural areas. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) sets out the planning requirements for the whole of Northern Ireland, again including rural policy and the delivery of sustainable development across a range of topics including employment, housing and economic growth. The Council must have regard to these strategic documents along with other government advice and guidance to ensure that the needs, socially, economically and environmentally of the entire Council area are delivered in a sustainable manner.

The RDS seeks to sustain rural communities living in the smaller settlements and the open countryside and to improve accessibility for rural communities (SFG13 and SFG 14). Key considerations of the RDS are the role and function of rural settlements and accessibility to services. The RDS in respect of the rural area identifies the need to:

- Establish the role of multi-functional town centres. These should be the prime locations for business, housing, administration, leisure and cultural facilities both for urban and rural communities.
- Connect rural and urban areas. This is necessary to widen the economic base of town, village and countryside, provide support and networking opportunities to encourage the formation of local alliances to exploit complementary resources and facilities.
- Revitalise small towns and villages. This is particularly relevant to those towns and villages which have been static or declining and contain areas of social need. Deprivation happens in different ways in different places. An integrated approach between government departments, agencies and communities will ensure that regeneration plans reflect the specific needs of each community.
- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations. Farming plays a major part in sustaining rural community networks, as employers, consumers and producers. Forestry and fishing also contribute to communities, in employment and commercial terms, as well as in terms of recreation opportunities. Other industries such as tourism and renewable energy can provide further jobs and opportunities in rural areas as long as they are integrated appropriately within the settlement or rural landscape.
- Encourage sustainable and sensitive development. The expansion of rural tourism and development which is both sustainable and sensitive to the environment should be encouraged. This includes the ability of settlements and landscapes to absorb development.
- Improve the overall connectivity of rural communities to services and other parts of the Region by exploring innovative ways of bringing these services to the communities. Using the community hall, local school or church hall for visiting service providers will help keep people living in rural areas connected. Different service delivery approaches could include outreach and mobile services or increased use of digital Technology.

- Integrate local transport. Promoting integrated rural transport initiatives which meet the needs of those living in isolated areas and in particular elderly and disabled people.

After reviewing the position papers and considering the responses to the POP from all interested parties, the following list of issues relating to rural needs across the Council area were identified:

- 1) The requirement to meet the housing needs of a rural community. Covering a range of possible options from single dwellings to provision for specific groups such as the elderly.
- 2) The requirement on farms for new economic opportunities through farm diversification.
- 3) The link between employment opportunities and housing provision to ensure a sustainable rural community.
- 4) The protection of the natural environment, including sensitive areas, from unwanted development.
- 5) The issue of access and connectivity to the rural area, be that through transport links or information technology. Linked to this is the issue of rural isolation and how this can be better addressed.
- 6) Provision of community facilities and statutory facilities such as education, health and other local services. Provision of such facilities leads to a better sense of health and well-being within the rural community.
- 7) Appropriate tourism facilities with links to the wider area through walking and cycling provision (active travel). This is linked to the overall protection of the existing historic and natural assets of the rural area.
- 8) The creation of a vibrant and viable rural community where social and economic isolation are reduced and rural life can be viewed as safe and sustainable in the long term.

**If the response to section 3A was yes go to Section 4A**

## SECTION 4 – CONSIDERING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF PERSONS IN RURAL AREAS

### 4A Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

In the preparation of the spatial strategy and policies for the draft PS the future sustainability of the rural area has been at the centre of that process. In order for the rural area and the people who reside there to benefit from vibrant and viable places, this requires the appropriate level of housing and economic opportunities allowing the existing population and future residents to continue to live and work there. Policies contained in the draft PS need to reflect this desire for appropriate and sustainable uses in such rural locations.

The needs of people in rural areas were identified under section 3 and are now considered further here;

- 1. Housing Provision;** is a key issue and policy sets out the criteria for housing in the rural area. In relation to the opportunities for housing the draft PS continues to allow housing in the rural area at a level which is commensurate with the current level of provision. Provision has been retained to ensure active farm holdings have opportunities for new residential accommodation to maintain the farm business. Other opportunities for residential accommodation including the replacement of previous dwellings remains a key feature to ensure the long term viability of the rural area. The need for specialist provision and affordable housing has also been provided. There also remains opportunities for housing within the settlement limits of rural settlements.
- 2. Economic Development;** meeting the need for appropriate employment opportunities to sustain the rural population is recognised. This must all be achieved without harming the character and amenity of the countryside. The draft PS has acknowledged the need to support existing businesses in the rural area and also allow sufficient flexibility to facilitate their expansion. The policies allow diversification to help sustain farming, with new employment opportunities to present themselves in the rural area.
- 3. Balance between Housing and Employment;** the rural community has expressed the need for employment opportunities and housing provision to ensure a sustainable rural community, therefore the housing and economic policies contained in the draft PS ensure this link is maintained and built upon. The key challenge in the draft PS is the balance of development which brings local or regional social and economic benefits while protecting a unique resource and sense of pride in a place.
- 4. Protection of Rural Areas;** To protect the natural and historic environments of the countryside from inappropriate development requires the management of housing and economic uses in a sustainable manner that also supports and sustains rural communities. In addition the protection of natural and historic environments in rural areas is ensured through appropriate designations, for example AONBs, to ensure the countryside is maintained for future generations to enjoy. Part 1 of the Plan Strategy sets out strategic policies for housing, employment and historic/natural environments in the countryside. Part 2 of the Plan Strategy contains operational policies with key tests which development proposals must to ensure appropriate, sustainable

**development can be accommodated whilst offering the highest possible protection of rural areas.**

- 5. Transport provision;** is an ongoing issue in most rural areas with rural dwellers being mainly dependant on private car usage. The provision of public transport is particularly important for people who do not have access to a car. The draft PS seeks to address this issue, in conjunction with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) as the competent transport authority, through the Local Transport Study. This encourages a modal shift across the entire council area reducing the reliance on the car and a move to public and other modes of transport. The use of technology is vital for rural people and in particular to allow rural business to succeed. The need to connect places physically and digitally has been acknowledged in the policies. These linkages all help reduce a sense of isolation and improve connectivity for businesses and people in the rural area.
- 6. Community Facilities;** there is a need to ensure that facilities such as health and education can be accommodated so that rural people have adequate access to these facilities. Such facilities are encouraged within rural settlements due to the economies of scale required for such provision. Community facilities in the rural area and the suite of policies promotes the requirement for such facilities and their long term viability. It is important that rural dwellers have access to necessary facilities in order that their day to day needs can be met.
- 7. Tourism;** there is a need for appropriate tourism facilities with links to the wider area through walking and cycling provision (active travel). Strategic Greenways are also key to encouraging sustainable growth and connectivity between places, attractive to residents and visitors alike. This area of economic activity can ensure the long term viability of the rural area and rural businesses. The growth in various forms of tourism is encouraged and the appropriate use of the rural area as a resource for tourism activity. The linkages to the overall protection of the existing historic and natural assets of the rural area are retained in the draft PS.
- 8. Vibrant Communities;** the policies contained in the draft PS take account of prevailing regional policy. The rural area is a unique and valuable resource and there is a balance to be found between using this resource for economic and social benefits and protecting and preserving it for future generations. The draft PS supports the desire to have a quality environment where people want to live and work, with a sense of place and connection to the wider council area.

## SECTION 5 – INFLUENCING THE POLICY, STRATEGY, PLAN OR PUBLIC SERVICE

**5A Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?**

Yes

**5B Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy, or Plan or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

The spatial strategy and planning policies as set out in the draft PS are aimed at encouraging sustainable growth across the rural area in an effort to sustain rural communities. The draft PS seeks to address the issues of the rural needs identified in previous sections (3C and 3D). The draft PS ensures that the entire Council area and its residents have the opportunity for better access to employment, housing, transport, public services and facilities and that the historic and natural heritage is safeguarded for future generations.

Annex A details how this draft PS has been influenced by the rural needs identified in the position papers, and discussed through consultations and meetings which have taken place throughout its preparation.

**5C Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

The role of the draft PS and the process of the preparation of the two stage Local Development Plan is to enable and facilitate development. The spatial strategy and policies are applied to all development proposals which are considered and determined by the Council. The role of the Plan is not the actual provision or delivery of facilities across the Council area. The actual delivery of key services to the rural area goes beyond the remit of the draft PS and planning powers. Delivery of a range of statutory services depend on key stakeholders such as Government Departments/agencies who are responsible for improvements (for example) to the road network, provision of public transport as well as education, health facilities etc. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council acknowledges the importance of these services to the entire community and in particular their impact on the rural area and will continue to liaise with key stakeholders for their delivery which is facilitated by the strategies and policies contained in the Local Development Plan (Draft PS). This will be of particular importance in developing the Local Policies Plan.

## Section 6 Documenting and Recording

6A Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I Confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled
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<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Lois Jackson
<b>Position / Grade</b>	Principle Planning Officer
<b>Date</b>	Oct 2019
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Conor Hughes
<b>Position / Grade</b>	Head of Planning and Capital Projects
<b>Date</b>	Oct 2019

**ANNEX A**

**STRATEGIC POLICY**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Purpose of Policy</b>	<b>2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas</b>
<b>SP01 Sustainable Development</b>	<p>The purpose of the policy is to ensure the principle of sustainable development is carried forward in all development proposals.</p> <p>This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	Yes	<p>This will positively impact on people within rural areas by ensuring the principle of sustainable development is carried forward in the planning process. It will seek to facilitate sustainable housing and economic growth whilst recognising the balance to be achieved in protecting environmental assets.</p>	<p>This policy provides sustainable growth across the entire Council area and will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.</p>
<b>SP02 Improving Health &amp; Well-being</b>	<p>This policy aims to ensure the principle of improving health and well-being is carried forward in all development proposals.</p> <p>This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	Yes	<p>This will positively impact on people within rural areas by ensuring the principle of improving health and well-being is carried forward in the planning process.</p> <p>All new development proposals should contribute positively to the provision of quality open space, age friendly environments, quality design, enhanced connectivity, integration between land use and transport and green and blue infrastructure. Noise &amp; air quality should also be taken into account.</p>	<p>This policy aims to ensure the principle of improving health and well-being is applied across the Council area and will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.</p>

Policy	Purpose of Policy	2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas
<p><b>SOP3</b> <b>Creating and Enhancing Shared Space and Quality Places</b></p>	<p>This policy seeks to encourage all development proposals to contribute to the creation of an environment which is accessible to all and enhance opportunities for shared communities, has a high standard of connectivity and supports shared use of public realm. This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This policy will positively impact on people within rural areas by ensuring the principle of creating and enhancing shared space and quality places is carried forward in the planning process.  The Council will encourage the development of shared spaces which promote a sense of belonging for everyone, where relationships between people from different backgrounds are most likely to be positive, and where differences are valued and respected. Balanced communities can contribute positively to the creation and enhancement of shared spaces</p>	<p>This policy encourages the creation and enhancement of shared space and quality places across the entire Council area and will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers. The policy supports the network of towns, villages and small settlements serving the rural area.</p>
<p><b>SP04</b> <b>Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth</b></p>	<p>This strategic policy aims to support sustainable economic growth without compromising on environmental standards.  This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This policy will positively impact on people within rural areas by supporting sustainable economic growth within the planning process.  The Council will seek to promote economic growth whilst ensuring appropriate consideration of the public interest and the wider region. Strengthening employment activity will be encouraged through the provision of a range of employment sites across the Council area offering flexibility and choice for investors.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to support sustainable economic growth through the provision of a range of employment sites and opportunities for farm diversification across the Council area and as such will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.</p>

Policy	Purpose of Policy	2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas
<p><b>SP05</b> <b>Good Design and Positive Place-Making</b></p>	<p>The aim of this policy is to ensure all development proposals incorporate good design to further sustainable development, encourage healthier living, promote accessibility and inclusivity and contribute to safety.</p> <p>This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This policy will positively impact on people within rural areas by ensuring new development proposals incorporate good design and positive place making.</p> <p>All development will have to consider its compatibility with its immediate and wider context, including the settlement pattern and its positive contribution to place-making.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to promote good design and positive place-making across the entire Council area and as such will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.</p>
<p><b>SP06</b> <b>Protecting and Enhancing the Environment</b></p>	<p>This policy aims to ensure all new development respects the historic and natural environment and biodiversity.</p> <p>This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This policy will positively impact on people within rural areas by ensuring all new development respects the environment and its ecosystem services. This will protect the natural and historic environment, making the Council an attractive place in which to live, work, explore and invest.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that all new development across the Council area respects the environment and its ecosystem services and as such will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.</p>
<p><b>SP07</b> <b>Section 76 Planning Agreements</b></p>	<p>The aim of this policy is to allow for the provision or contribution to infrastructure in order to mitigate any negative consequences of development and require certain operations or activities to be carried out. It may also require a sum or sums to be paid to the Council.</p> <p>This strategic policy will support the implementation of the operational policies and will underpin the Spatial Strategy of the Plan Strategy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This policy will positively impact on people within rural areas as it seeks to address issues to the granting of planning permission where these cannot be addressed through the use of conditions. This may lead to the provision of new community facilities, roads or other essential infrastructure.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to make all development, whether urban or rural, acceptable in planning terms by expecting the developer to provide or contribute towards essential infrastructure in proportion to its scale, impact of the development and the sustainability of its location. It will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.</p>

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Purpose of Policy</b>	<b>2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas</b>
<b>Spatial Strategy</b>	The aim of the Spatial Strategy is to support the development and regeneration of the area socially, economically and environmentally.	Yes	The spatial strategy provides the basis for the LDP strategic policies which provide the benchmark for the orderly and consistent development of land underpinned by furthering the principles of sustainable development and improving well-being across the Plan area	This strategy applies across the Council area and as such, will not impact differently on urban and rural dwellers.
<b>Settlement Strategy</b>	The Settlement Strategy provides the basis for the framework upon which the LDP is devised. It will ensure that the growth of settlements, the provision of housing, employment land, other key land uses and related infrastructure, are in the right place to benefit the community as a whole.	Yes	This strategy will have a positive impact on people in rural areas as it seeks to allocate growth for homes and employment, focusing growth at the top tier of the settlement hierarchy whilst allowing for appropriate growth to sustain our villages and small settlements.	This Strategy provides for sustainable growth across the Council area and seeks to meet the needs of both urban and rural dwellers and as such there is no differential impact between urban and rural dwellers. The strategy supports the network of towns, villages and small settlements serving the rural area.

## STRATEGIC AND ASSOCIATED OPERATIONAL POLICY

Policy	Purpose of Policy	2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas
<b>SP08 Housing in Settlements</b>	These policies aim to promote sustainable housing developments within urban areas and ensure there is an adequate and available supply of quality housing to meet the needs of everyone, including affordable housing.	Yes	These policies will positively impact on rural dwellers living within villages and small settlements by seeking to provide quality residential developments for everyone within the settlement limits of the villages and small settlements.	The overall purpose of these policies is to provide sustainable, high quality housing developments for all people living within settlement limits, whether they live within an urban or rural settlement. These policies will have no differential impact between urban and rural dwellers.
<b>HOU1-HOU12 Housing in Settlements</b>				
<b>SP09 Housing in the Countryside</b>	These policies aim to provide appropriate, sustainable, high quality rural dwellings in the open countryside whilst resisting urban sprawl.	Yes	These policies are specifically influenced by rural need and will positively impact on people in rural areas by recognising the needs of rural dwellers. The policies recognise the importance of good quality design, appropriate siting, minimising the impact on the character of the existing locality.	The overall purpose of these policies is to encourage vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside and to provide opportunities for rural dwellers to live in the countryside. These policies will impact more positively on rural dwellers as they apply specifically to residential development in the open countryside.
<b>COU1 – COU10 &amp; COU15 - COU16 Housing in the Countryside</b>				
<b>Non-Residential Development in the Countryside</b>	These policies aim to allow for sustainable development that promotes vibrant rural communities whilst ensuring there is no detrimental impact on the countryside.	Yes	These policies will have an impact on people in rural areas and primarily affects rural development in the open countryside. It will positively impact on rural dwellers by ensuring there is provision for development opportunities in the open countryside without negatively impacting on the rural character.	These policies are significantly influenced by rural need and particularly the need to support rural communities. They will therefore impact more positively on people within rural areas.
<b>COU11 – COU16</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 10 Education, Health, Community and Culture</b>	The purpose of these policies is to ensure development proposals meet an identified need for, or expansion of services and facilities across the Council to meet anticipated needs in terms of health, education, community and cultural services.	Yes	These policies allow for education, health, community and cultural uses in appropriate locations and aims to support balanced communities. It may negatively impact on people within rural areas who have to travel to larger settlements to access specific health, education or community facilities.	These policies seek to maintain a level of community facilities (education, health, community and cultural) required to service the social needs of the community in both urban and rural areas. Therefore it will not impact differently on the rural and urban dweller.
<b>CF01-CF02 Necessary Community Facilities in Settlements</b>				

Policy	Purpose of Policy	2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?	2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas
<b>Strategic Policy 11 Economic Development in Settlements</b>  <b>Strategic Policy 12 Economic Development in the Countryside</b>	The aim of these policies is to support a thriving and diverse economy with a sufficient supply of land and in locations for a range of employment uses across the entire Council area.	Yes	These policies will contribute to the overall employment opportunities for everyone within the Council area. They will positively impact on people within rural areas by encouraging economic development in appropriate locations whilst protecting or enhancing the rural character and environment.	These policies support employment opportunities for everyone – whilst the strategy sets out particular policies that relate to employment within the countryside, the overall aim of the policy is the same for everyone and therefore the policy does not differentiate at the strategic level between those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>ED1 – ED9 Economic Development</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 13 Mineral Development</b>	The aim of these policies is to facilitate a sufficient supply of minerals whilst balancing the need to safeguard the environment. The policies also encourage the sustainable and safe re-use of mineral sites.	Yes	These policies will impact more on people within rural areas due to the physical location of mineral resources. They will balance the need for mineral exploitation against the need to protect the environment and people living close to where minerals are being extracted.	Whilst these policies may impact more on people who live within the rural area due to the location of mineral reserves, the policies would similarly apply to those within the urban area if a reserve was discovered within or close to a settlement. There is therefore no differential impact between those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>MD1-MD8 Minerals Development</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 14 Town Centres, Retailing &amp; Other Uses</b>  <b>Strategic Policy 15 Evening/Night-time Economy</b>	The aim of these policies is to promote town centres, retailing and other uses within the City and town centres to enhance their vitality and viability.	Yes	These policies will have a positive impact on people within rural areas by directing appropriate retailing and other town centre uses to villages and small settlements to meet the day to day needs of rural dwellers. Whilst the opportunity for retailing may be limited owing to the scale of these settlements, preference will be given to these locations where a local need has been identified and be accommodated.	These policies apply across the Council area and seek to sustain and maintain our Centres as places for retailing and other appropriate uses. Therefore it will not impact differently on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>TC1 – TC6 Town Centres, Retailing &amp; Other Uses</b>				

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<b>Strategic Policy 16 Tourism</b>	The aim of these policies is to support development proposals that promote a sustainable approach to tourist development whilst safeguarding existing key tourism assets.	Yes	These policies will positively impact on people within rural areas as it seeks to provide for tourism development in the countryside (such as tourist accommodation or a facility ancillary to a tourist attraction) whilst protecting the tourism asset and the countryside from inappropriate development.	These policies apply to all tourism proposals within the urban and rural environment and does not differentiate between those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>TOU1-TOU8 Tourism</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 17 Open Space, Sport &amp; Outdoor Recreation</b>	The aim of these policies is to protect and enhance existing and new open space provision and to support and protect a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure.	Yes	These policies will positively impact on those within rural areas as it seeks to protect existing open space and support a network of accessible green and blue infrastructure. This can provide opportunities for walking/cycling, connecting people and places with improved accessibility.	These policies apply to all open space proposals across the Council area, whether within the urban areas or the open countryside and as such, will have no differential impact between those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>OS1 – OS6 Open Space, Sport &amp; Outdoor Recreation</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 18 Protecting &amp; Enhancing the Historic Environment &amp; Archaeological Remains</b>	The aim of these policies is to protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our built heritage assets including our historic parks, gardens and demesnes, listed buildings, archaeological remains and areas of archaeological potential.	Yes	These policies will positively impact on those within rural areas as they seek to protect and enhance our historic environment – this can play a key part in promoting economic prosperity which in turn can help secure attractive living and working environments.	These policies seek to ensure that the historic environment throughout the Council area is protected and therefore will not impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas.
<b>HE1 – HE14 Historic Environment &amp; Archaeology</b>				

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Purpose of Policy</b>	<b>2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas</b>
<b>Strategic Policy 19 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage</b>	The aim of these policies is to protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance and restore our natural heritage assets and to safeguard the Lagan Valley Regional Park, allowing appropriate opportunities for enhanced access.	Yes	These policies will positively impact on those within rural areas as it seeks to protect and enhance key assets in order to maintain landscape character, distinctiveness and attractiveness of the area. By permitting opportunities for appropriate access at the Lagan Valley Regional Park, the qualities of the area will be protected whilst helping to improve the health & wellbeing of residents.	These policies may impact on rural dwellers more due to the location of many of our natural heritage assets. However, they will apply across the Council area and therefore there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>NH1-NH6 Natural Heritage</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 20 Transportation Infrastructure</b>	The aim of these policies is to facilitate the provision of an integrated sustainable and safe local transport network which creates safe and accessible environments, and encourage a modal shift from private car dependency to travel by public transport, cycling and walking.	Yes	These policies will positively impact on those within the rural areas by promoting opportunities for better connectivity, with rural dwellers having improved accessibility to important services that may not be available locally.	These policies may impact more on urban dwellers due to the location of transport schemes but they apply across the entire Council areas and as such there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>TRA1-TRA11 Access and Transport</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 21 Renewable Energy</b>	The aim of these policies is to support development proposals that facilitate the delivery of renewable energy generating facilities in the most appropriate locations whilst minimising any potential visual intrusion or environmental impacts to protect both the urban and rural landscape.	Yes	These policies will have a positive impact on those living within rural areas as they seek to facilitate the generation of energy from renewable resources whilst protecting the local people and countryside from any adverse impacts.	These policies may impact more on people within rural areas due to there being more opportunity for larger scale renewable development in countryside locations. However, they will apply across the Council area and therefore there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>RE1-RE2 Renewable Energy</b>				

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Purpose of Policy</b>	<b>2A Is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2B How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas?</b>	<b>2C How is this likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas</b>
<b>Strategic Policy 22 Telecommunications and Other Utilities</b>	The aim of these policies is to support development proposals that facilitate the delivery of sustainable telecommunications and other utilities infrastructure requirements whilst minimising any visual intrusion and environmental impacts to protect both the rural and urban landscape.	Yes	These policies will have a positive impact on those living in rural areas by facilitating the delivery of sustainable telecommunications whilst minimising any adverse visual or environmental impacts. This will improve connectivity for those living in the countryside and may contribute towards improved economic growth for rural businesses.	These policies apply across the Council area and as such will have no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>TEL1 Telecommunications UT1 Utilities</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 23 Waste Management</b>	The aim of these policies is to support development proposals that facilitate the delivery of appropriate waste management infrastructure in the most appropriate locations whilst ensuring there are no adverse environmental impacts.	Yes	These policies will impact positively on people living within the rural area as it encourages the management of waste to be dealt with as close as possible to the source and ensure there is no detrimental impact on people, the environment or local amenity.	These policies may impact more on rural dwellers as there are currently 2 landfill sites within the Council area that are situated within the countryside. However, these policies apply across the Council area and therefore there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>WM1-WM5 Waste Management</b>				
<b>Strategic Policy 24 Flooding</b>	The aim of these policies is to support development proposals that reduce the risks and impacts of flooding by managing development to avoid, where possible, the potential for flooding.	Yes	These policies will have a positive impact on people living within rural areas as they seek to protect people and property from the negative impacts of flooding.	These policies apply across the Council area and therefore there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.
<b>FLD1-FLD5 Flooding</b>				
<b>AD1 Advertisements</b>	The aim of this policy is to support proposals for advertisements whilst ensuring they respect the local amenity and do not prejudice public safety.	Yes	This policy will have a positive impact on people within rural areas as it seeks to permit advertisements without any adverse impacts on the local environment or prejudicing public safety.	This policy applies across the Council area and therefore there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.

