

## Have your say

### Making a Representation to the draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy provides the strategic direction for the Council area over a 15-year period, which will be reviewed following adoption of the Local Policies Plan.

Regulation 16 of the Local Development Plan (LDP) Regulations 2015 states that any person may make representations about the draft Plan Strategy document. The Council is conducting a 13-week period of consultation on the draft Plan Strategy from 11 October 2019 - 10 January 2020. Whilst the formal (statutory) period for consultation is eight weeks, the council is adding an additional week to allow for the Christmas period.

### Formal Consultation

**The draft Plan Strategy will be published for formal consultation on Friday 8th November 2019 closing at 5pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Please note that representations received after the closing date on 10th January 2020 will not be considered.**

The Department for Infrastructure Development Plan Practice Note 09 'Submission and Handling of Representations', sets out the following requirements for the submission of any representation to the draft Plan Strategy.

In accordance with best practice, your representation:

- must be submitted in full during the public consultation period
- should demonstrate why the draft Plan Strategy is not sound and/or justify how any proposed changes make the draft Plan Strategy more sound
- should demonstrate how any proposed change(s) meet the requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and is more appropriate in terms of meeting the sustainability objectives of the draft Plan Strategy.

The main test for the Plan Strategy is **soundness** which is assessed at Independent Examination (see the Department for Infrastructure's Development Plan Practice Note 06 Soundness). It involves testing the principles, content and preparation process of the draft Plan Strategy against a list of key criteria.

When telling us of any changes that should be made to the Plan Strategy to make it more sound, you must take into account the tests of **soundness**. Please indicate if you would like your representation to be dealt with at Independent Examination as a written or oral representation.

You can make a representation in the following ways:

#### Online:

- the online survey to the draft Plan Strategy and online survey to the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment, Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment, Section 75 Equality Impact Screening Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment are available on the Council's website at [www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk](http://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk) following commencement of the formal consultation period.

#### By email:

- the above forms are also available on the Council's website which can be returned by email to [LDP@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk](mailto:LDP@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk) following commencement of the formal consultation period.

#### By mail:

Write to us at:        Local Development Plan Team  
                                 Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island,  
                                 Lisburn, BT27 4RL

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## Overview

### What is the purpose of the Local Development Plan?

The main purpose of the Local Development Plan (LDP) is to inform the general public, statutory developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide decisions on planning applications for development in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council until 2030.

The Plan will aim to provide sufficient land to meet anticipated needs for housing, employment, and services, all supported by adequate infrastructure, over the Plan period. It will also seek to ensure that all new development is of high quality and located in suitable places - which themselves should be enhanced by the development. A 'suitable place' will generally be a location where the development proposal can help meet economic and social needs without compromising the quality of the environment. This is often referred to as 'sustainable development' which has been defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In seeking to deliver sustainable development, the Plan will serve to implement the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), Sustainable Development Strategy and other central government initiatives.

### What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Development Plan. Local Planning Authorities such as Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of Sustainability Objectives developed in consultation with consultees. This assessment helps the Council to identify the relative environmental, social and economic performance of possible strategic, policy and site options, and to evaluate which of these may be more sustainable. Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

### What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is to:

- Identify other policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives of relevance to the Local Development Plan.
- Collect baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in the Council area, and consider how these might change in the future.
- Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by the Local Development Plan.
- Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of Sustainability Objectives and Appraisal prompts which will form the basis for assessment of the Local Development Plan.
- Consult on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

## Sustainability Objectives for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan

The objectives for sustainable development for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council are to...

1. improve health and wellbeing.
2. strengthen society
3. provide good quality, sustainable housing.
4. enable access to high quality education
5. enable sustainable economic growth.
6. manage material assets sustainably.
7. protect physical resources and use sustainably.
8. encourage active and sustainable travel.
9. improve air quality.
10. reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.
11. protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.
12. protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.
13. maintain and enhance landscape character.
14. protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>   | <b>VII</b> |
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>  | <b>1</b>   |
| 1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report .....  | 1          |
| 1.2 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan .....                   | 1          |
| 1.3 Sustainable Development.....  | 1          |
| 1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment .....  | 2          |
| 1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.....  | 2          |
| 1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal .....  | 2          |
| 1.7 Other Assessments.....  | 3          |
| 1.8 Scoping Report Structure .....  | 4          |
| <b>2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH .....</b>                                | <b>5</b>   |
| 2.1 Introduction .....  | 5          |
| 2.2 Principles .....  | 5          |
| 2.3 Involving Others .....  | 5          |
| 2.4 The Evidence base.....  | 6          |
| 2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework.....                                       | 6          |
| 2.6 Significant Effects .....   | 6          |
| 2.7 Assessment Method.....  | 6          |
| 2.8 Appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives at Preferred Options Paper ..... | 7          |
| 2.9 Plan Strategy .....   | 8          |
| 2.10 Local Policies Plan.....   | 8          |
| 2.11 Cumulative Effects.....  | 8          |
| <b>3. LISBURN &amp; CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN .....</b>         | <b>9</b>   |
| 3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan.....                    | 9          |
| 3.2 Scope of the plan.....  | 9          |
| 3.3 Preparation.....  | 10         |
| 3.4 Overview of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area .....                         | 10         |
| 3.5 Plan Vision and Objectives.....   | 11         |
| <b>4. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE.....</b>                                      | <b>12</b>  |
| 4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence .....   | 12         |
| 4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes .....                                       | 13         |
| 4.3 Strategic Context.....  | 13         |
| 4.4 Baseline Evidence.....  | 13         |
| 4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan.....          | 14         |
| 4.6 The Key Sustainability Issues .....   | 15         |
| 4.7 Sustainability Objectives.....  | 15         |
| <b>5. THE EVIDENCE BASE .....</b>   | <b>16</b>  |
| 5.1 Health and Well-being.....  | 16         |
| 5.2 Community.....  | 26         |
| 5.3 Housing.....  | 34         |
| 5.4 Education and Skills.....   | 43         |
| 5.5 Economy and Employment .....  | 51         |
| 5.6 Material Assets.....  | 58         |
| 5.7 Physical Resources .....  | 67         |
| 5.8 Transport and Accessibility.....  | 75         |
| 5.9 Air Quality.....  | 83         |
| 5.10 Climate Change .....   | 87         |
| 5.11 Water .....  | 96         |

|                    |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| 5.12               | Natural Resources .....   | 109        |
| 5.13               | Landscape.....  | 114        |
| 5.14               | Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage.....   | 120        |
| <b>6.</b>          | <b>THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK.....</b>  | <b>126</b> |
| 6.1                | The Sustainability Objectives.....  | 126        |
| 6.2                | Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives .....  | 128        |
| 6.3                | Compatibility of draft Plan Strategy Objectives.....  | 128        |
| 6.4                | Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report.....   | 128        |
| <b>APPENDIX 1:</b> | <b>COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT .....</b>  | <b>129</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 2:</b> | <b>SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL<br/>ASSESSMENT (SEA) TOPICS .....</b>                | <b>131</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 3:</b> | <b>COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES .....</b>   | <b>132</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 4:</b> | <b>REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES.....</b>  | <b>133</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 5:</b> | <b>SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE .....</b>   | <b>178</b> |
| <b>APPENDIX 6:</b> | <b>CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUSTAINABILITY<br/>APPRAISAL INTERIM AND SCOPING REPORT .....</b> | <b>192</b> |

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| AAP   | Area of Archaeological Potential                             |
| AoHSV | Area of High Scenic Value                                    |
| AONB  | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty                           |
| AQMA  | Air Quality Management Area                                  |
| ASAI  | Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest               |
| ASSI  | Area of Special Scientific Interest                          |
| AWB   | Artificial Waterbody   |
| BEIS  | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy      |
| BMAP  | Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan                               |
| CCC   | Committee on Climate Change                                  |
| COE   | Council of Europe  |
| DAERA | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs     |
| DARD  | Department of Agriculture and Rural Development              |
| DCCAE | Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment |
| DE    | The Department of Education                                  |
| DEA   | District Electoral Area                                      |
| DETI  | Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment               |
| DfC   | Department for Communities                                   |
| DfE   | Department for the Economy                                   |
| DfI   | Department for Infrastructure                                |
| DOE   | Department of the Environment                                |
| DoH   | Department of Health   |
| DoJ   | Department of Justice  |
| EA    | Education Authority  |
| EAPP  | Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes             |
| EC    | European Commission  |
| EO    | The Executive Office   |
| ES    | Ecosystem Services   |
| ESCR  | Earth Science Conservation Site                              |
| FRMP  | Flood Risk Management Plan                                   |
| GHG   | Greenhouse gas   |
| GSNI  | Geological Survey of Northern Ireland                        |
| HED   | Historic Environment Division                                |
| HGI   | Housing Growth Indicator(s)                                  |
| HMWB  | Heavily Modified Waterbody                                   |
| HRA   | Habitats Regulations Assessment                              |
| IPCC  | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change                    |
| LBAP  | Local Biodiversity Action Plan                               |
| LCA   | Landscape Character Area                                     |
| LDP   | Local Development Plan                                       |
| LGD   | Local Government District                                    |
| MCAA  | Marine and Coastal Access Act                                |
| MPS   | Marine Policy Statement                                      |
| NHSCT | Northern Health and Social Care Trust                        |
| NI    | Northern Ireland   |
| NIEA  | Northern Ireland Environment Agency                          |
| NIHE  | Northern Ireland Housing Executive                           |
| NINIS | Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service           |
| NISRA | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency              |
| NIW   | Northern Ireland Water                                       |

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| PfG     | Programme for Government   |
| PFRA    | Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI                         |
| POMs    | Programme of Measures  |
| POP     | Preferred Options Paper  |
| PPS     | Planning Policy Statement  |
| RBD     | River Basin District   |
| RBMP    | River Basin Management Plan                                      |
| RDS     | Regional Development Strategy                                    |
| RLCA    | Regional Landscape Character Area                                |
| ROMP    | Review of Old Mineral Permissions                                |
| RSPB    | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds                        |
| SA      | Sustainability Appraisal   |
| SAC     | Special Area of Conservation                                     |
| SCA     | Seascape Character Area  |
| SCaMP   | Sustainable Catchment Area Management Planning                   |
| SEA     | Strategic Environmental Assessment                               |
| SFRA    | Significant Flood Risk Area                                      |
| SLNCI   | Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance                     |
| SOA     | Super Output Area  |
| SONI    | System Operator for Northern Ireland                             |
| SPA     | Special Protection Area  |
| SPPS    | Strategic Planning Policy Statement                              |
| SuDS    | Sustainable Drainage Systems                                     |
| TSNI    | Travel Survey Northern Ireland                                   |
| UK      | United Kingdom   |
| UK Gov. | UK Government  |
| UN      | United Nations   |
| UNECE   | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe                    |
| UNESCO  | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |
| UNFCCC  | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change            |
| WFD     | Water Framework Directive  |
| WMG     | Waste Management Group   |
| WMU     | Water Management Unit  |
| WTW     | Water Treatment Works  |
| WwTW    | Wastewater Treatment Works                                       |



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan. It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment. It outlines the assessment methodology and approach for future Sustainability Appraisal reports. The Scoping Report will be updated throughout plan preparation and will be included with all Sustainability Appraisal Reports published as part of the consultation process for the Local Development Plan.

## 1.2 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan

Chapter 4 describes the approach that is being taken to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of the Council area.

## 1.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved'<sup>1</sup>, published in May 2010, stated that sustainability policy *'is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding.'*

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by Northern Ireland departments.

Within planning legislation Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, as amended, requires those who exercise any function in relation to Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

Sustainability Appraisal is the approach used to promote sustainable development within Local Development Plans by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the Local Development Plan throughout its preparation.

The Sustainable Development Strategy identifies 32 strategic objectives in the following Priority Areas:

Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty;

Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone;

Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development;

Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment;

Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint; and

Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

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<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved- Sustainable Development Strategy.

## 1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment is a systematic process for assessing potential effects of proposed plans or programmes to ensure that significant environmental impacts are considered from the earliest opportunity and addressed in decision making. It was introduced by the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. In Northern Ireland the Directive's requirements are taken forward through The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004. The EAPP (NI) Regulations set out more detailed requirements for the process and content of the environmental assessment of plans and development. Appendix 1 records how these regulations are being complied with.

## 1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Section 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all NI Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 ('the 2011 Act') requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: 'Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment'<sup>1</sup>. SA therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates SEA and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA. Appendices 2 & 3 of this report demonstrate how SEA has been accomplished.

## 1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location.

**Table 1.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal and location in this report.**

| Stage  | Description   | Location   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Stage A (1)<br/>Sustainability<br/>Appraisal<br/>Scoping<br/>Report</b> | 1. Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.   | Appendix 4   |
|  | 2. Collect baseline information   | Chapter 5  |
|  | 3. Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.   | Prior to POP consulted DAERA 5/12/16 response received 09/01/2017.<br>Submission made by DAERA on published POP SA 22/05/2017 (refer to Appendix 6). |
|  | 4. Identify environmental issues and challenges   | Chapter 5  |
|  | 5. Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework   | Chapter 6  |
|  | 6. Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders   | Refer to 2.3   |
| <b>Stage A (2)<br/>Sustainability<br/>Appraisal</b>                        | Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking | Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in March 2017.  |

<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Interim Report</b> | public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper.   |   |
| <b>Stage B</b>        | Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects. | Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in March 2017. |
| <b>Stage C</b>        | Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.   | SA Report   |
| <b>Stage D</b>        | Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal report and draft plan  | SA Report   |
| <b>Stage E</b>        | Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.                          | SA Report   |
| <b>Stage F</b>        | Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.   | SA Report   |

## 1.7 Other Assessments

### 1.7.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the Local Development Plan; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites. A baseline Habitats Regulations Assessment has been prepared to accompany the Sustainability Appraisal Interim report. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published when each of these are adopted.

### 1.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, for which the proposed commencement date, as it applies to Government Departments and District Councils is 1 June 2017, states that 'A public authority must have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans.' Public authorities must report annually on how they have implemented this requirement.

The approach to considering rural needs is called rural proofing and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provides advice on carrying it out in Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing. Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

This Scoping Report directly considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key issues for the Council area include some specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or potentially have a disproportionate impact.

As plan preparation progresses and more detail emerges about proposals, how they will be implemented and where they will be located, rural issues will be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the advice in Thinking Rural, will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal for Plan Strategy

## 1.8 Scoping Report Structure

Chapter 2 details the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal while Chapter 3 provides an overview of plan preparation. Chapter 4 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Chapter 5 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the Local Development Plan. Chapter 6 presents the Sustainability Framework and outlines the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal.

## 2. Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the Local Development Plan preparation process. Chapters 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for L&CCC Local Development Plan.

### 2.2 Principles

The Sustainability Appraisal process is carried out under the following principles.

#### *Role*

Sustainability Appraisal is a tool to aid plan making which identifies potential effects of options, how they may be mitigated and informs the most appropriate option. It does not however give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

#### *Integrated*

Sustainability Appraisal is an essential part of the plan making process which is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the Local Development Plan.

#### *Shared Information*

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers or Community Planning is utilised for evidence or for future monitoring.

#### *Relevant*

The Sustainability Appraisal focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the Local Development Plan.

#### *Connected*

The Local Development Plan may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond the council area where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report.

#### *Proportionate*

The Sustainability Appraisal avoids duplication therefore, for example, international strategies are not included where they have been given effect in a national or regional strategy. Where more detailed information is available in another document the essentials are included here and a link provided to that document.

#### *Up-to-date*

The Sustainability Appraisal, including the Scoping Report will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that it reflects current policies, plans and programmes and recent data.

#### *Future proof*

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long term sustainable development.

### 2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required on the SA Scoping Report was with the Statutory Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was

consulted on the outline of this Scoping Report in December 2016. Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the LDP Position Papers and Section 5. Statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SA Reports published at POP stage in March 2017.

Where appropriate, the NIEA's comments have been incorporated and will further inform future updates to the SA Reports. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and has been provided in Appendix 6 of this report.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council adjoins Belfast City Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. These Councils will be invited to comment on the draft Plan Strategy and SA Reports along with other statutory consultees including DAERA.

The public was formally consulted on the SA Interim Report, together with the SA Scoping Report following the publication of the Preferred Options Paper in March 2017. There will also be public consultation on the SA Reports which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy and draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the SA will be reviewed. Where necessary, the SA Reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

## 2.4 The Evidence base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Chapter 4 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 5.

The evidence base was prepared using all available information sources. Every effort has been made to ensure that the document refers to the most recent information available however it is an evolving document and will be reviewed and updated at each stage of appraisal.

## 2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework is to provide a means of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic needs of the area are considered in plan preparation. It enables the effects of plan proposals to be described, analysed and compared. It also helps identify measures to minimise negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using this Framework. The draft Sustainability Appraisal Reports will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the Local Development Plan in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

## 2.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect therefore assessment is a matter of judgement taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

## 2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are

- Appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives for Preferred Options Paper
- Appraisal of Plan Strategy
- Local Policies Plan

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the Local Development Plan follows.

## 2.8 Appraisal of options and reasonable alternatives at Preferred Options Paper

In the draft Plan Strategy, policy options are presented at a strategic operational level. In some cases, more than one policy option has been assessed. Only reasonable alternatives were considered. The SA Report accompanying the draft Plan Strategy evaluates all policy options using the appraisal matrix shown below in Table 2.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed;
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given; and
- A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures, where appropriate, to enhance positive effects.

**Table 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix**

| ISSUE  |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |
|--|-----------|----|----|-------------|-----------|----|----|-------------|-----------|----|----|-------------|
| OPTIONS  | Option 1: |    |    |             | Option 2: |    |    |             | Option 3: |    |    |             |
| Sustainability Objective   | ST        | MT | LT | Explanation | ST        | MT | LT | Explanation | ST        | MT | LT | Explanation |
| 1. Sustainability Objective  |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |
| 2. Sustainability Objective  |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |
| 3. Sustainability Objective, etc.  |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |
| <p>Summary and comparison of alternative options against the Sustainability Objectives.</p> <p>Identification of the most sustainable option.</p> <p>Identification of the preferred option.</p> <p>Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option.</p> <p>Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option.</p> <p>Summary of measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.</p> |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |           |    |    |             |

Table 2.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

| Rating    |                             | Description  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>+</b>  | <b>Significant Positive</b> | Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective   |
| <b>+</b>  | <b>Minor Positive</b>       | Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective  |
| <b>0</b>  | <b>Neutral / no effect</b>  | Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect  |
| <b>-</b>  | <b>Minor Negative</b>       | Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective  |
| <b>--</b> | <b>Significant Negative</b> | Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective   |
| <b>?</b>  | <b>Uncertain</b>            | The effect cannot be predicted because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or</li> <li>▪ the relationship is dependent on the way in which the approach is implemented; or</li> <li>▪ insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.</li> </ul> |
| <b>ST</b> | <b>Short Term</b>           | Up to five years   |
| <b>MT</b> | <b>Medium Term</b>          | Five to 15 years   |
| <b>LT</b> | <b>Long term</b>            | Over 15 years  |

## 2.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous POP stage. A SA Scoping Report and a separate SA Report will be provided in support of the consultation on the draft Plan Strategy.

## 2.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the Local Policies Plan criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. The proposals in the Local Policies Plan will be appraised using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

## 2.11 Cumulative Effects

Consideration will be given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. A section on cumulative effects has been included in the SA Report to accompany the draft Plan Strategy.



## 3. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan

### 3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act) provides for the preparation of a Local Development Plan (LDP) by a Council for its district, which will (when adopted) replace current development plans. The Local Development Plan will comprise two development plan documents;

- The Plan Strategy (PS); and
- The Local Policies Plan (LPP).

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

- provide a 15-year plan framework to support the economic and social needs of a council's district in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well-being of the community;
- allocate sufficient land to meet society's needs;
- provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within their local area should take place;
- provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision-making by the public, private and community sectors and those affected by development proposals; and
- Deliver the spatial aspects of a council's current community plan.

### 3.2 Scope of the plan

The 2011 Act requires the Council to prepare a LDP with the objective of furthering sustainable development and to take account of a number of key central government plans and policies which are underpinned by this concept. In addition, there are links between the LDP and Council's other plans and strategies including our Community Plan. The Local Government (NI) Act 2014 introduced a statutory link between a Council's Community Plan and its LDP. It is intended that the LDP will be a spatial reflection of the Community Plan and that the two should work in tandem towards the same vision for our Council area and its communities. The LDP will also take account of our Corporate Plan 2018-2022; in particular, to those strategic objectives such as 'a growing and vibrant economy and promoting resilient and environmentally friendly places,' that can be partially influenced through the LDP.

The LDP will set out a number of Strategic Plan Objectives with economic, social and environmental themes which will take account of the functions set out in section 3.1. These Plan objectives will also link in to the 14 objectives for Sustainable Development being brought forward through the SA process. The Plan Objectives will be delivered through a combination of its strategic policies and proposals as contained within the Local Policies Plan.

The purpose of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and guide development decisions within the Council area up to 2030. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Council area for future generations.

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)<sup>1</sup> and Planning Policy Statements

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<sup>1</sup> DOE (2015) Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

(PPSs)<sup>1</sup>, the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and, when adopted, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. The new LDP will replace the current statutory development plans that apply to the Borough.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) was intended to be the Development Plan on its adoption in September 2014. This Plan was subsequently declared unlawful following a successful legal challenge and therefore remains in its entirety unadopted. As a result, the existing Development Plans covering the Council area remains are as follows;

- Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001
- Lisburn Area Plan (LAP) 2001
- Carryduff Local Plan 1988-1993
- Ballymacoss Local Plan
- Lisburn Town Centre Plan
- Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005

The new Local Development Plan for the Council will replace the existing development or area plans.

### 3.3 Preparation

The evidence base for the LDP has been prepared through the following Preparatory Papers which establish the baseline for the social, economic and environmental issues to be addressed through the Plan. These are published at: [Local Development Plan - Lisburn Castlereagh](#)

There are four key stages in the Local Development Plan process which are shown below, as follows:

- Initial Plan Preparation i.e. Preferred Options Paper
- Preparation and Adoption of Plan Strategy
- Preparation and Adoption of Local Policies Plan
- Monitoring and Review

The timeframe for key stages and indicative dates is outlined in the [Council's Local Development Plan Timetable](#) agreed between the Council and Central Government. A Steering Group and Project Management Team/ Stakeholder Group has been established, to oversee the development of the LDP, The Council and Central Government will be informed as necessary on progress in meeting the Timetable and progress reports on the LDP will be submitted regularly to the relevant Council Committees. Any amendment required to the timetable will be notified to the Department for Infrastructure and the Planning Appeals Commission and a revised timetable published, as necessary.

Public consultation will be carried out in accordance with legislative requirements and with the commitments stated in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) published in April 2016.

### 3.4 Overview of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area

The Council area extends to an area of almost 200 square miles and borders the five adjoining Council areas of Belfast City Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

In 2018 the population of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area was estimated at 144,400, (Mid-2018 Population Estimates, published 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 for Northern Ireland). 70,900 males and 73,500 females. This was made up of:

- 29,100 children aged 0-15 years;
- 41,571 people aged 16-39 years;

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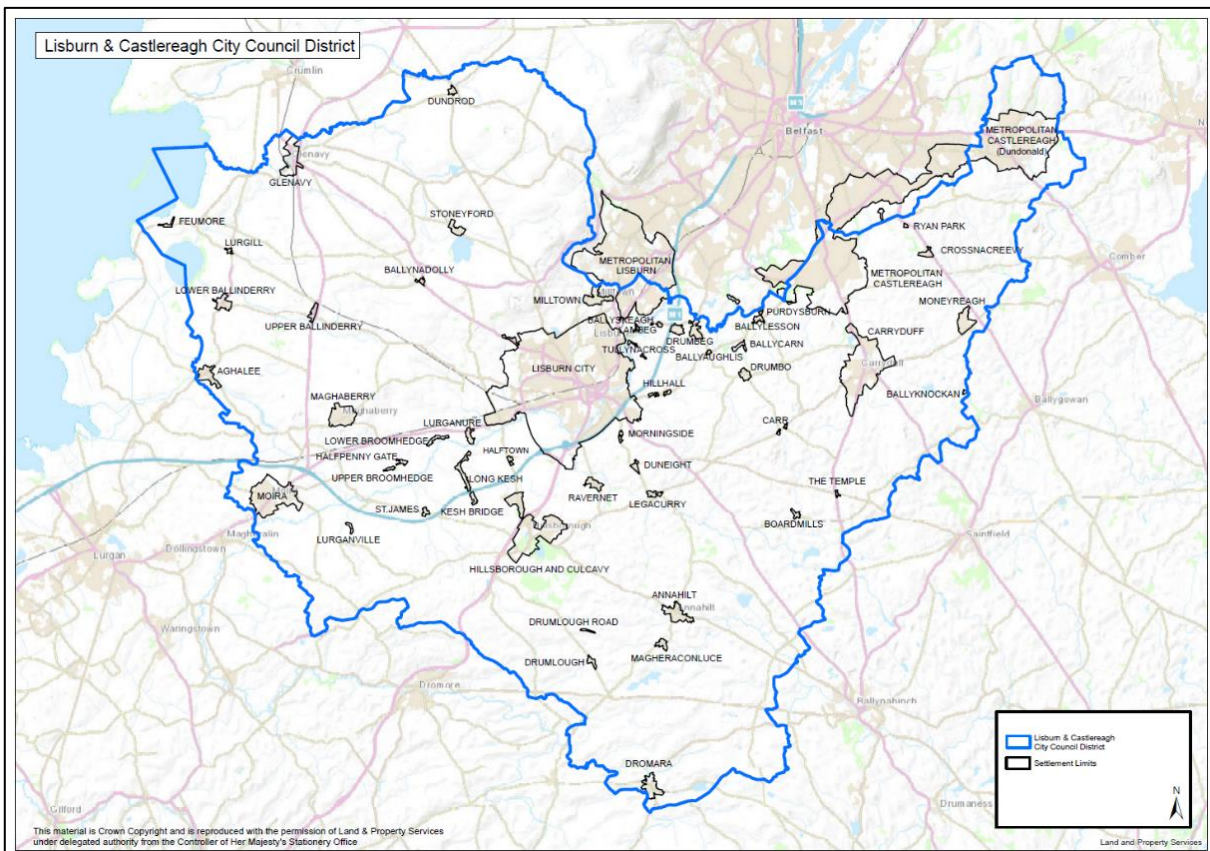
<sup>1</sup> Planning NI Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Planning Guidance (found at Planning NI [https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning\\_statements\\_and\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_guidance.htm](https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning_statements_and_supplementary_planning_guidance.htm))

- 46,942 people aged 40-64 years; and
- 25,000 people 65 years and older

From NISRA based population projections, it is estimated that the population of the Council area is expected to grow from 144,400 in 2018 to 160,775 in 2032, which is a projected population increase of 16,375 or a growth rate of 11.3%.<sup>1</sup>

The population figure is made up of approximately 85% within settlements (i.e. Lisburn & Castlereagh City and the Greater Urban Areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh, followed by the towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough and Moira, the 13 villages and the remaining 33 small settlements); and a population figure of approximately 15% outside these settlements<sup>2</sup>. Figure 3.1 shows the Council area, and the location of the settlements.

**Figure 3.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area**



### 3.5 Plan Vision and Objectives

The Local Development Plan must set out a clear vision as to what Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council should look like by 2032. A series of Strategic Objectives have been developed in order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision. Section 3.5 and Appendix 2 of the SA Report discuss the Plan Vision and Objectives.

<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Population Estimates (2018) Lisburn & Castlereagh

<sup>2</sup> NISRA Headcount & Household Estimates for Settlements, published March 2015, based on 2011 Census Figures.

## 4. Overview of the Baseline Evidence

### 4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 5 for fourteen topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Many topics overlap therefore Table 4.1 outlines the scope of each topic to clarify where information is presented.

**Table 4.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics**

| Topic   | Includes   |
|---|--|
| <b>1. Health and Wellbeing</b>                        | Health profile, physical activity, access to health care, access to open space and recreation quiet areas, noise.  |
| <b>2. Community</b>                                   | Community identity, shared space, social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, deprivation and good relations, rural issues.   |
| <b>3. Housing</b>                                     | Housing, urban capacity, settlements.  |
| <b>4. Education and Skills</b>                        | Primary through to third level and apprenticeships   |
| <b>5. Economy and Employment</b>                      | Employment, economic growth, investment, tourism, industry and commerce, town centres and retailing  |
| <b>6. Material Assets</b>                             | Infrastructure relating to energy / heat generation and distribution, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land, renewable energy, cemeteries                       |
| <b>7. Physical Resources</b>                          | Earth science, minerals, land (including land use), soil and geothermal energy.  |
| <b>8. Transport and Accessibility</b>                 | Public, private transport, traffic and efficient movement, walking, cycling.   |
| <b>9. Air</b>   | Air quality and short-term changes (aspects relating to climate are covered in Climate Change).  |
| <b>10. Climate Change</b>                             | Northern Ireland in global context of climate change; greenhouse gas emissions; implications of climate change, mitigation and adaptation.   |
| <b>11. Water</b>                                      | Water quality and resources (including coastal), water levels (flood risk).  |
| <b>12. Natural Resources</b>                          | Biodiversity, fauna, flora, designated sites, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystem services. Includes intertidal and coastal zones, and marine environment. Access to open space and outdoor recreation. |
| <b>13. Landscape</b>                                  | Landscape, seascape and countryside/rural area   |
| <b>14. Historic Environment and Cultural heritage</b> | Historic environment, archaeology (including marine), built heritage and industrial heritage, townscape and cultural heritage assets.  |

Each topic is presented using the following structure, and the headings are explained in sections 4.2 to 4.7:

- Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes;
- Baseline evidence;
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan; and
- Key Sustainability Issues

## 4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes

The Sustainability Appraisal must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the Local Development Plan. The aims of this review are:

- to identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Plan;
- to reflect sustainability themes contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the Local Development Plan.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the Local Development Plan will deliver obligations for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (L&CCC) which are within the scope of the Local Development Plan. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the Local Development Plan.

## 4.3 Strategic Context

The following regional strategies are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. Each is introduced here and key relevant aspects are described in more detail under each topic in Chapter 5.

- Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government
- Regional Development Strategy 2035
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement
- Sustainable Development Strategy '*Everyone's Involved*'
- Regional Transportation Strategy - Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future
- Regional Water Strategy - '*Sustainable Water*'
- UK Marine Policy Statement
- Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statements
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
- Supplementary Planning Guidance
- Other Strategies and Plans
- Transport Plans
- Belfast Region City Deal 2018
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Corporate Plan 2018-2022
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Community Plan 2017-2032

LDP POP and draft Plan Strategies for neighbouring Council areas of Belfast City Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

## 4.4 Baseline Evidence

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide specific information at a local Council level, information for NI has been used. Where there are critical data gaps, these have been identified.

Baseline evidence has firstly been taken from the Council's Local Development Plan papers which are all available at [www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/planning/local-development-plan/local-development-plan-timeline](http://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/planning/local-development-plan/local-development-plan-timeline).

These papers are:



- Population and Growth
- Housing and Settlements
- Employment and Economic Development
- Retailing, Offices and Town Centres
- Transport
- Telecommunications Public Services and Utilities
- Built Heritage
- Natural Heritage
- Countryside Assessment
- Development Constraints (Flood risk, Drainage and Minerals)
- Tourism
- Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation
- Waste Management
- Education, Health, Community & Cultural Facilities

The evidence base also takes account of information collected and published for our Community Plan. This includes the Community Planning Baseline Report June 2016 for the Council Area found at [www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/Lisburn\\_and\\_Castlereagh\\_City\\_Council\\_-\\_Baseline\\_Report\\_\(Final\).pdf](http://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/Lisburn_and_Castlereagh_City_Council_-_Baseline_Report_(Final).pdf)

It should be noted that a series of Technical Supplements have been published alongside the LDP draft Plan Strategy. The Technical Supplements bring together the evidence base that has been used to inform the preparation of the LDP draft Plan Strategy. The Technical Supplements also build upon and update some of the LDP Position Papers. The Technical Supplements to the draft Plan Strategy were being prepared simultaneously to the Scoping Report and consequently some of the updated information presented within the Technical Supplements was not available at the time the Scoping Report was finalised. Consequently, the Scoping Report has not included information from the Technical Supplements.

The baseline topics for Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the Local Development Plan evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in 'Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence and Information'<sup>1</sup> have been referred to, as well as the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report<sup>2</sup>.

In addition to the Local Development Plan papers, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website which is the principal source of official statistics and social research for Northern Ireland. We also have used the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is part of NISRA and makes small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies; area profiles that provide statistical snapshots of an area and mapping facilities that enable statistics to be interpreted in a spatial context.

#### 4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights the trends in the baseline information and how the baseline might evolve without the Local Development Plan. This also helps identify where possible key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the Local Development Plan.

The plans in place for the Borough, the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001, Lisburn Area Plan (LAP) 2001, Carryduff Local Plan 1988-1993, Ballymacoss Local Plan, Lisburn Town Centre Plan and Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005. Many of these plans were adopted before the first version of

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA (2017) Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information (Version 2.1/ May 2017)

<sup>2</sup> DAERA (2019) [Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2019](#) (Date published: 30 May 2019)

the RDS was published in 2001 and also before the publication of any of the PPS documents. These area plans are also well past their notional end dates. Due to the varying ages of these Plans, there is also discrepancy in how planning policies and designations have been applied in the Borough.

The existing plans were not prepared in the context of the new Council areas and do not reflect the economic growth and social development for our area or environmental pressures. Therefore, these plans do not reflect today's needs for our society, economy and environment or the strategic priorities of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies and local priorities.

#### 4.6 The Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the policies, plans and programmes review, the baseline information and the likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Development Plan, Key Sustainability Issues are set out for each topic. These reflect the local area and are ones that are relevant to and may be influenced by the Local Development Plan. These Key Sustainability Issues will also identify the potential for cumulative effects which should be considered in preparation of the LDP. Key Sustainability Issues will be reviewed and, where necessary, updated at key stages of Plan preparation

#### 4.7 Sustainability Objectives

The Key Sustainability Issues inform the Sustainability Objectives. These are presented in Chapter 6 with a short rationale and description of what each objective seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

## 5. The Evidence Base

### 5.1 Health and Well-being

#### 5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

This topic considers the health profile for the district, needs for access to health care, physical activity, and the effects of noise. It overlaps with many of the other topics, for example where they shape the environment in which we live, interactions with others and opportunities for employment and education.

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Measures seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this include improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health which can have long term effects on healthy life. They also acknowledge that the health conditions of those who are most deprived are significantly worse and therefore there are programmes such as Delivering Social Change that seek to reduce inequalities. Northern Ireland strategies are supportive of international strategies and the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity and there are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including Sport Matters, A Fitter Future for all, the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan, and Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways. These include creating an environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active transport. There is a particular focus on groups that have lower rates of activity which are women and girls, people with disabilities, older people and the most economically disadvantaged.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plans inform infrastructure requirements for health care.

Making Life Better is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. The outcome 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the Local Development Plan (LDP). Actions can be grouped into the following general themes;

- To improve and maintain the environment in terms of air quality, water quality, waste management and environmental noise;
- To enhance the capacity of our physical infrastructure to protect, support and provide access to healthy and active living and well-being through, for example, creating environments that promote social interaction and mental well-being, are safe for all ages and incentivise physical activity.

The SPSS reflects this in particular through six regional strategic objectives requiring safeguarding, provision of and accessibility for all to open space with high standards of design.

The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 locally implement the European Noise Directive, the aim of which is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, of exposure to environmental noise. The Regulations apply to noise from major road, railway, airport and industrial sources. These existing sources are not subject to planning control, but may be considered in the context of proposed development, which could be affected by environmental noise. A range of legislation is in place to establish permitted noise levels and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

In the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022, the vision is for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to be 'a progressive, dynamic, and inclusive council, working in partnership to develop the community and



improve the quality of people’s lives and the values we operate by.’ Theme 3 of the Corporate Plan, ‘Health and Wellbeing’ aims to ensure that residents enjoy ‘healthier, more fulfilling and longer lives.’ Key actions include working collaboratively to make communities age and disability friendly and providing safe, accessible leisure and sports facilities for all.

One of the five outcomes of the Community Plan is that everyone lives healthy, fulfilling and long lives. Progress towards achieving this is to be measured by indicators relating to health inequality gaps, % or population living in absolute and relative poverty and preventable deaths.

### 5.1.2 Baseline Information

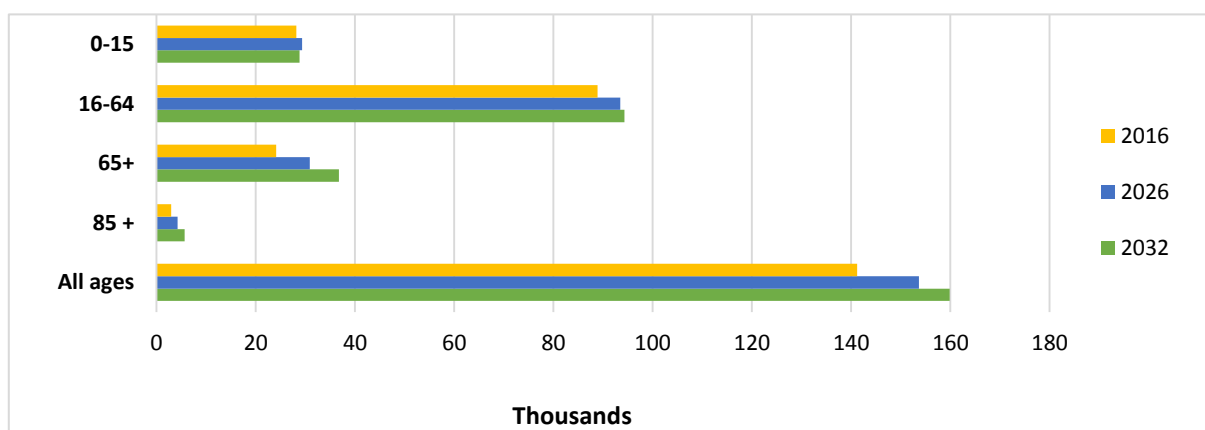
Data has been sourced from the L&CCC Community Plan Baseline Report June 2016<sup>1</sup>, Development Plan Position Papers 1: Population and Growth<sup>2</sup>, 12: Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation<sup>3</sup>, 14: Education, Health, Community and Cultural Facilities<sup>4</sup> as well as further sources referenced separately.

#### Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs. Figure 6.1.1 illustrates the projected population which shows a much greater increase in older age groups. The Council Area has the fourth lowest population relative to other Council areas<sup>5</sup>. In June 2018, the Council accounted for 8%, or 144 381 people, of the population of Northern Ireland (1 881 641)<sup>6</sup>. This was a 16% increase in the population from the 2001 figure of 124 302 people, and a 7% increase from the Census 2011 figure of 134 841 people. Population projections up to 2041, predict the population in NI will reach two million.<sup>7</sup> The projected population increase for Lisburn and Castlereagh up to 2026 is 9%.

The median age in the district in 2001 was 36.4 years but in 2017 it was 40.3 years<sup>8</sup>. This rise in the median age increases the older age groups. Using 2016 based population projections it is anticipated that those aged 65+ are projected to increase by 28% by 2026 and 53% by 2032 with higher rates of increase predicted in the 85+ age bracket. This will increase the requirement for late and end of life care.

**Figure 5.1.1 Population Projections for L&CCC by Age Band**



Life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2015-2017<sup>9</sup> was 78.5 years, and for females 82.3 years. Life expectancy for males in L&CCC for 2015-2017 was 79.8 years, and for females 83.4 years.

<sup>1</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Community Plan Baseline Report 2016

<sup>2</sup> L&CCC LDP Position Paper Population & Growth

<sup>3</sup> L&CCC LDP Position Paper Open Space

<sup>4</sup> L&CCC LDP Position Paper Community Facilities

<sup>5</sup> NISRA- 2016 based Population projections for areas within NI

<sup>6</sup> NISRA Population Estimates for Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Government District

<sup>7</sup> NISRA: 2016-based Population projections for Areas within NI Statistical Bulletin Charts

<sup>8</sup> NISRA: All areas - Median age (2001-2017)

<sup>9</sup> Office National Statistics (ONS) Life expectancy (LE), healthy life expectancy (HLE) and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) at birth and age 65 by sex, UK, 2015 to 2017

These have shown a steady increase from 2001 and are higher than the NI average, particularly for men where the difference is one year three months.

Healthy life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland in 2015-2017 is 61.2 years, and for females is 62.8 years. The healthy life expectancy for males in Lisburn and Castlereagh is much higher at 65.1 compared to the Northern Ireland average with a difference of 3 years 11 months. In contrast the healthy life expectancy for females in Lisburn and Castlereagh is lower than the Northern Ireland average at 61.9 years.

Disability free life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2015-2017 was 61.1 years, and for females was 61.7 years. Disability free life expectancy for males in Lisburn and Castlereagh is 67.5 years and for females is 62.7 years. Males and females will live longer disability free in L&CCC than the Northern Ireland average.

### *Causes of death*

In 2017, of the 16 036 registered deaths in NI, 28% (4490) were cancer related<sup>1</sup>. While cancer is the most commonly recorded cause of death, other principal causes include circulatory diseases (24%) and respiratory diseases (13%). Alzheimer's and other dementias accounted for 12%.

In 2017, nearly 8% of deaths registered in NI were from the district<sup>2</sup>. Of these, cancer was accountable for the majority of deaths (324) followed by circulatory disease (278) and respiratory disease (147). The fourth highest amount of deaths (113) were from mental and behavioural disorders, followed by deaths linked to diseases of the nervous system (102).

Relative to other Council Areas, Lisburn and Castlereagh ranks relatively low in terms of cancer and circulatory related deaths at 9<sup>th</sup> lowest and 10<sup>th</sup> lowest respectively out of 11 Councils.

### *Physical Health*

A person is described as having a limiting long term health problem if they have a health problem or disability that limits their daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This includes problems that are due to old age. Results from the 2011 Census show that in Lisburn and Castlereagh 82.13% stated their health was either 'good' or 'very good'. However, 18.29% had long term health problems or disability that limited their day to day activities. In the Northern Ireland Health Survey 2017/2018, nearly three quarters (70%) of respondents, a slight decrease from 2016/2017 (73%), reported very good or good health.

Disease data for 2018 shows that prevalence of most diseases are similar to rates for Northern Ireland. Notable exceptions are for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and mental health which are lower and diabetes and asthma which are higher with 5738 on the diabetes register and over 7000 on the asthma register. Although prevalence for dementia is similar to that for Northern Ireland it is worth noting that there are almost 800 people on the dementia register. There is only four years' data at the council level but Northern Ireland trends since 2007 show a steady increase in the prevalence of cancer and dementia and a marked increase in the prevalence of osteoporosis since 2013 when this data started being collected. The latter two diseases reflect the aging population.

### *Mental Health*

Mental health is a level of psychological well-being. A mental disorder is a mental or behavioural pattern or anomaly that causes either suffering or an impaired ability to function in ordinary life (disability), and which is not developmentally or socially normative.

Mental disorders are generally defined by a combination of how a person feels, acts, thinks or perceives. This may be associated with particular regions or functions of the brain or rest of the nervous system, often in a social context.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Registrar General Annual Report 2017 Cause of Death (Date published: 07 November 2018)

<sup>2</sup> NISRA: Cause of Death 2017 Tables – Deaths by sex and cause, by Local Government District, 2017

<sup>3</sup> Department of Health

Northern Ireland has higher levels of mental ill health than any other region in the UK. According to prescription trends, Northern Ireland has significantly higher levels of depression than the rest of the UK.<sup>1</sup>

In 2017/18, of those adults surveyed in the Northern Ireland Health Survey, the mean Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing score was 51.4 in Northern Ireland. The scale scores range from 14 (lowest mental well-being) to 70 (highest mental well-being). A comparative figure for Councils is not available. The Health Survey NI 2017/18 reported that across NI around a fifth (18%) scored highly on the GHQ12<sup>2</sup> (General Health Questionnaire) suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. The proportion of males indicating a possible mental health illness has increased from 16% in 2016/17 to 17% in 2017/18. The finding for females remains unchanged at 18%. The proportion of respondents in the most deprived areas recording a high GHQ12 score has dropped from 27% in 2016/17 to 22% in 2017/18. However, respondents in the most deprived areas are more likely to record a high GHQ12 score than those in the least deprived areas.

### Well Being

In the Health Survey Northern Ireland 2017/18, 88% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with life but 4% felt to some extent dissatisfied. This was similar to figures reported in previous years. A fifth of people reported loneliness, with people living in urban areas more affected than those living in rural areas.

Personal well-being was measured in 2014/15 for an Annual Population Survey<sup>3</sup>. NI scored highest of all the UK countries for life satisfaction, worthwhileness and happiness. However, NI did not score well for anxiety. A fifth of people reported high levels in the HSNI 2017/2018. Lisburn and Castlereagh respondents were significantly higher on the anxiety measure than the Northern Ireland average. (Measured from 0-10 where 10 is the most positive for life satisfaction, worthwhile, happiness and 0 is the most positive for anxiety.)

**Table 5.1.1: Personal Wellbeing Measures (2014/15)**

| Personal Wellbeing Measures | LCC  | NI   |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Life Satisfaction           | 7.65 | 7.9  |
| Worthwhile                  | 7.83 | 8.1  |
| Happiness                   | 7.69 | 7.75 |
| Anxiety                     | 3.52 | 2.78 |

Source: Office for National Statistics: Personal well-being in the UK 2014/15

### Physical activity

It is recommended by the Department of Health, that people aged 19 and over should try to be active on a daily basis and have 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity a week.

In the Health Survey Northern Ireland 2016/2017, 55% of the respondents met the recommendations. Although a slight increase on previous years, 26% remained inactive. Men tend to be more active than women.

The Department for Health recommend that adults should undertake muscle strengthening physical activities which involves all the major muscle groups in the body at least twice a week. In 2016/17, 25% of respondents to the HSNI met the recommendations but 60% had no muscle building activity.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust showed similar results to Northern Ireland and those in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust were somewhat more active however the level of activity is still far below recommended levels.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Health Service Framework for Mental Health and Wellbeing 2018-2021

<sup>2</sup> The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 is a screening device for identifying minor psychiatric disorders in the general population and within community or non-psychiatric clinical settings.

<sup>3</sup> Office for National Statistics: Personal well-being in the UK 2014/15

**Table 5.1.2 Percentage of Population Meeting Recommended Physical Activity levels 2016/17**

|                           | Less than 30 minutes of exercise per week | 30-59 minutes of exercise per week | 60-149 minutes of exercise per week | Meets recommendations of at least 150 minutes per week | Meets recommended muscle strengthening exercise level- twice per week |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Overall</b>            | 26  | 6                                  | 13                                  | 55   | 25  |
| <b>Male</b>               | 22  | 6                                  | 14                                  | 61   | 30  |
| <b>Female</b>             | 28  | 6                                  | 14                                  | 51   | 22  |
| <b>Belfast HSCT</b>       | N/A                                       |                                    |                                     | 53   | 24  |
| <b>South Eastern HSCT</b> | N/A                                       |                                    |                                     | 60   | 27  |

\*All respondents aged over 19

Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2016/17

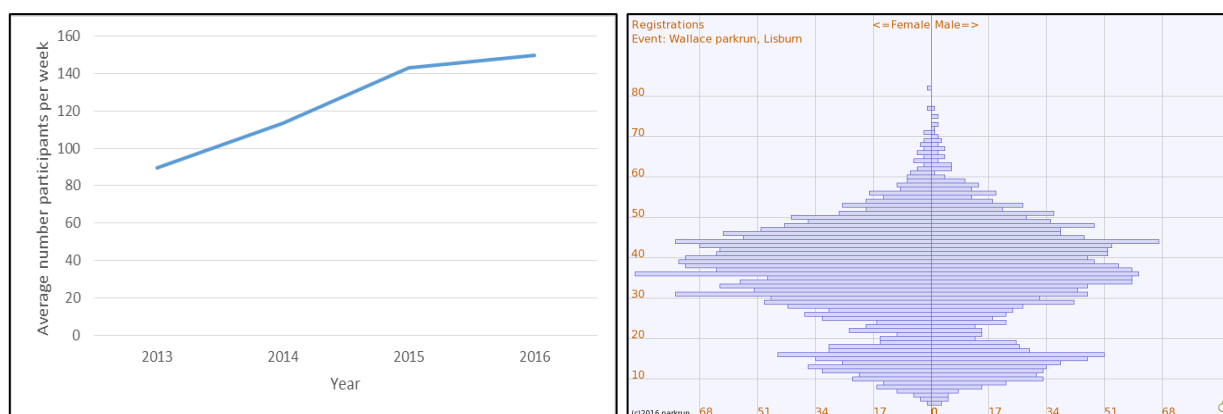
Data collected for time spent outdoors indicates that people in L&CCC consistently spend more leisure time outdoors than the Northern Ireland average.

**Table 5.1.3 Outdoor Leisure Time 2015-2017**

|                  | 2015  |  |   | 2016  |   |  | 2017  |       |   |  |   |       |
|------------------|---|--|---|-------|---|--|---|-------|---|--|---|-------|
|                  | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%) | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%) | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%) | Base  | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%) | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%) | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%) | Base  | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Once a week or more (%) | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Less frequent than once a week (%) | Persons spending leisure time outdoors: Never (%) | Base  |
| <b>NI</b>        | 66  | 23   | 11  | 3,286 | 67  | 22   | 11  | 3,262 | 72  | 22   | 6   | 2,818 |
| <b>L&amp;CCC</b> | 79  | 19   | 3   | 240   | 78  | 20   | 3   | 267   | 77  | 20   | 4   | 205   |

Source: Continuous Household Survey via Central Survey Unit, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

There is a weekly parkrun running event at Wallace Park in Lisburn in the council area which shows an increase in this form of participation in physical activity. The spread by age and gender shows that this attracts substantial numbers of female participants.

**Figure 5.1.2 Average weekly participants at Wallace parkrun and distribution by age and gender.**

Source: [wiki.parkrun.info](http://wiki.parkrun.info)

### Disability Sport

According to Disability Sport NI people with a disability are less than half as likely to participate in sport as non-disabled people<sup>1</sup>. On December 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 Lisburn and Castlereagh launched a Disability Sports Hub project at Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Carryduff. The Disability Sports Hub has a wide variety of disability sports equipment such as sports wheelchairs, hand cycles, boccia sets and a sensory activity pack.

### Children and physical activity

ARK (Access Research Knowledge - a joint initiative between Queens University and the University of Ulster) carries out an annual survey of P7-aged children and 16 year olds in NI. Commencing in 2015, ARK has been commissioned by Sport NI to include questions on sport and physical activity in the surveys, to provide a baseline and allow policy progress to be measured<sup>2,3</sup>.

The surveys found that around half (49%) of P7 children and four out of ten 42% 16 year olds reported that they walked or cycled to and from school. However only a third (32%) of P7 children and less than one in ten (8%) 16-year olds met the United Kingdom (UK) guideline target of a minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Large proportions of children are therefore not engaging regularly in physical activity. One in ten children felt they could not play freely with their friends in their community and children reported being able to play more freely with friends in school (84%), compared with being able to play with friends when in their communities or homes (77%). Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies<sup>4</sup> which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day and less than one in ten children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

### Greenways

Plans for a network of greenways connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils are set out in Exercise - Explore - Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways<sup>5</sup>, Department for Infrastructure, November 2016. This aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and give people ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure. This Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which a Secondary Greenway

<sup>1</sup> Continuous Household Survey 2014/15: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

<sup>2</sup> Schubotz, D., Lloyd, K. & McKnight, M. (2016) 'A Question of Sport - Perspectives of Children and Young People' ARK Research Update 107.

<sup>3</sup> McQuade, L., Kehoe, S. & Emerson, L. (2015) 'Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?' ARK Research Update 98

<sup>4</sup> The Guardian, 25th March 2016 'Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates – survey' (accessed 28.11.17)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/exercise-explore-enjoy-a-strategic-plan-for-greenways-november-2016-final.pdf>

Network could progressively extend across the region. Further information on greenways is included in sections 5.8 (Transport and Accessibility) and 5.12 (Natural Resources).

The Discussion Paper on Facilitating Economic Development includes a List of Tourism Assets many of which also provide opportunities for our residents to enjoy outdoor recreation.

#### *Diet*

Health Survey Northern Ireland data suggest that from 2010/11 to 2017/18 there has been little change in the composition of the diet with 46% of respondents consuming biscuits and 25% consuming sweets on most days of the week. There has been a marked drop in the percentage of respondents consuming fizzy drinks with 18% in 2016/17 compared to 29% in 2017/18. The most recent data showed that 38% of respondents consume five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day.

#### *Obesity*

Globally, around 39% of adults aged 18 and over were overweight or obese in 2016. According to the Health Survey NI 2017/18 64% of adults were either overweight (37%) or obese (27%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from the level of 56% reported in 1997, although has remained at a similar level since 2005/06. Of children (age 2 -15) 18% were classed as overweight and 9% as obese. In L&CCC the prevalence for those on the obesity register in 2015 was 100.2 compared to 109 per 1000 for Northern Ireland and the third lowest rate for all councils. The Health Inequalities Annual Report 2018 reports that Lisburn and Castlereagh has lower levels of overweight or obese children starting Primary 1 (20%) than the Northern Ireland average (21%). In conclusion, while the rate of obesity in L&CCC is relatively good in the Northern Ireland context, rates of overweight and obese people in Northern Ireland are high by global standards.

#### *Infant related health*

Measures relating to infant and associated maternal health are largely very positive for L&CCC in that it has the lowest rate of under 17 mothers, lowest proportion of mothers reporting as smokers and highest rate of breast feeding on discharge. According to the Department of Health<sup>2</sup> registrations for children with a dentist exceeded 70% across Northern Ireland with the highest percentage registered in Lisburn and Castlereagh at 78%.

#### *Providing care*

In the 2011 census 12.5% of people in L&CCC provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others. This unpaid care only relates to long-term physical or mental ill-health/disability or problems related to old age.

Carers allowance claimants is a measure of the number of people within our district that are dependent on carers. The data shows that the number of carers allowance claimants has been increasing steadily year on year since 2014 with 3,930 claimants in 2018 across our district.

#### *Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times*

The Department of Health (DoH) has overall responsibility for health policy and funding of major capital works. It is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to assess the health and social care needs of the population and to secure the care to meet those needs in keeping with available resources. The Council area is covered by the two Health and Social Care Trusts, Belfast - covering Belfast and part of Castlereagh and South Eastern - covering North Down, Lisburn and part of Castlereagh. There are two major general hospitals at Lagan Valley Hospital and Ulster Hospital. Dundonald and Knockbracken Healthcare facility provides in-patient services for people with mental health problems. The remainder of the Knockbracken estate is occupied by around thirty voluntary organisations who work in the healthcare field which brings benefits in integrating services.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health Family Practitioner Services Statistics for Northern Ireland 2018/19

The Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area has three bases for ambulances, two at the general hospitals and Derriaghy Ambulance Station. The Health Inequalities Sub Regional Report 2017 provides ambulance and fire response times annually from 2011 to 2015. The average ambulance response time has increased steadily for both Northern Ireland and for the Council area to 9 minutes 18 seconds which is 3 seconds faster than the Northern Ireland average.

### Safety

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service<sup>1</sup> reported the following incidents in L&CCC for the period April 2012 to March 2015.

**Table 5.1.6 NIFRS Incidents 2012/15**

| Incident                 | Number |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Dwelling Fires           | 190    |
| Fires in other buildings | 149    |
| Special Service Calls    | 293    |
| Road Traffic Collisions  | 181    |
| Vehicle Fires            | 165    |
| Wild Fires               | 134    |

Source: NIFRS Fire and Rescue Service Information, L&CCC Community Planning Useful Information

### Noise

The Environmental Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good', through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Under the Environmental Noise Regulations (NI) 2006, Round 3 noise maps have been produced based on 2016 data for the following:<sup>2</sup>

- major roads - (more than 3 million vehicle passages per year)
- major railways - (railways with more than 30,000 train passages per year)
- major airports - (airports with more than 50,000 movements per year)
- agglomerations - (urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants)

Noise maps of relevance to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council include those published for industrial sites, major roads and major railways, all of which are evident in the district. The city of Lisburn is included within the 'Belfast agglomeration'. The most affected areas from related noise appear to be industrial areas to the north and west of Lisburn, and the main road corridors<sup>3</sup>.

DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas in policy guidance and in connection with the city of Belfast. One possible 'Quiet Area' has been identified designated in the district, at Tullycarnet Park and Bowling Green.

The total number of noise complaints in Northern Ireland has remained fairly constant over the previous ten years, varying between 11,099 and 12,193. There was a 13% increase in noise complaints received from 2015/16 to 2016/17. Analysis of the 2016/17 data reveals that domestic noise accounted for 80.3% of all complaints, followed by complaints relating to commerce and leisure (7.8%), noise in the street (4.4%) and construction noise (3.1%); the proportion of noise complaints attributable to each category varies little year on year. For L&CCC there were 468 complaints in 2016/17 the top three sources, accounting for 80% of complaints, were noise from animals (291), Music Televisions Parties (50) and Other Neighbour Noise (24).

<sup>1</sup> [www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/community-planning-useful-information/northern-ireland-fire-rescue-service-information](http://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/community-planning/community-planning-useful-information/northern-ireland-fire-rescue-service-information)

<sup>2</sup> DAERA [Round 3 Noise Maps and Noise Mapping](#) Technical Reports (Date published: 26 January 2018)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA: Noise Mapping and Action Planning Contract Round 3 – 2016/17 Summary Report – Final January 2018



Trend data is not available as it was collected on the former council level. Data for previous councils show that the rate of complaints was lower than the Northern Ireland average rate.

### Radon

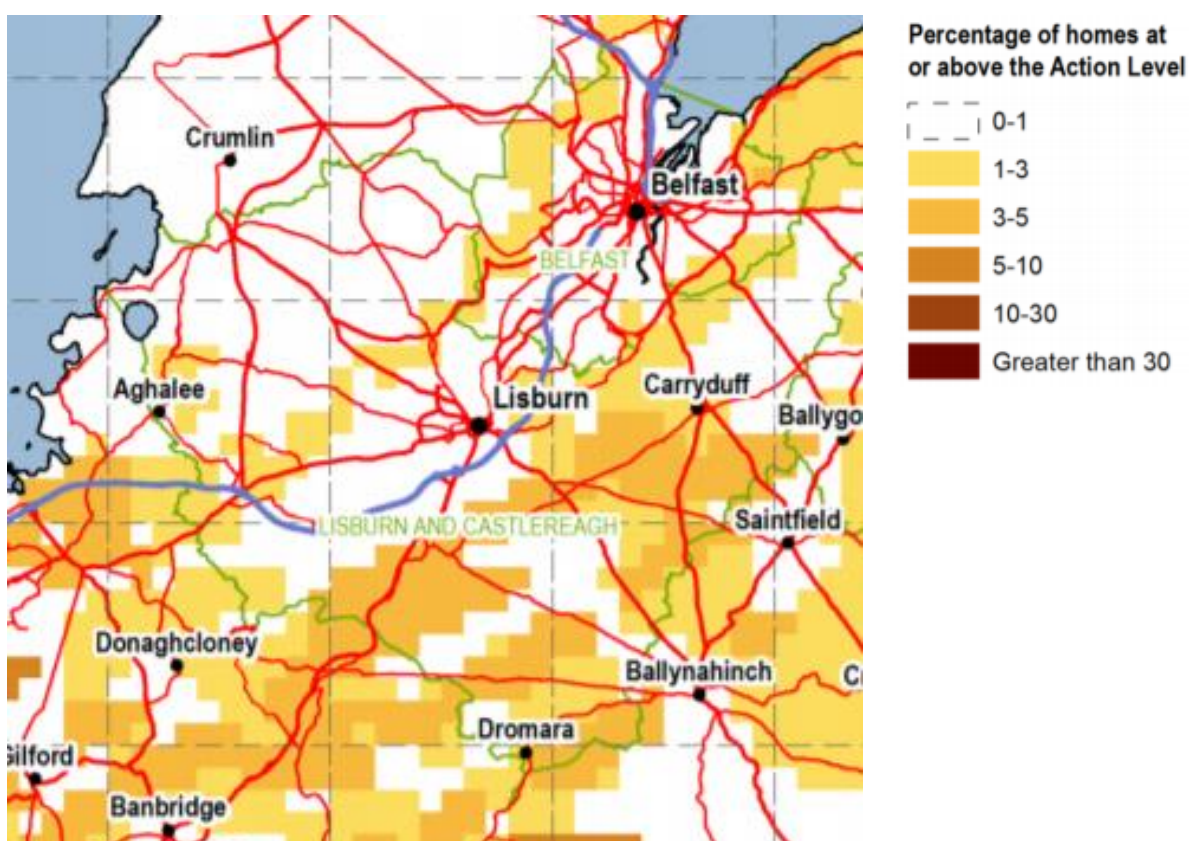
Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but which can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers or ex-smokers. After smoking, radon exposure is the second greatest cause of lung cancer. It is estimated to cause 30 deaths per year in NI<sup>1</sup>.

Public Health England (in conjunction with the GSNI) published a new indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland in 2015. It estimates that some 155,000 homes, about 1 in 5 in Northern Ireland, are now in 'Affected Areas'<sup>2</sup>.

An extract from this atlas is shown in Figure 5.1.3. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre.

The atlas helps to inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes. It can be seen in Figure 5.1.3 that there are no areas in Lisburn and Castlereagh with a 10% or greater probability of exceeding the recommended action level for Radon.

Figure 5.1.3 Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas'



Source: Radon in NI: Indicative Atlas August 2015 © Crown copyright and British Geological Survey © NERC 2015

<sup>1</sup> NI Direct Radon Gas in your Home (found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/radon-gas-your-home](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/radon-gas-your-home))

<sup>2</sup> Gov.uk "New Radon Map for Northern Ireland Published" (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-radon-map-for-northern-ireland-published>)



### 5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP), relevant planning policy statements (PPSs), would all still be applied.

Some of the measures of health such as asthma may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. While there are other environmental controls in place, the lack of a plan would mean that there is less opportunity to site development to reduce negative interactions between uses.

### 5.1.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

- The population is predicted to rise to 159,847 by the year 2032.
- Trends indicate an aging population (number of people over 65 years is growing and is expected to reach 23% of the total population in L&CCC by 2032 (NISRA 2016-based population projections). Many older people have to live on reduced incomes, have disabilities and reduced mobility.
- Levels of physical activity are relatively high in L&CCC however much lower than recommended levels.
- There is a need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- In particular, there is a need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- Also there will be a need to enable older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Levels of obesity in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with greenways where possible.
- Increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- Need to protect and enhance biodiversity to promote positive health benefits.
- Improve road safety for all users through planning and design.
- Ambulance response times have been increasing across Northern Ireland; the location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times.
- L&CCC shows a lower rate of health deprivation and disability compared with Northern Ireland but there is an inequality in health with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- Major transport infrastructure has the potential to cause noise disturbance, air pollution or safety risks which can be reduced through siting and design.
- There are some communities within the Council area which experience problems of multiple deprivation particularly in parts of Lisburn City and Dundonald where income and employment are the key concerns.
- Overall, the health of the area is improving with people living longer. However, there are inequalities in health across the area with long term disability being a particular problem.

## 5.2 Community

### 5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Community considers demographics, community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime and community safety, good relations and the rural population.

An understanding of changes in the makeup of the population informs future needs for the plan area for housing, employment, infrastructure, facilities and amenities. Models of the future population take account of other policies, net migration and, for example, health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths. A consistent requirement of policies related to the various demographic groups is the need to incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

Delivering Social Change seeks to reduce inequalities, often through targeted approaches, and the draft Programme for Government includes an outcome that 'We have a more equal society' which includes measures to reduce poverty, health and educational inequality and also relates to employment.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPSS 'sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale' is representative of regional rural policy. It seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of our countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas. There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes Age-friendly practices. It states that '*An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people that are important to them.*'<sup>1</sup> This ethos is reflected in the objectives of the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 which includes aims such as the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing and timely and reliable transport provision. Other aims include social participation and volunteering opportunities which help address isolation and loneliness and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision making on policies and the provision of services. The draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 promotes co-operation amongst Departments, Agencies and other service deliverers. Its aims include that children and young people are provided the opportunity to experience good relations with those of a different race, religion or culture.

Together: Building a United Community has a vision for 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package.

The Community Safety Action Plan includes an action for Councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, deter anti-social behaviour and to address growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.

Our Corporate Plan has 'Our Community,' as one of its five themes. This includes the aim to grow the pride, social cohesion, self-help and capacity of all our communities, increasing economic, social and environmental wellbeing. The key actions largely relate to promoting greater community involvement, developing community hubs and strengthening inclusivity and equality across the

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization – Ageing and lifecourse/Towards an Age-friendly world (found at <https://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-world/en/>)

community. The Council's vision for their Community Plan 2017-2032 is an 'empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community.' One of the five outcomes of the Community Plan is that 'we live in empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities.' Progress towards achieving this will be measured by indicators relating to levels of recorded crime, civic participation and respect for cultural identity. Actions to address the indicators will be delivered through a Community Action Plan for each of the five outcomes taken forward by our five Themed Action Planning Groups. Each themed Action Plan has a number of corresponding actions illustrating 'why we are doing it, what is our target, how we are going to achieve it, who is going to do it, what resources are needed and what supporting outcome does this address.'

### 5.2.2 Baseline information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in Lisburn and Castlereagh's Community Plan 2017-2032. Data has also been sourced from statistical baseline reports used for the Community Plan, as well as Local Development Plan Position Papers on Population and Growth (Paper 1) and Position Paper 14: Education, Health, Community & Cultural Facilities 2015.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service data in general and its Area Profile for L&CCC at December 2016 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2018 Equality Awareness Survey which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment. The survey of over 1000 people followed a similar structure and content to that of the Commission's previous Equality Awareness Surveys (2011 and 2008).

#### *Population*

In 2001, the then Lisburn City Council District and Castlereagh Borough Council were predominately urban with over 65% of the population in Lisburn District and over 82% of Castlereagh District living in designated settlements while the remainder lived in Rural Settlements and the Rural Remainder. Following the 2015 changes to the Local Government Boundaries approximately 83% (114,055) of the population in the L&CCC is urban based with a rural remainder population figure of approximately 22,753<sup>1</sup>.

The 2017 population density (283.7 persons/km<sup>2</sup>) is the third highest after Belfast and Ards and North Down and therefore is high in relation to the Northern Ireland average of 137.9 persons/km<sup>2</sup> which may mean greater pressure on resources and infrastructure.

#### *Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religious belief*

On Census Day, 27th March 2011, 24% of the L&CCC resident population belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 67% belonged to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' religion. 1% belonged to other religions and 8% recorded none.

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<sup>1</sup> LDP Position Paper 1: Population and Growth published December 2017

Table 5.2.2 Religion L&amp;CCC in comparison to Northern Ireland

| DEA2014                     | 2011                |                        |  |                               |                           |                                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                             | All usual residents | Religion: Catholic (%) | Protestant & other Christian (including Christian related) % | Religion: Other religions (%) | Religion: No religion (%) | Religion: Religion not stated (%) |
| Northern Ireland            | 1810863             | 40.76                  | 41.56  | 0.82                          | 10.11                     | 6.75                              |
| CASTLEREAGH EAST            | 18477               | 4.18                   | 71.96  | 1.02                          | 17.29                     | 5.54                              |
| CASTLEREAGH SOUTH           | 22987               | 41.29                  | 37.46  | 1.4                           | 14.75                     | 5.11                              |
| DOWNSHIRE EAST              | 15889               | 10.33                  | 69.64  | 0.78                          | 14.14                     | 5.11                              |
| DOWNSHIRE WEST              | 15750               | 13.33                  | 67.31  | 0.99                          | 13.47                     | 4.9                               |
| KILLULTAGH                  | 19049               | 30.64                  | 51.75  | 0.64                          | 12.48                     | 4.5                               |
| LISBURN NORTH               | 21174               | 22.08                  | 54.65  | 1.12                          | 15.78                     | 6.36                              |
| LISBURN SOUTH               | 21515               | 18.73                  | 58.49  | 0.8                           | 14.84                     | 7.13                              |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD | 134841              | 21.17                  | 57.54  | 0.98                          | 14.73                     | 5.58                              |

Source: NISRA Census 2011

The proportion of the population belonging to or brought up in the Catholic religion was much lower than the Northern Ireland level and the proportion brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian religion much higher. Those of other religions were a similar percentage to Northern Ireland and the number reporting no religion was significantly higher. The 2018 Equality Awareness Survey reported that half of respondents (50%) were of the opinion that no groups were treated unfairly compared to other groups in Northern Ireland.<sup>1</sup>

In the 2011 census 2.36% of the resident population of the Council area were from an ethnic minority population (NI: 1.72%) and the remaining 97.64% were white (including Irish Traveller) (NI: 98.28%)<sup>2</sup>. 2.36% of the residents of L&CCC reported that they did not have English as their first language<sup>3</sup>.

Table 5.2.3 presents 2011 data on ethnicity and 5.2.4 on country of birth. This show that the non-white population of 2.36% is higher than the Northern Ireland level of 1.72% and the Chinese, Indian and Other Asian groups have significantly higher representation than elsewhere in Northern Ireland. The 2011 Census recorded 35 Irish Travellers in the L&CCC area.

Table 5.2.3 Ethnic Group L&amp;CCC in comparison to Northern Ireland

| LGD2014                           | Northern Ireland | Lisburn and Castlereagh |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Ethnic group: White (%)           | 98.21            | 97.61                   |
| Ethnic group: Chinese (%)         | 0.35             | 0.51                    |
| Ethnic group: Irish Traveller (%) | 0.07             | 0.03                    |
| Ethnic group: Indian (%)          | 0.34             | 0.49                    |
| Ethnic group: Pakistani (%)       | 0.06             | 0.08                    |
| Ethnic group: Bangladeshi (%)     | 0.03             | 0.03                    |
| Ethnic group: Other Asian (%)     | 0.28             | 0.47                    |
| Ethnic group: Black Caribbean (%) | 0.02             | 0.02                    |
| Ethnic group: Black African (%)   | 0.13             | 0.15                    |
| Ethnic group: Black other (%)     | 0.05             | 0.04                    |
| Ethnic group: Mixed (%)           | 0.33             | 0.41                    |
| Ethnic group: Other (%)           | 0.13             | 0.15                    |

Source NISRA Census 2011

<sup>1</sup> Equality Awareness Survey 2018

<sup>2</sup> NINIS Census 2011: Ethnic Group: KS201NI (administrative geographies)

<sup>3</sup> Census 2011 Population Statistics for Lisburn and Castlereagh (2014)

L&CCC has a similar proportion (to Northern Ireland) of its population born outside Northern Ireland (11.3%). The 2018 Equality Awareness Survey found that attitudes towards the different groups were generally positive. The previous negative attitudes that existed towards travellers fell from 30% in 2011 to 19% in 2016.

**Table 5.2.4 Country of birth L&CCC in comparison to Northern Ireland**

| LGD2014  | Northern Ireland | Lisburn and Castlereagh |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| All usual residents  | 1810863          | 134841                  |
| Country of birth: Northern Ireland (%)                                   | 88.84            | 88.72                   |
| Country of birth: England (%)  | 3.57             | 4.31                    |
| Country of birth: Scotland (%)   | 0.85             | 1.03                    |
| Country of birth: Wales (%)  | 0.14             | 0.2                     |
| Country of birth: Republic of Ireland (%)                                | 2.09             | 1.44                    |
| Country of birth: Other EU: Member countries prior to 2004 expansion (%) | 0.54             | 0.61                    |
| Country of birth: Other EU: Accession countries 2004 onwards (%)         | 1.97             | 1.18                    |
| Country of birth: Other (%)  | 1.99             | 2.5                     |

Source: NISRA Census 2011

#### *Political opinion*

Position Paper 1 Population and Growth reports on political opinion based on former council areas at 2011. This shows that the level of support for unionist parties was much higher than for nationalist and other parties or independents. At the 2019 Local Elections the results for the different political parties were as follows;

- Alliance - 9 Councillors elected
- Democratic Unionist Party- 15 Councillors elected
- Green Party- 1 Councillor elected
- Social Democratic Labour Party- 2 Councillors elected
- Sinn Fein- 2 Councillors elected
- Ulster Unionist Party- 11 Councillors elected

#### *Marital status*

Between 2001 and 2011 there has been an increase in the number of single people in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>. In L&CCC the trend is similar albeit with slightly more married people (57.15%) than the Northern Ireland average (51.63%)<sup>2</sup>. The proportion of divorced (5.52%) and widowed (6.68%) was close to that for Northern Ireland.

Increases in 'single' may be deceptive - increasing numbers of couples may choose not to marry, e.g. the Registrar General's report of 2017 notes that 43 per cent of births in 2016 occurred outside of marriage, compared to only 13 per cent three decades ago.

Single people may have different housing requirements and may have less purchasing power or different social needs to those who are married. Young single people may be a key consideration in the economy of town centres, as they can provide a significant part of the market for the evening economy, for example in pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, single people may also experience social exclusion, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents.

<sup>1</sup> NISRA Marital Status (administrative geographies), 2001 Census and NISRA Marital Status and Civil Partnership Status by age, 2011 Census

<sup>2</sup> L&CCC LDP Position Paper 1: Population and Growth December 2017

### Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at L&CCC level and there are no direct measures therefore while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2018 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons in 2011 (22%), this fell to 9% in 2016 and negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 6% in 2016 with a 83% change to positive views.

### Gender

On Census day 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 49.03% of the usually resident population were male and 50.97% were female. The Health and Wellbeing chapter of this report highlights that both male and female life expectancy is slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average.

### Persons with a disability and persons without

Sections 4.24 to 4.27 of Position Paper 1 reports on data relating to disability for L&CCC. Overall, the health of the area is improving but over 1 in 5 residents (20.69%) in L&CCC suffer from a limiting long term illness. There are likely to be discrepancies across L&CCC reflecting differences in the age composition and deprivation.

**Table 5.2.5 Disability Free Life Expectancy Northern Ireland**

|           | Male | Female |
|-----------|------|--------|
| 2008-2010 | 61.3 | 62.7   |
| 2009-2011 | 61.1 | 62.3   |
| 2010-2012 | 60.2 | 60.8   |
| 2015-2017 | 59.1 | 60.3   |

Source: NISRA Disability Free Life Expectancy (administrative geographies)

### Persons with dependants and persons without

Sections 4.16 to 4.17 of LDP Position Paper 1 reports on data relating to households with dependent children for L&CCC. Table 12 presents census data for households with dependent children which have decreased from 46.32% in 1981 to 34.5% in 2011 which was slightly above the NI Average.

### Outdoor Shared Space- Community Facilities

Within the district, there are a variety of facilities available for people to use or visit that can be considered 'shared space' and that can help to maintain people's health and well-being through physical activity. Examples include playing pitches, outdoor gyms, allotments, community gardens and equipped play areas.

The development of Hillsborough Castle by Historic Royal Palaces is expected to attract 200,000 visitors each year. This is a huge boost to tourism in the area and there are related plans for Hillsborough Forest and the Public Realm in Hillsborough village.

It is also proposed to redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl as a leisure and community hub. The development of these community facilities contribute to the Council's Community Plan's Vision for an 'empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community'. By developing new green spaces and improving existing ones, it should improve access and deliver programmes to ensure physical activity, healthy weight and positive mental health for all everyone.

### Placemaking

The LDP process provides an opportunity to shape shared space to maximise its value for people. Also known as 'placemaking', urban design can be integrated with patterns of use that reflect community identities. Public spaces can perform a function as well as benefit people's physical and mental well-being.



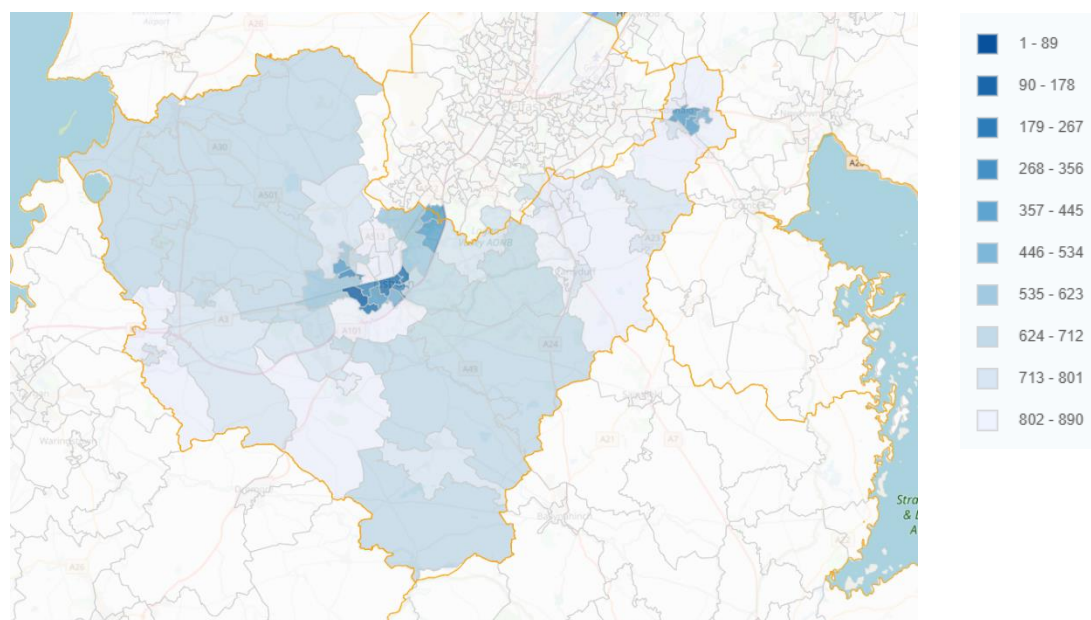
### Crime, Safety and Deprivation

The Lisburn and Castlereagh City Police District police the Council area. Communities living in L&CCC now have two Local Policing Teams based in Lisburn and Castlereagh Police Stations. These officers are also supported by Neighbourhood Policing Teams, based in Lisburn Police Station who are deployed to areas to deal with critical issues. The fifth outcome of the Community Plan is that people within L&CCC 'live in empowered, harmonious, safe and welcoming communities.' Supporting Outcome F aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The overall incidence of crime in L&CCC has steadily declined from 2001 to 2015 and this is largely reflected in the breakdown for burglary, theft and criminal damage. There has however been an increase in violence and drugs related offences.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Baseline Report published in June 2016 also reports that between 2008/09 and 2014/15 there has been an increase in offences with a domestic abuse motivation (39%) and also an increase in incidents with a sectarian motivation<sup>1</sup>.

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 scores areas in NI across several deprivation domains including income, employment, access to services and crime. Scores range from one (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived). Spatially there is a wide range of scores across the Council area. For the overall Multiple Deprivation score Old Warren in Lisburn scores the lowest at 118, whilst Galwally scores the highest at 883. Hilden 2 also scores the lowest for income (92) with Old Warren scoring second lowest at 137. Old Warren also scores lowest (93) in the Health and Disability domain rank and Education, Skills and Training domain rank (84). In terms of crime and disorder Lagan Valley 2, Hilden 1 and Old Warren rank lowest with respective scores of 78, 99 and 171. All three areas are located within Lisburn. Overall, relative to other Council Areas L&CCC has no areas within the top 100 for multiple deprivation measures. The highest ranking for multiple deprivation are evident in and around Lisburn City. Access to services is an issue across the more rural areas of the Council with Ballinderry 1, Ballymacbrennan 1 & 2 and Glenavy 2 all within the top 100 most deprived in relation to access to services.

**Figure 5.2.2 Spatial Profile of L&CCC and its areas of Multiple Deprivation**



Source: NISRA:NINIS: NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

<sup>1</sup> Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Baseline Report: published June 2016

## Rural

While there are a number of Super Output Areas described as being either predominantly rural or mixed rural/urban there are none of these areas and no Small Areas that are more than 30 minutes from a city or town centre.

**Table 5.2.7 Rural Areas**

| SOA Name          | 2015 Default Urban/Rural | Drive time to nearest city/town centre within: |                       |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|                   |                          | 20 minutes (Yes / No)                          | 30 minutes (Yes / No) |
| Moneyreagh_2      | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Ballinderry_1     | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Ballinderry_2     | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Ballymacbrennan_1 | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Ballymacbrennan_2 | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Dromara_1         | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Dromara_2         | Rural                    | N  | Y                     |
| Drumbo_1          | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Drumbo_2          | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Glenavy_1         | Rural                    | N  | Y                     |
| Glenavy_2         | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Hillsborough_1    | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Hillsborough_2    | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Maghaberry_1      | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Maghaberry_2      | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Maze_1            | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Maze_2            | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Moira_1           | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Moira_2           | Rural                    | Y  | Y                     |
| Ballyhanwood_2    | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Carryduff West_1  | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Moneyreagh_1      | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Ballymacoss_3     | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Blaris_2          | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Derryaghy_3       | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Hillhall_2        | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Lambeg_1          | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |
| Lambeg_2          | Mixed urban/rural        | Y  | Y                     |

Source: NISRA Urban Rural Status (Settlement 2015)

### 5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, SPPS, Local Area Plans and relevant PPSs, would all still be applied. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions.

Population trends are largely influenced by other factors such as birth and death rate which in turn reflect many other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place shaping to make it more attractive to live.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) was intended to be the Development Plan on its adoption in September 2014. This Plan was subsequently declared unlawful following a successful legal challenge and therefore remains in its entirety unadopted. As a result, the existing Development Plans covering the Council area remains in use (see section 3.2 of this report for full list). These area plans were not prepared in the context of the new council areas and does not reflect the economic growth and social development for our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our council area or support delivery of our community plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.



### 5.2.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

The evidence relating to the population, community and safety indicates the following issues to be considered in preparing the LDP.

- There will be a growing population and the plan will need to meet the need for more dwellings.
- The population density is high in relation to the average for Northern Ireland which makes the need for accessible open space more important.
- Some areas have seen substantial growth over the last five years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population.
- Some areas have seen significant population decline over the last five years, there is a need to ensure that this does not have a long term adverse effect on them as places to live or do business.
- A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.
- People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely through the council area with multiple issues in Old Warren and Hillhall 1 as well as more widespread problems relating to education, skills and training; living environment.
- Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services.
- There is a commitment and desire to promote social inclusion through shared, welcoming and accessible places.
- Need to plan for and meet the needs of diverse groups in the council area, this may include allowing for facilities to meet specific needs.
- Some parts of L&CCC have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- The needs and experience of different parts of L&CCC's society differ and are best expressed by representatives of the range of groups. Some of this may be gained through the Community Planning process and also through being proactive in inviting comment on and participation in plan preparation from all groups.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse, however the needs of minority groups such as Irish Travellers must be taken into account.
- There will continue to be a need for childcare facilities, nursery, primary and secondary schools as well as accessibility to community and leisure facilities particularly in the short term.

## 5.3 Housing

### 5.3.1 Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies

Good quality sustainable housing is a fundamental need of society and can make a significant positive contribution to the character of our built environment. It is the role of the Local Development Plan to proactively facilitate the delivery of homes to meet the variety of future housing needs, together with the opportunities for people living there to make healthy lifestyle choices and benefit from community services and facilities.

Our regional policy recognises the importance of housing in relation to sustainable development. It acknowledges the potential links between good quality, sustainable housing that enables access to jobs, facilities, services and infrastructure, and the benefits this can bring to wider society. Policy encourages housing near to public transport links and in residential areas with adequate facilities already in place. Consideration of local character and the environment, as well as attractive design, are also viewed as key elements for sustainable development.

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influences the independence and quality of life of older people. New homes should be capable of being lifetime homes and be built to wheelchair accessible standards. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through design which encourages walking and cycling and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be tackled through housing design that aims for a low carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation.

Regional policy recognises that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This can be achieved by promoting housing within existing hubs and clusters and by using vacant and underutilised sites including brownfield sites. Regional policy encourages 60% of new housing to be in the hubs and clusters and to use brownfield sites. The needs of rural dwellers, those on low incomes, the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and the homeless should also be considered in housing policy.

The Lisburn and Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2018 was produced by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and identifies a number of desired outcomes in terms of housing in Lisburn and Castlereagh. The vision for Lisburn and Castlereagh is one where 'housing plays its part in creating a peaceful, inclusive, prosperous and fair society.' The plan aims to deliver sustainable communities, living in dwellings of a decent standard and in sufficient numbers to meet local needs in both rural and urban areas. Outcomes identified in the plan include developing low carbon homes and reducing fuel poverty, assisting in home ownership and increasing the supply of affordable renting to meet community needs and providing suitable accommodation and support services for vulnerable residents.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2018/2022 and beyond sets the overall strategic direction with a number of outcomes related to people, prosperity and place. The vision for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (L&CCC) is that it will be 'a connected, growing city recognised locally and regionally as a progressive, dynamic and inclusive council working in partnership to develop our community and improve the quality of people's lives.

Our Community Plan 2017-2032 aims to create 'an empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community,' by working together to deliver better lives for all. There are five overarching outcomes of the Community Plan and ensuring that 'neighbourhoods are designed and regenerated to promote wellbeing' and that 'everyone lives in an affordable home that meets their needs' are just some aspects of these. The Community Plan recognises that a supply of suitable housing which is suited to a range of needs, with diversity of tenure, appropriate size, accessibility and energy efficiency is fundamental.

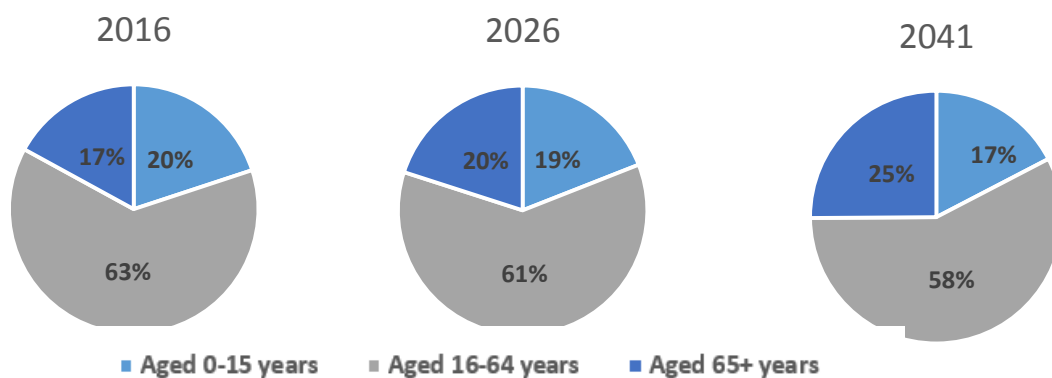
### 5.3.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the Council's Local Development Plan Position Paper 2: Housing & Settlements. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being and Community sections of this report.

#### *Households Projections and Profile*

In 2016 the number of households within Lisburn and Castlereagh was 55,289. Households are projected to increase by 23.9% by 2041, with the number of households projected to be 68,511.<sup>1</sup> Household growth in Lisburn and Castlereagh is third highest across the region with the highest predicted in Mid Ulster at 26.8%. Regionally household sizes are decreasing with the average household size expected to be 2.42 by 2041. Similar to regional household trends the projected household size with L&CCC Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is expected to decrease to 2.41 persons by 2041. The proportion of the population over 65 living in L&CCC is slightly higher than the NI average<sup>2</sup>. By 2041 the proportion of people over 65 is expected to account for just under a quarter of Northern Ireland's population, this trend is reflected within L&CCC. The growing proportion of the population age 65 and over is likely to increase the need for housing that can accommodate the needs of the elderly.

**Figure 5.3.1: Age Distribution of Population L&CCC 2016, 2026 and 2041**



Source: NISRA: 2016 based Population Projections

#### *Housing Growth Indicators*

Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) provide an estimate of future housing need in Northern Ireland. The figures are based on current population/ household formation trends and assume that these trends will continue into the future<sup>3</sup>.

Central government provided a Housing Growth Indicator figure of 9 600 covering the period 2012-2025. This gives an annual figure of 738 dwellings. Projected from 2017- 2032 this gives an allocation of 11 070 dwellings over the lifetime of the Local Development Plan (2017-2032.)

**Table 5.3.1: Projected New Dwelling Requirement Lisburn and Castlereagh**

| Projected Annual Yield | Projected New Dwelling Requirement 2017-2032 |
|------------------------|--|
| 738                    | 11, 070                                      |

Source: Local Development Plan Position Paper 2: Housing and Settlements

<sup>1</sup> NISRA 2016 based household projections for Northern Ireland, published in December 2018

<sup>2</sup> NISRA, Northern Ireland Population Projections 2016-2041

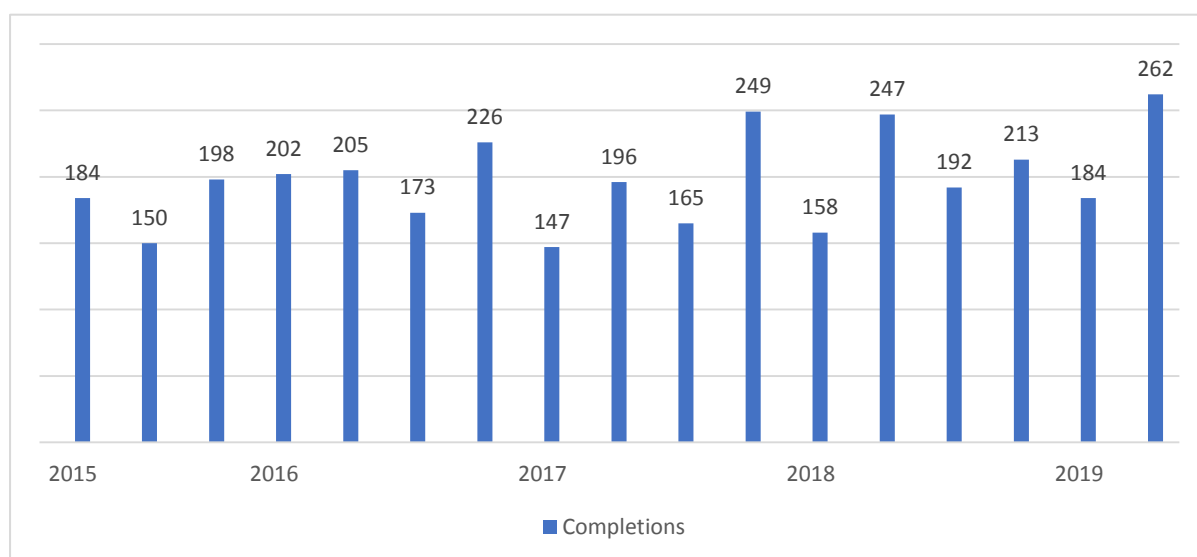
<sup>3</sup> NISRA/ Land and Property Services, 2012 based Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs)

DfI released updated HGI figures on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The newest HGI figure for L&CCC for the period covering 2016-2030 is 10,700 which is an uplift 1,100 dwellings from the previous HGI calculation. This gives an annual figure of 764 units a year.

### *Dwelling Completion Rates*

In 2012, the projected annual dwelling completion rate was approximately 623 dwellings per annum based on dwelling completion data over 2010-11 to 2014-15<sup>1</sup>. Completion rates are based on historical trend data and therefore reflect economic conditions at the time. The latest dwelling completion rates for the district show a general increase in the number of dwellings completed since Q2 2015 with the highest number of dwellings being completed in Q2 2019.<sup>2</sup> In 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively the annual dwelling completion rate exceeded the 2015 projected annual rate of 738.

**Figure 5.3.2: New Dwelling Completions Lisburn and Castlereagh (Q2 2015- Q2 2019)**



Source: Land and Property Services, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics, 2019

New dwelling development in L&CCC has been driven by the private sector with 90% of new dwellings between Q2 2015- Q2 2019 being completed by this sector<sup>3</sup>.

### *Affordable Housing*

The Housing Executive currently defines affordable housing as 'social rented housing and intermediate housing for eligible households<sup>4</sup>.' Demand for social rented housing is prevalent within L&CCC as indicated by the Lisburn and Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan (HIP) 2019-23. Social rented housing need for the district has remained at a consistently high level during this time and those in housing stress has increased from 1173 in 2015 to 1535 in 2019. The Housing Executive report that social rented sector allocations have remained consistent at this time (circa 500) which displays evidence that the social rented housing provision needs to be increased to meet ever growing demand.

The five-year assessment for 2019-23 projects a need for 1,015 new social rented housing units in the L&CCC area. Housing need is highest around Lisburn City with single, older persons and small family households comprising 90% of the housing stress waiting list<sup>5</sup>.

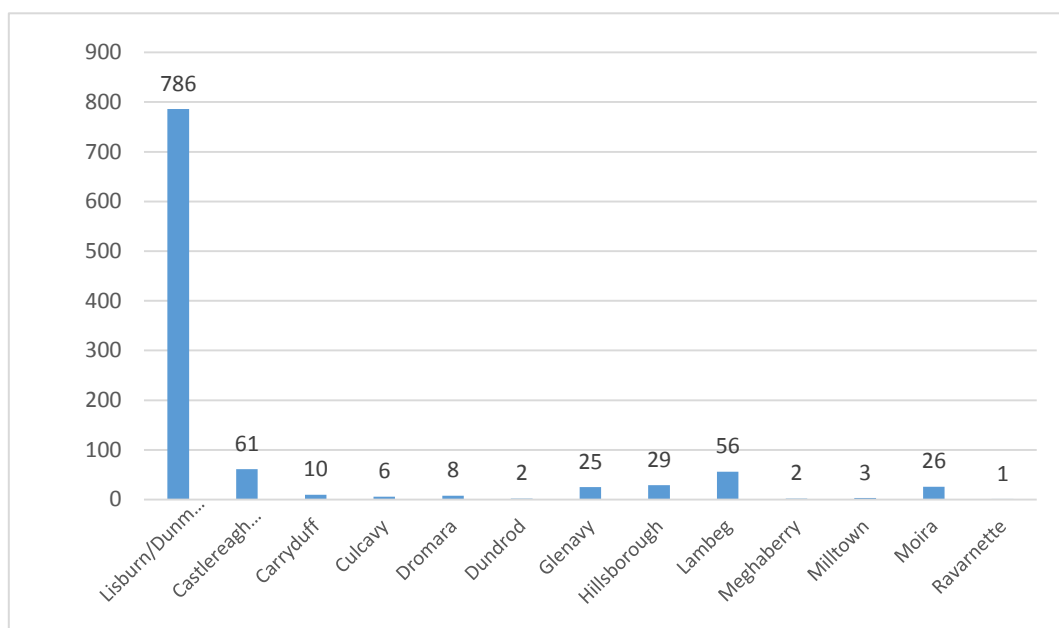
<sup>1</sup> NISRA/ Land and Property Services, 2012 based Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs)

<sup>2</sup> Land and Property Services, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Land and Property Services, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Statistics, 2019

<sup>4</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

<sup>5</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

**Figure 5.3.3: Social Rented Housing Need by Settlement Lisburn & Castlereagh 2018-23**

Source: Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

There are a number of social rented affordable housing schemes planned and started as part of the Social Housing Development Programme<sup>1</sup>. In 2018, 351 units were onsite mainly across Lisburn and Dunmurry. Another 696 social rented affordable housing units are planned with the 2019-22 scheme<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 5.3.2: Number of Social Rented Affordable Housing Units Onsite and Planned 2018-2022**

| Social Rented Affordable Housing Schemes | Onsite 2018 | Planned 2018-22 | Total |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| <b>Units</b>                             | 351         | 696             | 1047  |

Source: Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

Ensuring there is land available to supply housing in areas of need has become more difficult, with NIHE reporting that in recent years' areas of housing need have emerged in areas where NIHE does not own land. NIHE aim to target affordable housing on land already owned by them and where such land is unavailable they recommend that Housing Associations and developers refer to the Housing Executives Commissioning Prospectus.

The L&CCC HIP 2019-23 highlights that low income households may encounter difficulties accessing the owner occupied market thus creating a demand for intermediate housing. NIHE estimates that intermediate housing demand for L&CCC will be approximately 145 units per annum between 2018 and 2028. There was an active stock of 1,097 co-ownership homes in March 2019, of which 104 were purchased during 2018/19.

#### *Housing Supply and Distribution*

Currently 340 hectares of zoned housing land is still remaining for development in Lisburn City, the two Metropolitan Areas of Lisburn and Castlereagh, and the towns of Carryduff, Hillsborough/Culcavy and Moira. In addition, 91 hectares of land is committed for housing outside the housing zonings in these settlements. There are currently 25 hectares of land designated as Housing Policy Area Land

<sup>1</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

<sup>2</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-23

remaining in all the villages and an additional 24 hectares committed for housing. The small settlements have mostly limited land remaining for housing consisting of infill sites and rounding-off.

Existing Development Plans within L&CCC define the settlement strategy for the Council area. The Belfast Metropolitan Plan 2015 (BMAP) defines the Settlement Strategy for both Lisburn and Castlereagh districts. However, the Court of Appeal found BMAP to be unlawfully adopted in May 2017 and therefore the Lisburn Area Plan (LAP) 2001, Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001, Ballymacoss Local Plan, Lisburn Town Centre Plan and Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005 now operate as the adopted statutory plans with draft BMAP as a material planning consideration<sup>1</sup>.

Figure 5.34 shows the percentage of land allocated for housing that has been developed within Lisburn City, Metropolitan Lisburn and Castlereagh and the towns of Hillsborough and Culcavy, Moira and Carryduff.

**Figure 5.3.4: Percentage of Developed Land Allocated Within Main Towns as of 2014 Housing Monitor**



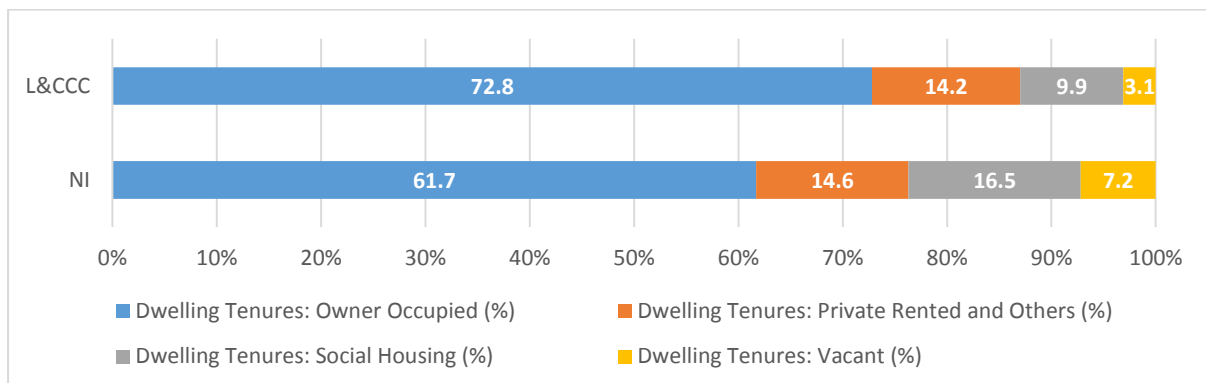
Source: Local Development Plan- Position Paper 2: Housing & Settlements

Of the 2016-17 rural approvals approximately 38% were for new rural single dwellings. The new rural dwelling approval rate is commensurate with the Northern Ireland average of 89%<sup>2</sup>.

*Tenure and Housing Type*

In 2011, owner occupation accounted for just under 62% of housing tenure in Northern Ireland. The percentage of owner occupiers in L&CCC accounted for approximately 73% of all housing stock which is significantly higher than the NI average<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 5.3.5: Lisburn and Castlereagh Dwelling Tenure 2011**



Source: NISRA, Dwelling Tenure (administrative geographies) 2011

<sup>1</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh Development Plan Position Paper 2: Housing & Settlements

<sup>2</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh Development Plan Position Paper 2: Housing & Settlements

<sup>3</sup> NISRA, Dwelling Tenure (administrative geographies) 2011

Trends between 2006 and 2011 show a decline in owner occupation in Northern Ireland whilst in 2013/14 figures from the continuous Household Survey show continued growth in the private rented sector<sup>1</sup>. Whilst the owner occupied sector accounts for the largest proportion of dwelling tenure in L&CCC the private rented sector will play an increasingly important role meeting the needs of younger households on lower incomes. High levels of demand for social rented housing in some areas will also increase demand for private rented accommodation<sup>2</sup>.

L&CCC was the District Council area with the largest percentage increase in housing stock between 2008 and 2018 with an increase of 13.62%. L&CCC has a higher percentage of semi-detached dwellings and slightly more detached dwellings than the Northern Ireland average. This is balanced by significantly fewer terrace houses and slightly fewer apartments.

**Table 5.3.6: Number of Dwellings by Type - April 2018**

| District Council        | Apartment | Detached | Semi-Detached | Terrace | Total Housing Stock |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|---------|---------------------|
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | 5,652     | 22,586   | 18,034        | 13,487  | 59,759              |
|                         | 9%        | 38%      | 30%           | 23%     | 100%                |
| Northern Ireland        | 84,490    | 281,526  | 197,972       | 226,340 | 790,328             |
|                         | 11%       | 36%      | 25%           | 29%     | 100%                |

Source: LPS NI Housing Stats 17-18

#### *Rural Dwellings*

Of the 2016-17 approvals approximately 38% were for new rural single dwellings. The new rural dwelling approval rate is commensurate with the Northern Ireland average of 89%.

#### *Housing Stress and Homelessness*

The Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy 2017-2022 'Ending Homelessness Together,' provides strategic direction on how homelessness is addressed in Northern Ireland and aims to ensure that people avoid reaching a point of crisis. The Lisburn and Castlereagh Housing Investment Plan 2019-2032 notes that number of households presenting as homeless decreased from 1,045 in March 2018 to 946 in March 2019. There has also been a reduction in the number of applicants being awarded 'full duty application' status (statutorily homeless) over the same period. The main cause of homeless acceptance was due to accommodation not being reasonable or family disputes.

#### *Affordability*

Housing affordability is determined by price, average incomes and access to borrowing. The Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2015-2018 reports that house price to income ratios are now at more sustainable levels and access to lending has become easier. Housing IN Northern Ireland has been showing steady growth with a 3.5% increase in house prices in Q2 2019 over 12 months (see Table 5.3.7 below). For the same period L&CCC experienced a 3.9% increase in house price with the standardised house price for the Council area reported to the £163,466 which is the highest standardised house price in Northern Ireland.

Housing Market Review and Perspectives 2015 - 2018 reports that, while affordability has improved significantly in recent years across most housing market areas, there remains strong affordability pressures in L&CCC therefore lack of housing supply is an important factor. Affordability for first time buyers in L&CCC decreased from 39% in 2010 to 37% in 2014.

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Housing Market Review & Perspectives 2015-2018

<sup>2</sup> NIHE, L&CCC Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023



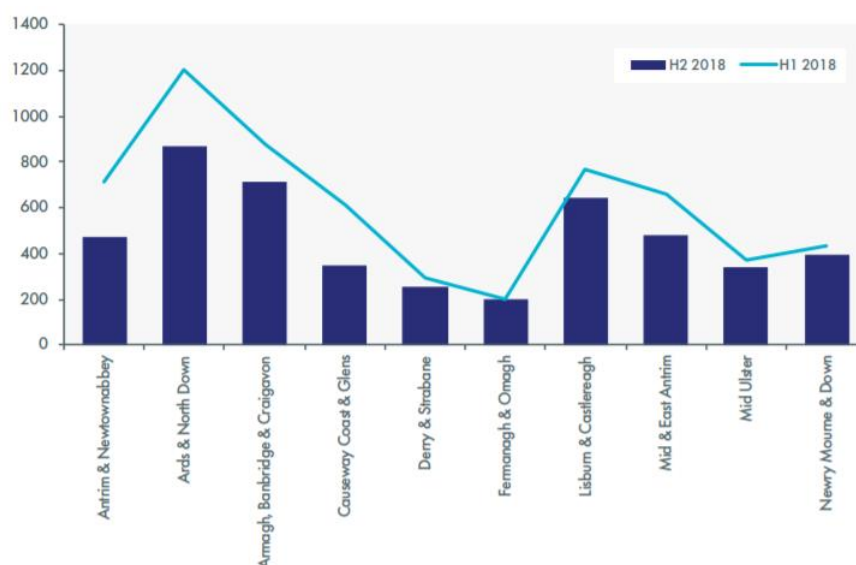
Table 5.3.7: Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 2 2019 (administrative geographies)

| LGD 2014                             | Index (Quarter 2 2019) | Percentage Change on Previous Quarter | Percentage Change over 12 months | Standardised Price (Quarter 2 2019) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lisburn & Castlereagh                | 121.8                  | 1.5                                   | 3.9                              | £163,466                            |
| Ards and North Down                  | 114.5                  | 2.1                                   | 2.6                              | £153,746                            |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey              | 120.7                  | -0.2                                  | 1.4                              | £138,758                            |
| Newry, Mourne and Down               | 130.1                  | 4.6                                   | 9.1                              | £146,350                            |
| Causeway Coast and Glens             | 132.2                  | -1.4                                  | 3.6                              | £142,708                            |
| Mid Ulster                           | 121.2                  | 2.1                                   | 4                                | £135,590                            |
| Belfast                              | 122.5                  | 0.6                                   | 3.3                              | £129,451                            |
| Mid and East Antrim                  | 123.2                  | 1.2                                   | 2.3                              | £127,549                            |
| Fermanagh and Omagh                  | 129.6                  | -1.5                                  | 1.4                              | £124,182                            |
| Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon | 122.0                  | -0.7                                  | 2.8                              | £120,226                            |
| Derry City and Strabane              | 130.1                  | 1.3                                   | 3.7                              | £123,184                            |
| <b>Northern Ireland</b>              | <b>123.3</b>           | <b>0.8</b>                            | <b>3.5</b>                       | <b>£136 767</b>                     |

Source: NISRA Northern Ireland House Price Index Quarter 2 2019 (administrative geographies)

In 2018, University of Ulster reported that L&CCC had the fourth largest rental market with 644 rental transactions in 2018. The average monthly rent was £652 above the NI average of £622<sup>1</sup>.

Figure 5.3.6: Number of Lettings by Local Government District (outside Belfast) H1 2018 and H2 2018



Source: Ulster University, Performance of the Private Rental Market

### Fuel Poverty

A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10% of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

Key findings of the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016 show a reduction in fuel poverty and improvements in energy efficiency of households in Northern Ireland<sup>2</sup>. In 2016 13% of households were living in fuel poverty in L&CCC a decrease of 13% since 2006. L&CCC had the lowest rates of fuel poverty in Northern Ireland in comparison to other councils in 2016. In 2018/19 526

<sup>1</sup> University of Ulster, Performance of the Private Rental Report in Northern Ireland H2 2018

<sup>2</sup> NIHE, Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016



measures were carried out to 245 private properties to assist with insulation and heating in L&CCC under the Affordable Warmth scheme<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 5.3.7: Households in Fuel Poverty (10% definition) by Council Area 2016**

|                                 | % Fuel Poverty |      |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------|
|                                 | 2006           | 2016 |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey         | 25             | 14   |
| Ards and North Down             | 37             | 20   |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | 33             | 24   |
| Belfast                         | 39             | 15   |
| Causeway Coast and Glens        | 36             | 27   |
| Derry and Strabane              | 33             | 31   |
| Fermanagh and Omagh             | 35             | 26   |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh         | 29             | 13   |
| Mid and East Antrim             | 35             | 22   |
| Mid Ulster                      | 38             | 32   |
| Newry, Mourne and Down          | 35             | 26   |
| Total                           | 34             | 22   |

Source: NIHE House Condition Survey: Main Report 2016

#### *Deprivation - Living Environment Rankings*

The Northern Ireland Deprivation Measure 2017 explore the relative deprivation measures of small geographical areas known as Super Output Area (SOAs) There are 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland, of which 67 are in L&CCC. Deprivation is grouped into seven domains. The Living Environment Domain identifies areas experiencing deprivation in terms of the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. It comprises nine indicators including: the proportion of unfit dwellings; or require adaptations; or in need of repair; overcrowded households, road traffic collisions; road defects and the proportion of properties in flood risk areas<sup>2</sup>.

There are four SOAs within L&CCC that are ranked within the top 100 most deprived in terms of living environment and Hilden 1 is the most deprived SOA in L&CCC in this respect.

**Table 5.3.8 Top 4 Living Environment Domain Rankings for L&CCC**

| Super Output Area | Living Environment Ranking |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Hilden 1          | 49                         |
| Ballymacbrennan 2 | 52                         |
| Drumbo 1          | 53                         |
| Ballymacash 1     | 72                         |

Source: NISRA NI Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017

#### *Vacancy Rates and Unfitness*

Vacancy rates are often an indicator of stock condition and the availability of existing housing stock. Dwellings unfit for habitation and second homes that are unoccupied contribute to vacancy rates reducing the supply of available housing.

The 2016 House Condition Survey notes that there has been a significant decrease in the number of vacant properties between 2006 and 2016, 40,300 and 28,500 respectively. Owner occupied homes were more likely to be vacant than any other tenure type.

<sup>1</sup> L&CCC Housing Investment Plan 2019-2023

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland Assembly: Research and Information Service Research Paper, Multiple Deprivation in Northern Ireland, published June 2018

### 5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place, the RDS, SPPS, BMAP and relevant PPSs, would all still be applied.

Under such a scenario there would be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There would also be less opportunity to design housing policy to accommodate the changing demography of the Council area and the identified social housing need for more single elderly and small adult households.

While the 2015 BMAP is up to date it was not prepared in the context of the new council areas and does not reflect the economic growth and social development for our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our council area or support delivery of our community plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

Applying sustainability appraisal will enable a more strategic and balanced plan for the future. Considerations for future housing include the availability of or capacity to provide necessary infrastructure, energy efficiency, a good quality environment, accessibility to employment and services, and to forms of transport that reduce reliance on private cars and social considerations such as the vitality of towns and provision of care.

### 5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues

- The Housing Growth Indicator figure is 9600 dwellings required from 2012 to 2025 and the plan will need to meet the need for more dwellings.
- A decline in household size will increase the number of home required per capita and influence the type of dwellings required.
- A changing demography has created a high demand within social housing for housing designed for small adult households and single elderly people.
- A greater proportion of older people will increase the need for suitable housing that is accessible for those who may not drive and enables support to be provided.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- Rates of and trends in ownership and home type vary within L&CCC and do not necessarily reflect those in Northern Ireland.
- There is a requirement for 800 new social housing units between 2015 and 2020 and the greatest social housing need is concentrated in Lisburn, Castlereagh, Glenavy and Hillsborough.
- The relatively high population density may inform the location and composition of new housing development.
- All new housing should aim to provide life time homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards.
- New housing should be low carbon and avoid the problems of fuel poverty.
- Affordable housing is required for all housing types and sizes.
- All new housing should help to support healthy lifestyles.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.

## 5.4 Education and Skills

### 5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and opportunities for better health. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order to meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and will help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Furthermore, low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within Northern Ireland. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased with co-operation between statutory agencies and other institutions.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy and the overall vision of the Department of Education (the Department) is to see “every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development”. Recent regional policy has recognised the impact of the attainment ‘gap’ which exists in Northern Ireland, and aims to introduce measures to ensure that all communities are able to take up the opportunities provided through high educational attainment.

In recent years there have been a number of influential publications which set out, for all those involved in the education sector, a challenge to consider new approaches. This includes sharing facilities which would promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available for education.

In 2009 the Department of Education introduced the Sustainable Schools Policy followed by a Planning process in 2011 which is designed to address the long-term primary school needs from 2012-2025. The overall output of these is the assessment of schools against a set of criteria for sustainable enrolment levels, delivery of quality education and financial sustainability.

The ‘Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020’ identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District area. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. The aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools. The Education Authority (EA), in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Controlled Schools’ Support Council, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Catholic Schools’ Trustee Service and the Further Education sector publishes an annual Action Plan to identify area planning solutions within each Council.

The draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021 has 14 outcomes, of which some are directly linked to the provision of a good education system. Some of these outcomes aim for ‘*more people in better jobs*’, and ensuring ‘*children and young people have the best start in life*’. Indicators for achieving these outcomes include reducing educational inequalities and improving the quality of education across NI.

Within a land use planning context, LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated educational needs of the community, and should recognise town centres as important hubs for a range of uses which include education.

Within a rural context, policy requires that people who live in the countryside also have opportunities to access high quality education. Rural areas will need sufficient land allocated to meet their needs in terms of education.

The L&CCC Corporate Plan recognises that educational facilities are an important contribution to quality of life in our Council area. Within the theme of Community, the Corporate Plan identifies the role that council facilities can play as local developmental, education and entertainment hubs. It further recognises that the Education Sector is a partner in delivery of our strategic themes.

The Corporate Plan includes among its actions *“we will help education and training providers to equip our local workforce with the right skills to secure employment or start a business”*. The longer term vision includes *“A vibrant network of local community hubs within a quality environment for health and wellbeing, education, cultural and community activities”*.

The Council’s Community Plan includes the outcome under its theme ‘Children and Young People’ that *“our children and young people have the best start in life”* and includes the aim that *“All children and young people have an equal chance to fulfil their educational potential”*. The Community Plan also raises the concept of a ‘Community Hub’ based in local schools– using the school facilities for the wider community as centres for health, adult education, childcare, training opportunities, social connection and volunteering.

#### 5.4.2 Baseline information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper Local Development Plan Position Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Facilities Paper, September 2015.

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy. The Department of Education’s main areas of responsibility cover pre-school, primary, post-primary and special education; the youth service; the promotion of community relations within and between schools; and teacher education and salaries. Its primary statutory duty is to promote the education of the people of Northern Ireland and to ensure the effective implementation of education policy.

In addition, a single Education Authority (EA) was established on the 1st April 2015 to replace the five Education and Library Boards and the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards and now oversees the delivery of education, youth and library services throughout Northern Ireland.

Within the context of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area, the South Eastern Regional Office of the Education Authority, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) are the key players for school age education.

##### *Pre-school Education*

In 2016 there were three nursery schools within the district and 25 pre-schools<sup>1</sup>. Nursery schools provide pre-school education for children in their immediate pre-school year. Pre-schools are private or voluntary education settings which may also provide funded pre-school education places. In 2016/17 within L&CCC there were 183 pupils enrolled in the three Nursery Schools located within L&CCC (3.1% of all Nursery School enrolments in Northern Ireland) an increase of one pupil from the previous two years

##### *Primary School Education*

‘Providing Pathways<sup>2</sup>’ states that the district population in the age range 0-15 years is projected to increase by 7.9% by 2024, this is well above the projected NI average of 3.9%.

Primary education in L&CCC is provided by 40 Primary Schools. In 2016/17 in L&CCC, there were 12,861 pupils in primary schools, an increase of 5.4% from 2014/15 (659 pupils) and 1,862 unfilled places<sup>3</sup> in primary schools. L&CCC have the lowest numbers of schools across all council areas.

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<sup>1</sup> The information is collected through the annual school census exercise. Returns are provided from each school. The data refers to the location of the school. The dataset is gathered annually at a specified date in early October. The dataset is collected from schools via the C2k administration system

<sup>2</sup> EA (2017) Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 April 2017

<sup>3</sup> The figures have been derived from the approved enrolment number of each school for the 2015/16 school year against the actual enrolment at the 2015/16 school census date (10 October 2015).

According to Department of Education for Northern Ireland, in 2015/16, the average primary school class size for schools located within L&CCC was 26.3, ranging from 23.7

In 2012/13, 78.5% of pupils in L&CCC had achieved level 4 or above in communication in English compared to an NI average of 77.1%, while 78.7% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in using Maths while the NI average was 78.5%.

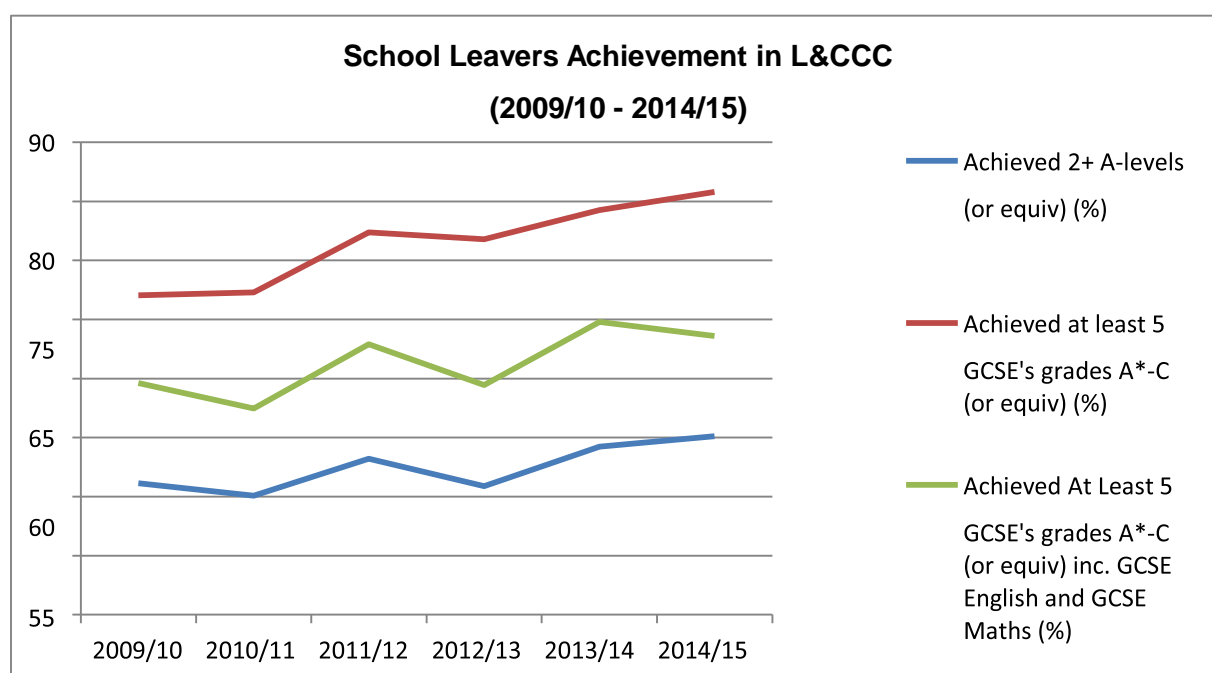
#### Post Primary Education

In addition to the projected increase for the age range 0-15 years 'Providing Pathways'<sup>1</sup> also states that the district population in the age range 16-19 is expected to increase by 1.2%, again higher than the NI average of 0.2%.

In 2016/17 within L&CCC 6,987 pupils enrolled in the 9 Post Primary Schools located within L&CCC (5.0% of all Post Primary School enrolments in Northern Ireland). A decrease of 93 enrolments compared to the previous year.

Figure 5.4.1 shows School Leavers Achievement in the Council area, between 2009/2010 and 2015/16. It shows an overall upwards trend in GCSE (for all subjects) and A Level attainment. The GCSE attainment for five subjects including English and Maths is considered a good test of overall academic achievement, and this has shown the greatest fluctuation since 2009/10. It is currently sitting at just below 75% of children, for the Council area overall. The Northern Ireland average for the 2015/2016 year is 67%.

**Figure 5.4.1 School Leavers Achievement in L&CCC 2009/10-2014-25**



Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

#### Special Education

In 2016/17 within L&CCC 883 pupils enrolled in the 5 Special Schools located within L&CCC (16.3% of all Special School enrolments in Northern Ireland) an increase of 54 enrolments compared to 2014/15<sup>2</sup>.

There are five Special Schools within the L&CCC area. Beechlawn School is a co-educational controlled school catering for pupils with Additional Educational Needs including moderate learning difficulties

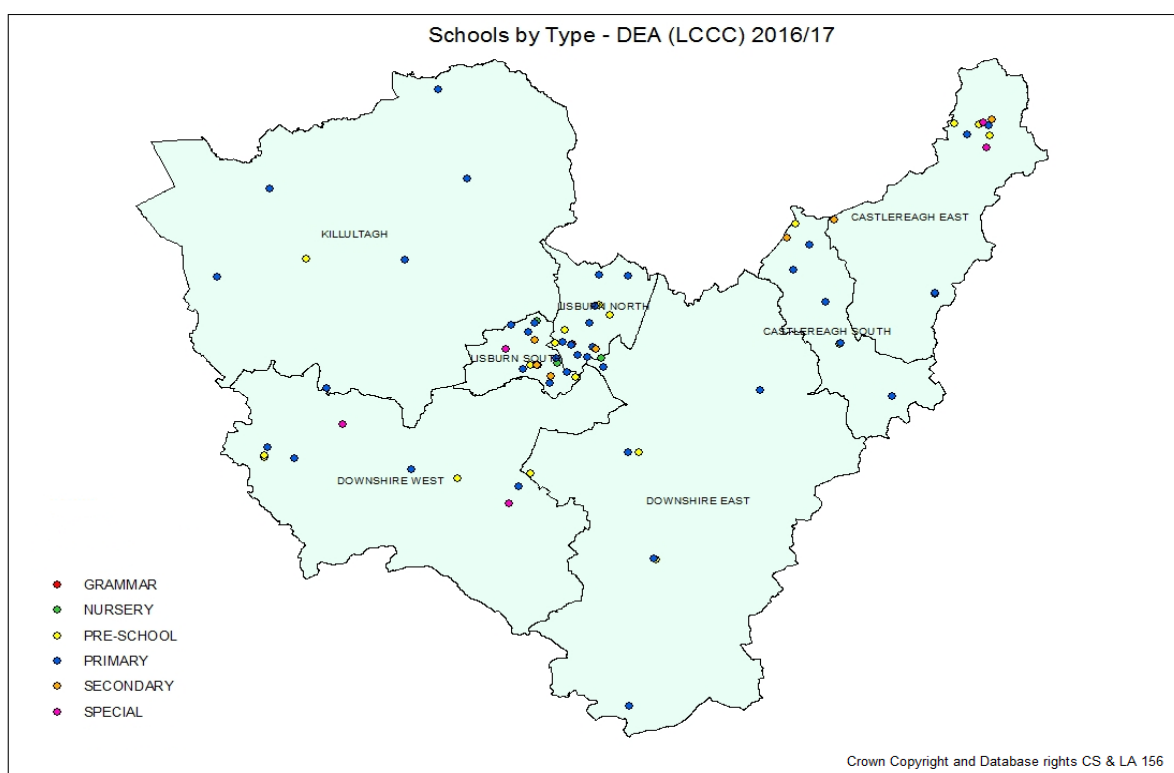
<sup>1</sup> EA (2017) Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 April 2017

<sup>2</sup> L&CCC Statistical Facts and Figures for Lisburn and Castlereagh.

and autism. Brookfied School located in Moira provides Special Education needs provision for autism, Aspergers and attention deficit hyperactivity. Longstone School in Dundonald is classified as a special school for children with moderate learning difficulties and other associated difficulties. It provides educational provision for pupils aged four to 16. Parkview School in Lisburn provides specialist nurse, primary and post primary education for pupils with severe learning difficulties and those with a range of educational needs that can be best met within a special school environment. Tor Bank School in Dundonald is a special school for children with severe learning difficulties or profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Children living in Kintullagh and Downshire East may have to travel further to attend schools that can accommodate their specialist educational requirements.

**Figure 5.4.2 Schools by Type - DEA L&CCC 2016/17**

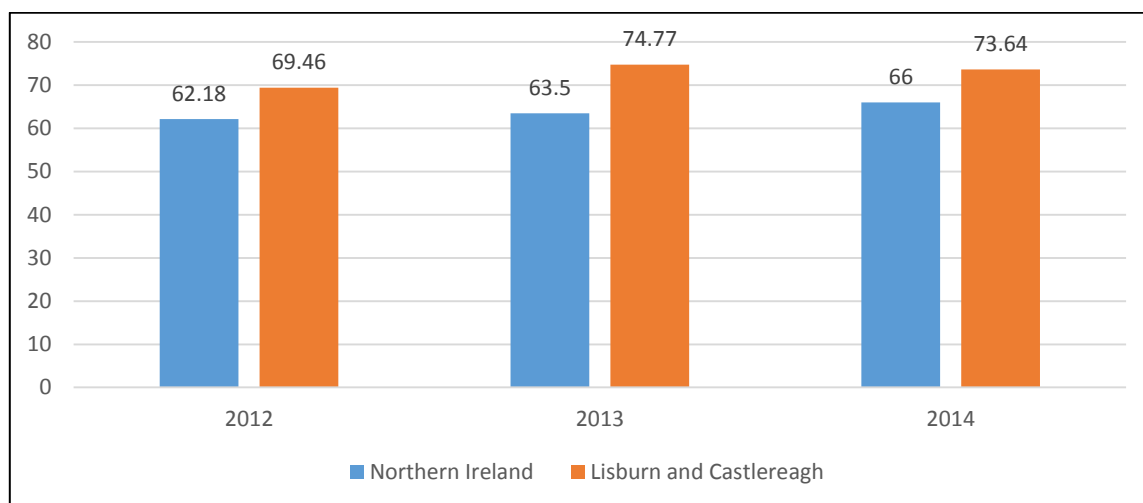


Source: <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/Schools.docx>

### *Educational Attainment*

The Council area has overall demonstrated a high level of achievement in post-primary qualifications, as demonstrated in Figure 5.4.3.

**Figure 5.4.3 School leavers: Achieved 5 GCSE's A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2012-2014 for L&CCC and Northern Ireland.**



Source: NINIS

In 2015/16 Academic Year, 77.9% of school leavers in Lisburn and Castlereagh LGD achieved at least 5 GCSEs at A\*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and Maths. This compared with 67.7% overall in Northern Ireland.

However, if we consider the same data set for individual DEAs in 2014 where the average for the council area was 73.64% children we see a variation and Lisburn South falls below the NI average for that year.

**Table 5.4.1 School leavers: Achieved 5 GCSE's A\*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2012-2014 for DEAs in L&CCC**

| District Electoral Area | %    |
|-------------------------|------|
| Lisburn South           | 58.9 |
| Lisburn North           | 67.3 |
| Killultagh              | 76.1 |
| Downshire West          | 70.8 |
| Downshire East          | 80.1 |
| Castlereagh South       | 84.7 |
| Castlereagh East        | 72.9 |

Source: NINIS

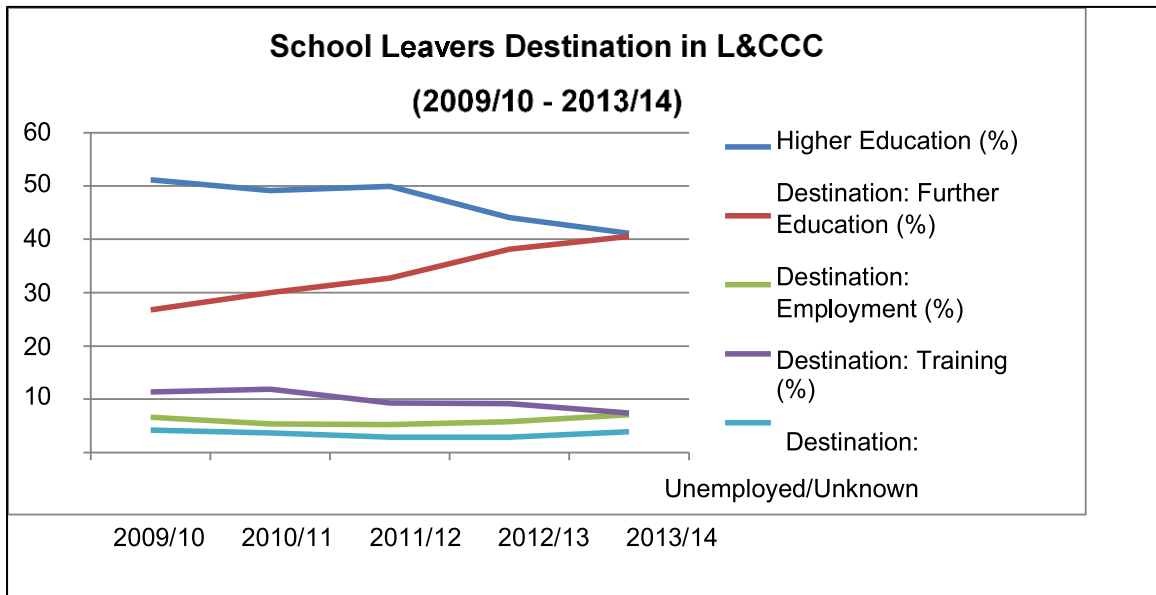
#### *Travel to school*

The Community Plan baseline consider the location of school attended for primary and post primary for children resident in the L&CCC area. It found that in 2015/16 85% of primary school children attend school in the council area, but only 45% of post primary children do so.

#### *Higher and Further Education*

In terms of school leavers destinations, as presented in Figure 5.4.4, there has been a decline in the percentage of young people choosing to continue study within Higher Education, since 2011/12. However, since 2009/10 there has been a steady increase in the number of students continuing their studies in Further Education. The percentage of people going into training has stayed fairly constant, although it does appear to be reducing. Those option for employment straight from school remains fairly constant, and unemployment/unknown similarly constant.

Figure 5.4.4 School Leavers destinations in L&CCC 2009/10-2013/14



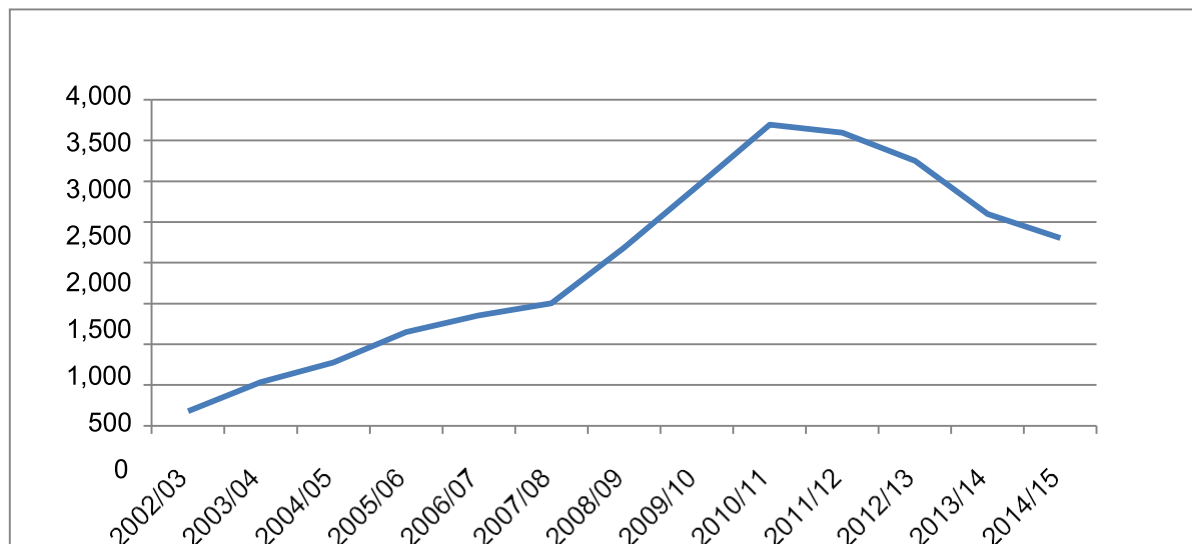
Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

*Skill Level of working age population*

There were 2,304 enrolments in essential skills in 2014/15. The number rose steadily from 2002/03 to 2010/11 but has fallen each year since then. In 2015/16 there were 2,205 enrolments IN Essential Skills within L&CCC, 5.8% of essential skills enrolment in Northern Ireland a 32.1% decline in the number of Essential Skills enrolments by residents within L&CCC from 2012/13 (3,248 enrolments).

This compares to a decline of 26.4% in Northern Ireland overall in the same time period. Possible explanations for this decline can be found in NI School Leaver data, which indicate that the number of school leavers not achieving grades A\*-C in GCSE English and GCSE Maths has generally been decreasing over the past eight years.

Figure 5.4.5 Essential Skills Enrolments (2002/03 - 2014/15)



Source: DEL

In 2015/16, there were 10,902 enrolments in Further Education (FE) from students resident in L&CCC. 52% were male, and 48% female. 16% were full-time enrolments.



### Higher Education Enrolments

There were 5,445 enrolments in Higher Education (HE) Institutions by students from L&CCC in 2014/15. 46% were male, and 54% female. 70% were studying full-time.

### Higher Education Qualifications

In 2014/15, 1,500 students from L&CCC attained a Higher Education qualification, 64% gaining a qualification from an NI institution. Over three quarters (78%) studied full-time

### Training and Employment

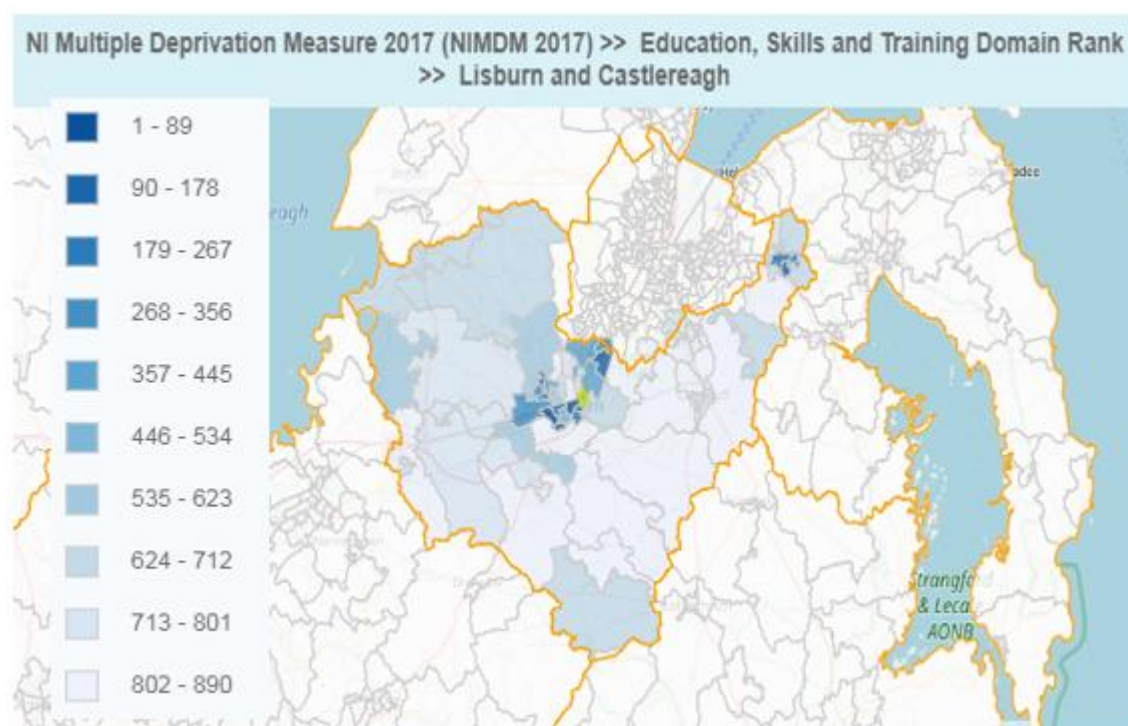
In October 2016, there were 302 people on the Training for Success Programme resident within L&CCC (5.5% of all participants in NI). This is a decrease of 18 participants from 2014.

### NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

The Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain in the NIMDM 2017 identifies the prevalence of poor education outcomes for children and low levels of qualifications for working age adults. The indicators used in the ranking of this domain include:

- Proportions of pupils attending special schools or attending primary school with Special Education Needs stage 3-5;
- Absenteeism at primary schools;
- Proportions of school leavers not achieving 5 or more GCSE's at A\*-C (and equivalent) incl. English and Maths;
- Proportions of these leaving school ages 16, 17 and 18 and not Education, Employment or Training;
- Proportions of 18-21 year olds not enrolled in Higher Education courses;
- Proportions of pupils attending special schools or who are attending post-primary schools with special educational needs stages 3-5;
- Absenteeism at post-primary schools; and
- Proportions of working age adults (25-64) with no or low level qualification.

**Figure: 5.4.6 NIMDM 2017 Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank (Super Output Areas) for Lisburn and Castlereagh.**



Source: NISRA NIMDM 2017 SOA Level Results Interactive Maps- Education, Skills and Training Domain (Super Output Areas).

Figure 5.4.6 shows the NIMDM 2017 rank for Super Output Areas in Lisburn and Castlereagh for the Education, Skills and Training deprivation domain. Old Warren (84), Lambeg (90), Hilden (119) and Hillhall (122) ranked lowest in the district and are identified in the darkest colours above, placing those SOA's in the 25% most deprived in Northern Ireland. Hillsborough (884) and Drumbo (885) ranking highest. Highlighting that although the council area has a high level of education achievement at all levels, it is not consistent between DEA's.

### 5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, SPPS, Local Development Plans and relevant PPSs, would all still be applied. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. There could however be less opportunity to consider school sustainability and access to all levels of education in relation to settlement pattern.

### 5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues

- In some areas of the Council area, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Ensuring access to high quality education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way of promoting a more cohesive and tolerant society and assist a better use of the resources available to education.
- Although the Council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
- Amongst post-primary schools there is a high level of daily commuting to attend school.

## 5.5 Economy and Employment

### 5.5.1 Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies

Creating the conditions to achieve and maintain stable economic growth are key aims of all relevant strategies locally, regionally and within a European context. Economic growth is driven by a healthy business sector, which itself relies on a base of high quality education and delivery of relevant skills to the workforce.

The common thread of relevant economic policies is to achieve sustainable growth of the economy. In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland (NI) to raise competitiveness through increased export, and to identify opportunities in new, emerging and developed markets. The need to support the development of a more innovation-based economy is also identified and this links to a high potential for research and development. The Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy 2020 was identified in the PfG as one of the 'building blocks' to underpin the first strategic priority of growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future.

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations. The Lisburn and Castlereagh's Vision for Tourism 2018-2022, sets out the Council's objectives for developing and managing tourism in the Council area. The Council are in the process of compiling their 'Connect, Invest, Transform' Investment strategy which has recently undergone public consultation. It is hoped the strategy will be available towards the end of 2019.

The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) signals a new approach to collaborative working. Six Councils, including L&CCC are part of the BRCD. The BRCD Councils will work in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Further Education colleges across the Belfast Region, the Northern Ireland Departments and the private sector to deliver the goals of the City Deal.

The BRCD Councils have agreed an integrated set of projects to transform the Region's economy. The agreed programme seeks to address a number of key barriers to growth by taking measures to improve productivity, invest in innovation, tackle economic inactivity and deprivation, address skills gaps and inequalities, invest in additional world-class visitor experiences and develop the physical and digital infrastructure. Two primary projects have been put forward for the district: the Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan, which will build upon planned investments at Hillsborough Castle to create a really world class heritage attraction; and the e-SERC Centre for Excellence in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. These projects will be supported by a significant digital infrastructure investment fund and a programme of employability and skills for the Lisburn Castlereagh area. These projects will boost tourism, enhance local infrastructure and improve the skills and knowledge of the local workforce in this digital era<sup>1</sup>.

The vision of the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 is that 'Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council will be a connected, growing city recognised locally and regionally as a progressive, dynamic and inclusive council working in partnership to develop our community and improve the quality of people's lives.' Through Strategic theme 2 'the economy' the Council hope to be the preferred place to do business, the number one investment choice in Northern Ireland. This will be achieved through the promotion of ambitious investments programmes, engaging with organisations, businesses and funding

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<sup>1</sup> Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council | News "Lisburn & Castlereagh Secures its Share of the City Deal" published October 29, 2018 (found at <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/news/lisburn-castlereagh-secures-its-share-of-the-city-deal> )

opportunities at a local and international level, delivering education and training programmes and through the promotion of natural and historic assets to attract a greater number of visitors.

The Council will use the following indicators as a measure of success;

- Number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity.
- Number of new businesses linked to start up activity.
- Visitor trips per annum.
- Visitor spend per annum

One of the five themes of the Community Plan 2017-2032 is 'the economy'. The Community Plan aims to 'develop the economy of Lisburn and Castlereagh so that it offers work to everyone, provides access to goods and services that we value and shares economic benefits in ways that reduce inequality and have a positive impact on our environment.' It also recognises that there are opportunities at the Maze Long Kesh site and also through the promotion of tourism assets such as Hillsborough Castle and other historic assets.

### 5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers including Local Development Plan Position Paper 3 Employment and Economic Development, Position Paper 4 Retailing and Town Centres and Position Paper 11 Tourism. Data has also been sourced from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS), Invest NI and the Department for Economy. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

#### *Economic Activity and Employment*

The labour market is composed of economically inactive and economically active (the latter includes those in employment and those seeking work). In 2018, 79.8% of 16-64 year olds in L&CCC were economically active (NI 72.8%). In 2016 and 2017 the economic activity rates were 79.8% and 77.7% respectively which identified fluctuation but is still well above the NI average of 72.4% and 74% respectively. Position Paper 3 Employment and Economic Development notes that since 2007 the economic climate has had impacted on the need for development land, there are indications that a slow recovery in the economy are underway.

Just over 20% of the Council's population aged between 16-64 were economically inactive in 2018 (i.e. not looking for work or available for work; this will include all those who are looking after a home, long term sick or disabled, students or retired). At the time of writing, the economic inactivity rate for all of NI was 27.2%<sup>1</sup> and is persistently higher than the UK average which is 21.2%<sup>2</sup>.

In 2016 the number of people aged 16-64 in Lisburn and Castlereagh claiming Job Seekers Allowance was 1708 representing a claimant count annual average rate of 1.9%. This is significantly lower than the NI claimant rate average of 3.1%<sup>3</sup>

#### *Employment and Income Deprivation*

NISRA published spatially linked statistics on deprivation as part of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, the most recent of which was published in 2017 (NIMDM 2017). In Total seven deprivation indicators make up the overall NIMDM, including the 'Employment Deprivation Domain' and the 'Income Deprivation Domain'. Each Super Output Area (SOA) and Small Area (SA) has been ranked against all the other SOAs and SAs in NI, to determine their relative position on the scale in terms of each indicator. It should be noted that the NIMDM 2017 is a relative measure of deprivation,

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<sup>1</sup> NISRA: Labour Force Survey Tables for Local Government Districts 2009-2018

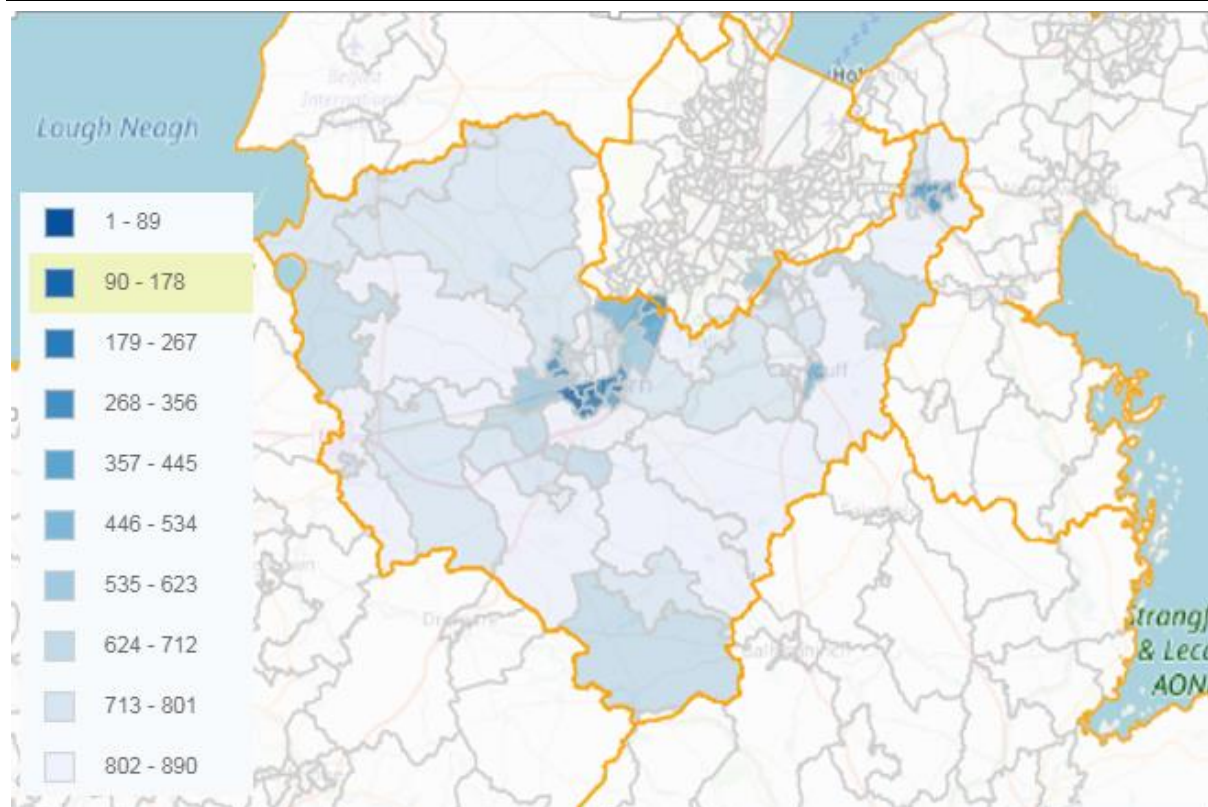
<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/economicinactivity>

<sup>3</sup> NISRA: Economic and Labour Market Profile for Lisburn and Castlereagh Local Government District

meaning that it is possible to say that one area is more or less deprived than another, but it is not possible to say by how much.

'Employment Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of working age population in the SOA or SA who are in receipt of at least one employment related benefit, and individuals who are not in receipt of the selected benefits, nor have received income from employment. Figure 5.5.3 shows the pattern of employment deprivation in the SAs across L&CCC from the NIMDM2017. The darkest blue colours (ranks 1-454) show the most deprived SAs in NI in terms of the employment deprivation indicator and the lightest colours (4,804-4,537) are the least deprived.

**Figure 5.5.3 NIMDM 2017 Employment Domain Rank for SAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh**



Source: NIMDM 2017 Small Area Interactive maps on NINS

The figure shows that L&CCC ranks relatively low on the employment domain rank with none of the SA's within the top 100 (out of 4,537) most deprived areas in NI in terms of employment. However, there are still small pockets of employment deprivation in urban areas of Old Warren, Hillhall, Lagan Valley and Tonagh.

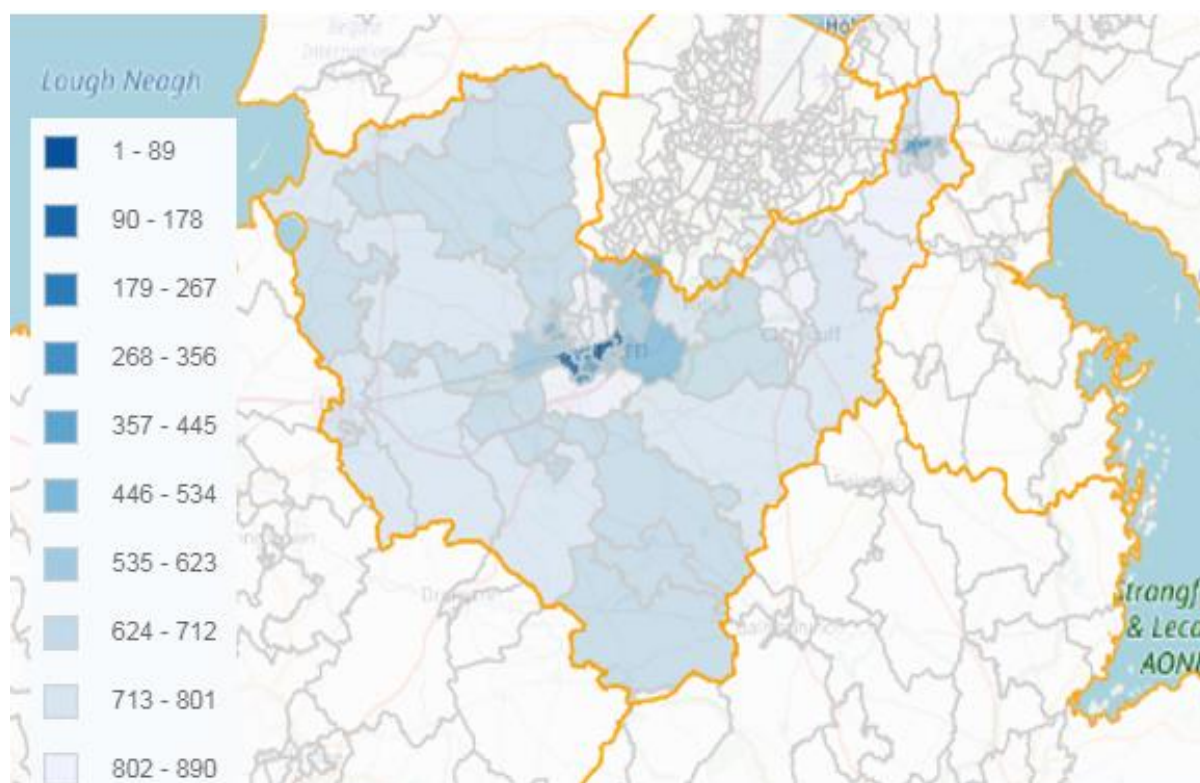
'Income Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of the population living in households whose equalised income is below 60% of the NI median. Figure 5.5.4 shows the income deprivation pattern across L&CCC. The figure shows that income deprivation in L&CCC is spread across both rural and urban areas, with many of the SAs shown in Figure 5.5.4 having the darkest blue colours. However, the most income deprived small areas are in urban areas of Hilden 2 and Old Warren. Hilden 2 ranks at 92 is within the top 100 most deprived areas in NI in terms of income deprivation.



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**Figure 5.5.4 NIMDM 2017 Income Domain Rank for SAs in Lisburn and Castlereagh**


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Source: NIMDM 2017 Small Area Interactive maps on NINS

### Employment Sectors

The Employment and Economic Development Position Paper identifies that the tertiary (service) sector dominates the local employment market in terms of jobs. Employment in the public sector was 32% in comparison to the Northern Ireland average of 27%. L&CCC has a higher percentage of jobs in the construction industry (6%) than the NI average of 5%<sup>1</sup>.

The Invest NI Supported Business Performance Data Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Briefing published in 2019 shows that there were 57,888 employee jobs (excludes agriculture employee jobs and self-employed) in the Council area. Employment in the public sector was 32% in comparison to the Northern Ireland average of 27%.

Invest NI indicate that there were 4,855 businesses in the Council area in 2019 which accounts for 6% of all the businesses in Northern Ireland. This is a growth of 560 businesses since 2014. The number of businesses by size is presented in Figure 5.5.5 and shows that 87% of businesses in the Council area are micro businesses, with up to 9 employees. Small businesses (those with between 10 and 49 employees) account for 10% of all businesses.

The L&CCC LDP Position Paper on Employment and Economic Development identifies that opportunities exist to maximise the strategic location of Lisburn on the Dublin economic corridor and East/West transport corridor, and improve connectivity throughout the Council area. There is also a need to recognise the potential that exists to attract large scale investment and potential to promote regionally significant sites and grow night-time economy.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Invest NI Supported Business Performance Data Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Briefing

<sup>2</sup> L&CCC Position Paper: Employment and Economic Development December 2017.

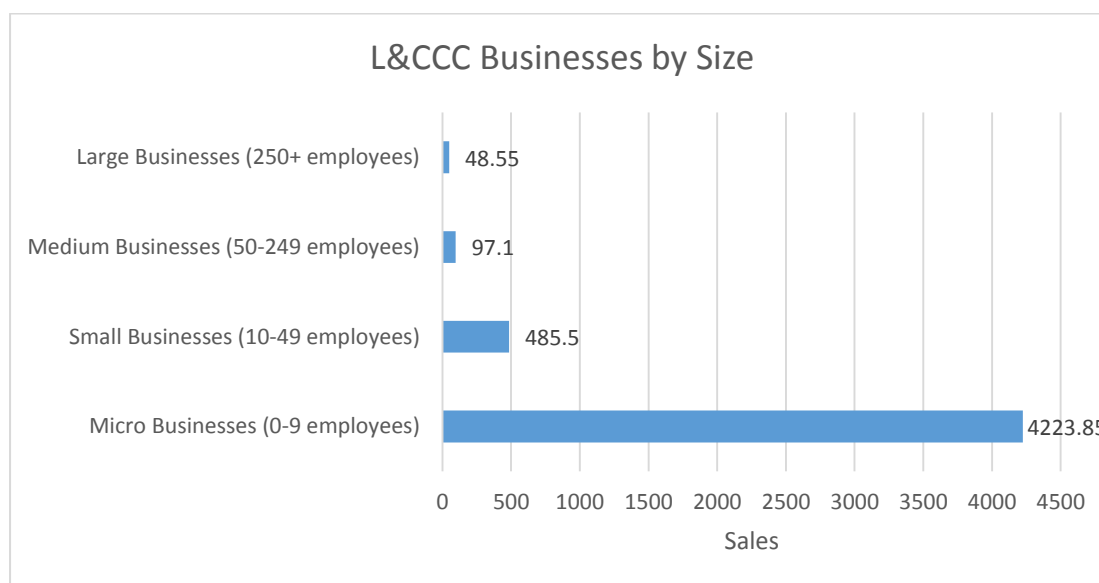
### Earnings from Employment

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings<sup>1</sup> by Local Government Districts is published by NISRA. The 2018 (provisional) survey results gave the value for those persons living in Lisburn and Castlereagh a median gross annual salary of £20,769 (down 1.3% from £21,042 in 2017), which is fifth lowest of all the LGDs. The median gross annual salary for all of NI in 2018 was £21,159. The median gross annual salary in 2018 for those working in the district was £21,809 and living in the area was £22,922.

### Business Start-ups and Success

The Office for National Statistics publishes an annual bulletin of Business Demography<sup>2</sup> which presents the number of active enterprises, survival rates of enterprises and charts the births and deaths of enterprises. The most recent bulletin published in 2018 indicates that the number of enterprises active in L&CCC in 2017 was 4,480 - an increase of 185 over the previous year. This accounts for 7% of all the businesses in Northern Ireland. The five-year survival rate for businesses established in the Council area in 2012 was 44.3% (NI 44.7%). In 2017, 475 new business start-ups were recorded, slightly below the average of the other Council areas outside Belfast but a significant increase on the years 2012-14 which averaged around 398. In general, business start-up rates for Northern Ireland are relatively low in comparison to other parts of the UK. The Corporate Plan has amongst its aims “grow the integrated economy by promoting our ambition, our unique location on the North South economic corridor, access to a talented and skilled workforce, competitive cost and supporting infrastructure”.

**Figure 5.5.5 Business by Size in Council**



Source: Invest NI Supported Business Performance Data- Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Briefing 2019

### Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in NI to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are published in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2017<sup>3</sup>. These show that in 2014-16, fewer NI businesses were innovation active than in 2012-14. 40% of enterprises in NI were estimated to be innovation active in the three-year period 2014-16 (down from 45% in 2012-14). This is lower than the equivalent UK figure of 50%, which has also decreased from 53% in 2012-14. NI remains among the least innovation active regions of the UK. Across the UK, large enterprises with 250 or more employees are currently

<sup>1</sup> Department for the Economy Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by NI geographies (Provisional), by place of work and place of residence, 2018. Date published: 25 October 2018

<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics Business demography , UK:2018.

<sup>3</sup> Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy The UK Innovation Survey: Headline Findings 2014 to 2016 (published 18/04/2018)

reported as being more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 63% innovation active, as opposed to 49% of Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Internal R&D and investment in computer software were the main factors driving innovation in the UK as a whole for the most recent survey period 2014-2016.

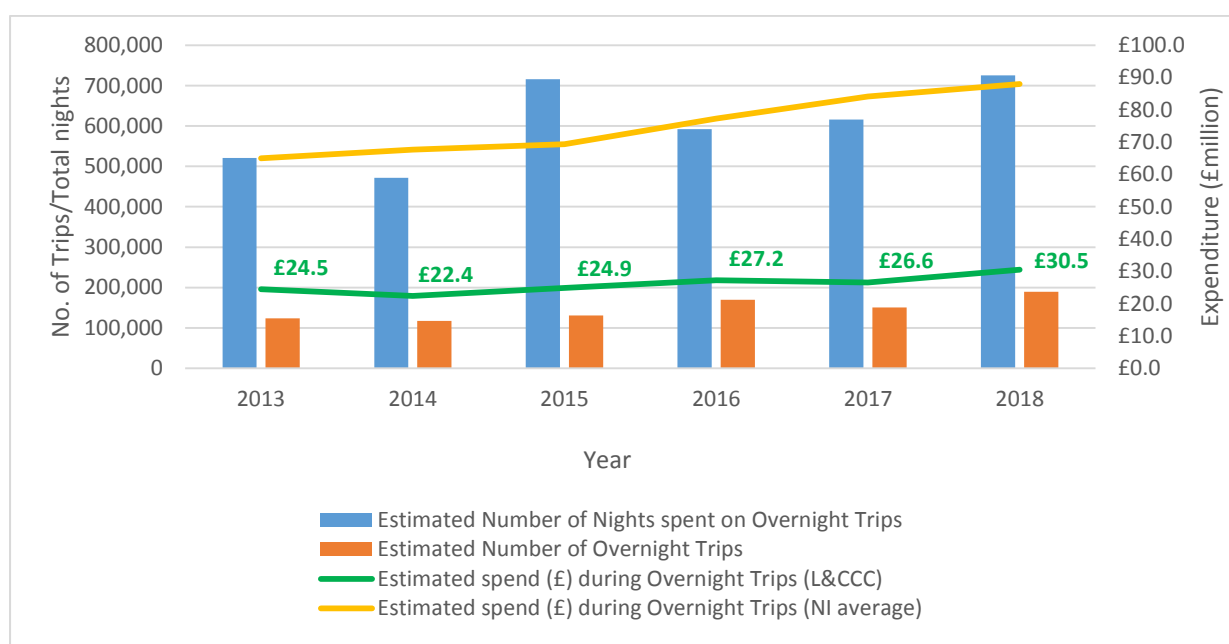
### Competitiveness

No data is available at Council level on levels of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in NI to markets outside of NI were estimated to be worth £21.4 billion in 2017, representing a decrease of 10.1% (£2.4 billion) from the previous year. These figures are broken down as £15.7 billion (73.1%) for goods (a decrease of 15.2% on 2016) and £5.8 billion (26.9%) for services (an increase of 7.7% over 2016). External sales account for just under a third (32.1%) of all sales by companies in NI in 2017 (£66.6 billion)<sup>1</sup>.

### Tourism

Investment in tourism brings new facilities to the Council's city, towns, villages and surrounding landscapes. It makes a vital contribution to the Council in terms of the revenue it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our waterways, landscapes and historic environment.

**Figure: 5.5.6 Estimated Overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure 2013-2018 for Lisburn and Castlereagh**



Source: NISRA: Local Government District Tourism Statistics Publications: Published July 2019

Lisburn and Castlereagh is one of the least visited of NI's LGDs as an overnight tourism destination (4<sup>th</sup> lowest). The Council area has the lowest quantity of available tourist accommodation of all the LGDs in NI, with 1300 bed spaces in 2018. This is considerably behind Causeway Coast and Glens and Belfast at 14603 and 16264 respectively. There are plans to address the lack of tourism accommodation through the provision of a City Centre Hotel in Lisburn as outlined in Lisburn Castlereagh's Vision for Tourism 2018-2022.

Excluding day visits, tourism to the district was worth around £31million from overnight expenditure, up 15% from 2017 and around the 3% of the NI total of £968 million. Tourism related employment supported 4,179 jobs in the Council area in 2017, approximately 8% of all employment<sup>2</sup>. The most

<sup>1</sup> 2 NISRA Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES): Goods and Services Results 2016 – published 19 June 2019

<sup>2</sup> NISRA: Local Government District Tourism Statistics Publications: Published July 2019



popular tourism destinations in L&CCC in 2018 were the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum, Streamvale Open Farm and Island Arts Centre. It is worth noting that Hillsborough Castle has undergone a £16million pound programme of capital projects and associated activities that will 'open the site to the widest possible audience; conserve and represent the heritage; explore its stories and engage communities and learners.'<sup>1</sup> Hillsborough Castle reopened to the public in 2019 and should have a significant impact on tourism and the economy in the Council area going forward.

The principal reason that overnight visitors spend time in the district is 'visiting friends and relatives' (64% for the period 2016-2018). Visits for 'holiday/leisure/pleasure' accounted for 25% of overnight trips in the same period.

### *Retailing*

Lisburn District consists of Lisburn City, Metropolitan Lisburn, the small towns of Moira and Hillsborough, 12 villages and 30 small settlements.

The Primary Retail Core is location within Lisburn City Centre and also contains banks and professional offices. The BMA Retail Strategy defines Sprucefield as a Regional Shopping Centre. Carryduff Town Centre boundary is designated to encompass the existing concentration of uses which have a town centre function, including retailing, professional services, restaurants, banking, community and other office uses.

Forestside Shopping Centre is designated as a District Centre and Local Centres can be found in metropolitan Castlereagh and Dundonald. These local centres provide shoppers in Castlereagh with accessible convenience and non-bulky comparison shopping close to where they live.<sup>2</sup>

Position Paper Four: Retailing and Town Centres indicates that Lisburn City Centre benefits from a wide range of independent stores but is underrepresented in terms of High Street multiple retailers. Areas such as Market Square, Bridge Street and Lisburn Square are showing signs of retail vacancy and footfall drops dramatically after 5pm. Constraints such as the dominance of roads infrastructure and traffic in the city centre and the severance this causes is another negative factor for retailing within the city centre. Opportunities exist to revitalise the city centre through the Council's Masterplan for the Lisburn Historic Quarter with the potential for a City Centre hotel, public realm improvements and consideration of public transport infrastructure. Opportunity also exists to redevelop Carryduff Town Centre, facilitate regeneration and address design issues.

### *Town Centre Vitality*

In January 2014 a study was undertaken by DOE Planning to research issues relating to town centres and retailing in Northern Ireland. This included health checks for existing town/city centres as designated in adopted plans using a variety of health check indicators. The research also included an assessment of town centre and retail trends. The findings of the report are detailed in the Local Development Plan Position Paper 4: Retailing and Town Centres Paper, September 2017.

Arising from the above-mentioned evidence base LDPs should include a Retail strategy, and contain appropriate policies and proposals that must promote town centres first for retail and other main town centre uses. Plans should also;

- define a network and hierarchy of centres - town, district and local centres, acknowledging the role and function of rural centres;
- define the spatial extent of town centres and the primary retail core;
- set out appropriate policies that make clear which uses will be permitted in the hierarchy of centres and other locations, and the factors that will be taken into account for decision taking;
- provide for a diverse offer and mix of uses, which reflect local circumstances; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrp.org.uk/hillsborough-castle/hillsborough-castle-project/#gs.dlut76>

<sup>2</sup> Sourced- L&CCC Position Paper 4- Retailing and Town Centres September 2017.

- allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and form of retail, and other town centre uses.

The Northern Ireland vacancy rate is notably higher, both by floorspace and unit numbers than the UK average. The 2015 vacancy rate for NI is 16.3%. Vacancy rates in Lisburn City Centre and nearby towns are as follows: Lisburn City Centre 19%, Armagh 20.37%, Antrim 15%, Banbridge 14.33%, Craigavon 5.63%, Lurgan 17.32% and Portadown 22.63% average at 18.57%

In its conclusion it gives the view that many of Northern Ireland's town have remained reasonably vital and viable because many towns retain a good mix of uses, in particular in the heart of the centre. It also concluded that, in order to offer an experience over and beyond the average functional shopping trip, town centres should have a diversity of uses, attract all age ranges and be adaptable to future retail trends.

### 5.5.3 Likely Evolution of Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the local development plan (LDP) in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), extant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue to inform decisions. The New Local Development Plan provides an opportunity to make plans for growth in line with all the available evidence.

### 5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs and supports economic growth. This is recognised in the Regional Development Framework.
- Sprucefield will continue to retain its status as a regional out-of-town shopping centre.
- Lisburn City Centre and the Town centres are important hubs for a wide variety of retailing and related facilities, including employment, leisure and cultural uses. This can have a positive impact on those who live, work and visit them and build or maintain vibrancy.
- Within Lisburn City Centre, potential also exists to develop the night-time economy which could be an important driver for leisure and tourism activities.
- There is potential to provide a range of flexible commercial accommodation and business parks at development locations such as Blaris and the Maze/Long Kesh.
- Potential exists to grow the retail offer and create high quality office offer through the creation of employment in business services.
- Lisburn has a vibrant city centre with a strong focus on leisure provision, sports and the arts.
- A cornerstone of the private sector in the Council area is micro-businesses, those employing less than 9 staff. There is potential to encourage this sector to develop and innovate.
- The Council area has a high proportion of employment in the public sector.
- Need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people - by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the City Centre, towns and villages and facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout.
- The Council area has higher than average skills levels and a strong employment particularly in the service sector, which offers scope for economic growth.
- There is a wealth of tourism assets within the L&CCC area with significant future potential, including the Hillsborough Historic Royal Palace, the Lagan navigation from Belfast to Union Locks, the Lagan Valley Regional Park and the Divis and Black Mountain Visitors Centre.

## 5.6 Material Assets

### 5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Material assets are referred to in the SEA Directive but the term is not defined. For the purposes of this report, the material assets sustainability topic covers a range of policy areas, including

telecommunications, electrical infrastructure and energy distribution, energy including renewable energy, derelict and contaminated land, and waste management.

Overarching regional and strategic planning policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Growth of infrastructure should be enabled in an efficient and effective manner whilst environmental impacts are minimised. Planning policy also recommends sustainable development with the consideration of adjacent or simultaneous land uses and the cumulative environmental impacts. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the UK 2010, the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-15 and beyond, and the NI Waste Management Strategy are all relevant to material assets. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)'s Strategic Energy Framework 2010-2020 has at its core decarbonisation of the energy mix. The multifunctional use of land is encouraged; significant increases in renewables to the energy mix recommended; and reductions in waste and increases in recycling rates targeted.

Investing in telecommunications, particularly in rural areas and considering the infrastructure required for renewable energy projects and strengthening of the grid for future energy demands is encouraged at the regional level. New gas infrastructure is also supported as the move to gas helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet UK climate change commitments. Climate change concerns encourage the use of renewables and a move toward a more sustainable energy mix that reduces emissions and improves air quality. Sustainable waste management is also acknowledged as an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the waste management hierarchy, the proximity principle and the circular economy. Impacts should be considered of all types of installation on the environment and a strategic approach to the sustainable development of land could include multiple uses. For example, derelict land could be used to treat waste, which could in turn produce energy for local distribution.

The Council's Corporate Plan states how the Council aims to be a progressive and dynamic Council. One of its strategic aims over the period of the Corporate Plan is a growing and vibrant economy. To achieve this, it will be essential for the Council to plan for the integration of adequate material assets.

### 5.6.2 Baseline Evidence

Detailed information on material assets is presented in several position papers produced for the Local Development Plan including Position Paper 6: Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities. This also overlaps with the Community, Climate Change and Physical Resources sections of this report.

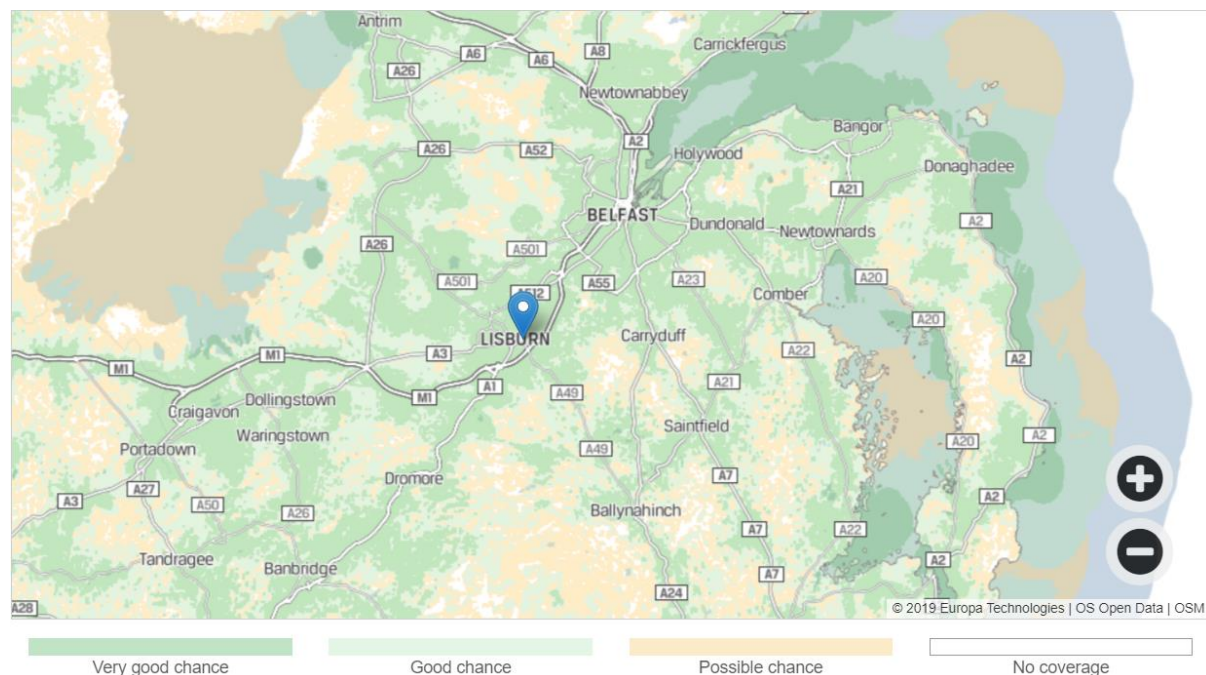
#### *Telecommunications*

There are four main network operators in Northern Ireland Vodafone, O2, Three and EE which all offer 3g and 4g services. In 2018 good 4g services were available from all four operators across 79% of Northern Ireland. Indoor 4g coverage has increased from 44% in 2017 to 57% in 2018<sup>1</sup>. Vodafone and O2 have the highest levels of mobile coverage in Northern Ireland. Figure 5.6.1 below shows the level of Vodafone 4G coverage in L&CCC. Coverage is stronger within urban areas of the Council than within rural areas, which is consistent with the wider region.

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<sup>1</sup> Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland

Figure 5.6.1: Vodafone levels of Indoor 4G Coverage within L&amp;CCC



Source: Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker, 2019

In 2019 EE launched 5G across 16 cities in the UK including Belfast. 5G will be the fifth generation of mobile technology. It is expected to deliver faster, lower latency mobile broadband, and to enable more revolutionary uses in sectors such as manufacturing, transport and healthcare<sup>1</sup>. Rural communities in Northern Ireland have also have the opportunity to compete in a £30 million rollout of superfast 5G through the Rural Connected Communities competition. The competition will fund up to ten 5G research and development projects to run over the course of 2 years from across the UK<sup>2</sup>.

More information on network coverage can be found on the Ofcom website [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk).

Following the General election in 2017 the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the Conservative Party and the DUP funding of £75 million for two years was made available to assist in the provision of ultrafast broadband for Northern Ireland<sup>3</sup>. In 2018, 89% of all premises in Northern Ireland had access to superfast broadband and 67% of all rural premises had access to superfast broadband<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland

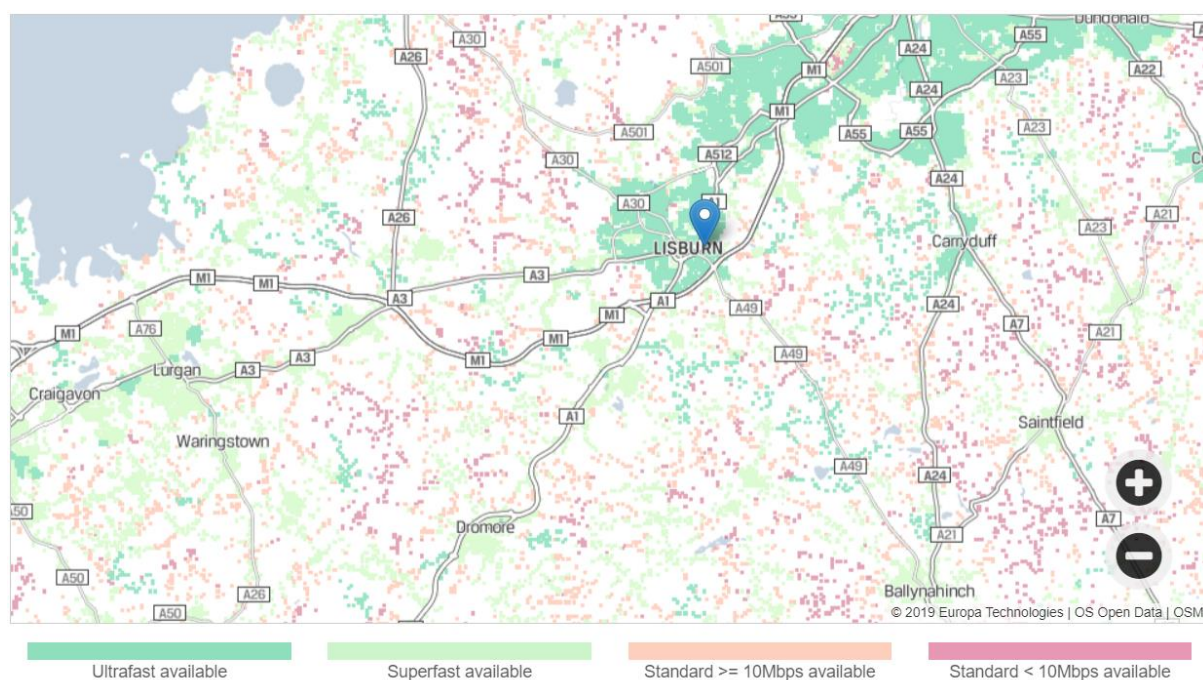
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-for-the-5g-rural-connected-communities-project>

<sup>3</sup> Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland

<sup>4</sup> Ofcom: Connected Nations 2018, Northern Ireland



Figure 5.6.2 Broadband Availability within L&amp;CCC



Source: Ofcom Mobile and Broadband Checker, 2019

### *Energy Supply and Distribution/ Electrical Infrastructure*

The system operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) plans and operates the electricity transmission system. It is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1,500km of transmission power lines and 45,000km of distribution power lines. The SONI website ([www.soni.ltd.uk](http://www.soni.ltd.uk)) displays the current energy sources for NI in real time, including connected sources of renewables. Currently all users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity<sup>1</sup>.

NI is primarily dependant on fossil fuels for energy supply. There are three major gas and coal/oil power generating sites located at Ballylumford, Coolkeeragh and Kilroot. The region is also connected to the Scottish grid via the Moyle interconnector and to the Republic of Ireland via North South tie-lines.<sup>2</sup>

The future security of supply in NI is dependent on its capacity to generate, transmit and distribute energy efficiently. It is anticipated that NI will fall into a generation supply deficit in 2021<sup>3</sup>. The planned closure of Kilroot power station and reduction in capacity at Ballylumford power station (both of which are located outside L&CCC, in Mid and East Antrim Borough) combined with limited capacity of existing transmission lines have contributed to an increasing lack of security and stability of supply in NI.

Although there is no issue with access to supply in the district, regional and local improvements to the network could help to futureproof the energy supply in the Council area. This would increase its potential for greater capacity and reduce reliance on fossil fuels as well as improving security of supply and competitiveness.

Northern Ireland is part of the Single Electricity Market for the island of Ireland which is currently served by the North South tie-lines located between Tandragee and Louth, Strabane and Letterkenny and Enniskillen and Corraclassy. Following a public inquiry, planning approval was secured by SONI in

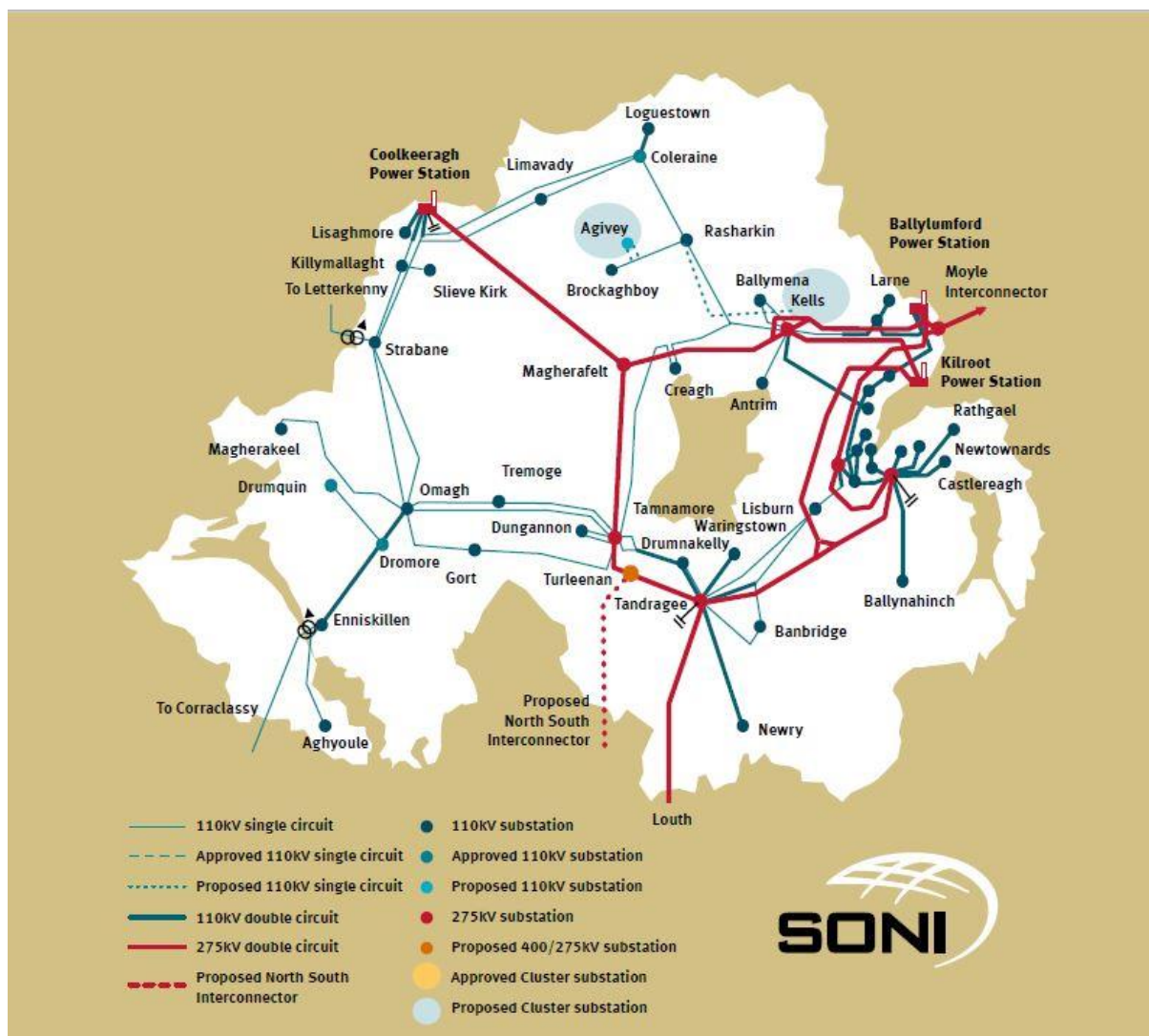
<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

<sup>2</sup> DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

<sup>3</sup> Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017

2018 for a new North South Interconnector between Tyrone and Cavan. Approval was granted in 2016 for the section located in the ROI.

Figure 5.6.3: NI Transmission Network



Source: SONI

The North/South Interconnector is a major infrastructure project which will link the Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland electricity networks. The project is vital to ensure the effective operation of an efficient 'all island' electricity market, to support the realisation of strategic renewable energy targets, increase energy security and establish a competitive energy market.<sup>1</sup> However, the UK's future energy relationship with EU member states could have implications for this project<sup>2</sup>. A current map of existing electrical infrastructure and connected sources of power generation including renewables is provided by SONI. It can be accessed at <http://smartgriddashboard.eirgrid.com/#ni/transmission-map>.

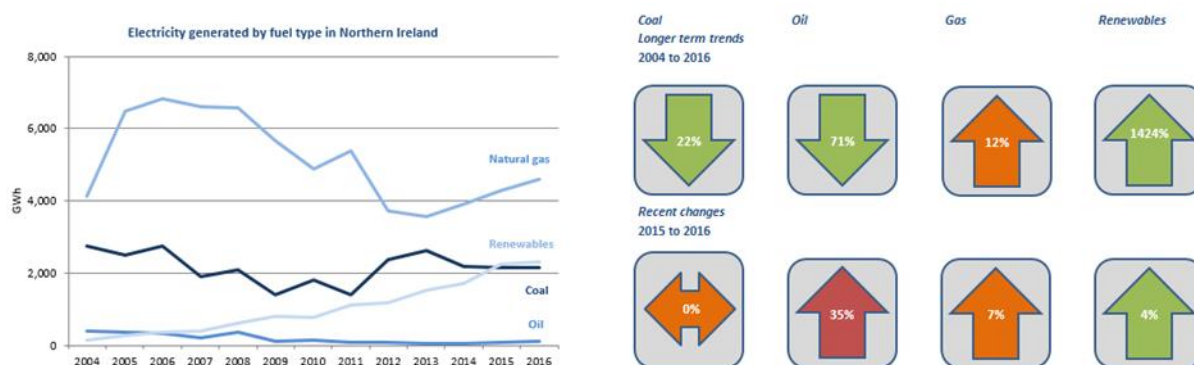
#### Energy - Natural Gas

The Department for Economy's, Strategic Energy Framework 2010 is committed to extending the natural gas network in the region where it is economic to do so. Natural gas has become the main fuel type for electricity generation in Northern Ireland.

<sup>1</sup> DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017

Figure 5.6.4: Electricity Generation by Fuel Type 2004-2016



#### Electricity generated by fuel type

Northern Ireland, 2004 to 2016

Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2018.

Phoenix Natural Gas is the operator of the licence area which covers the majority of L&CCC. In 2016, Phoenix Natural Gas obtained approval for the extension of its Natural Gas Licence to provide new gas infrastructure to 12 towns and villages in East Down<sup>1</sup>. However, Annahilt and Hillsborough are the only towns in the Council area that will benefit from the expansion of the natural gas network, with works anticipated to be complete in 2020.

#### Renewable Energy

The Strategic Energy Framework 2010 for Northern Ireland set a target to achieve 40% of electrical consumption from renewable sources by 2020. In June 2019, 44% of total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources located in NI with wind power accounting for 85.3% of that renewable energy production<sup>2</sup>.

In 2018/19 the number of renewable applications received in Northern Ireland was 78. There has been a general decline in the number of renewables applications in Northern Ireland since 2012 where applications received annually peaked at 820<sup>3</sup>. This may be due to a reduction in government funding coupled with a lack of capacity on the grid to allow for new connections. Only one application for renewables was received by L&CCC in 2018-2019, making it the second lowest rate across all Councils (Belfast City Council had zero applications in 2018/19).

The capacity of the electric network within the district is essential to support the growth of small scale renewable generation in the future. In 2014, 11Kv Network Heat Maps produced by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), indicated that there is potential for connection of additional generation within the district although capacity is limited<sup>4</sup>.

The NI Business Plan, 'Investing for the Future 2017-2024', states that planned investment will be taking place to improve network assets across the region which could see improvements in the district<sup>5</sup>. The Renewable Integration Development Plan, Network 25 and Generation Cluster Infrastructure projects will see improvements within the region to enable the connection of renewables. However, there are no planned projects within the district that could enable commercial scale connection of renewables<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Phoenix Natural Gas: Gas to East Down Information Booklet (found at <https://www.phoenixnaturalgas.com/assets/documents/Gas-to-East-Down-booklet.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> NISRA- Electricity consumption and renewable generation in Northern Ireland: year ending June 2019

<sup>3</sup> NISRA- Northern Ireland Planning Statistics Annual Statistical Bulletin 2018-2019

<sup>4</sup> Northern Ireland Electric 11kv Network Heat Map Small Scale Generation

<sup>5</sup> Investing in the Future, NIE Networks summary business plans 2017-2024

<sup>6</sup> Renewable Integration Status Report, 2016

### Waste Management

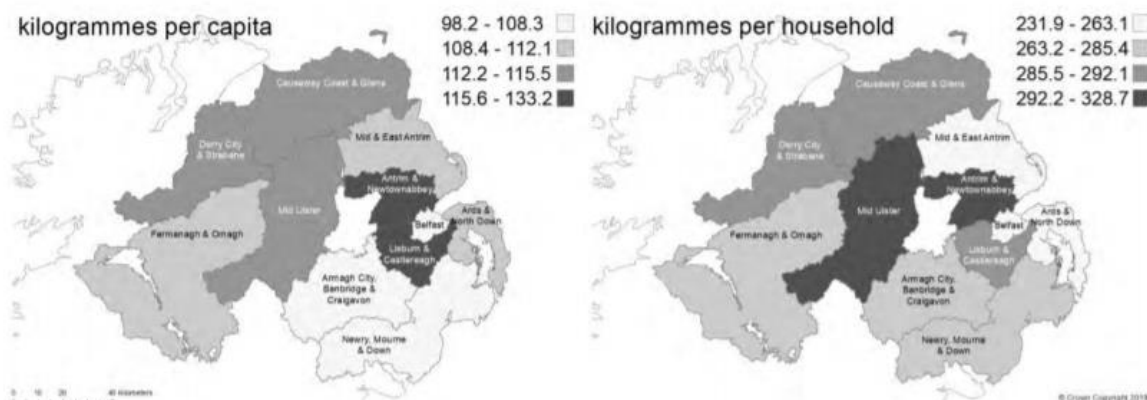
L&CCC is part of ARC21, a waste management group in Northern Ireland representing six councils in the east of the Province. ARC21 works on behalf of its member councils to guide, support and help them meet their legal requirements and drive forward innovative waste management programs<sup>1</sup>. Arc21 account for 59% of the region's population making it the largest WMG.

In October to December 2018, 47.1 per cent of Local Authority Collected (LAC) municipal waste was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting between October and December 2018. Energy recovery accounted for 19.4 per cent and 30.7 per cent was landfilled<sup>2</sup>.

The Council reports on a number of Statutory Indicators including waste within its Performance Improvement Plan. In 2018/19, the Council set a target to increase household recycling within the Council area by 50% by 2020<sup>3</sup>.

There are no active landfill sites within the Council area, the Council owned landfill at Drumlough has not been operational since 2014 and any landfill now falls under the jurisdiction of Belfast City Council<sup>4</sup>. The Council has three Household Recycling Centres located at Derrriaghy, Drumlough and Carryduff.

**Figure 5.6.5: Household waste arising per capita and per household by Council, 2018**



Source: DAERA: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

### Derelict/ Contaminated Land

The Land Use Database held by the NIEA provides a record of approximately 14,000 sites that have had previous industrial land use(s). This database was originally based on historic maps and records dating from 1834-1960 but it has been updated with NIEA datasets including Industrial Heritage, Waste Management License, and Pollution Incidents.

There are 606 records for the L&CCC on the Land Use Database. The map below shoes historical land use within L&CCC.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/bins-recycling/waste-management-plan>

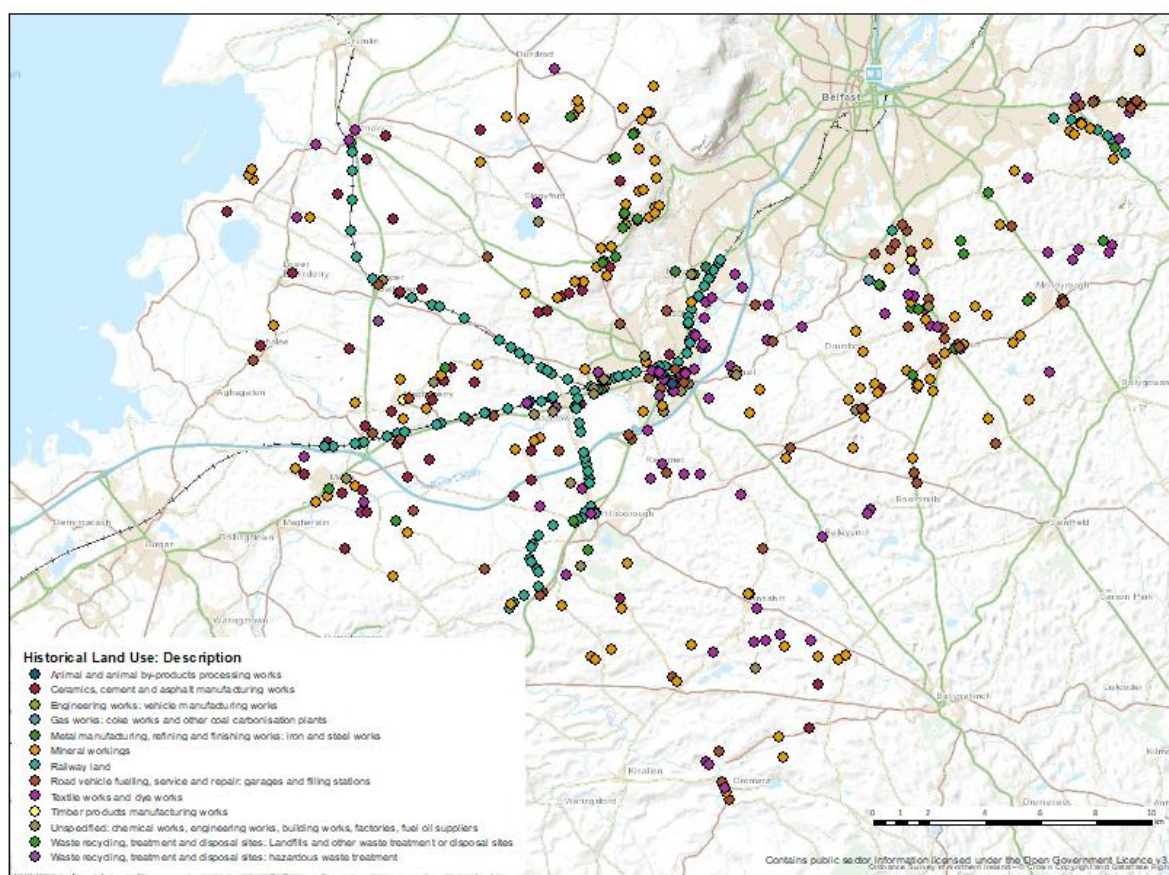
<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

<sup>3</sup> Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Performance Improvement Plan 2019

<sup>4</sup> L&CCC Position Paper 6: Telecommunications, Public Services and Utilities



Figure 5.6.6: Land Use Database- Historical Land Use Records in L&amp;CCC



Source: DAERA, Historical Landuse Database

### 5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be used. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue to inform decisions.

In the absence of a new plan, there may be less opportunity to integrate adequate material assets in accordance with Council strategies such as the Council's Growth Strategy.

There could be an increased risk of zoning land for uses not supported by existing or future infrastructure and there may be less opportunity to sustainably develop derelict/contaminated land for an appropriate use.

### 5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues

- It is important to assess the Council's growth strategy with existing energy infrastructure and telecommunications and make sure any gaps in supply and potential future demand are highlighted.
- There is a need in some rural areas of the Council to improve telecommunications provision so that rural investment and quality of life for residents is not affected.
- There is a need to continue to move away from landfill as a waste disposal route and adopt a variety of alternative waste management strategies in accordance with the principles of the waste management hierarchy aiming to avoid, minimise, reuse, recycle and/or recover.
- There is a need to sustainably approach integration of waste management and recycling facilities to the Council and with a focus on reusing appropriate land.
- There may be an opportunity to use appropriate derelict/contaminated land for material assets.

- There may be an opportunity to encourage a range of appropriate renewables to be located within the Council, which would increase the diversity of renewables supplying energy to the grid.
- There is an opportunity to recommend the integration of renewables to new developments.
- There may be opportunities to develop community based renewable projects such as wind/solar farms or large single turbines, that could reduce the local impacts from several single applications and make more efficient use of land.

## 5.7 Physical Resources

### 5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Physical resources include earth science, minerals, land, soil and geothermal energy. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life and are mostly finite in their supply.

Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they can no longer adequately function. Our protection of physical resources can be a clear indicator of how sustainable our society is.

The sustainable management of physical resources is recommended in regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional in that it can act as a connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. Therefore, adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions.

The overarching aims of current government policy and programmes are sustainable development and sustainable land management, as these will underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available. The Department for Economy (DfE) recognises that the concept of sustainability is different within the industry because reserves are finite, but the industry can still play a part in the circular economy and the principles of the waste management hierarchy. Northern Ireland also has a Geodiversity Charter that aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment, as part of the UK Geodiversity Action Plan.

The SPSS aims to minimise the impacts from the minerals industry on local communities and the environment. This is expected through sustainable minerals development that carefully considers impacts on the local area and includes the safe restoration of sites with an appropriate reuse. In Northern Ireland, older mineral workings from the 1970s and 1980s had little emphasis placed on managing their environmental impacts or restoration. Recent changes to planning legislation through the Planning Act (NI) 2011, enables Councils to review old mineral permissions sites (ROMP sites). However, a further Order is needed before Councils can begin this review.

Through its Corporate Plan 2018-2022 the Council aims to promote a resilient and environmentally friendly place for people to work, live and play. Ensuring the sustainable management of the Council's physical resources will be essential to achieving this.

The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032 recognises that a healthy planet contributes to a healthy society and that part of this is the protection of the physical environment (built and natural).

### 5.7.2 Baseline information

Baseline evidence for physical resources is presented in the Local Development Plan (LDP) Position papers. This topic overlaps with the Housing, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this scoping report.

#### *Earth science*

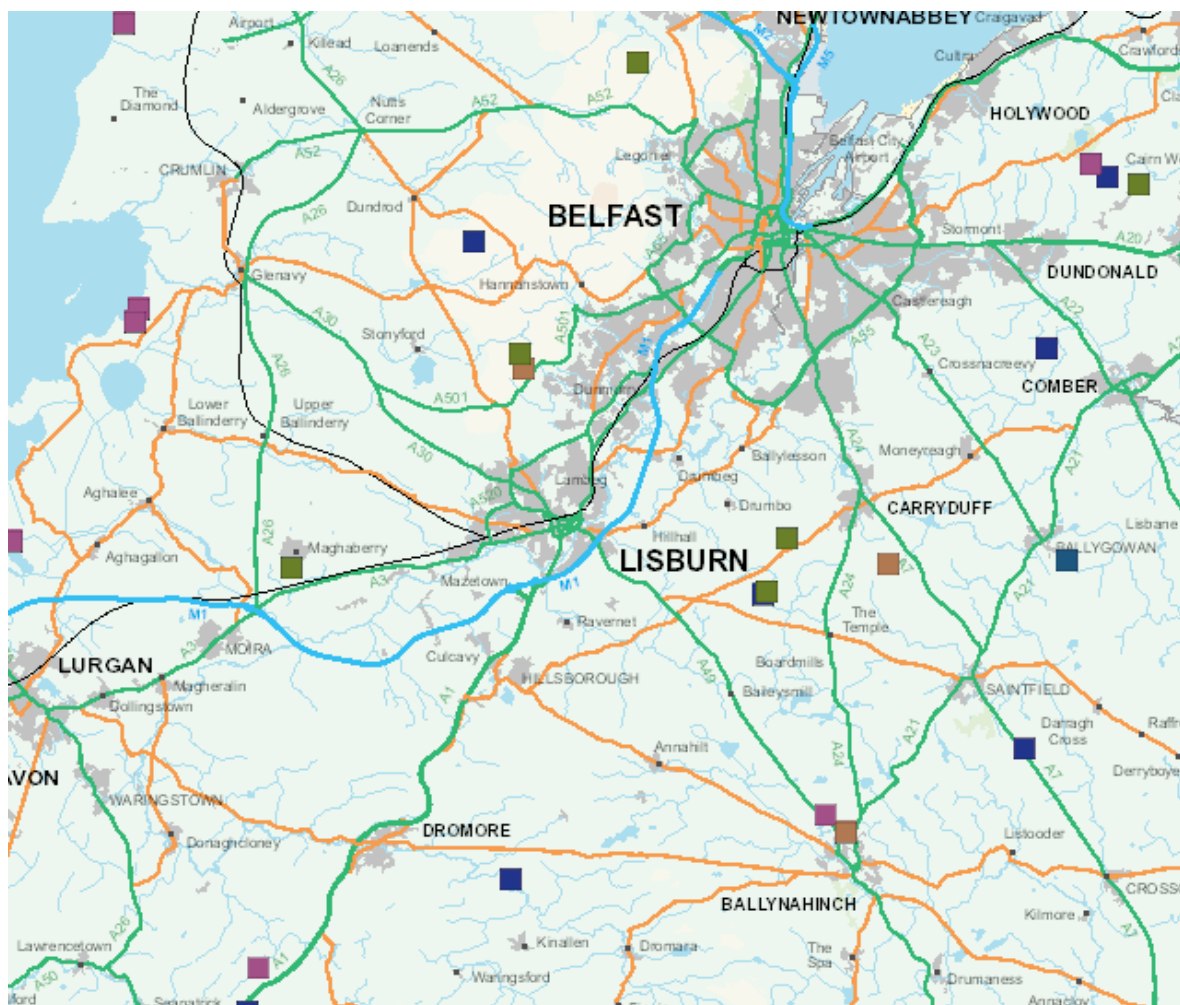
In the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, there are five earth science Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). These are Belshaw's Quarry, Cregagh Glen, Purdysburn, Broadwater and Clarehill Quarry.

### Minerals

According to research published by the University of Ulster in 2019 Northern Ireland is recognised as an attractive area for mining investment.<sup>1</sup> Results from The Canadian Fraser Institutes 2018 Annual Survey of Mining Companies demonstrated that Northern Ireland is ranked within the top 10 worldwide with regard to overall policy attractiveness, performing well in the quality of infrastructure, trade friendliness and the quality of geological databases.<sup>2</sup>

There are eight known active mineral workings for sand and gravel, basalt and igneous rock within L&CCC.<sup>3</sup> The underlying geology contains a wide range of mineral resources. These include sand and gravel, clay, igneous/meta-igneous rock, peat, limestone and metalliferous minerals including lead. The Department for Economy's POP LDP scoping response indicates that there is also some potential for conventional hydrocarbons in the district. The most promising reservoir rock for hydrocarbons is the Sherwood Sandstone which lies at shallow depths in the Lagan Valley (where it is a prolific aquifer) but to the northwest of the Lagan Valley it is buried to greater depths and this is the area that could contain conventional oil or gas fields.

**Figure 5.7.1: Location of Active Quarries within L&CCC District and surrounding area**



Source: GSNI Geoidex

<sup>1</sup> University of Ulster: Economic Impact of the Geoscience Industry on the Northern Ireland Economy, 2019

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/annual-survey-of-mining-companies-2018.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> L&CCC Position Paper 10- Development Constraints (Flood Risk, Drainage and Minerals) Updated

The 2017 Annual Minerals Statement published by the DfE shows that L&CCC is the second highest contributor to the overall supply of sand and gravel in NI.<sup>1</sup> In 2017, 15% of the total NI output (by quantity), with a value of £2.13 million was from the Council area. L&CCC is the third highest contributor to sandstone in NI at 12% with a value of £1.34 million. Data in relation to basalt and igneous rock mineral production was submitted but it is not possible to isolate the data for L&CCC as it has been combined with data results for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. No data in respect of other minerals was returned by quarries in L&CCC in 2017 and it is assumed that mineral extraction within the Council area of products other than sand and gravel, sandstone and basalt and igneous rock is negligible.

**Table 5.7.1: Summary of Mineral Production in L&CCC (2017)**

|                                 | 2017 L&CCC quantity produced (tonnes) | 2017 Total NI quantity produced (tonnes) | 2017 L&CCC % of NI total (tonnes) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Basalt and Igneous Rock*</b> | 140,838                               | 3,227,240                                | 4%                                |
| <b>Sandstone</b>                | 455,580                               | 3,722,465                                | 12%                               |
| <b>Limestone</b>                | N/A                                   | 2,323,324                                | 0                                 |
| <b>Sand &amp; Gravel</b>        | 405,692                               | 2,606,272                                | 15%                               |
| <b>Other</b>                    | N/A                                   | 794,851                                  | 0                                 |

\*Includes data from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Source: DfE Annual Mineral Statement 2017

The DfE's LDP consultation response on Minerals indicates that the type of sandstone currently quarried in the Council area is greywacke. This stone is recognised as a high value commodity which is exported to Great Britain and the European Union.

Census 2011 data showed that the mining and quarrying industry employed 76 people in the Council area, which represented 0.12% of all employment within the Council area at that time.<sup>2</sup> In 2015, the Mineral Products Association Northern Ireland (formerly Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland) published information indicating that 350 people were employed by the industry within L&CCC and that £40 million of revenue is generated to the area's economy.

According to the DfE's LDP Consultation response there are currently no active prospecting licenses for minerals within the L&CCC area. However, there is currently one application for prospecting for petroleum within the Council area. DfE publicly consulted on this application in May 2019 and further information on this application can be found on the Department's website.<sup>3</sup> Licenses were last awarded in the 1980s for lignite exploration in the west of the Council area and in the 1970s for base metal exploration in the south and east. Modern mineral reconnaissance and exploration techniques have not been applied to the council area and it may be possible that undiscovered resources are present.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 originally proposed a number of Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development (ACMD), however these were excluded prior to BMAP's adoption in 2014 (since then, BMAP has been quashed). The L&CCC preferred option was for the provision of Mineral Safeguarding zones and ACMD. The designation of ACMDs may restrict the future opportunities to pursue mineral development.

There were 17 sites identified in L&CCC by the Department of the Environment in their Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMP), equating to 3.6% of the total number of ROMP sites in Northern Ireland (470) (see Figure 5.7.2). The majority of these (9) were for the extraction of basalt, followed by the

<sup>1</sup> Department for the Economy Annual Minerals Statement <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/Annual-Mineral-Statement-2017.pdf>

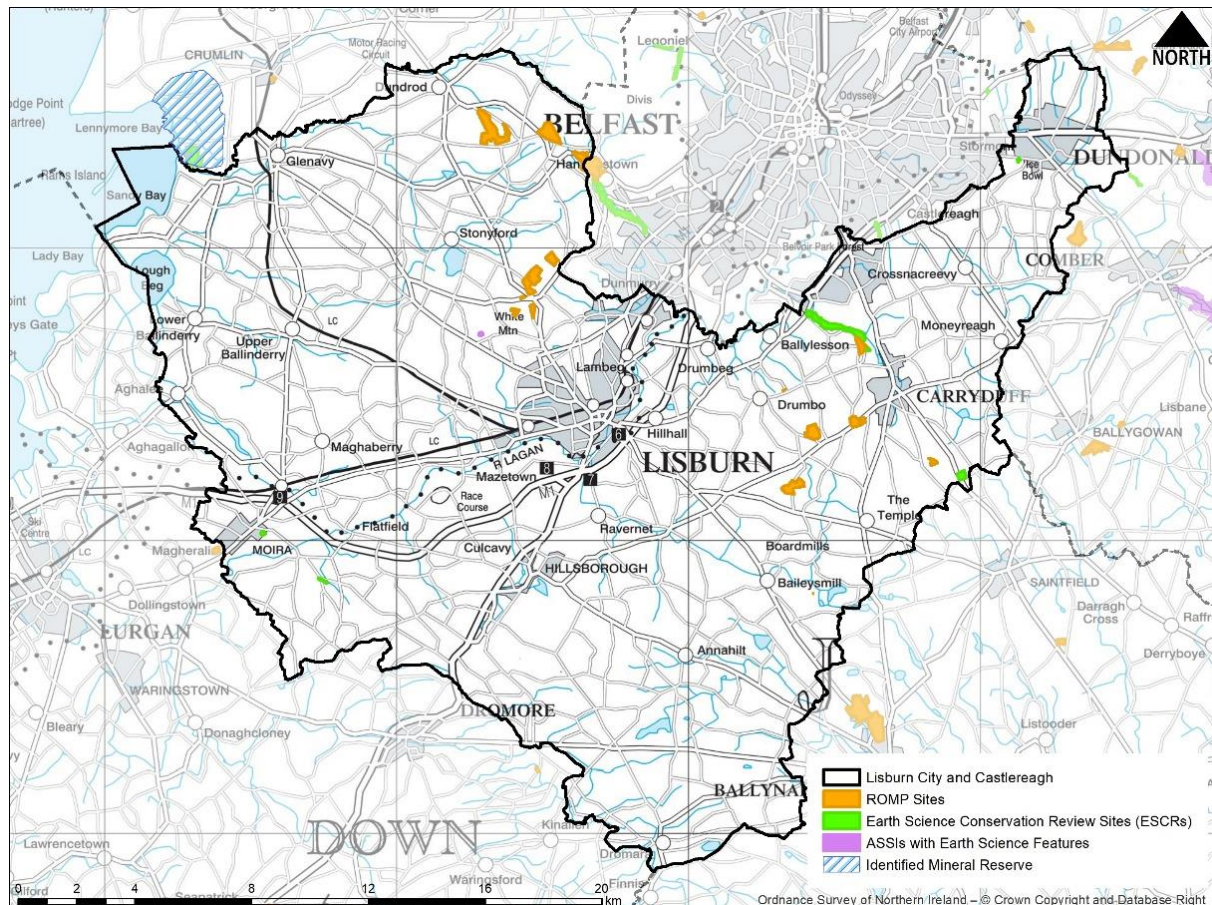
<sup>2</sup> NISRA: Census 2011: Labour Market: Industry of Employment

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/petroleum-licence-application-pla116>



extraction of grit (7) and sandstone (1). ROMP enables a mechanism to review all existing planning conditions on extant mineral planning permissions, providing an important opportunity to secure improved operating and environmental; standards within the quarrying industry. However, action on the ROMP has been delayed due to the need for the Department of Infrastructure to produce further legislation.

**Figure 5.7.2: ROMP sites and Earth Conservation Sites**



Source: NIEA Digital Datasets

The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) maintains a database of former mine workings, shafts, adits and has an associated webviewer<sup>1</sup> This database shows that coal was prospected during the 1900s south east of Mazetown. Land within the vicinity of former mine workings may be at risk of instability and subsidence, which should be taken in to consideration when planning new development.

### Earth Science

There are five Earth Science Conservation Review sites (ESCRs) in L&CCC (see Figure XXX). These sites are recognised for their various geological features. Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected for their geological value and can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to maintain local biodiversity. There are currently no ASSIs designated in L&CCC.

The GSNI published a Geodiversity Charter in 2017<sup>2</sup>, which aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment in NI and contributes towards the delivery of the UK Geodiversity Action Plan. The Charter states that *'an understanding of geomorphological processes is vital in managing geological hazards such as landslides, coastal change*

<sup>1</sup> GSNI Geoindex [http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI\\_Geoindex/home.html](http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoindex/home.html)

<sup>2</sup> DfE / Geological Survey of NI: [Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter - Safeguarding Northern Ireland's Rocks and Landscape](#)

*and flooding, all of which will undoubtedly increase due to climate change.’ It also recognises that ‘[the]... soils, nutrients and natural processes that support Northern Ireland’s nationally and internationally important habitats and species will also benefit from a better understanding of geodiversity, assisting with environmental management and protection and ultimately providing a safer and healthier place to live.’*

### *Geothermal Energy*

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possible electricity. This naturally occurring ground heat is called ‘geothermal energy’. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and is viable with existing technology. It could become a sustainable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided. The DfE has advised that areas of Sherwood Sandstone in L&CCC (see Figure XX) have potential for use as a geothermal aquifer at shallow depths and at depths greater than 1000m. At shallow depths this would be suitable for the deployment of open loop ground source heat pump systems. These may be used to provide heating for domestic, commercial or industrial premises. At greater depths there may be potential to deploy larger geothermal heating systems for use in larger industrial sites and heat networks.

Consideration of the installation and integration of geothermal heating systems is recommended at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. With further development of the technology, geothermal energy could help to meet the 2020 target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework discusses shallow geothermal energy.

The DfE’s consultation response on Minerals has noted that groundwater can be viewed as a resource that requires careful protection. It is a water source that can be utilised for growth and economic development. Businesses and industry can use groundwater as a private water supply source at their own premises, making significant savings on mains water costs and increasing the resilience of the business. Current groundwater level monitoring suggests that the aquifer is capable of sustaining the current demand from agriculture, companies such as Coca Cola Hellenic Bottlers and the Ulster Hospital. Monitoring also suggests that the aquifer is capable of sustaining significantly more sustainable abstraction.

### *Land*

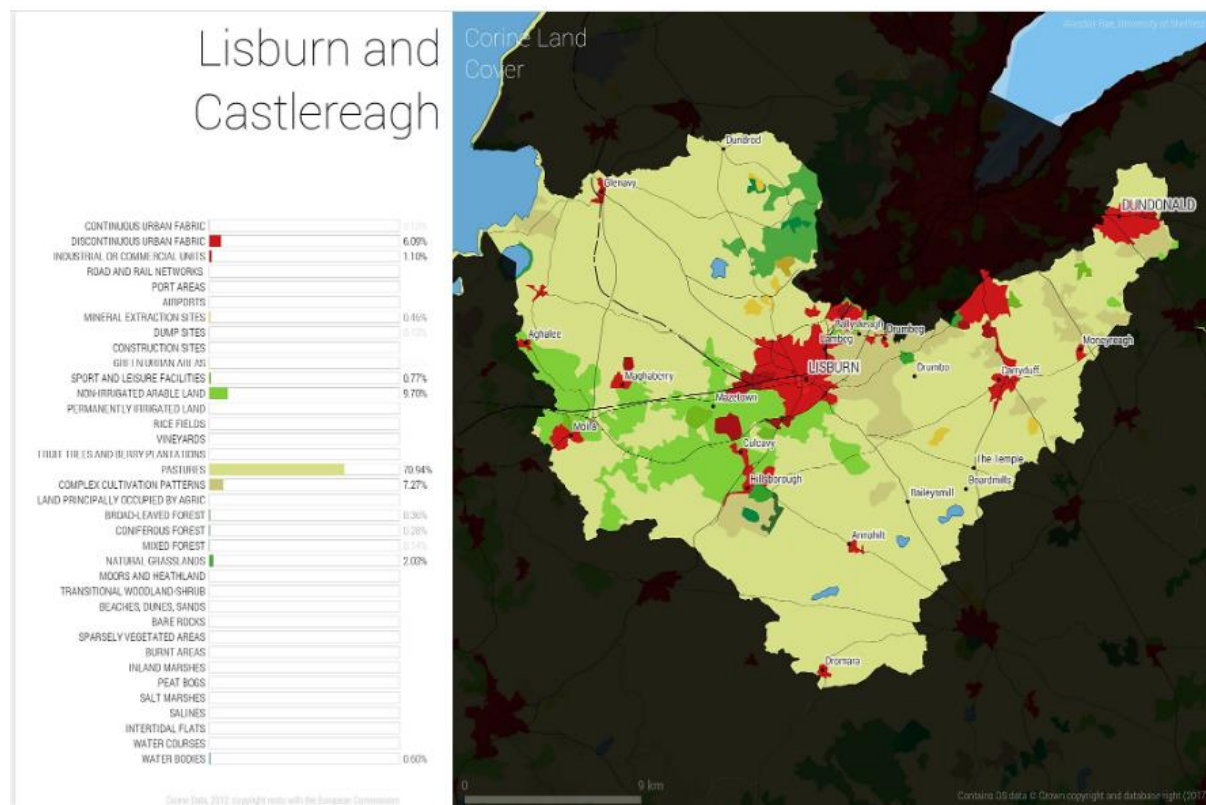
The Co-ordination of Information on the Environment (CORINE) project, initiated by the European Commission in 1985, provides a comprehensive picture on land use in the UK and Ireland. Corine uses high-definition satellite images and detailed local maps to match land use against 44 different land use codes. These can be used to monitor changes in land use over time (reference years are 1990, 2000, 2006, 2012 and 2018).

Figure 5.7.3 shows a simplified version of the CORINE land use classifications for L&CCC. The detailed land use categories can be arranged into the four general categories of ‘Built on’, ‘Green urban’, ‘Farmland’ and ‘Natural’. L&CCC currently has 88% of its land cover classified as farmland which is higher than the NI average of 72%, and 3% classed as natural land cover, much lower than the NI average of 23%. The proportion of ‘built on’ land in L&CCC, 7%, is double that of the NI average (3.5%).

The NI Countryside Survey 2007 found that the main changes in land cover over time were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for natural land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland, indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where this habitat is already scarce, is a biodiversity issue. The NI Countryside Survey highlighted development pressure for rural land from single rural dwellings.



Figure 5.7.3: Land Cover Map of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, derived from CORINE (2012)



Source: University of Leicester, The Centre for Landscape and Climate Research and Specto Natura and supported by DEFRA and the European Environment under Grant Agreement 3541/B2012/RO-GIO/EEA.55055 with funding by the European Union.

### Rural Housing

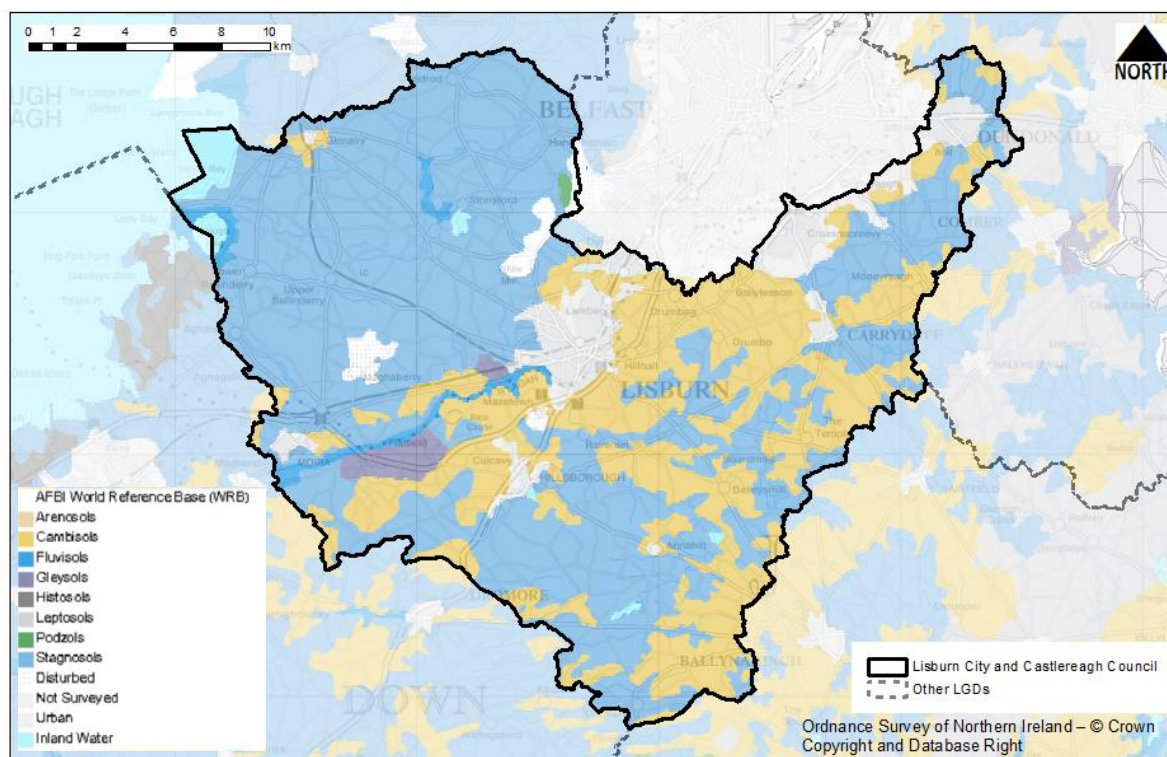
The LDP Position Paper 2: Housing and Settlements notes that between 2004-2014 508 rural new and rural replacement dwellings were approved in L&CCC. For the year 2016-2017, 231 rural residential planning decisions were approved for new single dwellings or replacement single dwellings.

### Soil

Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation in NI, but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store for - and source of - gases like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It also filters water and provides a base for biodiversity and raw materials. A properly functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion and can reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil quality through pollution and erosion. Future changes to the climate will have significant impacts on our soils. Increased seasonal aridity and wetness poses risk to soils, which are vital to a healthy environment<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> CIWEM's priorities for the second cycle of the National Adaptation Programme (NAP) under the Climate Change Act 2008.

Figure 5.7.4: Soil Map of L&amp;CCC



Source: AFBI NI / UKSO Soils Map Viewer<sup>1</sup>

The dominant soil types in L&CCC are Stagnosols- soils with stagnating water, Cambisols- relatively young soils, with little or no profile development, Gleysols- soils that are influenced by groundwater, Fluvisols- soils that are influenced by water and Histosols- soils consisting primarily of organic materials.

### 5.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and relevant PPSs, and the Planning Strategy for Rural NI (PSRNI), would all still be used. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue to inform decisions.

In the absence of a new plan there could be less opportunity to spatially manage and safeguard mineral resources and influence the location of the most sustainable sites based on reserve stock and existing infrastructure links. There could be less opportunity to spatially develop infrastructure that would support the integration of geothermal energy into the energy mix should this be feasible in the future. Development pressures for land will continue and the lack of a new plan could make it more difficult to manage pressures in key areas and avoid inappropriate development, pollution or erosion.

### 5.7.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

- Mineral resources in the Council should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and future accessibility protected.
- Older mineral sites (pre-1985) may be causing undue damage or deterioration to the local environment.
- Any new quarries/mineral workings should be located as near to adequate transport routes to ensure the most efficient transfer of goods to end users.

<sup>1</sup> UK Soil Observatory World Reference Base, Reference Soil Groups for NI <http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html?layer=AFBIWRB>

- The feasibility of integrating geothermal energy to the future energy mix of the Council area should be considered.
- Council farm diversification is expected to increase which could have a positive or negative effect on biodiversity.
- Development pressure for single rural dwellings has been increasing across the Council and is likely to continue.
- Agricultural land in the Council should be protected from inappropriate development, pollution and the effects of climate change i.e. erosion.
- Soil quality across the Council area should be protected using effective conservation measures particularly due to a lack of specific legislative protection for soils at a UK or local level.
- Peat deposits are located in the Council and although they are of limited extent, they hold an important ecological value as important water and carbon stores that also provide habitat for specialist plants, animals, birds and insects.
- While ACMD protect valuable and vulnerable landscapes and environments, they can also restrict economic development.
- Land within the vicinity of former mine workings may be at risk of instability and subsidence.
- Land surrounding former mine workings may have contaminated land issues.
- The ROMPS may provide an opportunity to improve operating and environmental standards within the quarrying industry.

## 5.8 Transport and Accessibility

### 5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Overarching regional planning policy for Transport aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling will be key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety to help reduce car use. The Plan will also be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and in the workplace.

One of the strategic outcomes of the draft PfG centres on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure, which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

The Corporate Plan for the Council states how it aims to be progressive, dynamic and inclusive. Strategic themes include a sustainable economy, health and well-being, and good service delivery. A sustainable and accessible transport system will be key to helping to achieve these strategic outcomes.

In the Council's Community Plan the vision refers to 'an empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community.' Several of the Plan's outcomes are based on aspirations directly linked to ensuring people can access sustainable and healthy transport options and transport which supports the economy and people. Outcomes of the Plan such as people enjoying 'healthy, fulfilling and long lives', and people benefitting from 'attractive, resilient and environmentally friendly places', would support provision of a more varied transport system that enables higher levels of accessibility to active and sustainable travel that can help to connect people and places.

### 5.8.2 Baseline Evidence

Detailed information has been provided in the Local Development Plan Transportation Position Paper 5 and the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Baseline Report. The NINIS also provides statistical data on transport related topics for the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area.

This topic is also relevant to the Health and Well-being, Air Quality, Climate Change and Natural Resources sections of this report.

#### *Transport Emissions*

In Northern Ireland, the transport sector has shown an increase on baseline levels (1990) of just over 29%<sup>1</sup>. Between 2015 and 2016, emissions increased by 1.9%. GHGs are linked to a warming climate and the transport sector has a responsibility to reduce emissions. This could be achieved through the planning of transport routes that enable shorter journeys and the integration of public transport and active travel options.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is also generated from road traffic. It can cause respiratory issues with prolonged exposure periods particularly increasing associated risks. In Northern Ireland, it is

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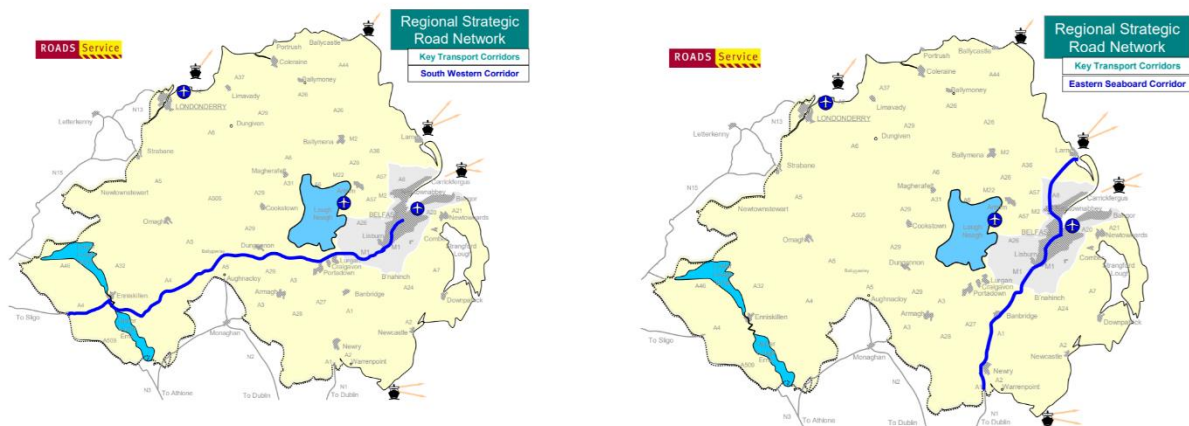
<sup>1</sup> DAERA 2018: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2016 Statistical Bulletin

measured across 16 automatically managed sites including one at Dundonald and based on an annual mean limit of (40µg/m<sup>3</sup>) set by the UK Air Quality Strategy<sup>1</sup>. Exceedances were recorded at 3 roadside locations although none of these are located in the Council area. Road transport also contributes to levels of airborne particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) which can particularly affect people with heart and lung issues.

*Transport Routes*

Within Northern Ireland there are 5 Key Transport Corridors (KTCs) which are the top tier of the transport routes. Two of these KTCs flow directly through Lisburn namely the South Western KTC and the Eastern Seaboard KTC. The South Western KTC links Belfast to Enniskillen and beyond and the Eastern Seaboard KTC connects Larne and Belfast to the Republic of Ireland. Both of these routes are protected.

**Figure 5.8.1: South Western and Eastern Seaboard Corridors**



Source: Department for Infrastructure <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/regional-strategic-transport-network>

A full list of protected routes in L&CCC are listed below in Table 5.8.1. Part of the radial Outer Ring (A55) route for central Belfast is also within the Council area.

**Table 5.8.1 Protected Routes in L&CCC**

| Route                  | Number | Route                 | Number    |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Nutts Corner- Lisburn  | B101   | Lisburn               | A520      |
| Antrim- Moira          | A26    | Belfast- Lisburn      | A1        |
| Belfast- Newtownards   | A20    | Lisburn               | A101      |
| Belfast- Downpatrick   | A22    | Lisburn - Belfast     | A512 (A1) |
| Belfast- Ballygowan    | A23    | Lisburn               | A513      |
| Belfast                | A55    | Lisburn - Belfast     | B102      |
| Belfast- Clough        | A24    | Lisburn - Belfast     | B23/b205  |
| Carryduff- Downpatrick | A7     | Lisburn- Ballynahinch | A49       |
| Belfast- Dungannon     | M1     | Lisburn- Saintfield   | B6        |
| Lisburn                | A519   | Lisburn- Craigavon    | A3        |

Although the Council has a relatively low amount of road length relative to other Councils, it has a significant share of motorway length at 25.6Km which is joint highest with Armagh City, Banbridge

<sup>1</sup> DAERA (2019) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report



and Craigavon Borough Council. L&CCC also has the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest amount of dual carriageway (12km) relative to other Council areas. Likewise, there are a low number of C roads and Unclassified roads.<sup>1</sup>

### Car Ownership

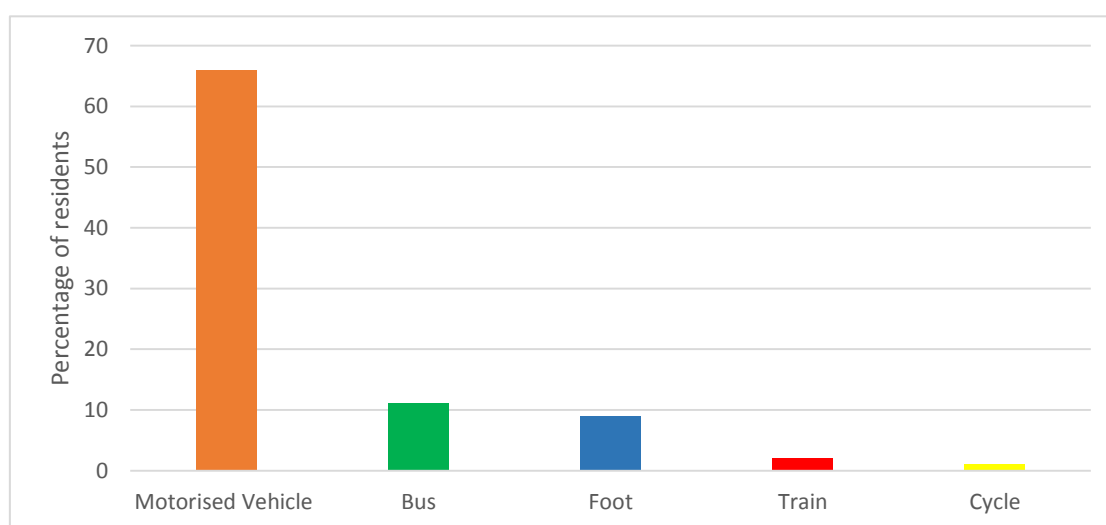
In 2018 the number of licensed cars in the Council area was just over 80,000.<sup>2</sup> This is the 6<sup>th</sup> highest amount relative to other Council areas. According to the Continuous Household Survey 89% of households in L&CCC had access to one or more vehicle in 2018/19.<sup>3</sup> 11% of households were without access to any vehicle and therefore reliant on public transport, active transport and lift shares.

### Travel to Work/Study

Within L&CCC there are approximately 88,367 people in employment, at school or in study. In total just over 66% of this group drive or travel as a passenger in a car or van to their place of work, school or study.<sup>4</sup> Figures from the 2011 census show that 13 % of residents use public transport to travel to work or their place of study (1.96% by train and 11.12% by bus). 9% of commuters walk and less than 1% cycle. These figures reflect regional figures where 13% of those sampled walk and 2% cycle. Although 9.22% of residents work or study from home, the majority remain reliant on motorised transport. Using public transport and active travel helps to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, which helps reduce transport emissions and helps to maintain air quality.

Figure 5.8.2 shows a breakdown of the chosen modes of travel. The 66% of the population that are reliant on motorised vehicles includes those who are passengers (14.84%), car pool (7.12%), use taxis (0.78%) or motorbikes (0.34%).

**Figure 5.8.2: Modes of Travel to work or Place of Study in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council**



Source: NINIS Census 2011: Method of travel to work or place of study (resident population) KS702NI (administrative geographies)

Census 2011 data shows that the majority of people use motorised vehicles for longer journeys with car use particularly relied upon for journeys between 5km, 10km and 20km long. However, of the total number of residents using motorised vehicles to travel to work, 8.4% are travelling less than 2km and nearly 14.3% are travelling less than 5km.

### Electric Vehicles

In an attempt to help combat climate change, the transport industry has been developing measures to improve fuel efficiency as well as use of alternative fuels. Electric vehicles are now becoming more common because they emit less GHG emissions than petrol or diesel. The majority of charging points currently located in L&CCC are located on the Lisburn to Dromore route. The transport sector is one

<sup>1</sup> Department for Infrastructure- Northern Ireland Transport Statistics 2017-18

<sup>2</sup> NINIS: Cars – Private and Company (administrative geographies)

<sup>3</sup> Continuous Household Survey 2015-2017

<sup>4</sup> NINIS Census 2011: Method of travel to work or place of study (resident population) KS702NI (administrative geographies)

of the main contributors to GHG emissions in NI and needs to reduce its impact and shift away from fossil fuels. There is likely to be an increased demand for accessible electric vehicle charging points as low emission vehicles become more mainstream. Further information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

### *Public Transport*

The Council area benefits from both bus and rail services. A Translink bus centre is located in Lisburn city centre whilst five railway halts are located in the Lisburn area. A disused section of railway lies between Knockmore, Lisburn and Antrim. Importantly it passes by the International Airport. A spatial representation is provided in Annex 1 of the Position Paper. The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) identifies the need to retain the line for potential future use. However, a disused railway line from Comber to Belfast known as the Comber Greenway, has become a locally important feature used as a cycling and walking route. This is an alternative option for disused railway lines. There could be potential to run access along-side the old Lisburn-Antrim railway line. The BMTP also proposes measures for the Castlereagh area to develop quality public transport corridors, active travel, road safety and park and ride schemes.

Position Paper 5 also refers to the Belfast Rapid Transit (EWAY), which connects Belfast to Newtownards and Dundonald. It aims to improve connectivity and efficiency, and enable people to reduce their reliance on the car. Measures include park and ride facilities.

The West Lisburn Development Framework is also detailed. This is based on improving road links to help improve the economic potential of land to the west of the city. Although the emphasis is very much on roads and vehicular transport, there are some references to public transport and active travel i.e. walking and cycling routes, and a new park and ride adjacent to a new rail halt. Development of active travel routes are planned to connect with existing routes such as the National Cycle Network (NCN 9)<sup>1</sup>.

The Lisburn City Centre Masterplan is also referred to. A Transport Assessment was carried out for it. It states how the road system has dissected the town and has had a negative impact on the attractiveness of the town to shoppers and visitors alike.

### *Active Travel*

Active travel routes are a way to connect communities to facilities and services, as well as to areas of open and green space. The SPPS recognises the impact this aspect of planning can have on people's travel choices, local biodiversity, and health and well-being. The concept of active travel should enable people to easily access places without using a vehicle – walk or cycle. The LDP can be used to encourage and support active travel as a consideration in new developments and projects as well as existing towns.

According to the L&CCC Position Paper 5 on Transportation the National Cycle Network throughout Northern Ireland has a total proposed length of over 1,400 kilometres of which more than 848 kilometres have been constructed to date. An example of which is the Lagan and Lough Cycle Way (National Routes 9 Belfast-Portadown & 93 Whiteabbey-Belfast), which runs largely traffic-free through the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area, from Derriaghy to Moira and beyond. There are currently two national routes which travel through the L&CCC area. National Route 99 of the National Cycle Network travels around Strangford Loch providing a link between Belfast, Comber, Downpatrick and Newcastle. The route includes a section between Belfast's new Titanic Quarter development and Comber which is a newly developed greenway passing through Dundonald. Route 9 will eventually connect Belfast and Dublin. The route is currently open and signed between Queen Elizabeth Bridge in Belfast and Slieve Gullion (south of Newry) via Lisburn, Craigavon, Portadown and Scarva. The Route follows the River Lagan towpath south west from Belfast to Lisburn through the Lagan Valley Regional Park.

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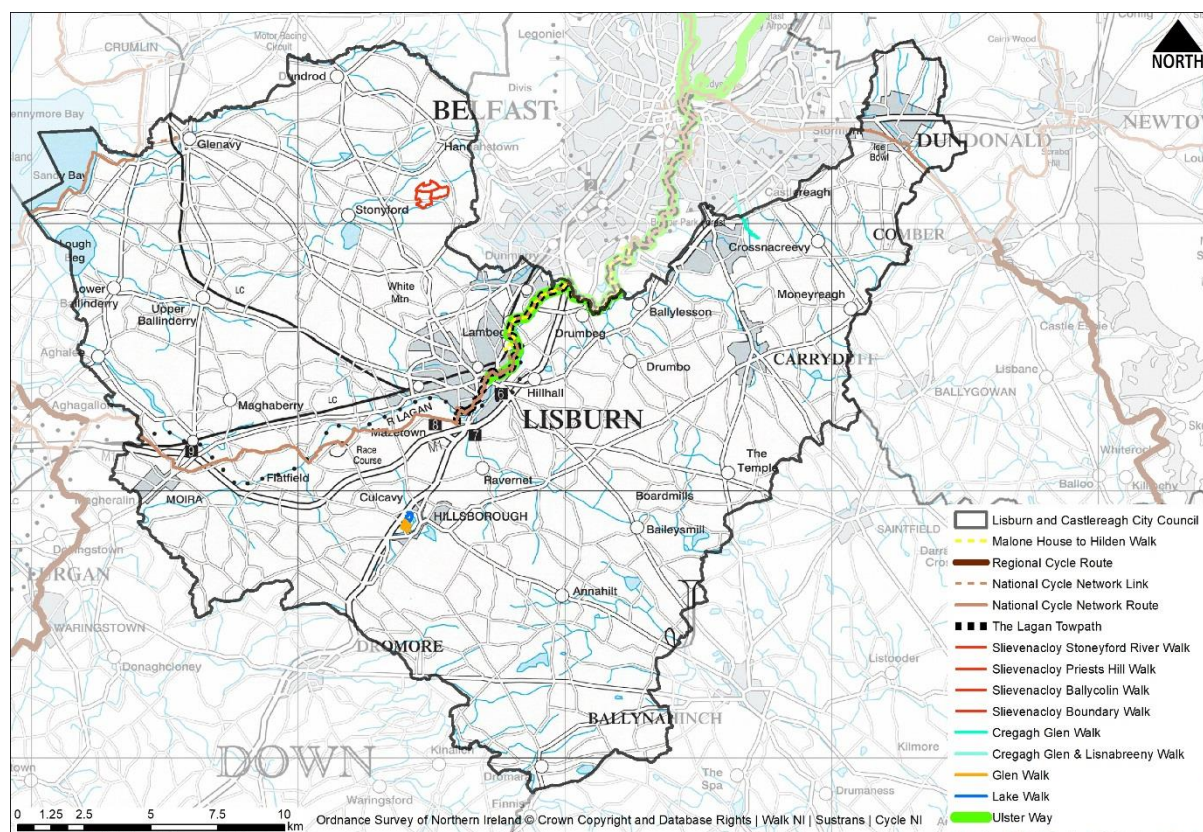
<sup>1</sup> [www.sustrans.org](http://www.sustrans.org)



Figure 5.8.3: The Lisburn to Belfast Lagan Cycle Way



Figure 5.8.4: Walking and Cycling Routes in Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council



Source: Outdoor NI

### Greenways

Plans for a network of greenways connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils are set out in Exercise - Explore - Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways<sup>1</sup>. This aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and give people ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure. This Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region.

Primary routes through L&CCC will be Belfast to Craigavon and Belfast to Newtownards. It is reported in the DfI Strategic Plan for Greenways<sup>2</sup>, that L&CCC suggested a number of proposals. The first would extend the Sustrans Route No.9 onwards from Sprucefield with proposed cycle routes that might connect from Union Locks and Sprucefield to Maze Long Kesh and beyond. The second proposal is a possible route onwards towards Moira and Portadown. It appears that there is a strip of land in public ownership along much of the M1 motorway, some paved and some not, which could provide an extension to the off road cycle network. There is also potential to create a blueway and greenway route along the proposed route of the re-opened Lagan Navigation, which could be part of the larger route above or link to it. This blueway/greenway has potential to link into Waterways Ireland's overall strategy for the waterways for which they have responsibility beyond the Lagan. The Council also referred to a Carryduff to Belfast greenway and would view this favourably in terms of inclusion in the Strategic Plan for Greenways.

<sup>1</sup> Department for Infrastructure (2016) Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways

<sup>2</sup> AECOM in association with Sustrans (2016) 'Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways' July 2016



Figure 5.8.5 Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes

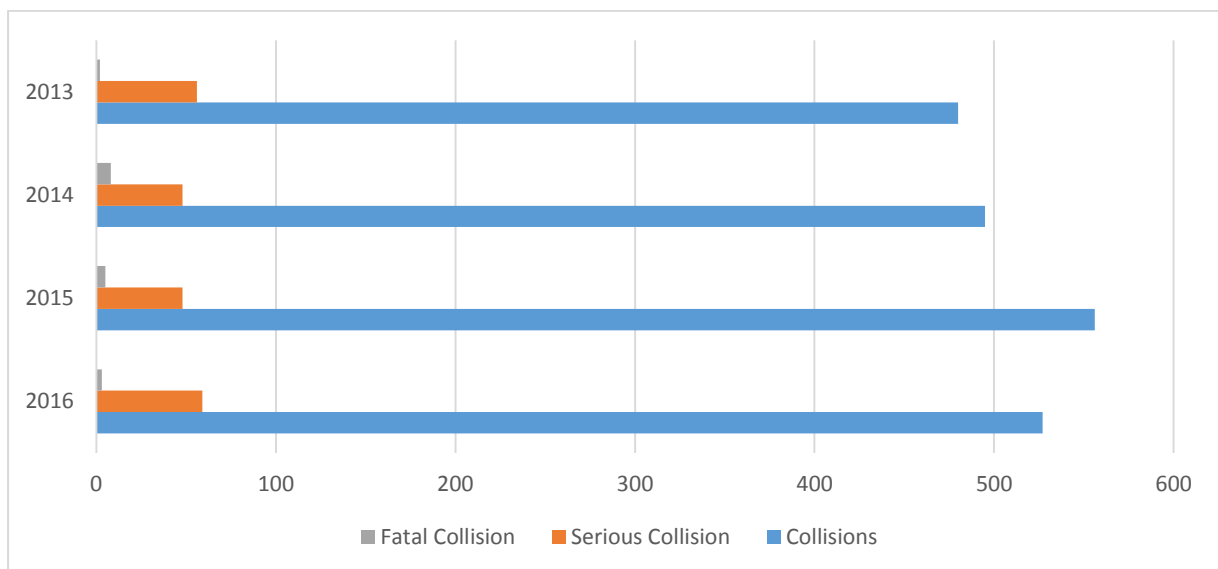


Source: Department for Infrastructure (DfI) 2016: Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways

Road Safety

Road traffic collisions have increased in the period 2013 to 2016 from 480 to 527. When adjusted to collisions per 10,000 of the population, for 2016, the rate of collisions (37.3) and casualties (58.1) is higher than that for Northern Ireland (33.4 and 51.5 respectively) and this pattern is consistent over previous years. It is likely to reflect the volume of traffic and extent of major roads. There does not appear to be any clear trend with serious or fatal collisions but overall there does not appear to be a significant improvement in road safety.

Figure 5.8.6 Road Traffic Collisions in L&CCC 2013-2016



Source: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

### 5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs, and Transport Plans would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue to inform decisions.

In the absence of an LDP, it may be more difficult to integrate sustainable travel options to new and existing development. Ideally sustainable and active travel options should connect to existing routes and all proposed transport routes should be compatible with existing land uses. People should be enabled to reduce reliance on the private car and benefit from improved connectivity in the Lisburn town centre.

### 5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues

- Car use is the most popular mode of transport in Northern Ireland and this is reflected at the Council level by a slightly higher than average amount of households in the Council area with access to 1-3 vehicles.
- The Council has a high reliance on private vehicle use.
- Lisburn town is currently dissected by roads which adds an element of disconnect to the urban environment affecting shoppers, visitors and potentially investors.
- Sustainable travel options are required across the Council area to encourage people to use other transport options than the car or van.
- A section of disused railway line lies between Lisburn and Antrim, which could be considered as a community greenway as well as be retained for future use.
- The Council is strategically located with several key road and rail transport routes passing through it.
- The Council has several key services located within it such as the Sprucefield regional shopping centre and the Lagan Valley Hospital.
- Different types of road collision are either increasing, or remaining more or less the same.

## 5.9 Air Quality

### 5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Air quality is an important indicator of local, regional and international environmental conditions as it helps to indicate levels and sources of air pollutants and air pollution trends. Air pollution is both an urban and a rural issue that can affect human health, but when levels of certain substances such as nitrogen, sulphur or ammonia are exceeded, the effects on ecosystems can also be adverse.

DAERA and Councils manage air quality in Northern Ireland in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (NI) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives and the UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007. The strategy provides the strategic direction to help meet objectives that will protect human health and ecosystems<sup>1</sup>. A published UK Clean Air Strategy 2019 states the main sources of air pollution as transport and industry, and highlights the risks posed to both the environment and human health.

Air quality objectives are set at a regional level and include limits for air pollutants. These are primarily based on ensuring protection of human health and sensitive habitats. Other measures include smoke control areas and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Regional policy thus recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change.

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. All these sources emit other air pollutants in addition to greenhouse gases. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland; we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys and we are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. Air quality does not have a specific planning policy, but under the SPPS it can be a material consideration.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPFG), several outcomes can be linked to good air quality<sup>2</sup>. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably - protecting the environment; to enjoy long healthy, active lives; and to create a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest. Indicators to help us determine progress in achieving all of the draft PFG outcomes include improving air quality, as well as increasing healthy life expectancy, reducing preventable deaths and increasing environmental sustainability. Improving air quality is a fundamental aspect of sustainable development as it is important for the quality of our environment, the health of our society and the sustainability of our economy.

In the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/2022, the Council's 'ambitious vision' for its residents is referred to as well as the Council's commitment to the dPFG to improve wellbeing. The Plan's vision is 'to be a progressive, dynamic and inclusive Council, working in partnership to develop our community and improve the quality of peoples' lives and the values we operate by'. The Council's purpose 'to deliver better lives for all' will be achieved through 'high quality local services', working with stakeholders to improve social, economic and environmental wellbeing, as well as 'planning and delivering a better future for our area'. Fundamental to achieving all of these outcomes as well the Plan's strategic themes will be good air quality. The strategic themes of economy, and health and wellbeing, will be particularly reliant on good air quality.

The Community Plan, 2017-2032 will help to 'implement a shared vision for promoting social, economic and environmental wellbeing for everyone who lives and works' in the City Council area. The Community Plan aligns to the Corporate Plan and through strategic community planning partnerships, the Plans should jointly deliver better outcomes for everyone. The Community Plan

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england-scotland-wales-and-northern-ireland-volume-1>

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021

themes are similar to the Corporate Plan's and all of them will be reliant on maintaining and improving good air quality.

### 5.9.2 Baseline Information

Air quality information is available from a variety of sources including the DAERA website, NINIS and the NI Environmental Statistics Report. Relevant information is also available in the LDP Position Paper 5 Transportation. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Climate Change, Natural Resources, and the Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

#### *Air Quality Management Areas*

There is currently one active Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) located at Normandy Court, Dundonald for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>1</sup>. NO<sub>2</sub> is primarily released from the combustion of fossil fuels and can be a severe respiratory irritant. Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain, or other pollutants like ground level ozone, that also acts as a respiratory irritant. Impacts on human health are referred to below.

Information on the district's air quality and monitoring can be accessed at [www.airqualityni.co.uk](http://www.airqualityni.co.uk) under the LAQM section, where progress reports and screening assessments can also be found.

#### *Air Quality Monitoring*

In Northern Ireland, there are 18 air quality monitoring stations across NI where pollutants that can adversely affect human health (including NO<sub>x</sub>) are measured for<sup>2</sup>. The average annual mean concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in urban areas has 'remained relatively stable' over recent years but at roadside sites, 'levels have been variable'<sup>3</sup>. In 2017, NO<sub>2</sub> was monitored at a site in Castlereagh/Dundonald and no exceedances against target values set under the UK Air Quality Strategy (AQS) were recorded. Overall, in NI NO<sub>2</sub> levels appear to be decreasing.

In the 2018 Updating and Screening Assessment for the Council, two automatic monitoring sites were referred to. The site at Kilmakee Activity Centre, Seymour Hill measures for sulphur dioxide and particulate matter; and the second site located in Dundonald measures for NO<sub>2</sub><sup>4</sup>.

In addition to the automatic monitoring sites, there were 19 passive monitoring NO<sub>2</sub> tubes (non-automatic sites) located across the Council area. Most monitoring tubes were positioned along the main arterial routes into Belfast, including within the AQMA. In 2017, three sites were removed from the monitoring programme but six new sites were also identified, where new development and road layouts are planned. Over the past five years no 'particular trends' have been reported<sup>5</sup>.

#### *Smoke Control Areas*

Smoke Control Areas (SCAs) are located in the Council area including large parts of Castlereagh and Dundonald. Lisburn city and rural areas are not included within the smoke control area<sup>6</sup>. SCAs have been enforced to help improve local air quality by reducing air pollutants like smoke, sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and PM<sub>10</sub> from the burning of fossil fuels. The overall aim is to improve local air quality with authorised fuels.

#### *Transport Emissions*

NO<sub>2</sub> is primarily released from the combustion of fossil fuels and the transport sector is a significant source. There are several key transport routes within the Council, including the M1, A1, A3, A26 and A49<sup>7</sup>. However, relative to other Council areas, the total length of road within the Council area is

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA LAQM <https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/aqma>

<sup>2</sup> DAERA (2019): NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11

<sup>3</sup> DAERA (2019): NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11

<sup>4</sup> L&CCC (2018): 2018 Updating and Screening Assessment

<sup>5</sup> L&CCC (2018) Lisburn & Castlereagh - Updating and Screening Assessment - 2018 - Published: 17th December 2018

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/environmental-health/smoke-control>

<sup>7</sup> L&CCC: Development Plan Position Paper: Transportation 5 December 2017

relatively low, although there is a substantial length of motorway present at 25.6 kilometres (kms)<sup>1</sup>. The Council area is important for commuting and transport routes go beyond the Council boundary, including links that connect Belfast and Dublin.

Within the Council area there are 80, 500 registered vehicles which is one of the slightly higher amounts relative to other Council areas<sup>2</sup>. The Council has a higher than average rate of access to one or more cars at 89%<sup>3</sup>. In addition, a higher than average number of people travel to work by vehicle with 75% of commuters travelling by car/van<sup>4</sup>. Road travel is likely to remain as the main mode of transport throughout the Plan period. More information is in the Transport & Accessibility section of this report.

### *Agricultural Sources*

Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) is a gas emitted into the air as a result of many farming activities such as the housing of livestock, the storage and spreading of animal manures and slurries and the use of chemical fertiliser<sup>5</sup>. High emissions are associated with intensive dairy, pig and poultry farming and it has been identified in a UK Clean Air Strategy as one of the main sources of air pollution in NI<sup>6</sup>. Air pollution related to ammonia, and the associated nitrogen deposition, is known to have a damaging impact on sensitive habitats, wider biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, as well as human health. The majority of NI European-designated sites for nature conservation are exceeding their critical levels, the concentration at which environmental damage occurs. Increased (or more intensive) agricultural activities may further exacerbate this widespread issue.

In 2017, the agriculture sector accounted for the majority of ammonia emissions in NI with 92% of emissions derived from livestock and 8% from the application of fertiliser<sup>7</sup>. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it can be linked to the deterioration of habitats and negative effects on species<sup>8</sup>. Since 2001, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from livestock have increased by 7.4% as the number of cattle, pigs and poultry has increased. Emissions from fertilisers have decreased by 0.7%. Overall ammonia emissions have increased. More information is in the Climate Change section.

### *Energy Sources*

In NI, electricity supplied from renewable energy has more or less increased every year since 2001/02<sup>9</sup>. By 2017/18, 36.4% of electricity consumed in NI, came from indigenous renewable sources. The majority of this energy came from wind sources but other energy sources could include solar, biomass, heat or anaerobic. This type of diversification in our energy supply means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion are reducing. More information is in the Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

### *Human Health*

There is an important link between air quality and human health. It is estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality<sup>10</sup>. Public Health England<sup>11</sup> estimates that in NI around 553 deaths annually may be attributed to pollution from particulates. The UK Clean Air Strategy has highlighted traffic emissions as one of the top sources of air pollution problems and that 'It causes more harm than passive smoking.'<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> NINIS: Travel & Transport - Road Lengths (administrative geographies) 2002-2018

<sup>2</sup> NINIS: Travel & Transport - Road Lengths (administrative geographies) 2002-2018

<sup>3</sup> NINIS: People & Places - Car Ownership Access (administrative geographies)

<sup>4</sup> L&CCC: Development Plan Position Paper: Transportation 5 December 2017

<sup>5</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>6</sup> BBC News: Clean Air Strategy: Traffic Pollution 'significant problem' in NI. January 2019

<sup>7</sup> DAERA: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report Issue 11 2019

<sup>8</sup> Air Pollution Information System UK

<sup>9</sup> DAERA 2019: NI Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019

<sup>10</sup> DAERA presentation for draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

<sup>11</sup> Public Health England (2014) [Estimating Local Mortality Burdens Associated with Particulate Air Pollution](#), pp. 21

<sup>12</sup> DEFRA: UK Clean Air Strategy 2019



NO<sub>2</sub> can be a severe respiratory irritant and prolonged exposure can be particularly dangerous for children<sup>1</sup>. NO<sub>x</sub> can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain and O<sub>3</sub>. Acid rain pollutes land and water systems whilst O<sub>3</sub> at the ground level acts as a respiratory irritant<sup>2</sup>. PM<sub>10</sub> can cause heart and lung issues with carcinogenic risks and the majority of PM<sub>10</sub> in urban areas is from road transport<sup>3</sup>.

### 5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan and without up to date spatial information, there may be a greater risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development. There would likely be fewer opportunities to integrate measures like active travel routes, which could help to reduce reliance on vehicles. Likewise, there may be a greater risk of losing land to certain types of development where it could otherwise help to maintain local air quality.

### 5.9.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

- There is an AQMA in Dundonald for NO<sub>2</sub>, which is linked to traffic pollution.
- Key regional transport routes located within the Council area continuously contribute to background levels of air pollutants.
- Reliance on private car use within the Council area is high.
- There is a need across the Council area to encourage accessible alternative modes of travel to the car such as public transport, walking and cycling.
- There are SCAs across the Council area where authorised fuels must be used.
- Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agriculture sector could help to improve air quality in some rural areas.
- There is a need to continue to support renewables in appropriate locations to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.
- Air quality should be a consideration within spatial planning to avoid incompatible adjacent land uses, particularly when residential areas may be affected.

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

<sup>2</sup> [www.airqualityni.co.uk](http://www.airqualityni.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

## 5.10 Climate Change

Greenhouse gases (GHG) - carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and fluorinated gases - have been entering the atmosphere at an accelerated rate since the Industrial Revolution. These additional gases are mostly from fossil fuel combustion but also deforestation and agricultural practices. They add to background levels and increase the natural warming of the planet - the 'greenhouse effect'. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-Industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C and that global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land<sup>1</sup>.

Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate human-induced climate change so the RDS recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. In the SPPS, climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport, with renewables, energy efficiency and green/blue infrastructure accounted for. It details mitigation and adaptation for climate change. Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' (PPS18) sets out policy for renewables in NI. It encourages their integration to improve our security of energy supply, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and lower our carbon emissions<sup>2</sup>.

An NI National Adaptation Programme (NAP) for climate change was launched in 2014 and an update is due later this year. Preceding UK level Climate Change Risk Assessment Reports have already highlighted the importance of focusing more action and further research on flooding and coastal change, health risks from higher temperatures, water shortages, natural capital, food trade; and new pests, diseases and invasive species. The first NI Adaptation Programme focused on flooding, water, natural capital, agriculture and forestry. Flooding was identified as 'potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks' in NI<sup>3</sup>.

The NI Executive's draft PfG includes 14 strategic outcomes with 42 indicators of success. One of the outcomes is 'to live and work sustainably - protecting the environment'. There are nine indicators to help achieve progress on this outcome. These include increasing innovation in our economy, increasing use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability (by measuring GHGs), increasing household waste recycling, and improving air quality<sup>4</sup>.

In the Council's Corporate Plan 'Our Plan for Growth & Connecting 2018-2022 and Beyond', there are a number of objectives linked to people, prosperity and place. The vision for the Council is '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'. This will be achievable if climate change is appropriately considered, as this will help to futureproof the Council area against the potential threats of climate change.

In the Council's Community Plan 2017/32, delivery of its vision to create, 'An empowered, prosperous, healthy, safe and inclusive community', would also be supported by considering the potential risks posed from climate change on residents. Likewise, fulfilling the Plan's themes for the economy, health and wellbeing, where we live, and our community, would also require adequate consideration of the potential impacts of climate change on the Council's residents and infrastructure.

The Preferred Options Paper (POP) recognised the significance of mitigating and adapting to climate change and proposes a number of actions in relation to increasing renewable energy generation, reducing the need to travel and tackling flood risk zones. By taking account of climate change, the

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<sup>1</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

<sup>2</sup> Department of Environment August (2009): Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy

<sup>3</sup> [Department of Environment \(2014\): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme](#)

<sup>4</sup> Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

Council can help to ensure a resilient and sustainable LDP with future development planned for in the context of mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

### 5.10.1 Baseline Information

Relevant information can be found across multiple sources including the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS), The NI Environmental Statistics Report, and the NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Detailed information has also been presented in the LDP Position Papers on Natural Heritage, Countryside Assessment and Development Constraints. The climate change topic overlaps with the Health & Well-Being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources, Landscape and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

#### *International context*

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program. The IPCC's role is to provide Assessment Reports based on scientific and technical information, with response strategies - adaptation and mitigation - to the predicted impacts of human-induced climate change. The IPCC's first assessment report was in 1990 and helped create the international United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPCC delivers regular reports on climate change issues and its fourth in 2007, began to integrate climate change with sustainable development policies. The fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was released between 2013 and 2014. In it, levels of GHG are reported as the highest they have been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O are the highest they have been in the last 800,000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed global warming since the 1950s. It reports that GHG emissions need to reduce by 40-70% by 2050 to have a likely chance of avoiding the 2°C increase.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, partially led to the UNFCCC - the Global Warming Convention. The UNFCCC led to countries committing to reduce their GHG emissions to help combat climate change under the Kyoto Protocol (1997). The Kyoto Protocol set internationally binding emission reductions. Heavier burdens were placed on developed nations, where the amount of GHG emissions was higher. The United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland were both signatories. Although the Protocol was adopted in the 1990s, the first commitment period did not start until 2008. We are now in the second commitment period, from 2013 to 2020, and an 18% reduction in GHG emissions on 1990 levels is expected<sup>1</sup>. The UNFCCC was created to help reduce global warming and cope with its consequences and it remains the key international treaty to do this<sup>2</sup>. The UK is an independent signatory and remains committed to fulfil its international obligations.

In 2016, the UNFCCC met in Paris to discuss strengthening the global response to climate change. With the support of 196 countries, the Paris Agreement was made. It aims to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C or less on pre-industrial levels. Ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions are requirements of this agreement. In total, 179 out of 197 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, including the UK and Ireland<sup>3</sup>.

#### *UK Context*

The UK was the first country to have a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions with the UK Climate Change Act 2008<sup>4</sup>. It led to the formation of the independent body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee. These advise the UK and devolved administrations on carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the Climate Change

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Climate Change (UNCC) [The Paris Agreement](https://unfccc.int/) <https://unfccc.int/>

<sup>2</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <http://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

<sup>4</sup> Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

Act, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA<sup>1</sup> in December 2017 indicate that GHG emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990, which is close to the target. The 2008 Act also requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change. The first Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was produced in 2012.

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The second CCRA Evidence Report<sup>4</sup> highlighted the following six priority risk areas:

- flooding and coastal change
- health and well-being from high temperatures
- water shortages
- natural capital
- food production/trade, and
- new pests/diseases and non-natives

The most recent land and marine climate projections for the UK (UKCP18) were published in November 2018. Prior to the publication of UKCP18, the previous climate projections used were UKCP09, published in December 2009.

#### *Northern Ireland context*

In the UK's CCRA 2017, additional priority risks were identified for NI where more action and further research are needed<sup>5</sup>. How central government plans to address these risks and opportunities is in the second NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) 2019-2024<sup>6</sup>. NI's initial Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014, identified Councils as 'particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their responsibilities', on climate change issues.

The aim of the NICCAP is for, 'A resilient Northern Ireland which will take timely and well-informed decisions to address the socio-economic and environmental impacts of climate change.'

It focuses on five key priority areas:

- natural capital - land/coast/marine/freshwater, ecosystems, soils and biodiversity
- infrastructure services
- people and built environment
- disruption to business and supply chains

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<sup>1</sup> DAERA Statistics and Analytical Services Branch [Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Projections Update](#) published 15/12/2016

<sup>2</sup> Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

<sup>3</sup> DAERA Statistics and Analytical Services Branch [Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Projections Update](#) published 15/12/2016

<sup>4</sup> HM Government January (2017): The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

- food security/global food production

Of these five priorities, seven strategic outcomes have been identified for NI with associated risks and opportunities also identified. Cumulatively all of the strategic outcomes or 'visions' will increase the resilience of NI to the impacts of climate change including flooding and other extreme weather events. For example, in the UK, it has been estimated that approximately 2000 deaths per year can be attributed to the effects of heat<sup>1</sup>, with this figure likely to increase with predicted temperature increases and exposure to sun.

### *NI Climate Scenarios*

Climate change is one of the top four environmental concerns amongst the general public of Northern Ireland with 27% of households reporting it in 2017/2018<sup>2</sup>. According to the UKCP18, by 2100, winters and summers will both be warmer; winters will have more precipitation and summers will have less. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur and this may need to be factored into decision-making. Sea level rise at Belfast will be 0.18 to 0.64 metres higher than the 1981-2000 average in the mid-range emissions scenario; and extreme weather events will be more likely<sup>3</sup>. For example, over a month's worth of rain fell in a few hours at the end of July 2018, after a month of very hot weather due to a heatwave over northern Europe<sup>4</sup>. The top ten warmest years in the UK have been recorded since 1990<sup>5</sup>.

Queens University Belfast manages nine climate-monitoring stations across NI for temperature and precipitation one of which is situated at Greenmount, south of Antrim town. Climate projections informed by this monitoring predict that average temperatures will increase and become progressively warmer toward the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Temperature increase will occur in all seasons, with inland areas showing a larger degree of warming than coastal areas. Summers will be drier and winters wetter but overall precipitation will fall slightly<sup>6</sup>. The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2017 also reports an increasing average temperature over the last 100 years.

### *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

In 2017, NI accounted for 4.3% of UK GHG emissions. These were estimated to be equivalent to 20 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. It was the most common gas emitted from most sectors but not agriculture, or waste management. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) was a more significant GHG from both of these sectors because of livestock and landfill. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) was the other significant GHG emission from the agriculture sector. This is a difficult GHG to both measure and reduce. NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the economic importance of agriculture in NI<sup>7</sup>. Overall, there was a decrease in GHG emissions of 3% compared to 2016 and the longer-term trend showed a decrease of 18% compared to the 1990 baseline year<sup>8</sup>.

The largest sectors in terms of emissions in 2017 were agriculture (27%), transport (23%), energy supply (17%), residential (13%) and business (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from farming practices, vehicle emissions and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a decreasing trend in emissions since the base year. The largest decreases have been in the energy supply, residential and waste management sectors. These were driven by improvements in energy efficiency, fuel switching from coal to natural gas, which became available in the late 1990s, and the introduction of methane capture and oxidation

<sup>1</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report: Summary for Northern Ireland

<sup>2</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistic Report Issue 11 May 2019

<sup>3</sup> Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

<sup>4</sup> Climate Northern Ireland eBulletin Issue 67 August 2018

<sup>5</sup> International Journal of Climatology: The State of the UK Climate 2017 Volume 38 Issue S2

<sup>6</sup> Mullan et al (2012): Developing site-specific future temperature scenarios for Northern Ireland: addressing key issues employing a statistical downscaling approach. International Journal of Climatology, 32(13): 2007-2019; and presentation from Dr D. Mullan QUB

<sup>7</sup> Defra 2012: [A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

<sup>8</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

systems in landfill management<sup>1</sup>. Between 2016 and 2017, GHG emissions decreased most from the energy supply sector (15.1%) but increases were evident from transport (+0.4%), agriculture (+1.2%), and land use change(+9.8%).

**Figure 5.10.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NI 2017 - sector and gas**



Source: NI Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin (2019)

The transport and agriculture sectors both showed higher emissions in 2017 than in the baseline year with a 30.2% increase from the transport sector due to more vehicles on the road and a 2% increase from the agriculture sector due to more livestock. Four other sectors are also accountable for GHG emissions. These are industrial processes, land use change, public and waste management. Of these, the land use change sector has shown a 23% increase in emissions from the baseline year. This reflects conversions as well as losses from semi-natural land cover to developed land<sup>2</sup>.

The NI Executive's target to reduce GHG emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025 is in place<sup>3</sup>. The draft PfG's outcome 'to live and work sustainably - protecting the environment' uses GHG emissions as an indicator of progress toward meeting this outcome. It uses NI's 2014 figure for MtCO<sub>2</sub>e and based on this, we are currently neither failing nor succeeding to meet that measure and outcome<sup>4</sup>.

### Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors

#### Agriculture

In 2017, the agriculture sector continued to be the main contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 27% of all emissions and an increase of 2% on baseline levels. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources and account for 92% and 8% of all ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) emissions<sup>5</sup>. The agriculture sector is also the main source of CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O, accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of CO<sub>2</sub>, it emits N<sub>2</sub>O to a significant level. Farming is an important part of NI's economy so there is a responsibility to develop effective measures that will help reduce GHG emissions like N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub> even if they are difficult to estimate.

According to NINIS, there are 842 farms in the Council, which include cattle, sheep, pig and poultry<sup>6</sup>. This is the third lowest of all the Councils in terms of quantity and the fifth lowest in terms of area with a significant amount of the farms able to be classified as very small. Measures to reduce GHG emissions could include steps to avoid soil erosion, improve soil management, adopt organic farming methods and adopt new technologies. More information is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

<sup>1</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>2</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>3</sup> [www.theccc.org.uk](http://www.theccc.org.uk)

<sup>4</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>5</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

<sup>6</sup> Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service: Agriculture & Environment - Farm Census (administrative geographies) 2018



### Transport

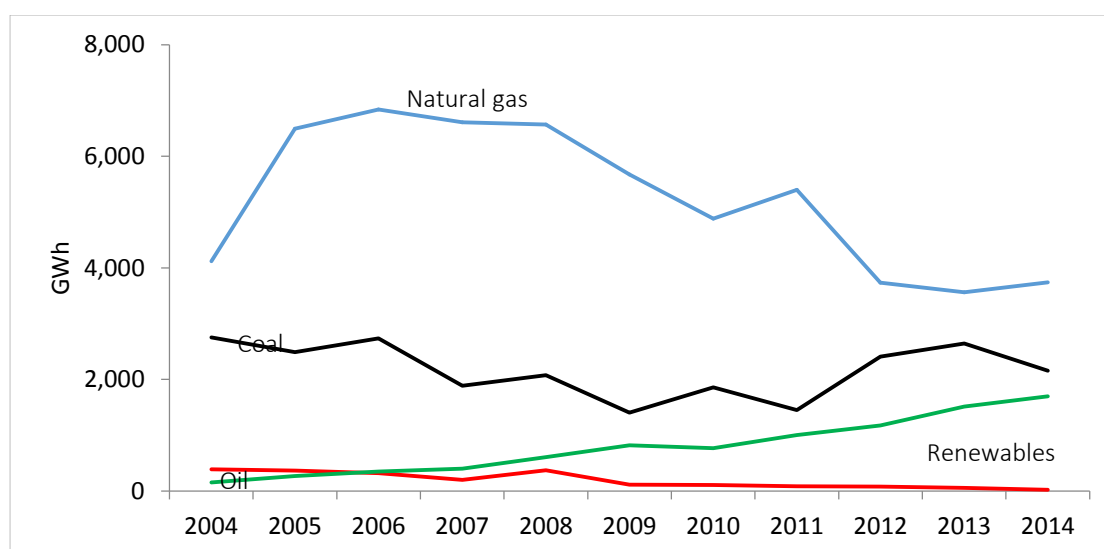
In 2016, the transport sector accounted for 23% of all GHG emissions in NI - an increase of 30.2% on baseline levels. This reflects the reliance people have in NI for motorised vehicles and reflects the rural nature of the country. It is a significant contributor of CO<sub>2</sub> but also nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. NO<sub>2</sub> can cause respiratory issues and is partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned<sup>1</sup>. By 2050, all cars in the UK are likely to be ultra-low emission vehicles. New developments need to be encouraged to consider the infrastructure needed for these future changes in the transport system.

Likewise, the LDP should be used to help reduce GHG emissions from transport by providing accessible walking and cycling routes as well as adequate public transport options. The Council has higher levels of multiple car ownership than the NI average with 89% of households having access to one or more cars<sup>2</sup>. Spatial planning that considers provision and integration of the most effective local and regional travel routes should help to reduce car dependency and increase sustainable and active travel. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility, and Air Quality sections of this report.

### Energy Supply

The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions with a 35.7% reduction from 1990 to 2017<sup>3</sup>. The energy supply sector in NI has had the largest reduction in GHG emissions of all the sectors. This is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas; improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewables<sup>4</sup>. There are currently two gas-fired power stations in NI (Ballylumford and Coolkeeragh)<sup>5</sup> and a third is planned for at the Belfast Harbour Estate<sup>6</sup>. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient than coal and oil, so preferred in terms of GHG emissions and efficiency. The change from coal and oil has helped to reduce GHG emissions from the sector. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include diversity of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

**Figure 5.10.2: Electricity Generated by Fuel Type**



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

<sup>1</sup> [www.climatenorthernireland.org](http://www.climatenorthernireland.org)

<sup>2</sup> NINIS: People and Places: Car Ownership Access (administrative geographies) 2015-2017

<sup>3</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>4</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

<sup>5</sup> Department for the Economy (June 2018): Energy in Northern Ireland 2018

<sup>6</sup> <https://evermoreenergy.com/belfastpowerstation/>

### Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because it uses natural energy with a low or zero carbon footprint. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline levels by 80% by 2050 (UK Climate Change Act). In 2017/18, 36.4% of NI's electricity needs was from renewable sources - a significant increase in electricity generated from renewable sources since 2001/02<sup>1</sup>.

In total, there are 43 renewable energy sites in the Council area with wind and solar the most developed<sup>2</sup>. Relative to other Councils, this is one of the lower number of sites but the Council remains an important contributor to the total amount of renewable energy generated. More information is in the Material Assets and Physical Resources sections of this report.

### Residential

The residential sector remains a major contributor to GHG emissions within Northern Ireland despite decreases in CO<sub>2</sub> since the base year in 1990<sup>3</sup>. Northern Ireland remains dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil for heating purposes to gas. In the 2011 Census, 58% of households in the Council area were recorded as using oil and 27% using gas<sup>4</sup>. Emissions from houses can be linked to not just their source of fuel heating but also their energy efficiency, the materials used to build them and their location to key services. The LDP could be used to help facilitate and encourage lower carbon lifestyles and help to reduce overall GHG emissions from the sector - environmentally sustainable design. Requiring green building design within the LDPs could help encourage promotion of measures that reduce GHG emissions but also help adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures could include green roofs, passive solar design, natural lighting, access to renewables, planting greenery, incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and connecting to active travel routes.

### Waste Management

The waste management sector is responsible for 4% of GHG emissions and has seen a 56.8% decrease in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2017<sup>5</sup>. Methane is a powerful GHG and the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfilling practices<sup>6</sup>. There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the 1990 baseline year due to the closure of landfills and methane capture. Currently within the Council area, there are two active domestic waste landfill sites with capacity until 2055, as well as three recycling centres<sup>7</sup>. Currently there is a reusing/recycling/composting rate of 48.15% for municipal waste<sup>8</sup>. This is just above the NI average of 47.63%. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

### Impacts of Climate Change

#### Flooding

Increased incidences of flooding are one of the predicted impacts of climate change. This is expected due to increased levels of precipitation, flash storm events, storm surges and higher sea levels. Flooding has been identified as '*potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks*' to NI<sup>9</sup>. It can occur near waterbodies but also from excess surface water. It is becoming increasingly accepted that having fully functional coastal and wetland ecosystems helps to absorb the impacts from flooding and storm surges<sup>10</sup>. Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on

<sup>1</sup> DAERA: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2019 Issue 11 May 2019

<sup>2</sup> Department for the Economy (2018): Energy in Northern Ireland 2018 Issue 2

<sup>3</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 11

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/census2011analysis/settlements/100households/Lisburn%20City.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

<sup>6</sup> DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

<sup>7</sup> L&CCC Development Plan Position Paper 12: Waste Management December 2017

<sup>8</sup> NINIS [Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling \(administrative geographies\) 2017](#)

<sup>9</sup> DAERA Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014

<sup>10</sup> SEPA (2016) Natural Flood Management Handbook

adjacent sites and downstream, as well as increase pressure on natural floodplains. This places risk on both the natural and built environment. It is reported that one in ten homes in the UK is in a flood risk area<sup>1</sup>.

The introduction of SuDS within the built environment is a key way to provide sustainable flood relief to homes affected by adverse weather conditions. SuDS not only enable surface water to be minimised whilst protecting the natural and built environment but 'soft' SuDS can also add to local biodiversity and improve the quality of public realm. SuDS are more adaptable to changing environments and weather conditions when compared to regular underground drains<sup>2</sup>.

### *Biodiversity Loss*

Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity, as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move<sup>3</sup>. For its size, Northern Ireland is one of the most geologically diverse areas of the planet<sup>4</sup> so it is critical that the current level of biodiversity is protected, conserved and enhanced. These changes could lead to habitat loss and in other areas, non-native species may be able to thrive and outcompete native species and habitats, which may attempt to relocate within their preferred climate. Buffer zones around nature conservation sites and green/blue infrastructure around priority habitats should be considered to aid movement of species due to climate change.

### *Health*

The predicted effects of climate change include higher temperatures, milder winters, higher levels of rain and increased frequency of storm events. All of these weather events bring with them potential risks to human health. There is an opportunity with the LDP to develop policies that can facilitate and encourage integration of adaptation measures for climate change as well as improve physical health and mental well-being. Sustainable design measures could provide shade and cool areas, use passive solar design, store rainwater and integrate active travel routes. The SPPS 2035 reinforces how planning can help mitigate and adapt towards climate change, particularly through problems such as extreme heat, which can affect the public's health<sup>5</sup>.

## 5.10.2 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, there are likely to be fewer opportunities to integrate holistically sustainable development patterns with measures to help combat climate change. This could include reducing or avoiding risks to infrastructure and people. There could be fewer opportunities to reduce GHG emissions from transport and energy usage. It could also become increasingly difficult to locate appropriate renewable energy projects concerning both infrastructure and users. Likewise, there may be fewer opportunities to develop more resilient communities that can cope with the impacts of climate change including flooding, erosion, biodiversity loss, heat and water shortages.

## 5.10.3 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- There is a need to encourage and enable sustainable development patterns that can reduce GHG emissions from the top emitting sectors.
- Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP should be appropriately considered.
- There is a need to reduce private car use by providing adequate public transport options as well as walking and cycling routes, which could also improve air quality.
- There is a need to encourage appropriate renewable energy projects to increase the diversity of the renewable energy supply.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk](http://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Ashley, RM, Walker, AL, D'Arcy, B et al. (5 more authors) (2015) UK sustainable drainage systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE - Civil Engineering, 168 (3). pp. 125-130

<sup>3</sup> Carroll, M.J., Williams, M.A. & Bradbury, R.B. (2015). The Nature of Climate Change: Europe's Wildlife at Risk. Research Report 55. RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, Sandy.

<sup>4</sup> UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report: Summary for Northern Ireland

<sup>5</sup> Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2035

- There is a need to ensure protection and conservation of local biodiversity including wetlands and green/blue infrastructure to maintain natural resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- Sustainable design measures should be considered to help provide and encourage delivery of energy efficient buildings/projects and resilient communities by integrating measures like SuDS.

## 5.11 Water

### 5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The 'Water Framework Directive' (2000/60/EC) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The 'Groundwater Daughter Directive' (2006/118/EC) includes criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. The Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The 'Floods Directive' (2007/60/EC) requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the Northern Ireland level, each of these Directives has been transposed into local legislation in order to facilitate their implementation. These include regulations to prevent pollution, to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in Northern Ireland under the Water Framework Directive (WFD): the North Eastern (NE), the Neagh - Bann (NB) and the North Western (NW) RBDs. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water. In 2013, separate EU Directives for the protection of waters supporting shellfish and freshwater fish and to control the discharge of certain polluting substances were subsumed into the WFD, to allow the legislation covering water quality to be streamlined.

Under the WFD, each member state must also create and maintain a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include

Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

The Water Framework Directive includes coastal waters; whilst the Marine Strategy Framework Directive includes the marine area. As Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is indirectly connected to the marine area via its watercourses, protection of water quality within the Council area will also benefit the marine area. Marine policies are also considered under the 'Natural Environment' topic (Section 5.12) in this scoping report.

Every six years, DAERA, in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each RBD in NI. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 - 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period. L&CCC extends across two of the three River Basin Districts, the North Eastern and the Neagh Bann and therefore two RBMPs are relevant.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in NI. This exploits commonality across regional, national and European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. A Long Term Water Strategy has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NI Water), DAERA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment, while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. This has delivered significant improvements to water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing water quality failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

The 'Bathing Water Quality Directive' (2006/7/EC) complements the WFD by setting quality standards for a number of parameters to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) in 2009, has led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI and the preparation of three Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and each FRMP corresponds to a RBD. Each FRMP highlights hazards and risks in the SFRAs from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The FRMPs identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. L&CCC is within the area covered by two separate FRMPs.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such



development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The RDS encourages the implementation of protective measures for water such as:

- Adopt grey water recycling;
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off;
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management;
- Integrate water and land-use planning;
- Manage future water demand; and
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The SPDS states that planning authorities '*should encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution*'. The NIEA has published '*A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland*', which also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Our Corporate Plan recognises that the Council area is bounded by the shores of the Lough Neagh to the West and is home to the source of the River Lagan in the south. The Corporate Plan commits itself to promoting sustainable tourism and use of the natural environment, open spaces and waterways with improved facilities.

L&CCC Community Plan 2017-2032 recognises that the provision of clean water is fundamental to health and well-being and water quality is a key environmental issue.

### 5.11.2 Baseline information

#### *River Basin Management Plans*

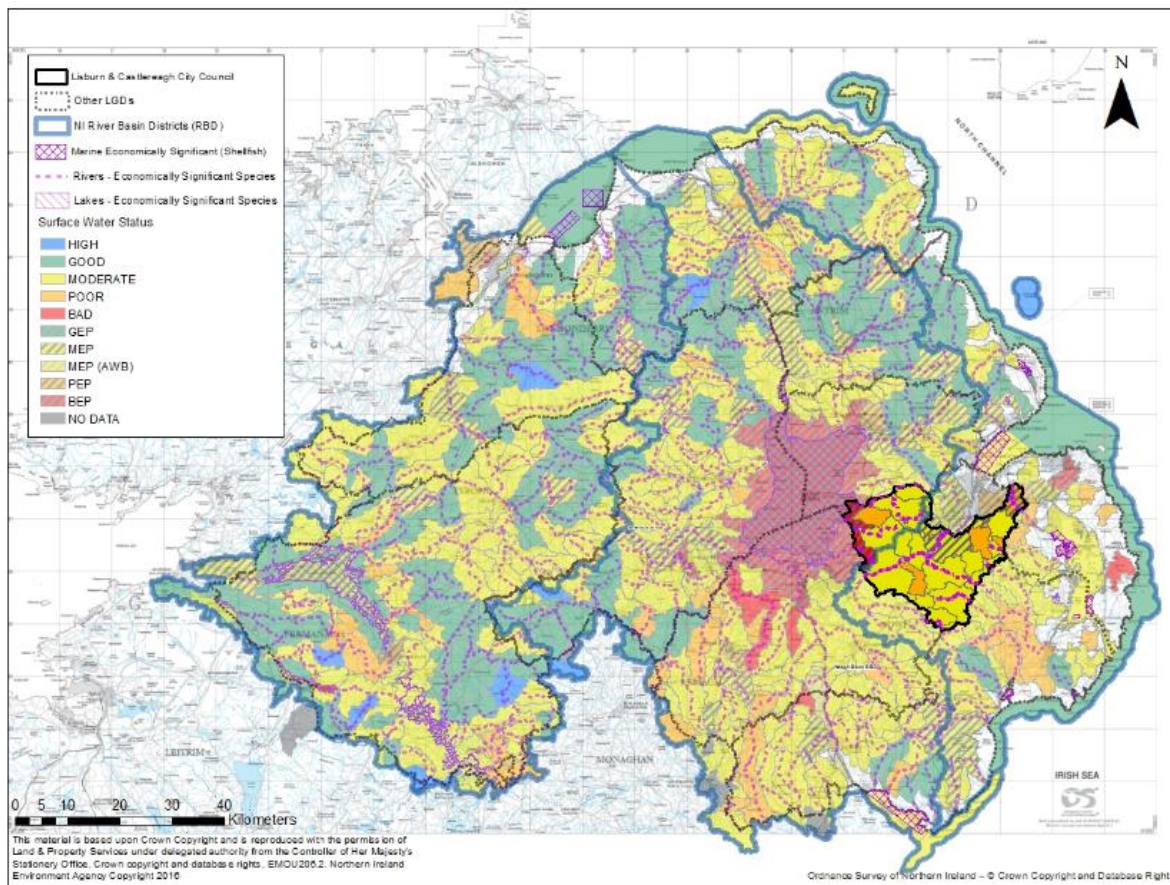
The WFD requires action to meet 'good' (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. 'Good' status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). Classification of water bodies assists in planning what measures might be required for improvements. The WFD also recognises that some water bodies have been changed to such a degree that they can no longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. These are called heavily modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWBs and AWBs are classified according to their ecological potential rather than status, with the objective to achieve 'good ecological potential' (GEP) by 2027. The water quality status figures published at the conclusion of the first cycle of RBMP in 2015 showed that 37% of NI's water bodies met 'good' status. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle, therefore it's not possible to make a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data.

L&CCC falls under two of the RBMPs published for Northern Ireland, i.e. the North-Eastern and the Neagh Bann (RBDs). The boundaries of the RBDs are shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1.

Within L&CCC (shown outlined in black in Figure 5.11.1) the principal river systems are:

- The Stonyford River, Glenavy River Lower and Upper and Ballinderry River in the Neagh Bann RBD; and
- The Enler River, Blackwater River, Glasswater River, Ravernet River, Ballynahinch Upper and Middle River, Lagan Canal 2 & 3 and River Lagan reach 3,4, 5 & 10 in the North Eastern RBD.

Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 23/10/19)

In total there are 26 river waterbodies and three lake waterbodies (including heavily modified waterbodies) in L&CCC.

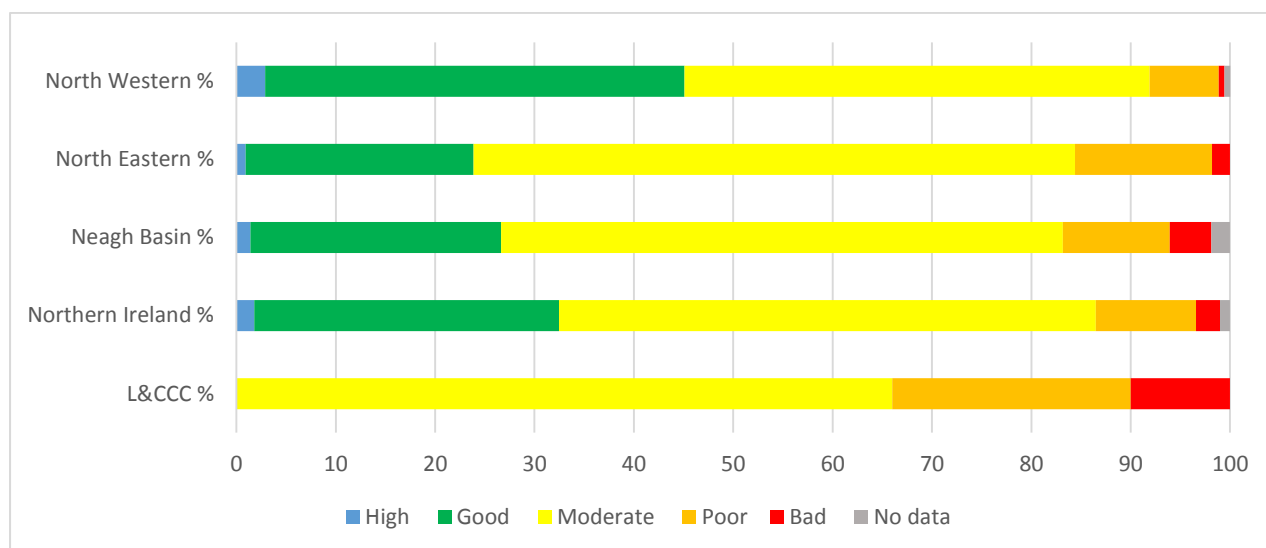
Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the river and lake waterbodies within L&CCC at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are also summarised in Table 5.11.1.

Table 5.11.1: Summary of 2015 overall classification of river and lake water bodies

| River Water Bodies |                        | Lake Water Bodies |                      | Heavily Modified Water Bodies* |                         |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>26</b>          | Total Number of RWB    | <b>3</b>          | Total Number of LWB  | <b>7</b>                       | Total Number of HMWB    |
| <b>0</b>           | High Eco. Status       | <b>0</b>          | High Eco. Status     | <b>0</b>                       | Good Eco. Potential     |
| <b>0</b>           | Good Eco. Status       | <b>0</b>          | Good Eco. Status     | <b>2</b>                       | Moderate Eco. Potential |
| <b>17</b>          | Moderate Eco. Status   | <b>0</b>          | Moderate Eco. Status | <b>3</b>                       | Poor Eco. Potential     |
| <b>4</b>           | Poor Eco. Status       | <b>1</b>          | Poor Eco. Status     | <b>2</b>                       | Bad Eco. Potential      |
| <b>1</b>           | Bad Eco. Status        | <b>1</b>          | Bad Eco. Status      |                                |                         |
| <b>0</b>           | No data / unclassified |                   |                      |                                |                         |

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

L&CCC had poorer river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average (Figure 5.11.2). ‘Good’ status was 0%, compared to 31.22% for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland. 0% rivers in L&CCC achieved ‘high’ status. 65% of river waterbodies in L&CCC were classified as ‘moderate’, 15% as ‘poor’ and 4% as ‘bad’ status. Therefore all of the river waterbodies in the district are failing to meet the required standard.

**Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% River Waterbodies), 2015**

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

There are seven heavily modified river and lake waterbodies in L&CCC (five river waterbodies and two lake waterbodies).

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures (POMs)<sup>1</sup> has been established for each RBD to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The POMs aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment.

The RBMP(s) indicates that the significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving 'good' status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development. Other pressures may include reductions in water quantity and flow, the physical condition of the water environment (in respect of man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters), the presence and spread of invasive alien species and any other factors that affect fish populations and habitat.

Nutrient enrichment has been identified in Neagh Bann and North Eastern RBD.as a principal reason for failure in lake, transitional and coastal waterbodies as it is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination. DAERA has identified significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status in the Neagh Bann and North Eastern RBD. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from WWTWs, industrial discharge and urban wastewater and development.

At the NI level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

There are no European funded (Interreg VA) projects currently active which specifically relate to the Council Area but there are a number of projects across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland which may identify solutions which could be applied across Northern Ireland and L&CCC upon completion. Further information can be found <https://www.seupb.eu/iva-overview>.

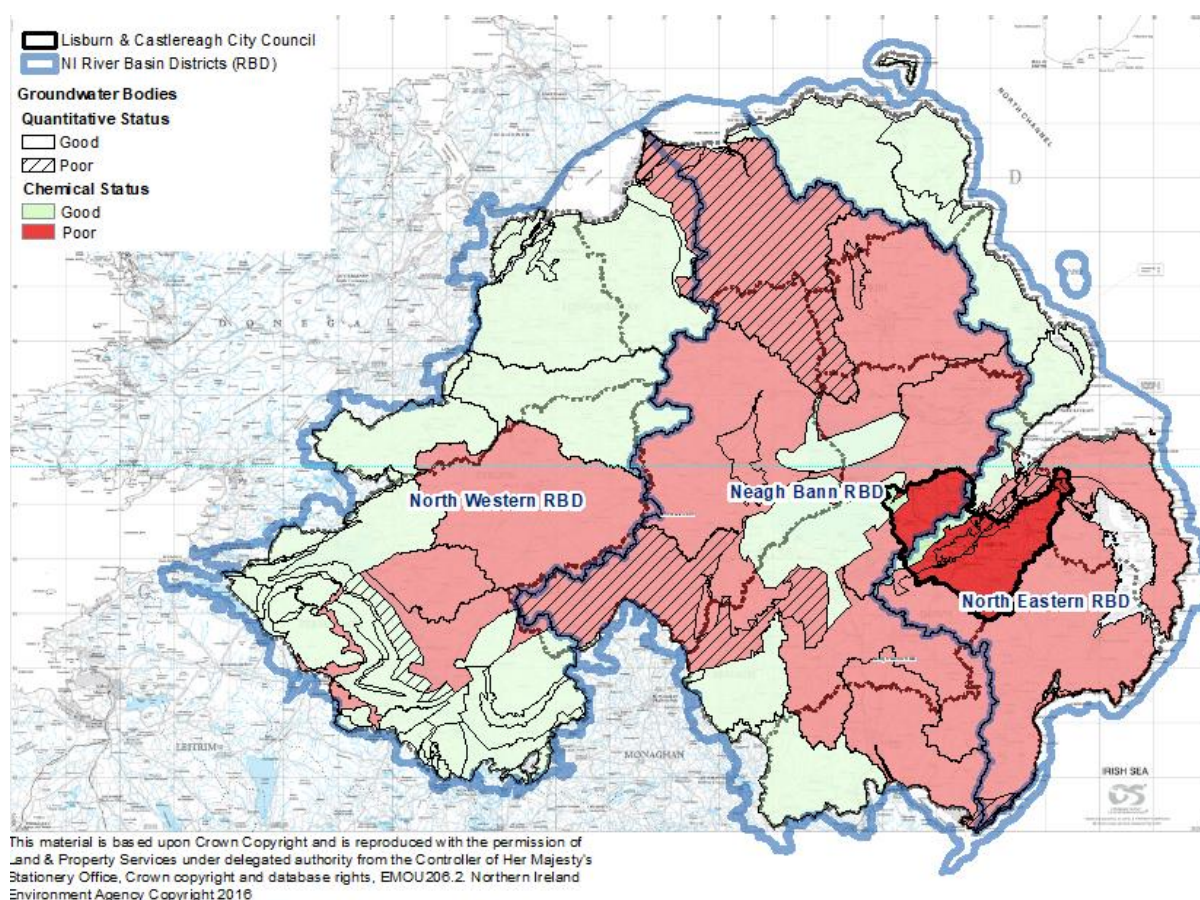
<sup>1</sup> DAERA List of second cycle supporting documents for 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015. Date published: 03 August 2017. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/list-second-cycle-supporting-documents-2nd-cycle-river-basin-management-plans-2015>



## Groundwater

There are nine groundwater bodies intersecting L&CCC (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, two were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and seven were classified as having 'poor' status.

**Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015**



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 21/010/19)

## Drinking Water Protected Areas

There is one river catchment that is a drinking water protected area for surface water. This is used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW) in L&CCC:

- NB RBD - Lough Neagh WTW Catchments

All groundwater bodies in L&CCC are also on the Register of Protected Areas.

## Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Shellfish

Although Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is an inland council, it is hydrologically linked to Belfast Lough and Strangford Lough via the wider catchments of the Lagan, Quoile, Blackwater (Ards) and Comber Rivers.

There is one Shellfish Water Protected Area in Belfast Lough, shown in Figure 5.11.4. There are 21 sites in Belfast Lough licensed for aquaculture, all which are for the harvesting of mussels. All but four of these sites are located within the Shellfish water.

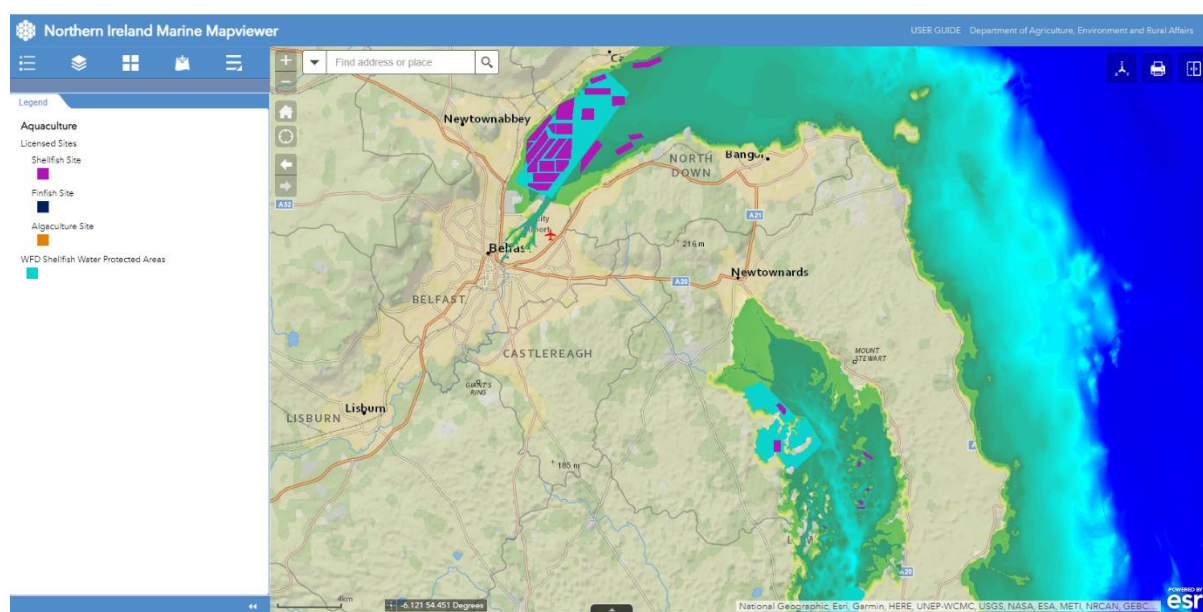
There are three Shellfish Water Protected Areas within Strangford Lough, Marlfield Bay, Paddy's Point & Reagh Bay and Skate Rock. Ten sites in Strangford Lough are licensed for the cultivation of mussels and oysters.

Shellfish Water Protected Areas have a guideline microbiological standard for shellfish flesh which is set in the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment)

Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Shellfish from the Paddy's Point & Reagh Bay, Marlfield Bay and Skate Rock Shellfish Water Protected Areas have achieved the required standard over the past five years, however shellfish from Belfast Lough have not been able to achieve the required microbiological standards in any of the past five years.

Pollution Reduction Programmes<sup>1</sup> were published in 2015 for Belfast Lough and Strangford Lough. Belfast Lough suffers from persistent nutrient inputs from diffuse catchment loads, which prevented it from achieving its WFD objective of 'good' ecological status in 2015.

**Figure 5.11.4 Aquaculture and Shellfish Waters**



Higher annual rainfall with more intense episodes may increase loads of diffuse pollutants from both urban and rural areas to the sea and increase the risk of the failure of microbiological standards in both shellfish and bathing waters. These weather patterns are likely to occur more frequently in the future, due to the effects of climate change (see section 5.10).

#### *Economically Significant Aquatic Species - Freshwater Fish*

L&CCC has approximately 196 km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These include the Stonyford, Ballinderry and Lagan Rivers. There are also three lakes in L&CCC on the protected areas register (Portmore Lough, Stoneyford Reservoir and Lough Neagh). Only six out of 19 (32%) river waterbodies in the NE RBD that are monitored for fish population or habitat achieved 'good' or 'high' status for this element over the first WFD planning cycle. In the NBRBD the figure was 13 out of 37 (35%). Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures, such as from physical modifications or abstraction and flow regulation.

#### *Nutrient Sensitive Areas*

A total territory approach has been adopted in NI for the Nitrates Directives. There are ten Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas relevant to L&CCC:

- NE RBD - Paddy's Point and Reagh Bay Shellfish Water; Inner Belfast Lough; Inner Belfast Lough Catchment; Quoile Catchment; Quoile Pondage; River Enler Catchment; River Lagan Catchment; Strangford Lough (North End) Catchment; and Tidal Lagan
- NB RBD - Lough Neagh Catchment

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in NI are predominantly

<sup>1</sup> DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015>



decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards. However, dissolved inorganic nitrogen loading remains an issue in Belfast Lough and is largely attributed to the discharges from WwTWs and combined sewer overflows from the sewerage infrastructure<sup>1</sup>.

The Living with Water Programme aims to deliver a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to help address issues with flood risk and water quality in the Belfast Area and Inner Belfast Lough. Discharges from wastewater treatment works and combined sewer overflows from the sewerage infrastructure are contributing to high levels of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) in Belfast Lough and it is estimated these sources make up 50% of the overall loading of DIN to Inner Belfast Lough alone. The current failure to meet WFD objectives is a serious issue that has the potential to limit development in future. As well as helping to manage the flooding risk in Belfast, the SDIP will also address the risk of infraction proceedings under the Water Framework and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives in respect of Belfast Lough, and support economic growth.

### Flood Risk

The implementation of the EU "Floods Directive" (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps<sup>2</sup> for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website by searching for "Flood Maps NI".

**Figure 5.11.5: Significant Flood Risk Areas and Areas for Further Study with River & Coastal Flood Plain**



Source Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 01/09/2019)

The Belfast SFRA extends partially into the settlement of Lisburn. Dundonald is also identified as a SFRA. Fluvial flood risk is further discussed in the Council's 'Development Constraints' Position Paper.

<sup>1</sup> Living with Water Programme (LWPP) 'Aims, Needs, Objectives and Constraints' (found at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/aims-needs-objectives-and-constraints> accessed 01/04/2019)

<sup>2</sup> Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>



Four settlements, also shown in Figure 5.11.5, were identified in the PFRA as having a moderate risk of flooding and have been classified as Areas for Further Study in the first cycle FRMPs 2015-21. These are:

- Glenavy and Stoneyford in NB RBD; and
- Lisburn and Carryduff in NE RBD

The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

- **Prevention:** avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- **Protection:** taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- **Preparedness:** informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood. The Dunlady Park/ Canberra Park area of Dundonald has been identified by DfI Rivers as being suitable for inclusion in a programme of community engagement to deliver flood warning and informing initiatives to help increase Community Resilience against flooding.

The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in Flood Maps NI showing the areas within the 1 per cent AEP<sup>1</sup> floodplain, taking account of the impacts of climate change.

The second cycle of FRMPs will commence in 2021 and the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018<sup>2</sup> has identified 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR) and a further nine 'Transitional Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk' (TAPSFR) in NI. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle FRMP, it is proposed that 'Belfast' (the outline of which extend as far west as Lisburn city) will be identified as APSFR and Dundonald will become a TAPSFR. Glenavy and Stonyford are considered in the NIFRA 2018 to be beneath the threshold under which a flood risk area should be identified as 'significant' in the context of NI. Carryduff has not been identified in the NIFRA 2018.

Flood alleviation works proposed by DfI include the Dromara Flood Alleviation Scheme. Settlements within L&CCC that currently have flood defences include Lisburn and Stoneyford.

The Capital works programme published in the FRMPs doesn't include any works within the L&CCC area for the current FRMP cycle.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)<sup>3</sup> has noted that, based upon projected sea level rise, the frequency of coastal flooding events is expected to increase significantly. At Portrush, for example, a sea level with a current return period of 100 years (1% probability) will have a return period of less than 10 years if mean sea levels increase by 0.25m, (or Bangor 0.35m whichever is closer) This figure is within the range published in the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) for the decade beginning 2060 (Portrush) 2080 (Bangor), under the RCP4.5 (medium) climate change scenario<sup>4</sup>.

DfI Rivers has indicated that it is beginning a programme of modelling and updating the coastal flood risk mapping for NI to accommodate UKCP09 climate change sea level rise projections while noting that UKCP18 projections have also been published in November 2018. The Council area is beyond the

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<sup>1</sup> AEP Annual Exceedance Probability – the 1% AEP floodplain outline for rivers has a 1per cent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100 year flood event).

<sup>2</sup> DfI (Rivers) [Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment \(NIFRA\) 2018](#) (Date published: 21 December 2018)

<sup>3</sup> DEFRA [UK 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment - A climate change risk assessment for Northern Ireland](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Met Office \(2018\) UKCP18 Marine report November 2018](#)

tidal reaches of the River Lagan and no part of the district is currently within the currently projected coastal flood plain.

### *Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)*

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. The SPPS (para. 6.118) advocates SuDS as the preferred drainage solution for new development, noting that such systems *'have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits'*.

While planning policy encourages SuDS, it does not currently make it a requirement for new development and to date SuDS have rarely been used in NI<sup>1</sup>, although SuDS principles are included in the design of new road schemes. In January 2019 the Welsh Government made the inclusion of SuDS mandatory in new development. It has published information indicating that the capital costs of SuDS solutions on new developments are lower than the capital costs of comparable traditional piped drainage solutions. It also states that evidence shows that operational and maintenance costs also tend to be lower for SuDS<sup>2</sup>.

In consultation carried out for this Scoping Report, the NIEA has indicated that in the design of SuDS, surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control). The use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:

- Manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage by:
  - reducing runoff rates;
  - reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and
  - encouraging natural groundwater recharge.
- Minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by:
  - reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters;
  - preventing direct discharge of spillage; and
  - reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers.
- Maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity by:
  - contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and
  - providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity

Examples of localised source control measures include green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, while larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

### *Water Supply*

NI Water is required under the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations to report to Councils on drinking water quality on an annual basis. The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. There are eleven water supply zones wholly or partially within the district:

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▪ ZN0401 Dunore Point Antrim   | ▪ ZS0501 Drumaroad Lisburn        |
| ▪ ZS0103 Belfast Ballyhanwood  | ▪ ZS0502 Forked Bridge Dunmurry   |
| ▪ ZS0108 Belfast Purdysburn    | ▪ ZS0503 Forked Bridge Stoneyford |
| ▪ ZS0111 Dunore Point HydePark | ▪ ZS0601 Drumaroad Ballynahinch   |
| ▪ ZS0404 Drumroad Ards         | ▪ ZS0802 Castor Bay Lurgan        |
|                                | ▪ ZS0902 Fofanny Dromore          |

<sup>1</sup> NI Assembly Research and Information Service Paper 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016 (found at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2016-2021/2016/infrastructure/3816.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Government Written Statement - Implementing sustainable drainage systems on new developments (found at <https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/sustainable-drainage/?lang=en>) Last updated 16 November 2017

Source: NI Water Annual Report on Water Quality. Appendix 3 Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (2017)

Two Water Treatment Works (WTW) are located within L&CCC; Boomers's Reservoir and WTW and Forked Bridge WTW.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across NI with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.88% in 2017<sup>1</sup>. The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report (2017) lists 20 Capital Works Programmes affecting L&CCC. These include pipe replacement programmes, water mains rehabilitation and works to improve resilience to pressures on supply, such as drought and freeze-thaw events.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCaMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCaMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. There are currently no specific projects taking place within L&CCC.

#### Reservoirs

There are 12 impoundments and reservoirs in L&CCC of which two are privately controlled. Most of these reservoirs are in, or close to, existing settlements. Flood mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning has been carried out by DfI (Rivers)<sup>2</sup>.

#### Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NI Water has provided the Council with information on the current capacity of WwTWs serving the district as well as an estimate of future capacity based on applying a settlement growth factor of 10%, 20% and 25%. There is currently no capacity for new connections at Moneyreagh, Mullaghglass and St. James and there is limited capacity at Feumore, Legacurry and Lurganville WwTWs which places a constraint on new development.

**Table 5.11.3: Capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works**

|                                   | Estimation of Capacity based on Growth Factor |           |           |           |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | Current                                       | +10%      | +20%      | +25%      |
| Works has 'Reasonable Capacity'   | 18  | 15        | 12        | 11        |
| Works 'At or reaching Capacity'   | 3   | 6         | 6         | 5         |
| Works has 'Insufficient Capacity' | 3   | 3         | 6         | 8         |
| N/A                               | 7   | 7         | 7         | 7         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>31</b>                                     | <b>31</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>31</b> |

Source: NI Water- June 2019

New development relying on non-mains sewerage may, individually or cumulatively, increase the risk of pollution. It is therefore important to protect water resources from the actual or potential polluting effects of onsite treatment plants. As such, the Council's preferred option for non-mains sewage is a package Sewage Treatment Plant, as this is considered to be a more effective system in treating sewage and thus reducing the risk of pollution. However, package plants would need to comply with NI Water standards and provide treatment to the required standards for a NIEA discharge consent as demonstrated by 12 months of monitoring data. NI Water has indicated in correspondence received as part of the Scoping Report update in 2019 that there are also issues with the potential effects of this policy with regard to its sustainability and impact upon NI Water's already constrained funding model, i.e. the potential addition of further small wastewater assets for management by NI Water.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/> (accessed 23/10/2019)

<sup>2</sup> Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning on DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Consideration will need to be given to the compatibility of new development in proximity to WwTW facilities. NI Water shall advise through planning consultation - both site assessments for the next phase of LDP and through day-to-day planning applications/Pre-Development Enquiries (PDEs) - whether a proposal lies within an Odour Consultation Zone. The purpose of this zone is to trigger a proportionate assessment of odour nuisance risk and may or may not involve dispersion modelling. NI Water will object to development proposals within Odour Consultation Zones unless an appropriate evidence based odour assessment determines low risk at critical receptors.

The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the location and capacity of planned and existing waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages. NI Water operates a six year business plan called a Price Control. The current Price Control, known as PC15, spans the period 2015/16 to 2020/21. NI Water's business planning activities for the next Price Control, PC21 (2021/22 to 2026/27) will start during 2018/19.

In 2017 NI Water completed a major programme of work to upgrade Lisburn's sewerage system. The programme is intended to protect the quality and appearance of the River Lagan and cater for future housing and commercial development in the area.

### 5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied and stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. The Area Plans were, however, prepared a long time ago and they are well past their notional end dates. They were not informed by the pressures on our environment that exist today.

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water, therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans and the draft Marine Plan, to achieve good ecological status and good environmental status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects. of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that measures to minimise surface water runoff at source are considered early in the design stage of any new development.

### 5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- River water quality is significantly lower than the NI average in L&CCC. No river waterbodies in the Council area met 'high' or 'good' water quality status, the NI average is 31.2%
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site. However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause water pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.

- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because legal requirements relating to impounded water have not been fully implemented in legislation. There are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- The wastewater treatment works currently have good capacity. Future projections show a reduction in capacity which may limit or delay potential development.

## 5.12 Natural Resources

### 5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Natural resources covers biodiversity, fauna, flora, green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) and ecosystem services (ES). It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as the wider marine area. Natural resources are protected in our regional policy which aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment using a spatial approach. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and the NI Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans (LDPs). The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan for NI was consulted on during 2018.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government (dPFG) is for a society to live and work sustainably - whilst protecting the environment. Indicators to monitor success include increasing environmental sustainability, improving the country's attractiveness as a destination and improving air quality. Between the dPFG and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life, are clear.

Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. They provide protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage sets out policy for protection of the natural environment from internationally important sites to local nature conservation sites and areas with priority habitats and species<sup>1</sup>. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) can also help to conserve local biodiversity as well as involve people and communities in biodiversity projects. The Council has a LBAP to help protect, conserve and enhance key habitat and species across the Council<sup>2</sup>. The Council itself has a statutory duty under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 to 'further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any functions'. The LBAP will help guide the Council in fulfilling this duty.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan can help to protect the natural heritage resource of the borough and promote ecological networks by integrating parks, street trees, canals, lakes and other green/blue infrastructure (G/BI), to help connect open/green space and natural features/habitats together. Together these measures can deliver regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as support climate change adaptation.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has a vision to be a progressive Council that works in partnership with others to provide an enhanced quality of life to all residents. A strategic theme of the Council is *Place and Environment* with sustainable development and preservation of the natural environment key priorities. The Community Plan has *Health and Wellbeing* as one of its five key themes and community consultations have indicated the importance of accessible green spaces and greenways. Protection of the Council's natural resources will be fundamental to achieving all of these aspirations.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Environment (2013): Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC\\_Local\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC_Local_Biodiversity_Action_Plan_WEB.pdf) June 2018



Sustainable management and protection of the natural environment will be fundamental to biodiversity conservation and achieving the outcomes of both the Council's Corporate and Community Plans.

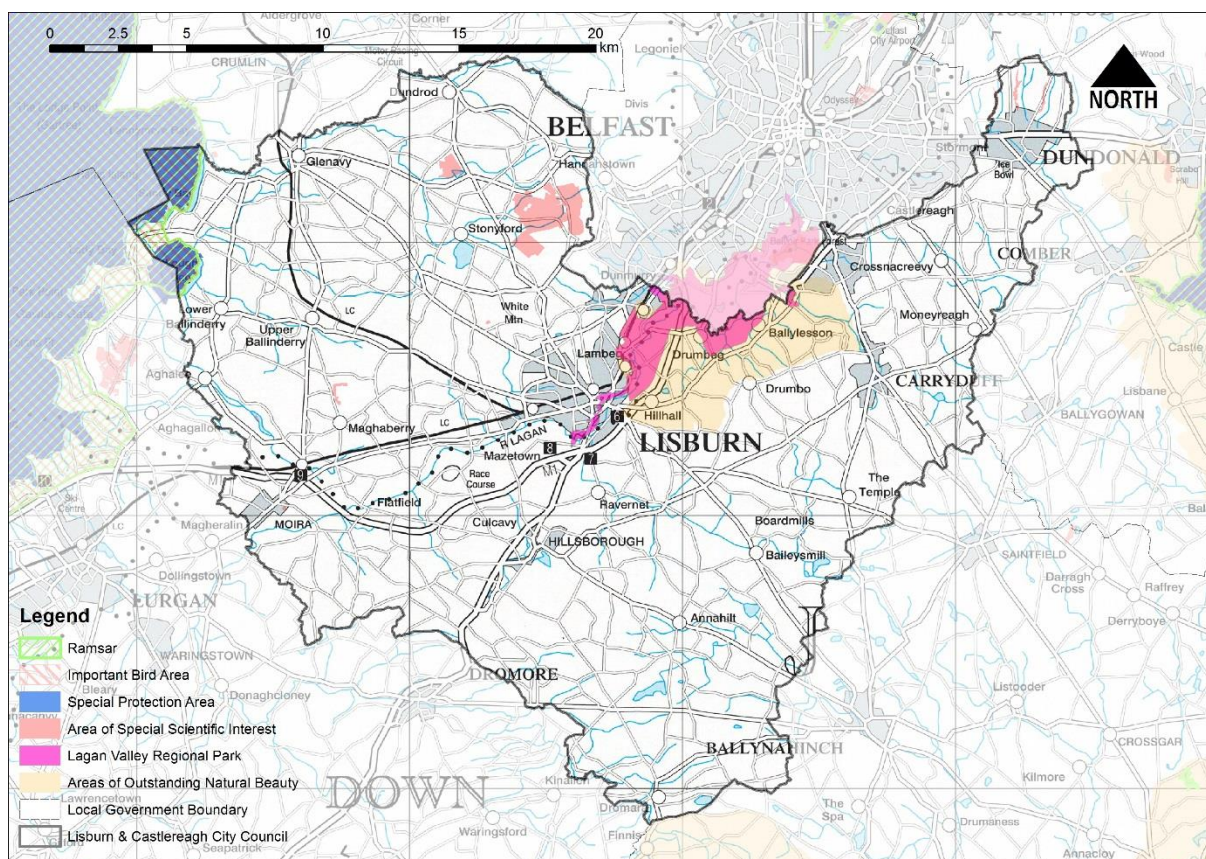
### 5.12.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented for natural resources in the LDP Position Papers 8, 9 and 12 for Natural Heritage, Countryside Assessment and Open Space. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water, Landscape and Historic Environment sections of this report.

#### *Nature Conservation Sites*

The Council area has a variety of habitats and species that are protected under International or European level designations, as well as national and local level designations<sup>1</sup>. There are several Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) as well as the Lough Neagh/Lough Beg Important Bird Area/Ramsar/Special Protection Area –which encompass Portmore Lough ASSI. The Council also benefits from an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Regional Park – the Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP). The LVRP covers 4,200 acres of land including drumlins, woodland, farmland and river habitat. There is a LVRP Local Plan 2005, which provides protection for the rural character of the park. All these designations and the LVRP are located within the Council area but some sites are shared with other Council jurisdictions. This is likely to present opportunities for partnership working. These sites and the LVRP are shown in Figure 5.12.1.

**Figure 5.12.1: Nature Conservation Designations of International, National and Regional Importance**



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets

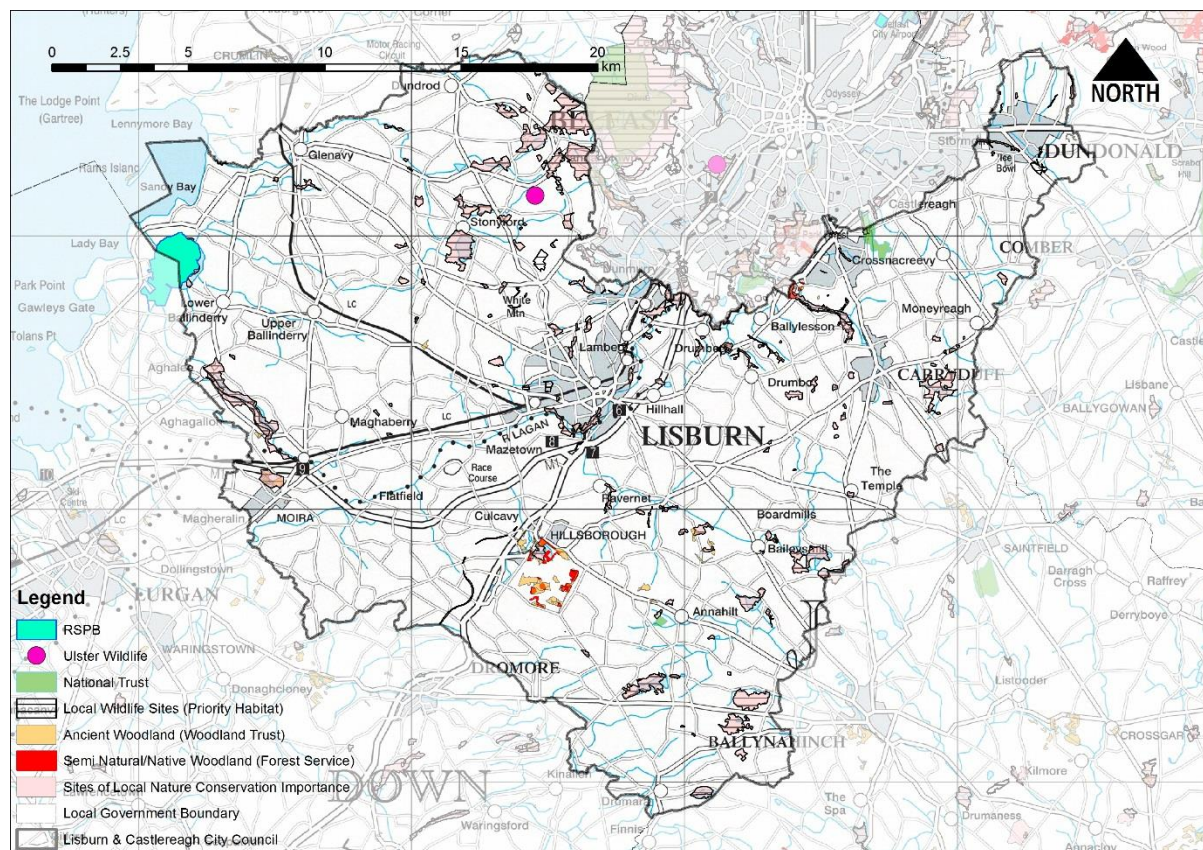
Together all of these nature conservation sites help to create a network of green/blue infrastructure across the Council area that define the best areas for nature conservation, local biodiversity, amenity

<sup>1</sup> LCCC: Development Plan Position Paper 8: Natural Heritage April 2019



and heritage interests. All three of the main conservation organisations in NI are also present within the Council area – the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Ulster Wildlife, and the National Trust. All manage lands for nature conservation but also enable access for people to experience and enjoy the natural environment. These are shown in Figure 5.12.2.

**Figure 5.12.2: Local Level Nature Conservation Sites and Ancient/Native Woodland**



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets, Forest Service, Woodland Trust, Ulster Wildlife, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, National Trust

### Biodiversity

The Council's LBAP<sup>1</sup>, 'highlights key actions and partnerships that have been put in place to help restore, enhance and protect key habitats and species found in the Council area.' The importance of biodiversity is highlighted and the threats to it, including invasive species, pollution and climate change. In the State of Nature Report 2019<sup>2</sup>, it was indicated that NI's biodiversity is declining and 11% of species on the whole island of Ireland are at threat of extinction. Climate change is referred to as one of the main drivers of this<sup>3</sup>.

The LBAP is designed to help conserve and enhance not just the sites of an International or European level importance but also the 'habitats and species that are of local significance'<sup>4</sup>. The LBAP has identified several species including barn owl, pine marten, bats and pollinators. In total, there are 24 habitats identified within the LBAP including urban areas, industrial sites, lakes and farmland. Although in the State of Nature Report agricultural management is referred to as one of the threats to biodiversity, it is also seen as one of the biggest opportunities to have a positive impact on nature.

Key grasslands have been identified as places people can access and enjoy including Slievenacloy Nature Reserve and Portmore Lough. There are a noticeable amount of habitats linked to the aquatic

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC\\_Local\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC_Local_Biodiversity_Action_Plan_WEB.pdf) June 2018

<sup>2</sup> State of Nature Report A Summary for Northern Ireland 2019

<sup>3</sup> [State of Nature Infographic 2019](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC_Local_Biodiversity_Action_Plan_WEB.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC\\_Local\\_Biodiversity\\_Action\\_Plan\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/uploads/general/LCCC_Local_Biodiversity_Action_Plan_WEB.pdf) June 2018

environment, or wet conditions. The total variety of habitats and species within the LBAP should help increase the number of people involved in conserving and enhancing local biodiversity, which in turn should help to raise awareness on the importance of all local wildlife.

### *Green/Blue infrastructure*

In the SPPS, LDPs are referred to as a means to plan for and integrate the natural environment into neighbourhoods. It encourages biodiversity to be considered as a feature of plans and designs<sup>1</sup>. All green and blue features can be considered green/blue infrastructure including ponds, gardens, allotments, rivers, parks and Sustainable Drainage Systems. Green/blue infrastructure can be used to connect habitats together across landscapes. When planned for and integrated, it can help maintain and enhance local biodiversity by conserving or adding to existing wildlife corridors, or creating new ecological links. Green/blue infrastructure can bring value to local biodiversity as well as people's health and quality of life, but may also help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. For example, green/blue infrastructure may be a floodplain or a carbon/water store and its conservation and enhancement within planning should help to strengthen natural resilience. In addition, green/blue infrastructure is often multifunctional land with possibilities for incorporation of active travel routes.

### *Ecosystem Services*

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides. The provision of these benefits is referred to in the SPPS as 'ecosystem services' (ES) and defined as 'the processes by which the environment produces resources used by people that are often taken for granted'. These include providing food and materials, regulation for example through water and carbon storage, supporting processes such as the water cycle, and meeting other needs for people such as recreation and enjoyment. The SPPS recommends that ES be adequately considered in plan making, as an integral part of sustainable development.

There are several ES projects across Northern Ireland. These focus on more sustainable approaches to managing land that provide positive benefits for stakeholders like reduced costs. Northern Ireland Water (NIW) is involved in several ES projects with economic benefits that have also delivered environmental gains including restored upland bog<sup>2</sup>. An example is the Garron Plateau Bog Restoration Project<sup>3</sup>. This was started in 2013 to restore an area of intact blanket bog back to favourable condition. The primary aim was to improve the quality of water from the bog to the NIW Dungonnell treatment works. The restoration plan improved water quality at the plant, which reduced treatment costs to NIW but the project also restored the bog, which increased its ability to capture greenhouse gases whilst enhancing local biodiversity levels. Partnership working between NIW, RSPB, NIEA, local farmers and other stakeholders, is helping to conserve Garron Plateau for its ES.

### *Canoe NI*

The Council area encompasses Portmore Lough ASSI and there is access to Lough Neagh within the Portmore area. Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI and it helps to ensure safe access to NI's canoe trails. Numerous trails are located around the full length of the coast and the main loughs including Lough Neagh with access from within the LCCC Council area. More information can be found from Canoe NI [www.canoeni.com](http://www.canoeni.com).

### *Community Greenways*

Access for people to the natural environment is important for health and well-being and can benefit people from both urban and rural areas. There are nine community greenways under the legacy Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan<sup>4</sup>. The Comber Greenway is a popular seven mile path used for walking,

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<sup>1</sup> DoE (September 2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

<sup>2</sup> Sourced: [https://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk/cmsfiles/ClimateNI\\_RSPBFINAL.pdf](https://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk/cmsfiles/ClimateNI_RSPBFINAL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> NI Water - Garron Plateau Bog Restoration Project (found at <https://www.niwater.com/garron-plateau-bog-restoration-project.aspx>)

<sup>4</sup> LCCC: Development Plan Position Paper 12: Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation December 2017

cycling and running that connects people and communities between East Belfast and Comber. In 2018, it was improved to encourage and enable more users on the active travel resource<sup>1</sup>. A representative from the Department for Communities has referred to the Comber Greenway as ‘a great example of what can be achieved when stakeholders work together for the benefit of the community.’ It is an excellent example of a regeneration project that has delivered positive outcomes for people’s quality of life. In the Council’s consultations for the Community Plan<sup>2</sup>, ‘there was a strong emphasis on the importance of green spaces,’ for health and wellbeing. Within the Plan’s Vision, ‘the restorative qualities of green spaces’ are planned for throughout the duration of the plan. More detailed information on greenways is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

### 5.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there would likely be an increased risk of inappropriate development with adverse impacts on the Borough’s natural heritage resource. Without up to date spatial information, it is likely to become increasingly difficult to protect both designated and locally important nature conservation sites from habitat loss, degradation and pollution. Likewise, it may become increasingly difficult to integrate effective green/blue infrastructure as well as other measures to support ES. With a new plan, a consistent approach to the spatial protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment as a key asset, would be more feasible.

### 5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues

- The Council area benefits from nature conservation designations that range in importance from an International level to a local level and include the Lough Neagh/Lough Beg Ramsar/SPA, and the Lagan Valley AONB and Regional Park.
- Some designated nature conservation sites are shared with other Council jurisdictions, which presents opportunities for partnership working.
- Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are fairly evenly distributed across the Council area but remain disconnected.
- There is a LBAP for the Council area with 24 habitats and five species groups, which should enable various stakeholders to become involved in local biodiversity conservation.
- Green/blue infrastructure can help maintain natural resilience within the local environment to help combat the effects of climate change.
- There may be opportunities for ES projects within the Council area that could encourage more sustainable approaches to land management with positive outcomes for stakeholders and the environment.
- The number of greenways in the Council area could increase with the example of the Comber Greenway able to highlight the importance of the greenways to local communities as an active travel resource to benefit people’s health and wellbeing and quality of life.

Green spaces accessible by walking and cycling are wanted by communities as a natural resource to help with health and wellbeing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/news/detail/more-room-to-share-with-improvements-at-comber-greenway> June 2018

<sup>2</sup> LCCC Community Plan 2017/2032: nurture and reap the rewards

## 5.13 Landscape

### 5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets. Regional policy encourages protection of it including landscape and Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV).

The SPPS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several SPPS subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities. It also recognises the importance of the coastline in terms of landscape value. Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation refers to a broad range of open spaces of public value that can be considered important aspects of local landscape character and people's well-being - forest parks, amenity green space, green corridors, natural and semi-natural green spaces and allotments.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan designated landscapes sensitive to development pressures but due to its ruling as being unlawfully adopted the extant area plans are still in use (refer to 3.2 for full list.) These plans are now well out of date and a new LDP could provide opportunities for policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas or Areas of High Scenic Value, to help conserve unique landscapes. This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism but also as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

Within the Council's Corporate Plan Strategic Theme 4 'Where we Live' aims to promote resilient and environmentally friendly places to live. Corporate actions to achieve this include developing the Local Development Plan, promoting sustainable tourism and use of the natural environment, shifting to sustainable transport and reduction in energy consumption and litter.

The Council's Community Plan 2017-2032, sets out a holistic approach to achieving its vision and outcomes. The Plan recognises the diversity of landscape from the 'shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the hills above Dundonald in the east, and from the Belfast Hills in the north to the source of the River Lagan in the south.' Aspiring to protect the environment, whilst connecting people to it for health and economic benefits is part of achieving the outcomes of the Community Plan.

### 5.13.2 Baseline information

Detailed information on landscape has been provided in the Local Development Plan Position Papers 8 and 9. This topic overlaps with Health and Wellbeing, Economy and Employment, Material Assets, Physical Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage.

#### *AONB -Lagan Valley*

Lagan Valley was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) under the Amenity Lands Act (NI) 1965 and is the only AONB within the plan area. It is one of eight AONBs in Northern Ireland and together they provide some of the most valued landscapes in Northern Ireland. A large proportion of the AONB lies within Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) which was designated in 1967 as one of three unique semi urban designations in the UK at that time<sup>1</sup>. The AONB encompasses a diverse variety of landscapes such as the Lagan Canal and towpath, parklands, estates and farmlands,

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<sup>1</sup> Lagan Valley Regional Park-Local Plan 2005: Department of the Environment (DOE)



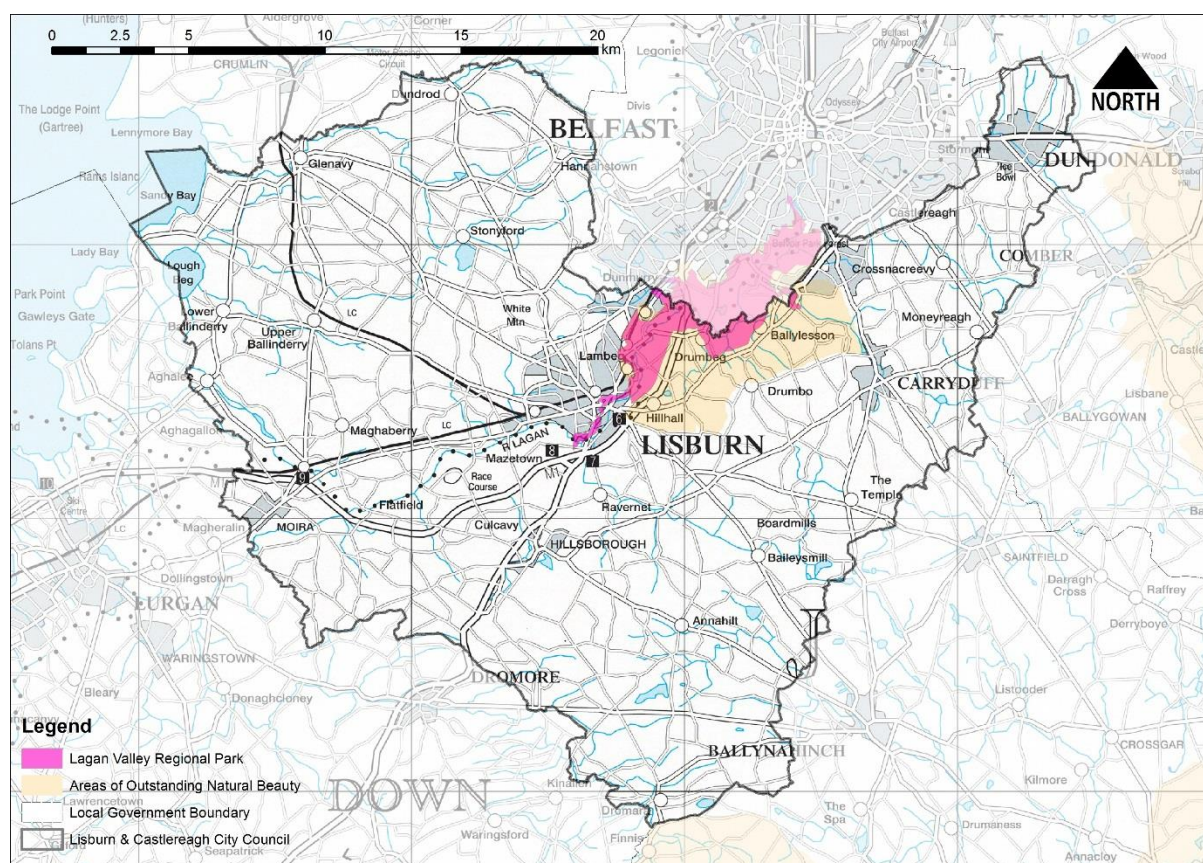
towns and villages and is home to impressive monuments such as the Giants Ring and early Christian Rathes. LVRP is Northern Ireland's first and only Regional Park.

The LVRP Five Year Management Plan 2017-2022 objectives have been developed in alignment with the broad objectives of AONB management including;

- to protect, conserve and enhance the environment of the Lagan Valley Regional Park
- to conserve the landscape visual attractiveness, quality and features of the Regional Park
- to conserve the historic buildings, cultural heritage and promote quiet enjoyment of the Regional Park for the benefit of the general public

Identified threats to the character of the landscape include development and urban expansion, changes to land management such as the intensification of agriculture, visitor management and invasive species<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 5.13.1: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Regional Park**



Source: DAERA Digital Datasets

### Woodland

The Community Plan 2017-2032 identifies that within the Council area there is 1,689 ha of woodland which is the second lowest of all Councils behind Belfast. Wooded areas across the Council area are owned by Forest Service and others. The Woodland Trust has recorded 50 long established woodlands within the Council area. Areas in Purdysburn and Hillsborough Forest are two examples but there are also woodlands in demesnes or estates that have an important local landscape value. Wet woodland is also prevalent along waterways and on the shores of Portmore Lough.

<sup>1</sup> Lagan Valley Regional Park Five Year Management Plan 2017-2022



### Wetlands

The council area contains several important wetland areas. Valuable wetland habitats such as grassland, fen, marsh and carr can be found at Stoneyford Reservoir, Monlough and areas around the River Lagan, Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough. The River Lagan is the largest river in the council area. Many stretches of the River Lagan contain important habitats for wildlife including otter, nesting birds, coarse fish and Spuce's bristle moss.<sup>1</sup>

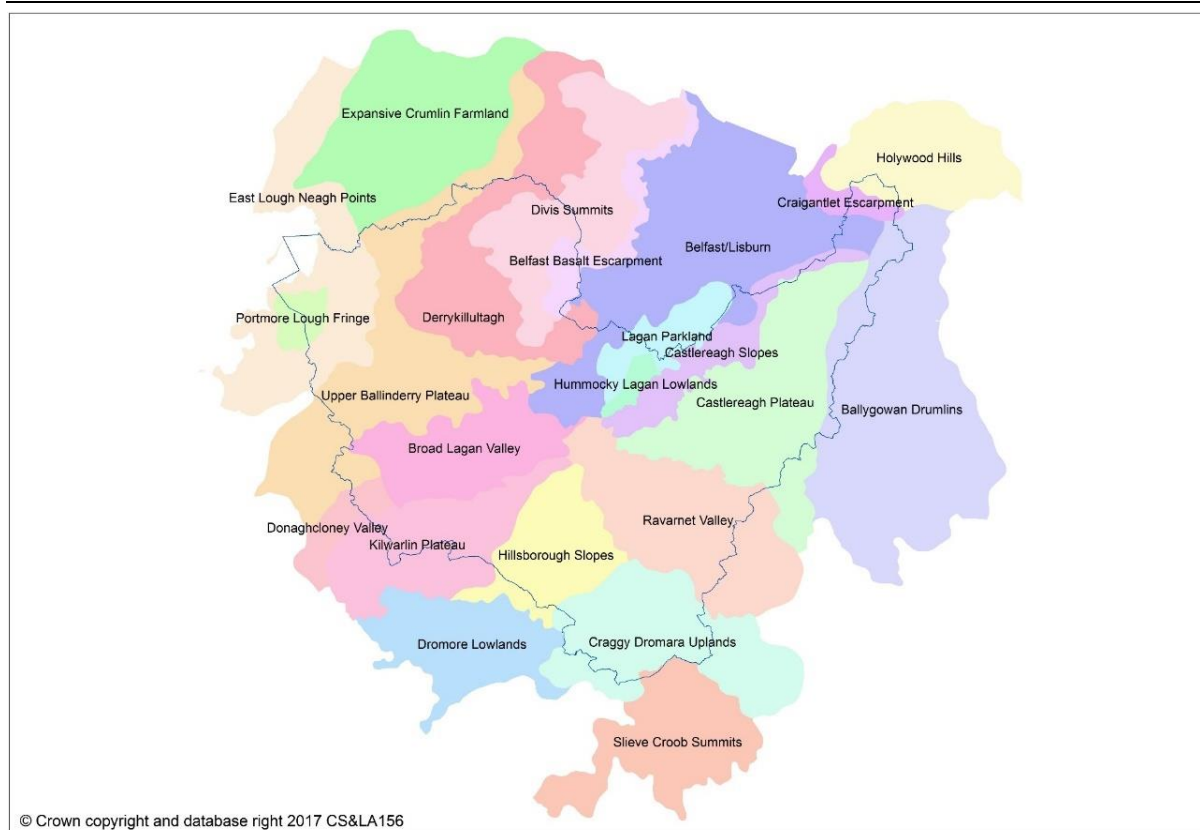
### Landscape Character Areas

The Council is covered by 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) out of a possible 130 under the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (NILCA). These are in Table 1 and Map 2 of the Countryside Assessment Position Paper 9.

The LCAs range from low-lying agricultural lands interspersed with wetlands near Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough, to the open expanse of rough farmland on the Divis Summits, to the distinct rolling pastures and hedgerows of the Castlereagh Plateau.

The LCAs provide important information to guide landscape management and any new development in those areas. It is evident from these principles that in some LCAs there is a risk of further development leading to a loss of rural character through merging settlements, or a risk that some built development may be inappropriately located on high ridges. Likewise, appropriate styles and designs using traditional colours, native planting, and ideally, conversion of traditional buildings, are recommended to help maintain local character and integrate new development<sup>2</sup>.

**Figure 5.13.2 L&CCC Landscape Character Areas**



Source: Source: L&CCC Position Paper 8: Natural Heritage 2019

<sup>1</sup> Lisburn and Castlereagh Council Position Paper 9 Countryside Assessment.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland>

### Regional Landscape Character

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) was uploaded in 2016. The purpose of the NIRLCA is to provide a regional overview of landscape character, which will form a framework for updating of local-scale assessments<sup>1</sup>. The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment identified the characteristics of 26 discrete areas, referred to as regional landscape character areas (RLCA), 5 of these landscape character areas, or portions of them, are contained within Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and include the Lough Neagh Basin, Belfast and Lagan Valley, and the North Down Drumlins and Hills<sup>2</sup>.

Landscape Wedges, including those within the urban area which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure, in particular where they follow river valleys, afford routes for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species. Landscape Wedges also serve to protect important landscapes. There are 6 landscape wedges within the Council area (1 Urban Wedge and 5 Rural Wedges).

**Table: 5:13:1 Landscape Wedges within L&CCC**

| Landscape Wedge     | DEA                    |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Carryduff (Rural)   | Castlereagh South/East |
| Glencregagh (Rural) | Castlereagh South      |
| Newtownards (Rural) | Castlereagh East       |
| Comber (Rural)      | Castlereagh East       |
| Mosside (Rural)     | Lisburn North          |
| Dundonald (Urban)   | Castlereagh East       |

Source: L&CCC Position Paper 8: Natural Heritage 2019

### Local Landscape Policy Areas

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) protect landscape features within or near to settlements that are important for their local significance, amenity value or landscape quality. LLPAs can also include features important for their historical or cultural value, as well as the setting, which helps to protect the feature from visual intrusion. There are 122 LLPAs in the district and these are listed in Annex 4 of the LDP Position Paper on Natural Heritage.

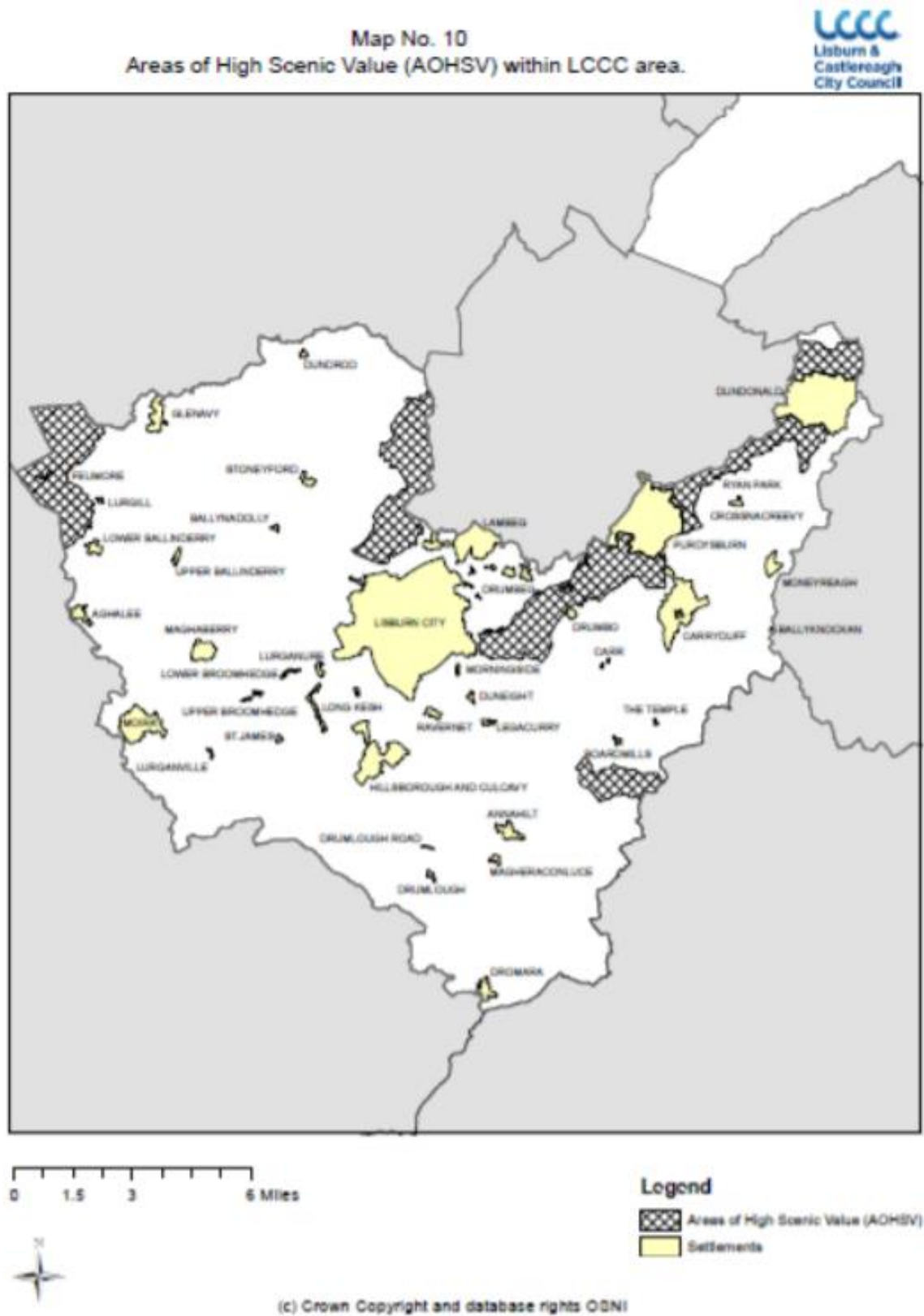
### Area of High Scenic Value

There are 6 areas of High Scenic Value within the Council area. These are highlighted in the map below.

<sup>1</sup> DAERA (2016) Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment

<sup>2</sup> DAERA (2016) Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 5.113.3 L&CCC Areas of High Scenic Value



Source: L&CCC Position Paper 8: Natural Heritage April 2019

*Development Pressure*

The Development Pressure Analysis conducted for the Local Development Plan shows that there is a relatively high density of rural housing throughout the Council area. Figures from 1992 to 2003 show

that over half of all rural housing applications made were within green belt or Countryside Policy Areas. Approvals were made in 67% of cases. Overall, the analysis found an increasing pressure for single rural dwellings in all rural parts of the Council. Rural housing applications are shown on Map 6 of the Countryside Assessment Position Paper 9. Only two windfarms were approved in the Council up to 2014 but ongoing pressures are evident from single turbine applications. The Council also has key transport routes including sections of motorway and dual carriageway that connect to Belfast and Dublin. There remains a high reliance on cars.

### 5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk of losing or detracting from the quality and character of landscapes and unique amenity areas, due to over development or inappropriate siting of structures. This could be exacerbated through fewer opportunities to also encourage and integrate sympathetic design, siting and landscaping. A new plan could enable opportunities to link existing and new landscape features to local blue/green infrastructure with accessibility for people considered. All in all these missed opportunities could have a negative impact on landscapes that are key assets to the tourism industry in Northern Ireland.

### 5.13.4 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues

- There is a wide variety of landscape types across the Council that make it unique in its own right including an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and 3 Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs), 122 Local Landscape Policy Areas and 6 areas of High Scenic Value.
- During 2003-2014, there was an increasing trend for rural housing (new, replacement and extensions) placing pressure on landscape across the rural Council.
- The Lagan Valley AONB and the Lagan Valley Regional Park are located across two Council areas and a coordinated approach between Councils and various other stakeholders will help deliver the LVRP Management Plan.
- There is the on-going risk of over development across the rural area from industry, agriculture, rural housing, renewable energy and the expansion of settlements and transport networks.

## 5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

### 5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the 'Valetta Convention' and the 'Granada Convention') place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005) place a requirement to enhance the value of cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation. It also requires member states to promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity.

In the regional context PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

The regional strategic objectives set out in the SPPS are to:

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

More specific policy is set out in items 6.28 and 6.29 of the SPPS. These link directly with the aims of the above-mentioned European Conventions.

The overarching policy of the SPPS recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. These elements contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Council. They make places more attractive to either live in or visit.

They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. The historic environment has the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. Reuse of listed or locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy

Lisburn and Castlereagh District Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 and beyond includes five strategic themes the Plan aims to have achieved by 2022 which include 'build on our reputation as a place to visit, promoting the natural and historic assets of our city, towns, villages and countryside to attract greater numbers of international and national tourists.'

The 2017-2032 Community Plan recognises that the historic environment of L&CCC includes Hillsborough Castle as well as Lisburn city which was a cradle of the Irish linen industry and a strong manufacturing base during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Within L&CCC there are three Conservation areas namely Hillsborough, Lisburn and Moira. They all have associated Conservation Area Plans and design guidance.

### 5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Position Papers including 'Paper 7: 'Built Heritage' and Position Paper 11: 'Tourism'. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also published its digital datasets of the historic environment online<sup>1</sup> and has created a Historic Environment Web Map Viewer<sup>2</sup>. It has also published Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment<sup>3</sup> and Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment<sup>4</sup>. This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment and Landscape topics.

#### Overview

The historic environment in L&CCC includes built heritage and artefacts from all periods of human settlement in Ireland from around 7000BC to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Listed Buildings

There are a total of approximately 443 listed buildings in the Council area, 10 of which have been assigned Grade A status.<sup>5</sup> These include St Malachy's Parish Church of Ireland, Hillsborough, Cathedral of Christchurch, Lisburn and The Courthouse, Hillsborough. A further 31 are buildings are listed but are 'record only' or have not yet been allocated a grade.

#### Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (BHARNI).<sup>6</sup> The BHARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. Within the district there are a total of 33 'buildings at risk', of which 26 are listed. Eight 'buildings at risk' have been saved but 10 have been assigned a 'critical' or 'high' level of risk. Some examples of buildings at risk include: Old Quaker Meeting House in Moira, Mill (Charley's Bleachworks) in Dunmurry, and Hilden National School.

#### Sites and Monuments Record

L&CCC has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. Scheduled sites are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 93<sup>7</sup> such Scheduled areas in the district.

The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the DfC lists a further 670<sup>8</sup> unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the district. The Record includes assets such as Ecclesiastical sites, Cashels (stone forts), Crannogs (island forts), Mills, Hothouses and more modern features such as WWII Air Raid Shelters. More sites may potentially be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. The district has 6 Monuments in State Care, which are listed below:

- Rath and Burnt Mounds, Lissue, Lisburn (Lisburn South)
- Rough Fort. Bivallate Rath, Moira. (Downshire West)

<sup>1</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 27th September 2019)

<sup>2</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment MapViewer <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

<sup>3</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment (Date published: 03 July 2018)

<sup>4</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment (Date published: 12 February 2018)

<sup>5</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Dataset (Date published: 4th September 2019)

<sup>6</sup> Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (accessed 09/10/2019)

<sup>7</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 4th September 2019)

<sup>8</sup> Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 4th September 2019)



- Richhill Gates, Hillsborough. (Downshire West)
- Hillsborough Market/Court House, Hillsborough. (Downshire West)
- Moira Station House, Magheramesk. (Downshire West)
- Former Market House, Later Court House, Hillsborough

Source: NI Sites and Monuments Record DfC Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 4th September 2019)

#### *Areas of Special Archaeological Interest and Areas of Archaeological Potential*

There are no areas of Special Archaeological interest in L&CCC.

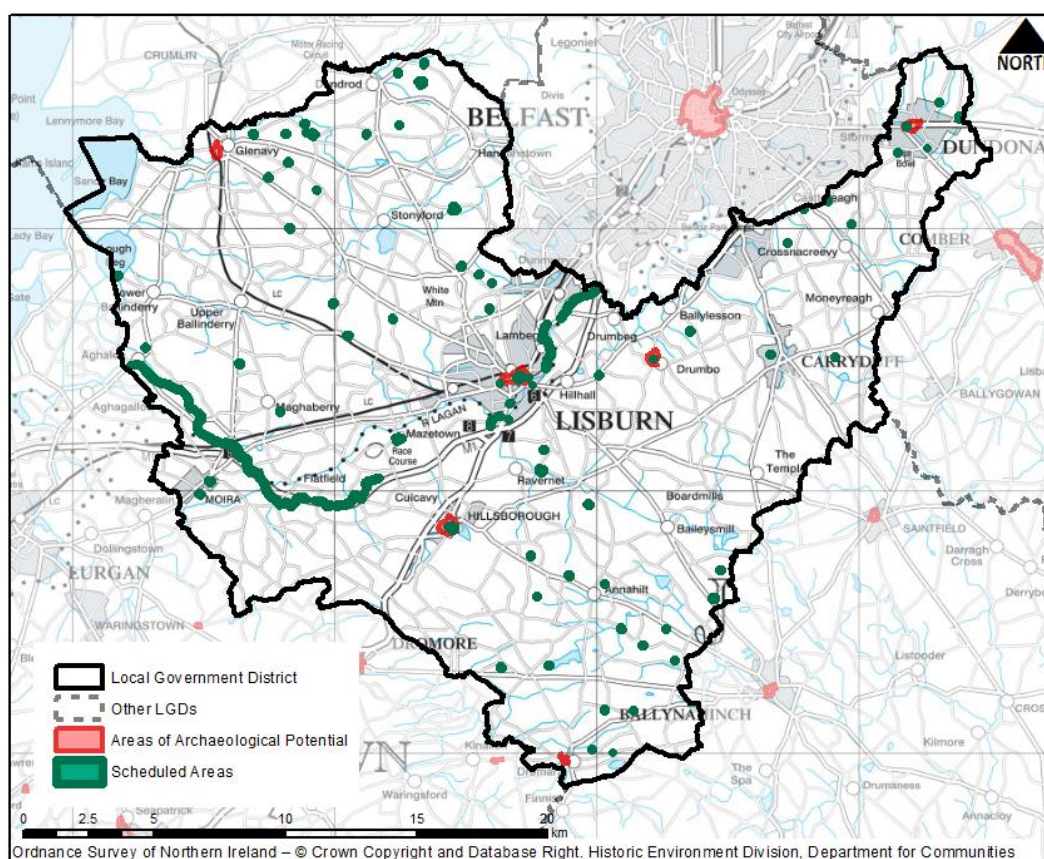
There are 6 settlements in L&CCC with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP). These are:

- Drumbo
- Dromara
- Dundonald
- Glenavy
- Hillsborough
- Lisburn

Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 4th September 2019)

There are various existing policies for Areas of Archaeological Potential and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest within the unlawfully adopted Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015.

**Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP and Scheduled Zones**



Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 4th September 2019)

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The draft Gazetteer includes 27 entries within the district. The new LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and AAP through consultation with the DfC.

### Industrial Heritage

The district also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found not only in the city and main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the former corn mills, tanneries, windmills, gasworks and flax and linen industries. Lisburn City hosts the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum as the area was once home to a variety of mills and industries associated with the production of linen such as The Island Spinning Company, Coulson's Factory and Hilden Mill. The Lagan Canal which flows through Lisburn is also an important industrial heritage feature of the Council area.

### Defence Heritage

L&CCC contains many defence heritage assets, largely associated with World War II, many of which are focused within and adjacent to Lisburn City. Defence heritage assets include former airfields and decoy airfields, pillboxes and observation posts. Many of the assets on the defence asset database are in poor condition or have already been destroyed. The former airfield at Blaris has been destroyed and the former airfield at Magheraliskmiss was redeveloped into the Maghaberry high security prison in the 1970's with the majority of the site cleared<sup>1</sup>. The former airfield at Maze is in fair condition.

### Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. L&CCC has a total of six Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland<sup>2</sup>. These include 433 (ha) at Hillsborough Castle, 98 ha at Larchfield and 80 ha at Purdysburn. A further six supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest.

| Register   | Supplementary   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hillsborough Castle</li> <li>▪ Kilwarlin Moravian Church</li> <li>▪ Larchfield</li> <li>▪ Lisburn Castle Gardens</li> <li>▪ Moira Castle Demesne</li> <li>▪ Wallace Park</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Belvedere</li> <li>▪ Brookhill</li> <li>▪ Portmore</li> <li>▪ Purdysburn House</li> <li>▪ Seymour Hill</li> <li>▪ Springfield</li> </ul> |

### Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991.

L&CCC has a total of three Conservation Areas. They are:

- Hillsborough
- Lisburn
- Moira

The locations of these Conservation Areas are shown on Figure 3 of the LDP Preparatory Studies Position paper 7: 'Built Heritage'. Great importance is attached to the preservation of the existing character and appearance of such areas allied to the promotion of their economic well-being.

### Areas of Townscape Character

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the Local Development Plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently seven Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) and seven Areas of Village Character (AVC) within L&CCC. Their names and locations are given in section 4.19 and Table 5 respectively of the LDP Preparatory Studies Position Paper 7: 'Built Heritage'. As part of the LDP

<sup>1</sup> www.livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk

<sup>2</sup> Department for Communities: Register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest, published 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

preparation process, all existing ATC and AVC designations will be reviewed and any additional ATCs or AVCs will be identified.

#### *Local Landscape Policy Areas*

The features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) are specific to individual settlements and differ from place to place. Within L&CCC BMAP had designated 133 LLPAs within and adjoining the majority of the settlements. Although BMAP was found to be unlawfully adopted it still remains a material consideration. As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing LLPA designations will be reviewed and any additional LLPAs identified.

#### 5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. HED would continue to enhance the monuments and buildings record to include new sites and information, and to recognise new assets or changes in the designated status of existing assets. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in future growth plans and place-shaping may be missed.

There are a very large number of strategic heritage assets in L&CCC, dating from Prehistoric and Mesolithic periods through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new areas of special archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential in the LDP might also be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism and visitor offer, leading to reduced economic benefit for local communities.

Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate ASAI and to identify new AAP might be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism industry, leading to reduced economic benefits for local communities. The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

There is also a risk of incremental erosion of landscape or townscape character or quality. Development might have a significant impact on the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

#### 5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- The Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage plays a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations. L&CCC has a rich industrial and defence heritage.
- The Council area has a Royal Palace at Hillsborough which is an important cultural and historic resource.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy. 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted.
- The district's rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.

- The district contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage features and recognising their value extends beyond listing and enforcement. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features, along with the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings. Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment.

## 6. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

### 6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of international, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes and strategies; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends. The objectives follow with a short rationale and description of what each seeks to achieve. There are several overlaps between objectives which support each other.

The objectives for sustainable development in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council are to...

#### *1...improve health and wellbeing.*

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimise the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

#### *2...strengthen society.*

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

#### *3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.*

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

#### *4...enable access to high quality education.*

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

#### *5...enable sustainable economic growth.*

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

#### *6...manage material assets sustainably.*

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimise adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

### *7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.*

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

### *8...encourage active and sustainable travel.*

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single-occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel makes travel more affordable and may bring added health benefits, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

### *9... improve air quality*

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

### *10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.*

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

### *11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.*

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

### *12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.*

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats including the marine environment. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the coastal and marine environment as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

### *13... maintain and enhance landscape character.*

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

### *14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.*

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.



## 6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives in Appendix 3 to identify any conflict between sustainability objectives. No sustainability appraisal objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. Some objectives were considered to have uncertain relationships with each other.

## 6.3 Compatibility of draft Plan Strategy Objectives

The Vision and Objectives for the LDP have been compared with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives to assess how they are aligned. This is presented in Appendix 2 of the SA Report and helps establish whether the approach to the LDP is in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

## 6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

Predicting effects always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. Technical Supplements to the draft Plan Strategy were being prepared simultaneously to the Scoping Report and consequently some of the updated information presented within the Technical Supplements was not available at the time the Scoping Report was drafted. As an iterative process, the SA may have different sources of available information than the Plan team, and vice versa. A record of the assumptions made and uncertainties encountered during the Sustainability Appraisal process are included in the reports.

## APPENDIX 1: COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 lists the following information required for environmental reports, according to Regulation 11(3), (4). The location of this information in this Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is identified.

| Requirement  | Location  |
|--|---|
| <b>1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.</b>   | An introduction to the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council LDP is presented in Section 1 of the SA Report and Section 1 of the SA Scoping Report.<br><br>The key plans, policies, programmes and strategies that have been considered in the SA are described at the introduction to each topic in Chapter 5 of the SA Scoping Report. A full list is included in the Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report. |
| <b>2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.</b>   | Baseline information is presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, under topic sections. Each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.<br><br>The Key Sustainability Issues are summarised at the end of each topic in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report.  |
| <b>3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</b>  | The environmental characteristics of the district are presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, in baseline information and as Key Sustainability Issues.  |
| <b>4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including. In particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</b> | Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems.<br><br>A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Plan Strategy has been published for consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy. A summary of the HRA is included in Section 1.3.3 of the SA Report.   |
| <b>5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</b>   | Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the main policy themes in the introduction to each topic.<br><br>Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship of the LDP with other plans, programmes and policies.  |

| Requirement  | Location   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) biodiversity;</li> <li>(ii) population;</li> <li>(iii) human health;</li> <li>(iv) fauna;</li> <li>(v) flora;</li> <li>(vi) soil;</li> <li>(vii) water;</li> <li>(viii) air;</li> <li>(ix) climatic factors;</li> <li>(x) material assets;</li> <li>(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</li> <li>(xii) landscape, and</li> <li>(xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).</li> </ul> | <p>Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of the SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>Interrelationships are discussed in Section 4 of the SA Report and Appendix 3 of the SA Scoping Report.</p> |
| <p><b>7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</b></p>   | <p>Measures are reported in Section 3 of the SA Report and also in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of the SA Report.</p>  |
| <p><b>8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.</b></p>  | <p>Section 2 of the SA Report considers this in general. Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report provide more detail on the options appraised and any assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.</p>  |
| <p><b>9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.</b></p>   | <p>A preliminary framework for potential monitoring has been included in Section 5 of the SA Report.</p>   |
| <p><b>10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</b></p>   | <p>A non-technical summary is provided as a separate document to accompany the SA Report and the SA Scoping Report.</p>  |

## APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) TOPICS

| The objectives for sustainable development are to...                                | SEA Directive Topic   |
|---|---|
| 1...improve health and well-being.  | Population<br>Human Health  |
| 2 strengthen society.   | Cultural Heritage including<br>Architectural and Archaeological<br>Heritage<br>Population |
| 3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.                                      | Population<br>Human Health  |
| 4...enable access to high quality education.  | Population  |
| 5...enable sustainable economic growth.   | Population<br>Human Health  |
| 6 manage material assets sustainably.   | Material Assets   |
| 7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.                                 | Material Assets<br>Soil   |
| 8...encourage active and sustainable travel.  | Human Health<br>Population<br>Climatic Factors  |
| 9...improve air quality   | Air   |
| 10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.                                  | Climatic Factors  |
| 11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.                           | Water   |
| 12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.                            | Biodiversity<br>Flora, Fauna  |
| 13...maintain and enhance landscape character.                                      | Landscape   |
| 14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. | Cultural Heritage including<br>architectural and archaeological<br>heritage<br>Landscape  |

## APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

| Sustainability Objectives  | 1 Improve health and well-being. | 2 Strengthen society. | 3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing. | 4 Enable access to high quality education. | 5 Enable sustainable economic growth. | 6 Manage material assets sustainably. | 7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably. | 8 Encourage active and sustainable travel. | 9 Improve air quality. | 10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change. | 11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably. | 12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity. | 13 Maintain and enhance landscape character. | 14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Improve health and well-being.   |                                  |                       |  |  |                                       |                                       |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 2 Strengthen society.  | ✓                                |                       |  |  |                                       |                                       |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.                                     | ✓                                | ✓                     |  |  |                                       |                                       |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 4 Enable access to high quality education.                                       | ✓                                | ✓                     | ✓  |  |                                       |                                       |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 5 Enable sustainable economic growth.  | ✓                                | ✓                     | ✓  | ✓  |                                       |                                       |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 6 Manage material assets sustainably.  | ✓                                | ✓                     | 0  | 0  | ✓                                     |                                       |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.                                | ✓                                | 0                     | 0  | 0  | ✓                                     | ✓                                     |   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.                                       | ✓                                | ✓                     | ✓  | ✓  | ✓                                     | 0                                     | 0   |  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 9 Improve air quality.   | ✓                                | ✓                     | ✓  | 0  | ?                                     | ✓                                     | ✓   | ✓  |                        |  |   |  |  |  |
| 10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.                                 | ✓                                | ✓                     | ✓  | 0  | ?                                     | ✓                                     | ✓   | ✓  | ✓                      |  |   |  |  |  |
| 11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.                          | ✓                                | 0                     | ✓  | 0  | ?                                     | ✓                                     | ✓   | 0  | ✓                      | ✓  |   |  |  |  |
| 12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.                           | ✓                                | ✓                     | 0  | ✓  | ?                                     | ✓                                     | ✓   | ✓  | ✓                      | ✓  | ✓   |  |  |  |
| 13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.                                     | ✓                                | ✓                     | 0  | 0  | ✓                                     | ?                                     | ?   | 0  | ✓                      | ✓  | ✓   | ✓  |  |  |
| 14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. | ✓                                | ✓                     | ?  | ✓  | ✓                                     | 0                                     | ✓   | 0  | ✓                      | ✓  | ✓   | ✓  | ✓  |  |

|            |   |                 |   |                        |   |              |   |
|------------|---|-----------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Compatible | ✓ | No relationship | 0 | Uncertain relationship | ? | Incompatible | * |
|------------|---|-----------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------|---|

## APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

### Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the Sustainability Appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the plan evidence papers or the body of the SA Scoping Report and these will be incorporated in this table in the updated Scoping Report which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic however some may apply to two or more topics. Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the LDP. A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure which contributed towards the source information for this review of plans, policies, programmes and strategies.



| Topic                      | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|------|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| 01 Sustainable Development | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  | Convention  | 2015 | UN                | Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.  | Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.   | International |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020   | Policy      | 2014 | EC                | Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.  | The policy sets out principles for integrated sustainable urban development.  | Europe        |
| 01 Sustainable Development | General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)   | Plan        | 2013 | EC                | This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing. | The LDP should support the four key areas of work set out in the EAP.   | Europe        |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) | Legislation | 2008 | EC                | The aim of the MSFD is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. It is the first EU legislative instrument related to the protection of marine biodiversity, as it contains the explicit regulatory objective that "biodiversity is maintained by 2020", as the cornerstone for achieving GES.   | The Directive establishes 11 GES Descriptors relating to biological diversity, non-indigenous species, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, food webs, eutrophication, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, contaminants in fish, litter and noise. The LDP may have an influence on the marine area and consideration should be given to its effect on these descriptors. | Europe        |
| 01 Sustainable Development | The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)   | Directive   | 2004 | EC                | The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.   | The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.   | Europe        |

| Topic                      | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation    | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|------|----------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 01 Sustainable Development | Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment | Directive   | 2001 | EC                   | Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.  | The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.  | Europe        |
| 01 Sustainable Development | A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development           | Strategy    | 2001 | EC                   | A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.  | This Strategy aligns with many of the objectives of the LDP including those related to transport and natural heritage, as well as renewable energy. In applying the policy requirements of the SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.   | Europe        |
| 01 Sustainable Development | UK Marine Policy Statement   | Policy      | 2011 | Four Nations (DAERA) | The MPS facilitates and supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives. These are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable economic development;</li> <li>Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects;</li> <li>Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and</li> <li>Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.</li> </ul> Currently it is also the policy document to be used for decision making for any proposal which affects, or might affect, the NI marine area. It will be used in conjunction with the Marine Plan for NI, once the Marine Plan is published and adopted in its final form. | Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan (once the latter is adopted) in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 state that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision. | UK            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy                                     | Strategy    | 2005 | Four Nations (DAERA) | The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.  | The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the LDP will support this.  | UK            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009   | Legislation | 2009 | UK Gov.              | The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.  | Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".  | UK            |

| Topic                      | Title  | Type      | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 01 Sustainable Development | (draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland   | Plan      | 2018 | DAERA             | The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the NI marine area. The Plan contains a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will align with and contribute to policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. These policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in April 2018.  | Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". Public authorities must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted marine plan or the MPS. The Marine Plan uses an ecosystem based approach that will assist public authorities in managing the competing demands on the marine area in a more sustainable manner. Achieving sustainable development is at the core of the Marine Plan. | NI            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development | Policy    | 2015 | Dfi               | Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and well-being; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.  | The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.   | NI            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Regional Development Strategy 2035   | Strategy  | 2012 | Dfi               | This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines. | The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.   | NI            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021   | Programme | 2016 | NI Executive      | The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.   | The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.   | NI            |

| Topic                      | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 01 Sustainable Development | Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan      | Plan        | 2011 | NI Executive      | While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.   | The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.   | NI            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006                   | Legislation | 2006 | NI Executive      | Requires departments and district councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.   | Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.  | NI            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)      | Strategy    | 2010 | DAERA             | Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy, aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and utilise our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.  | Plan objectives largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.   | NI            |
| 01 Sustainable Development | Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013                                     | Legislation | 2013 | UK Gov.           | The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The Marine Act applies to the Northern Ireland inshore region comprising of the territorial sea out to twelve nautical miles. This area includes all the tidal rivers and sea loughs (including Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough).   | Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that " <i>a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise</i> ". | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting     | United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)                 | Convention  | 1982 | United Nations    | The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation.  | The Convention sets the framework for protecting underwater cultural heritage at sea. Signatories 'have a duty to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and shall cooperate for this purpose'. The LDP should have regard for this principle.    | International |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting     | European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)                        | Strategy    | 1999 | EC                | Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.   | Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESPD.   | Europe        |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting     | Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998 | Convention  | 1998 | UNECE             | The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information; The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general. | The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement  | Europe        |

| Topic                  | Title   | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|------------------------|---|-------------|------|-------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Rural White Paper Action Plan   | Plan        | 2012 | DAERA             | This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.  | Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross         | Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2018   | Report      | 2018 | DEARA             | Report on a range of environmental indicators and provide links to government strategies.  | Regionally significant provides strategic clarity on climate change issues.   | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022            | Plan        | 2012 | DAERA             | The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.   | The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.   | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended) | Legislation | 2009 | DAERA             | Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments. | Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.  | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland  | Strategy    | 1993 | Dfi               | In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.  | The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply.   | NI            |

| Topic                  | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation   | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|------------------------|--|-------------|------|---|---|--|---------------|
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland                        | Other       | 2010 | Dfi   | This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.                                       | At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations. | NI & RoI      |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland | Strategy    | 2016 | independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management | Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.   | This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.  | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011   | Legislation | 2011 | NI Executive  | Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.  | The LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the SA process.   | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Building a Better Future: The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)                            | Plan        | 2011 | NI Executive  | The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.   | The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.  | NI            |
| 02 Other Cross Cutting | Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity   | Legislation | 1998 | NI Executive  | Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages, people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without | The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.  | NI            |



| Topic                  | Title   | Type      | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|------------------------|---|-----------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 03 Health & Well-being | Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))                 | Directive | 2002 | Council of Europe | Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to:<br>(1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping<br>(2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public<br>(3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).  | Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry. | Europe        |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019  | Strategy  | 2009 | DfC               | The Strategy's vision of "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport" is a key input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: 'Participation', 'Performance' and 'Places'. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans. | This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS, which must be taken into account in the LDP.   | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | A Fitter Future For All - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019  | Plan      | 2015 | DoH               | Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.  | Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.  | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014) | Plan      | 2013 | DoH               | The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.   | Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.  | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Connected Health Economy  | Strategy  | 2013 | DoH               | Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.   | This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.   | NI            |

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|------------------------|---|-------------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 03 Health & Well-being | A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland | Plan        | 2012 | DoH               | Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.   | Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.  | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety                             | Strategy    | 2011 | DoH               | Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.  | Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.   | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020   | Strategy    | 2011 | Dfi               | Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include:   | The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.   | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2 ) Regulations (NI) 2015   | Legislation | 2015 | Dfi               | The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.   | The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.   | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland   | Policy      | 2014 | DAERA             | Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to:<br>(1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;<br>(2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and<br>(3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.  | These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance. | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)                             | PPS         | 2004 | Dfi               | This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.  | Six policies are incorporated in SPPS. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being | Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan   | Plan        | 2013 | HSCNI             | This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Section 4.2 sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation. Main themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas are presented in section 4.4. At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of these local areas. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure. | Identifies need for health infrastructure, including for community care.   | NI            |

| Topic                    | Title   | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|------|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| 03 Health & Well-being   | The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 | Legislation | 2006 | NI Executive      | Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density). | Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.  | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being   | Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.    | Strategy    | 2014 | Outdoor NI        | This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.  | Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity. Also relevant to the sustainability topic Economic Growth.  | NI            |
| 03 Health & Well-being   | Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan        | Plan        | 2013 | BHSCT             | This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.  | Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.  | Regional      |
| 03 Health & Well-being   | South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan  | Plan        | 2013 | SEHSCT            | This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.  | Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.  | Regional      |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016                     | Legislation | 2016 | DAERA             | The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.  | Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.   | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing       | Other       | 2015 | DAERA             | The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.  | The LDP can support the objective to provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live, by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities.  | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation                 | Strategy    | 2012 | DAERA             | This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.  | Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing. | NI            |

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|--------------------------|--|----------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 04 Strengthening         | Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside                                     | PPS      | 2010 | Dfi               | PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.  | A series of 16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Housing.  | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening         | Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017  | Strategy | 2015 | DoJ               | The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.   | The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.   | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017 | Strategy | 2012 | DoJ               | Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.   | The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.  | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework  | Policy   | 2013 | DfC               | This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence-based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector | This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example, accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Economic Growth. | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening         | Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report  | Strategy | 2016 | EO                | The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.  | By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.   | NI            |

| Topic                    | Title   | Type     | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------------|---|----------|------|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| 04 Strengthening Society | [draft] Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 | Strategy | 2017 | NI Executive      | The Strategy recognises that the well-being of our children and young people is central to the development of a progressive, cohesive and prosperous society. It has identified eight factors which contribute towards well-being. These are physical and mental health, the enjoyment of play and leisure, learning and achievement, living in safety and with stability, economic and environmental well-being, a positive contribution to society, living in a society which respects their rights, living in a society in which equality of opportunity and good relations are promoted.  | The LDP can complement many of the aims of this strategy. For example, policies may help with the Strategy's objective to provide all children, including those with a disability and those living in marginalised, vulnerable or disadvantaged situations, with safe, accessible, inclusive spaces for play.   | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021  | Strategy | 2016 | NI Executive      | The Active Ageing Strategy highlights how much older people contribute to the quality of life in communities; it draws attention to the issues hindering some older people from living more actively; it stresses their rights, value and contribution and challenges all forms of ageism: the negative stereotyping of older people. The Strategy is designed to make a real difference to the quality of life of older people to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the benefits and rewards of life for as long as possible. A draft series of indicators has been proposed to monitor and evaluate progress. Once finalised, this set of indicators will be used to demonstrate progress under each outcome and will be the main method we will use to measure the effects of implementation of the Strategy.         | This strategy has five strategic aims:<br>1. Independence<br>2. Participation<br>3. Care<br>4. Self-fulfilment<br>5. Dignity.<br>Measures indicated within the strategy that are relevant to the LDP include the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing, timely and reliable transport provision, user-friendly information and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision-making on policies and the provision of services. Aims also include supporting older people to develop to the fullest of their potential by providing education, training, leisure and cultural opportunities. | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | NIHE Good Relations Plan  | Plan     | 2007 | NIHE              | The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.  | The LDP can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.  | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | NIHE - Race Relations Policy  | Strategy | 2006 | NIHE              | The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; and Migrant worker issues.   | The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.   | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | The Child Poverty Strategy  | Strategy | 2016 | EO                | The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety. | Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.  | NI            |

| Topic                    | Title   | Type              | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 04 Strengthening Society | Together: Building a United Community   | Strategy          | 2013 | EO                | The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package   | By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.   | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Delivering Social Change framework  | Funding Programme | 2012 | EO                | The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.                              | The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Education and Skills and Economic Growth. | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening         | Social Investment Fund  | Funding Programme | 2011 | EO                | The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups. Some funding will capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.   | Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.  | NI            |
| 04 Strengthening Society | Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland | Strategy          | 2006 | EO                | As part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages – Early Years (0 – 4), Children and Young People (5 – 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on. | Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing               | Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland   | Planning Guidance | 2015 | Dfi               | Planning applications meeting certain criteria must be accompanied by a design and access statement. These include: An application which is a major development, or where any part of the development is in a designated area; and development consisting of – (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100m <sup>2</sup> or more.  | Provides for early consideration of the need and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Health and Well-being and Transport & Accessibility.   | NI            |



| Topic      | Title  | Type              | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
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| 05 Housing | Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas        | PPS               | 2010 | DfI               | This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.  | Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations                             | PPS               | 2008 | DfI               | This document is a further Addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwellinghouse or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwellinghouses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.  | Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements  | PPS               | 2005 | DfI               | PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it." | The LDP will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications for LGDs once each Council adopts their new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy. | NI            |
| 05 Housing | PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments  | PPS               | 2001 | DfI               | This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.   | This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.   | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access | Planning Guidance | 2000 | DfI               | Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.  | Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.   | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015                 | Strategy          | 2015 | DfC               | This is a midterm update on the progress in delivering the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy. The strategy is centred on a vision that everyone should have the opportunity to access good quality housing at a reasonable cost. This update shows that, despite a challenging economic environment, the majority of the actions are on track for delivery by 2017.   | The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.  | NI            |

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| 05 Housing | Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018   | Plan              | 2013 | DfC               | The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.  | The LDP can help to support these objectives.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017                                       | Strategy          | 2012 | DfC               | This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are: 1. Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; 2. Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; 3. Housing and Welfare Reform; 4. Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and 5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.  | These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as families, the elderly, and disabled. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan                                      | Strategy          | 2012 | DfC               | The action plan for the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy follows on from the consultation on the draft strategy in 2012. It identifies a new, fifth role for government and sets out the 33 actions that will work towards achievement of each theme. The plan aims help the department to work towards five high-level outcomes: 1. Better housing management, with a more efficient and targeted use of resources; 2. Better regulation, with an increased focus on the interests of tenants and citizens, and reduced red tape; 3. Greater flexibility and responsiveness, as circumstances and market conditions change; 4. Continued fairness for citizens, regardless of tenure and consistent with the need to support those who are most vulnerable; and 5. Implementing new structures that can support the above outcomes. | The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016) | Planning Guidance | 2016 | NIHE              | Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.   | This guidance will be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus                                | Assessment        | 2016 | NIHE              | The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.   | This assessment informs potential requirements for social housing which can in turn inform the LDP.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18                                      | Plan              | 2015 | NIHE              | 5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.   | The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Housing Executive Environmental Policy  | Policy            | 2015 | NIHE              | Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity cross all Housing Executive landholdings.   | The LDP can help to support these commitments.   | NI            |

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|------------|---|------------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 05 Housing | Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services                          | Plan       | 2015 | NIHE              | Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.  | The LDP can help to support these objectives.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy                              | Strategy   | 2015 | NIHE              | This strategy includes the vision "to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live".   | The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.   | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services                          | Plan       | 2015 | NIHE              | Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities   | The LDP can help to support these objectives.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017                        | Strategy   | 2012 | NIHE              | In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.   | In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.  | NI            |
| 05 Housing | The Belfast Metropolitan Housing Market Area: a local housing system analysis | Assessment | 2011 | NIHE              | This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of the Belfast Metropolitan HMA. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMAs can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time.  | Movement patterns to work inform housing need. Over time the Belfast HMA has been extending its influence northwards and southwards into adjacent TTWAs. It now includes all of Larne local government district (LGD), and all but 1 ward of Antrim LGD  | Regional      |
| 05 Housing | Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019   | Plan       | 2015 | NIHE              | NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.  | The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs. | Council       |
| 05 Housing | Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas   | Assessment | 2010 | NIHE              | This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen. | Movement patterns to work can help to inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.   | Council       |

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| 06 Education and Skills | Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017                                | Plan              | 2016 | DE                | This Plan contains a number of goals including 'Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People' – includes rights, play and participation, 'Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare, 'Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality' – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools, and 'Improving the learning environment'. The plan aims to make sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. The Plan supports a number of indicators in the draft PfG for education. | This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. Regional education policies, programmes, strategies and action plans may be influenced and supported by spatial planning. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Strengthening Society. | NI            |
| 06 Education and Skills | Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement                          | Policy            | 2009 | DE                | Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.  | Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.  | NI            |
| 06 Education and Skills | Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools                              | Policy            | 2009 | DE                | The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.  | The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.   | NI            |
| 06 Education            | Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups | Planning Guidance | 1993 | Dfl               | The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.   | If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.  | NI            |

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|-------------------------|--|----------|------|---------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 06 Education and Skills | Education Authority Interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027           | Plan     | 2018 | EA                  | <p>The interim Strategic Plan 2017-2027 outlines what EA will do over the next decade to achieve key goals, deliver consistently high-quality services to the community across Northern Ireland and produce positive outcomes for all children and young people. It will be supported by a three-year Corporate Plan and annual business plans which will enable EA to incorporate new priorities and respond to new challenges as they arise. The Strategic Plan has five main objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Meeting the learning needs of our children and young people</li> <li>2) Providing excellent education support services</li> <li>3) Developing all our people to carry out their jobs successfully</li> <li>4) Managing our resources effectively and efficiently</li> <li>5) Nurturing leadership across the EA to give clear direction in a dynamic and complex environment.</li> </ol> | This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. The LDP should enable development /expansion of education facilities where required.   | NI            |
| 06 Education and Skills | Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020 | Plan     | 2017 | Education Authority | The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.  | This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.  | NI            |
| 06 Education and Skills | Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2017-2018               | Plan     | 2017 | Education Authority | The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2017 to March 2018 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.   | The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.   | NI            |
| 07 Economic Growth      | Europe 2020 Economic Strategy                                  | Strategy | 2010 | EC                  | Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.  | LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to support delivery of this strategy.  | Europe        |
| 07 Economic Growth      | Going for Growth - A Strategic Action Plan                     | Plan     | 2014 | DAERA               | In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, Going for Growth, includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.  | This action plan committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. The 'Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter' loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development. | NI            |

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|--------------------|---|----------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 07 Economic Growth | DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy   | Strategy | 2010 | DfE               | The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and was due for consultation by the end of 2016, however the absence of Ministers has delayed public consultation on, and therefore finalisation of, the draft Strategy within the original timescale.   | By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered. | NI            |
| 07 Economic Growth | A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020   | Strategy | 2010 | DfE               | Aims to provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.   | The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.   | NI            |
| 07 Economic Growth | Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]   |          | 2017 | DfE               | This strategy sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.  | The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth  | NI            |
| 07 Economic Growth | Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism  | PPS      | 2013 | DfI               | Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.  | Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 07 Economic Growth | Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)                                      | PPS      | 2010 | DfI               | Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.   | Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.  | NI            |
| 07 Economic Growth | Northern Ireland Economic Strategy : Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future | Strategy | 2012 | NI Executive      | Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth. | The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.   | NI            |



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|--------------------|---|-----------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 07 Economic Growth | Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future | Strategy  | 2012 | NI Executive      | The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.  | The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Education & Skills.  | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | 2030 Framework for climate and energy   | Strategy  | 2014 | EC                | EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.   | Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Air Quality and Climate Change.                                     | Europe        |
| 08 Material Assets | Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2   | Directive | 2009 | EC                | The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.  | The LDP will take account of the Directive.  | Europe        |
| 08 Material Assets | Directive 2008/98/EC on waste   | Directive | 2008 | EC                | Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.  | The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive. | Europe        |
| 08 Material Assets | Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste   | Directive | 1999 | EC                | Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste. | The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.  | Europe        |
| 08 Material        | Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste   | Directive | 1994 | EC                | Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.   | The LDP will take account of the Directive.  | Europe        |

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|--------------------|---|------------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 08 Material Assets | National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom  | Plan       | 2010 | BEIS              | Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.   | Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection. | UK            |
| 08 Material Assets | The UK Renewable Energy Strategy  | Strategy   | 2009 | BEIS              | This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport. | The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.  | UK            |
| 08 Material Assets | Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14 | Plan       | 2013 | DAERA             | Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.  | LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.   | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050                                | Assessment | 2015 | DfE               | A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.  | Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision.   | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan   | Plan       | 2013 | DfE               | The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.  | Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.   | NI            |

| Topic              | Title   | Type     | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------|---|----------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 08 Material Assets | DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015                                    | Plan     | 2012 | DfE               | The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous "main actions for the future" regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015; Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake "capacity studies" (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example. | A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.  | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland                          | Strategy | 2010 | DfE               | Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.  | Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.  | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | The Revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency" | Strategy | 2013 | DAERA             | The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.   | The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. The LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. | NI            |

| Topic              | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------|--|-------------|------|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| 08 Material Assets | Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes. | PPS         | 2010 | Dfi               | The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.  | Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Landscape Character.  | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion                                 | PPS         | 2010 | Dfi               | The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings; potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.   | LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may influence the future development of these facilities. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Landscape Character.                                      | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)   | PPS         | 2009 | Dfi               | Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.   | Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications  | PPS         | 2002 | Dfi               | This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.   | Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)  | PPS         | 2002 | Dfi               | This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.  | Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 08 Material Assets | The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997  | Legislation | 1997 | NI Executive      | Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers. | The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Physical Resources. | NI            |

| Topic                 | Title   | Type     | Year      | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
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| 08 Material Assets    | arc21 Waste Management Plan                         | Plan     | 2014      | arc21             | This Waste Management Plan has been prepared by the arc21 Region in fulfilment of its councils' obligations under Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Under Article 23, District Councils have a duty to prepare Waste Management Plans for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the Region. The Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes within the arc21 Region. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity and details the proposed arrangements to deal with the wastes produced in a sustainable manner. | There is a need to accommodate investment in waste management.   | Regional      |
| 09 Physical Resources | The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection           | Strategy | 2006      | Council of Europe | In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.  | The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway". It commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives".   | Europe        |
| 09 Physical Resources | UK Geodiversity Action Plan                         | Plan     | 2011      | Natural England   | The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It encompasses six themes:<br>1. Furthering our understanding of geodiversity,<br>2. Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design,<br>3. Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity,<br>4. Conserving and managing our geodiversity,<br>5. Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity,<br>6. Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.  | Geodiversity can play a role in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding. It can also help support Ecosystem Services such as soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment. The LDP should recognise that geodiversity is cross-cutting across several themes including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste. It should also recognise the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle). Geodiversity information can help to support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention). | UK            |
| 09 Physical Resources | Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter Action Plan | Charter  | 2017-2020 | Joint initiative  | The Northern Ireland Geodiversity Charter recognises that geodiversity is an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainable development. It is necessary that our geodiversity is safeguarded and managed appropriately for current and future generations  | This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Natural Resources and Landscape Character.   | NI            |

| Topic                        | Title   | Type     | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|------------------------------|---|----------|------|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways  | Plan     | 2016 | Dfi               | Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.   | Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Health and Well-being, Natural Resources and Landscape Character. | NI            |
| 10 Transport                 | Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)  |          | 2016 | Dfi               | Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces   | May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.   | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways  | Plan     | 2016 | Dfi               | This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.  | Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Health & Well-being, Natural Resources and Landscape.             | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006) | PPS      | 2005 | Dfi               | Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.  | Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland                           | Strategy | 2015 | Dfi               | The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys]. | This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.   | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014   | Strategy | 2015 | Dfi               | The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.   | The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.  | NI            |



| Topic                        | Title  | Type     | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|------------------------------|--|----------|------|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation. | Strategy | 2011 | Dfi               | How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life." The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.   | The SPSS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the 'High Level Transport Aims' and 'Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', so in meeting the requirements of the SPSS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need. | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTTP)  | Plan     | 2007 | Dfi               | While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy. | Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.  | NI            |
| 10 Transport                 | Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use                             | PPS      | 2005 | Dfi               | Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.  | Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015                             | Plan     | 2004 | Dfi               | While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.  | Although expired, the RSTN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.  | NI            |
| 10 Transport                 | Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012                | Strategy | 2002 | Dfi               | The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.   | Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.  | NI            |

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|------------------------------|--|-----------|------|-------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021  | Strategy  | 2016 | Translink         | Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.  | The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.   | NI            |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)              |           | 2015 | Translink         | The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.   | Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.  | NI            |
| 10 Trans                     | Belfast Rapid Transit Programme  |           |      | Dfi               | The first phase of the BRT network, which is currently being implemented, will link East Belfast, West Belfast and Titanic Quarter via the city centre   | implications uncertain, programme document not available online and has been received for review  | Regional      |
| 10 Transport & Accessibility | Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP)   | Plan      | 2004 |                   | While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. A local transport plan for the Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA). The Plan takes forward the strategic initiatives of the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012. The Plan is divided into four themes: provision for walking and cycling, public transport measures, highway measures and management measures. The overall objective is to deliver an integrated transport network.  | The BMTP is integrated with the 2015 Development Plan for the BMA (BMAP), with the plans being developed in parallel. The LDP will supersede BMAP for the part of our plan area to which it applied. Although expired, the BMTP may inform unmet infrastructure requirements in the former BMA Plan area. | Regional      |
| 11 Air Quality               | Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) | Directive | 2010 | EC                | The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants. | Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.   | Europe        |
| 11 Air Quality               | Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe                     | Directive | 2008 | EC                | This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.   | The LDP should consider the implications of new development on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.   | Europe        |

| Topic             | Title  | Type       | Year | Lead Organisation    | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|-------------------|--|------------|------|----------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 11 Air Quality    | Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland | Strategy   | 2007 | Four Nations (DAERA) | This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.   | Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution. | UK            |
| 12 Climate Change | The Paris Agreement  | Convention | 2015 | UN                   | The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. | The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.  | International |
| 12 Climate Change | The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.  | Convention | 2005 | UN                   | The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.  | The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.  | International |

| Topic             | Title  | Type       | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
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| 12 Climate Change | The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change        | Convention | 1994 | UN                | The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC is a "Rio Convention", one of three adopted at the "Rio Earth Summit" in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing "dangerous" human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.  | The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.                             | International |
| 12 Climate Change | The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change                  | Strategy   | 2013 | EC                | The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on adaptation in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.  | This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPSS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.                 | Europe        |
| 12 Climate Change | Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU               | Directive  | 2012 | EC                | Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.  | The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.   | Europe        |
| 12 Climate Change | Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU | Directive  | 2010 | EC                | Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules. | The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.   | Europe        |
| 12 Climate Change | Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps        | Assessment | 2015 | BEIS              | Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.  | Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop. | UK            |

| Topic             | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|-------------------|--|-------------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 12 Climate Change | The State of the UK Climate 2017   | Report      | 2017 | RMET              | The report provides a 10-year “snapshot” of the most recent experience of the UK’s climate and how that compares to historical records. This means differences between 2008–2017 and the baseline reference averages may reflect shorter-term decadal variations as well as long-term trends. These data are presented to show what has happened in recent years, not necessarily what is expected to happen in a changing climate.  | Informative because of National Significance   | UK            |
| 12 Climate Change | Climate Change Act 2008  | Legislation | 2008 | UK Gov.           | Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act.  | The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.   | UK            |
| 12 Climate Change | UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland | Evidence    | 2017 | CCC               | The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland. | The SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. The SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that Councils should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development Plans. The SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help to reduce fuel poverty can help address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment may be vulnerable to flooding and therefore may need to be modified or relocated. | NI            |
| 12 Climate Change | The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update  | Evidence    | 2015 | CCC               | In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on ‘The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act’ to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate. However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.  | None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.   | NI            |
| 12 Climate Change | Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020                | Plan        | 2013 | DAERA             | The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and signposts the support available to facilitate this.   | Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.   | NI            |

| Topic             | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|-------------------|--|-------------|------|-------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 12 Climate Change | National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland                                | Plan        | 2012 | DCCAE             | Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework sets out a pathway to achieving a more resilient economy and society which is capable of dealing with the enormous challenges climate change is likely to present. This Framework, and its constituent Sectoral Adaptation Plans, will inform the significant capital investment in flood adaptation measures to be made over the lifetime of the Ten-Year Capital Plan.   | Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered. | RoI           |
| 12 Climate Change | Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015 | Other       | 2015 | DAERA             | The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill which is still in development is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI. | The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.  | NI            |
| 12 Climate Change | Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019                               | Plan        | 2014 | DAERA             | Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.                                  | The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding. It may consider indirect measures to reduce flood risk such as the use of SuDS and protecting peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.   | NI            |
| 12 Climate Change | Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)      | Plan        | 2012 | DAERA             | This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17  | Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.   | NI            |
| 12 Climate Change | The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015   | Legislation | 2015 | Irish Parliament  | Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.   | While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.   | RoI           |



| Topic              | Title   | Type      | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------|---|-----------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 12 Climate Change  | Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland            | Policy    | 2014 | Irish Parliament  | The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.   | Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.   | RoI           |
| 13 Water Resources | Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources   | Strategy  | 2012 | EC                | The "Blueprint" outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.   | The Blueprint is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term. It is reflected in Sustainable Water.   | Europe        |
| 13 Water Resources | Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks                    | Directive | 2007 | EC                | Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.  | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.   | Europe        |
| 13 Water Resources | The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive) | Directive | 2000 | EC                | Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.   | Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment. | Europe        |
| 13 Water Resource  | Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption               | Directive | 1998 | EC                | Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.  | This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).  | Europe        |
| 13 Water Resources | Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.                             | Directive | 1991 | EC                | The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.   | The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.  | Europe        |
| 13 Water Resource  | Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment                             | Directive | 1991 | EC                | Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.   | This is reflected in 'Sustainable Water' (see below).  | Europe        |
| 13 Water Resources | Northern Ireland Message on Water   | Evidence  | 2011 | DfI, DAERA        | In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines. | Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.   | NI            |

| Topic              | Title   | Type                      | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------|------|-------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 13 Water Resource  | Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk                | Planning Policy Statement | 2014 | Dfi               | Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.   | Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.   | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040) | Strategy                  | 2016 | Dfi               | The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. the following four high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy. | The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection. | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)   | Guidance                  | 2014 | Dfi               | The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.   | The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.  | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016                         | Legislation               | 2016 | NI Executive      | The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer.<br>The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network.<br>NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided.<br>Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.   | The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.  | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015  | Legislation               | 2015 | NI Executive      | The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.<br>The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.   | Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.  | NI            |

| Topic              | Title   | Type       | Year | Lead Organisation   | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------|---|------------|------|---------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 13 Water Resources | Our Strategy for NI Water                     | Strategy   | 2014 | NIW                 | Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity. | The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment. | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | PC 15 NIW's Draft Expenditure Plan 2015-2021  | Plan       | 2015 | NIW                 | This sets out NI waters long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.   | The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment. | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | NI Water Water Resources Management Plan 2012 | Plan       | 2012 | NIW                 | The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives. Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is currently under way.   | The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply.              | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | Flood Maps (NI)                               | Assessment | 2011 | Dfl - Rivers Agency | Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.   | Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,  | NI            |
| 13 Water Resources | Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI      | Assessment | 2011 | Dfl - Rivers Agency | A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.   | Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.   | NI            |

| Topic              | Title   | Type | Year | Lead Organisation   | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|--------------------|---|------|------|---------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 13 Water Resource  | Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District | Plan | 2010 | DAERA               | Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.   | May inform policies relating to hydropower and in-river works. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Natural Resources.   | Regional      |
| 13 Water Resources | North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021   | Plan | 2015 | DAERA               | River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north eastern river basin district (NE RBD) covers an area of around 4000 km <sup>2</sup> , including 1000km <sup>2</sup> of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principal river systems are the Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.  | The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.  | Regional      |
| 13 Water Resources | Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021      | Plan | 2015 | DAERA               | River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5740 km <sup>2</sup> . It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area of County Fermanagh. The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough. | The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.  | Regional      |
| 13 Water Resources | Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015 | Plan | 2015 | Dfl - Rivers Agency | The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.   | One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP. | Regional      |

| Topic                | Title  | Type       | Year | Lead Organisation   | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------|--|------------|------|---------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 13 Water Resources   | North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD   | Plan       | 2015 | Dfi - Rivers Agency | The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.   | One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.   | Regional      |
| 13 Water Resources   | Living with Water Programme  | Programme  | 2012 | Dfi                 | In 2012, the NI Executive agreed to set up an interdepartmental group to develop a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to support economic growth, protect the environment and address flood risk. The Department for Infrastructure established the Living With Water Programme (LWWP), a multi-agency initiative headed by the Department.<br><br>Dfi's Water and Drainage Policy Division is leading the Living with Water Programme (LWWP) to deliver a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast. The SDIP aims to get various stakeholders thinking about how we manage our water in a sustainable and holistic way. By working together to deliver integrated sustainable solutions to today's problems and addressing future needs, the cost of capital works required can be reduced, flood risk can be managed, our environment enhanced and the local economy can grow. | Discharges from wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) – and combined sewer overflows from the sewerage infrastructure are contributing to high levels of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen in Belfast Lough. The high level aim for the LWWP is to develop a strategic drainage infrastructure plan that will manage the flooding risk in Belfast, address the risk of infraction proceedings under the Water Framework and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives in respect of Belfast Lough, and support economic growth. LDPs must have regard for these issues and planning authorities should work collaboratively with key stakeholders to help address these issues. | Regional      |
| 14 Natural Resources | North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement                                      | Convention | 1982 | NASCO               | NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.   | The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.  | International |
| 14 Natural Resources | North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean | Convention | 1982 | NASCO               | Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.  | The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.  | International |
| 14 Natural Resources | The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024   | Plan       | 2016 | Ramsar Convention   | The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.   | These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.   | International |

| Topic                | Title   | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------|---|-------------|------|-------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 14 Natural Resources | The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)            | Convention  | 1971 | Ramsar Convention | Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.   | The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.  | International |
| 14 Natural Resources | EU Biodiversity Strategy  | Strategy    | 2011 | EC                | The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.' | Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.  | Europe        |
| 14 Natural Resources | Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) | Directive   | 2009 | EC                | The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.  | Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP. | Europe        |
| 14 Natural Resources | European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007  | Legislation | 2007 | EC                | Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.   | The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations  | Europe        |
| 14 Natural Resources | Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora                       | Directive   | 1992 | EC                | The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).  | Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP. | Europe        |
| 14 Natural Resources | Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape                                 | Guidance    | 2017 | DfE               | Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.   | May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.   | NI            |



| Topic                | Title   | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation                 | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------|---|-------------|------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 14 Natural Resources | Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 | Strategy    | 2015 | DAERA                             | A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.  | Actions include: Restoring ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions where appropriate.   | NI            |
| 14 Natural Resources | DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy                 | Strategy    | 2013 | DAERA                             | In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.   | Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.  | NI            |
| 14 Natural Resources | Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation        | PPS         | 2013 | Dfi                               | Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.  | Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.  | NI            |
| 14 Natural Resources | Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000                          | Plan        | 2013 | DAERA                             | The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible. | This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.          | NI            |
| 14 Natural Resources | All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020                                 | Plan        | 2015 | National Biodiversity Data Centre | The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.  | Councils can play a leading role in implementing the Plan by making their land more pollinator friendly. This Plan contains guidance on what actions Councils can take, of which the most important is to identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators. | NI & Rol      |
| 14 Natural Resources | The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002                         | Legislation | 2002 | UK Gov.                           | Covers several environmental issues, including pollution prevention control, assessment and management of air quality, and designation of areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs).   | The LDP must reflect the ASSI designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. It should also have regard for the need to regulate activities which are capable of causing any environmental pollution.  | NI            |
| 14 Natural Resources | Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1995   | Legislation | 1985 | UK Gov.                           | Makes provision with respect to nature conservation, enjoyment and conservation of the countryside, and amenity lands. Places particular emphasis on the establishment of a network of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves. Nature Reserves including (National, Marine and Local Nature Reserves) are declared under this legislation, as well as ASSIs and some AONBs.   | The LDP must reflect the existing designations, and the need to protect and conserve them.   | NI            |
| 14 Natural Resources | Forest Service - Down Plan 2015                                       | Plan        | 2015 | DAERA                             | Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.  | Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.  | Regional      |

| Topic                  | Title  | Type       | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|------------------------|--|------------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 14 Natural Resources   | Lough Neagh Fishery Management Plan                      | Plan       | 2015 | DAERA             | The aim of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) is to provide this strategic approach to the sustainable management of the fisheries resources and its habitat whilst also maximising its value to the economy and the environment and ensuring stakeholder input to it. The FMP sets out how DAERA Inland Fisheries will seek to manage the fishery and what scientific information is required to fully inform this process. It also highlights many of the key issues / concerns raised by stakeholder in consultation meetings that have taken place to date. There is wide recognition that the Lough Neagh catchment has the potential to play an even more significant role in contributing to the development of the local economy.  | LDP will take account of this plan. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of Economic Growth.  | Regional      |
| 14 Natural Resources   | Lough Neagh Biodiversity Action plan                     | Plan       | 2008 | LNP               | This includes an audit of the state of biodiversity in and around Lough Neagh and a series of species and habitat action plans. The species for which there are action plans are Barn Owl; Bats (All species); Breeding Waders (Curlew, Lapwing, Redshank); Common Tern; Dyschirius obscurus (Ground Beetle); Irish Damselfly; Irish Hare; Tree Sparrow; Whooper Swan. Plans have been prepared for the following habitats: Eutrophic Standing Water; Fen; Floodplain Grazing Marsh; Hedgerow; Lowland Meadow; Lowland Raised Bog; Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture; Reedbed; Rivers and Streams; Wet Woodland. The implementation of these plans will help towards ensuring the biodiversity of Lough Neagh is maintained and enhanced.  | There is a need to protect habitats and species and to enhance important habitats where possible. Information on priority species and habitats, where available, needs to be part of evidence base for LDP. Need to sieve potential development sites for impact on protected species and habitats both direct and indirect and identify mitigation or potential measures at early stage.  | Regional      |
| 15 Landscape Character | European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)           | Convention | 2000 | COE               | The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.  | The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.   | Europe        |
| 15 Landscape Character | Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment | Assessment | 2016 | DAERA             | The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies. | The RLCA is not policy, but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP. It helps to indicate the linkages between the landscape and other assets, such as the historic environment and natural resources. Landscape character assessments and review of these is regarded as being important to inform the understanding of "place" and positive place making. | NI            |

| Topic                                       | Title  | Type              | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|---|--|-------------------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 15 Landscape Character                      | Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment   | Assessment        | 2014 | DAERA             | Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.  | This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.  | NI            |
| 15 Landscape                                | Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter   | Agreement         | 2014 | DAERA             | Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.   | This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.  | NI            |
| 15 Landscape                                | Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside                     | Planning Guidance | 2012 | Dfi               | Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.   | This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.   | NI            |
| 15 Landscape Character                      | Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment  | Assessment        | 2000 | DAERA             | The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.  | This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of Natural Resources and Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage.   | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas | Agreement         | 2005 | ICMOS             | To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.   | LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting. | International |
| 16 Historic Environment &                   | UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)               | Convention        | 2001 | UNESCO            | The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management. | The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.  | International |

| Topic                                       | Title  | Type       | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|---|--|------------|------|-------------------|--|--|---------------|
| 16 Historic Environment & Environment       | Rules annexed to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)    | Convention | 2001 | UNESCO            | The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled "Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management.  | The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.  | International |
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)                 | Convention | 1972 | UNESCO            | The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet. | This convention is the mechanism for the identification and establishment of World Heritage Sites. There is currently one WHS in NI. The LDP may recognise sites which are of sufficient national or global importance to merit their inclusion on the Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. The LDP may help support the actions required for sites to receive nomination to the Tentative List by preserving or enhancing their cultural heritage or natural heritage value.  | International |
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)                  | Convention | 1992 | COE               | The new text (revision of the 1969 London Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It advocates protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater and creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.  | Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves. Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of local development plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest; and highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact.   | Europe        |
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) | Convention | 1985 | COE               | The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.  | Consideration should be given to conservation of architectural resources. Article 5 includes an undertaking to prohibit the removal, in whole or in part, of any protected monument, except where the material safeguarding of such monuments makes removal imperative. Article 10 states that the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective. Planning authorities should ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work. | Europe        |

| Topic                                       | Title  | Type        | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements  | Implications for LDP  | Spatial Scale |
|---|--|-------------|------|-------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)                    | Convention  | 2005 | Council of Europe | The Faro Convention emphasizes the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Convention encourages us to recognise that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.   | Member States agree to emphasise the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society. Examples of specific implications with regard to LDP include:<br>Article 5b " <i>enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation</i> ";<br>Article 5e " <i>Promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity</i> ";<br>Article 8d " <i>Promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values</i> "; and<br>Article 9a " <i>Promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved</i> ". | Europe        |
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | Protection of Military Remains Act 1986  | Legislation | 1986 | UK Gov.           | Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats | This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.  | UK            |
| 16 Historic Environment & Environment       | Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment | Guidance    | 2018 | DfC               | Offers advice on historic environment considerations during the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment process, including examples of the baseline evidence which should be considered through the different stages of screening, scoping, assessment, and reporting. It also provides guidance on the implementation of historic environment legislation, the relevant policy in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).  | The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.  | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment & Environment       | Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment   | Guidance    | 2018 | DfC               | The guidance includes a definition of setting, identifies those key aspects of setting which can contribute to the significance of a heritage asset, and outlines a three-stage process for assessing the impacts of change upon setting. It is hoped that the content of this document will assist planning authorities and applicants, heritage consultants and other stakeholders achieve a consistent approach when considering setting and the historic environment in Northern Ireland.  | The LDP and the SA of the LDP will take cognisance of this guidance.  | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment                     | Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection                   | Guidance    | 2017 | DfC               | This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.   | One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.  | NI            |

| Topic                                       | Title   | Type                      | Year | Lead Organisation | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|---|---|---------------------------|------|-------------------|---|--|---------------|
| 16 Historic Environment & Environment       | Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017                              | Guidance                  | 2017 | DfC               | This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.  | Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users. | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment & Environment       | Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development   | Planning Policy Statement | 2014 | Dfi               | PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.   | Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.  | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment & Environment       | Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI                                    | Planning Guidance         | 2014 | Dfi               | Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.  | Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.  | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage | Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment                          | Other                     | 2012 | DfC               | The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised. | This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.   | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment                     | Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)       | Planning Policy Statement | 1999 | Dfi               | This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.  | Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies. It should be noted that some of the policy text of PPS 6 has been superseded by policy in the SPPS, for example SPPS para. 6.11.   | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment                     | Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995                     | Order                     | 1995 | DfC HED           | Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).  | There is a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for works within Scheduled Monument designated areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to scheduled areas.  | NI            |
| 16 Historic Environment                     | Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012 | Other                     | 2012 | DfC               | A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.  | This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.   | NI            |



| Topic                      | Title   | Type         | Year      | Lead Organisation                       | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|-----------|---|---|--|---------------|
| 17 Neighbouring Area Plans | Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015   | Area Plan NI | 2015      | DCs                                     | The aim of the Plan is to provide a planning framework which is in general conformity with the RDS in facilitating sustainable growth and a high quality of development in the Belfast Metropolitan Area throughout the Plan period, whilst protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the natural and man-made environment of the Plan Area. | The plan will supersede BMAP for the part of our plan area to which it applied. Its preparation involved recent consideration of a wide range of planning issues, preparation of policies and detailed spatial zoning all of which were subject to strategic environmental assessment and habitats regulations assessment. It is therefore an important evidence base.   | Regional      |
| 17 Neighbouring Area Plans | Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan 2030 draft Plan Strategy | Strategy     | June 2019 | Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | The draft Plan Strategy sets out the overall aspirations for the future development of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and the policies to be used in assessing planning applications.  | A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils. | Council       |
| 17 Neighbouring Area Plans | Ards and North Down Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper      | Paper        | 2019      | Ards and North Down Borough Council     | Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.                                   | A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils. | Council       |

| Topic                      | Title   | Type     | Year           | Lead Organisation                                    | Objectives/Requirements   | Implications for LDP   | Spatial Scale |
|----------------------------|---|----------|----------------|--|---|--|---------------|
| 17 Neighbouring Area Plans | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper | Paper    | March 2018     | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council | Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy. | A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils. | Council       |
| 17 Neighbouring Area Plans | Belfast City Council Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy                                     | Strategy | September 2018 | Belfast City Council                                 | The draft Plan Strategy sets out the overall aspirations for the future development of Belfast and policies to be used in assessing planning applications.  | A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils. | Council       |
| 17 Neighbouring Area Plans | Newry Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper               | Paper    | May 2018       | Newry Mourne and Down District Council               | Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy. | A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils. | Council       |

## APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1. improve health and wellbeing.</b>   |  |
| <b>Rationale</b>  |  |
| Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimise the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.  |  |
| <b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>  |  |
| Refer to 5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Wellbeing   |  |
| <b>Appraisal Prompts</b>  |  |
| <b>Positive Effects</b>   | <b>Negative Effects</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve access to health care</li> <li>b) Reduce response times for the emergency services</li> <li>c) Provide opportunities for and encourage healthy lifestyles and physical activities for all ages</li> <li>d) Enable people to grow their own food</li> <li>e) Create open space that people can use</li> <li>f) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health</li> <li>g) Promote good mental health</li> <li>h) Provide meeting places</li> <li>i) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact</li> <li>j) Increase the sense of safety</li> <li>k) Will the proposal support family cohesion</li> <li>l) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>m) Reduce access to health care</li> <li>n) Increase response times for the emergency services</li> <li>o) Discourage healthy lifestyles</li> <li>p) Reduce open space that people can use</li> <li>q) Reduce physical activity for all</li> <li>r) Increase noise impacts that may affect health</li> <li>s) Reduce good mental health</li> <li>t) Reduce meeting places</li> <li>u) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact</li> <li>v) Decrease the sense of safety</li> <li>w) Reduce family cohesion</li> <li>x) Increase the risk of traffic accidents</li> </ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2. strengthen society</b>  |   |
| <b>Rationale</b>  |   |
| Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.  |   |
| <b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>  |   |
| Refer to 5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community  |   |
| <b>Appraisal Prompts</b>  |   |
| <b>Positive Effects</b>   | <b>Negative Effects</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Promote inclusion of all groups</li> <li>b) Retain, create, or enhance shared space</li> <li>c) Increase accessibility to shared space</li> <li>d) Promote positive social interaction</li> <li>e) Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services</li> <li>f) Reduce the factors causing inequalities</li> <li>g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Inhibit inclusion of all groups</li> <li>i) Shared space reduced or deteriorates</li> <li>j) Decrease accessibility to shared space</li> <li>k) Decrease positive social interaction</li> <li>l) Rural communities less appropriate access to facilities and services</li> <li>m) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities</li> <li>n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities</li> </ul> |

### 3. provide good quality, sustainable housing.

#### Rationale

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

#### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

#### Appraisal Prompts

##### Positive Effects

- a) Encourage low carbon homes
- b) Encourage life-time homes with potential for adaptability – wheelchair access
- c) Encourage/ enable affordable housing
- d) reduce homelessness
- e) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled
- f) Reduce the number of unfit homes
- g) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)
- h) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair access
- i) Provide a mix of housing types
- j) Help to reuse vacant dwellings

##### Negative Effects

- k) Doesn't promote energy efficiency
- l) Homes not suited for lifetime use with potential for adaptability
- m) Reduced affordable housing
- n) Increase homelessness
- o) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled
- p) Does not meet local need for housing type/quantity
- q) Doesn't help to reuse vacant dwellings

|   |   |
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| <b>4. enable access to high quality education</b>   |   |
| <b>Rationale</b>  |   |
| Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.   |   |
| <b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>  |   |
| Refer to 5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills   |   |
| <b>Appraisal Prompts</b>  |   |
| <b>Positive Effects</b>   | <b>Negative Effects</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Improve education level and employability of the population</li> <li>b) Promote access to education and skills training</li> <li>c) Help rural community's access education and skills training</li> <li>d) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities</li> <li>e) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population</li> <li>g) Decrease access to education and skills training</li> <li>h) Makes rural community's access education and skills training harder</li> <li>i) Under use of public facilities</li> <li>j) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities</li> </ul> |



## 5. enable sustainable economic growth.

### Rationale

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

### Appraisal Prompts

#### Positive Effects

- a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy
- b) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation
- c) Support enhancement of the skills base.
- d) Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest
- e) Make the best use of location
- f) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved
- g) Increase the number of people coming to the borough to work
- h) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism
- i) Effects are spread throughout the year

#### Negative Effects

- j) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy
- k) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation
- l) Does not support enhancement of the skills base.
- m) Does not help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest
- n) Does not make the best use of location
- o) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may decline.
- p) Decrease the number of people coming to the borough to work
- q) Does not enable use of tourism assets.
- r) Effects are seasonal/ restricted to certain months

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| <b>6. manage material assets sustainably.</b>  |   |
| <b>Rationale</b>   |   |
| Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimise adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.   |   |
| <b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>   |   |
| Refer to 5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets   |   |
| <b>Appraisal Prompts</b>   |   |
| <b>Positive Effects</b>  | <b>Negative Effects</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Proportion of waste to landfill decrease</li> <li>b) Proposal to make recycling easier</li> <li>c) Recycling rates increase</li> <li>d) Composting rates continue to increase</li> <li>e) Encourages increase reuse of resources</li> <li>f) Waste production figures per household reduce</li> <li>g) Sufficient transmission/distribution lines</li> <li>h) Infrastructure which is fit for purpose</li> <li>i) Enable renewable energy production/connections</li> <li>j) Reduce the amount of contaminated or derelict land</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k) The proportion of waste to landfill does not decrease</li> <li>l) Recycling is not made easier</li> <li>m) Recycling rates do not increase</li> <li>n) Composting rates do not continue to increase</li> <li>o) Increase reuse of resources</li> <li>p) Will waste production figures per household reduce</li> <li>q) Insufficient transmission/distribution lines</li> <li>r) Infrastructure not fit for purpose</li> <li>s) Does not enable renewable energy production</li> <li>t) Does not reduce the amount of contaminated or derelict land</li> </ul> |

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| <b>7. protect physical resources and use sustainably.</b>  |  |
| <b>Rationale</b>   |  |
| Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.  |  |
| <b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>   |  |
| Refer to 5.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources  |  |
| <b>Appraisal Prompts</b>   |  |
| <b>Positive Effects</b>  | <b>Negative Effects</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Earth science features remain protected</li> <li>b) Enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably</li> <li>c) Retain potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity)</li> <li>d) Enable materials to be locally sourced where available</li> <li>e) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>f) Allow for the future use of geothermal energy</li> <li>g) Avoid increase of curtilage cover in the area</li> <li>h) Retain semi natural land cover/biodiversity</li> <li>i) Avoid soil erosion/pollution</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>j) Earth science features not protected</li> <li>k) Reduce ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably</li> <li>l) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity)</li> <li>m) Materials cannot be locally sourced</li> <li>n) Increase or maintain greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>o) Inhibits for the future use of geothermal energy</li> <li>p) Increases loss of semi natural land to curtilage</li> <li>q) Reduce semi natural land cover/biodiversity</li> <li>r) Cause soil erosion/pollution</li> </ul> |

## 8. encourage active and sustainable travel.

### Rationale

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single-occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel makes travel more affordable and may bring added health benefits, while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

### Appraisal Prompts

#### Positive Effects

- a) Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport
- b) Improve access to and efficiency of public transport
- c) Benefit those without access to a vehicle
- d) Retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes
- e) Will help reduce traffic congestion

#### Negative Effects

- f) Does not promote modal shift to active travel
- g) Unlikely to improve access and efficiency of public transport
- h) Unlikely to benefit those without access to cars
- i) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes
- j) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion

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| <b>9. improve air quality.</b>   |  |
| <b>Rationale</b>   |  |
| Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.  |  |
| <b>Key Sustainability Issues</b>   |  |
| Refer to 5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality   |  |
| <b>Appraisal Prompts</b>   |  |
| <b>Positive Effects</b>  | <b>Negative Effects</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Likely to improve air quality</li> <li>b) Reduce emissions of key pollutants</li> <li>c) Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>d) Will other modes of transport than the car be encouraged/feasible</li> <li>e) Avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)</li> <li>f) Help achieve the objectives of any AQMA</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) Unlikely to improve air quality</li> <li>h) Unlikely to reduce emissions of key pollutants</li> <li>i) Unlikely to reduce transport emissions</li> <li>j) Maintains/ increases car use</li> <li>k) Maintain/ increase ammonia emissions, especially near to sensitive receptors</li> <li>l) Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives</li> </ul> |

## 10. reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

### Rationale

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

### Appraisal Prompts

#### Positive Effects

- a) Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- b) Likely to reduce energy consumption
- c) Increase/ supports/ promotes/ enables renewable energy
- d) Protect or enhance habitats that capture carbon
- e) Protect or enhance floodplains
- f) Increase/encourage other forms of transport than the car – cycling/walking
- g) Reduce polluting forms of transport
- h) Reduce emissions from livestock production
- i) Incorporate measures to adapt and mitigate to climate change
- j) Reduces the risk of damage to property from storm events

#### Negative Effects

- k) Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions
- l) Unlikely to reduce energy consumption
- m) Restricts/ inhibits/ detracts from renewable energy
- n) Inhibit or diminish habitats the capture carbon
- o) Damage or diminish floodplains
- p) Maintain reliance on vehicles and discourage public transport, walking and cycling
- q) Maintain and increase polluting from transport
- r) Maintain and increase emissions from livestock
- s) Does not consider adaptation or mitigation for climate change
- t) Does not reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events



## 11. protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

### Rationale

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

### Appraisal Prompts

#### Positive Effects

- a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water (including coastal waters) to meet objectives
- b) Lead to more efficient use of water
- c) Minimise risks from flooding
- d) Avoid the need for flood defence
- e) Protect or enhance floodplains
- f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality
- g) Result in discharges that change the temperature of the receiving water
- h) Protect aquatic food resources

#### Negative Effects

- i) Reduce the quality of surface and ground water
- j) Lead to waster of water
- k) Increase risk of flooding (now or in future)
- l) Risk creating a need for flood defence
- m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains
- n) Water flows/ temperature not suitable for good ecological quality
- o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources

## 12. protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

### Rationale

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats including the marine environment. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the coastal and marine environment as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources.

### Appraisal Prompts

#### Positive Effects

- a) Protect/ enhance local biodiversity
- b) Protect/enhance existing/potential wildlife corridors
- c) Protect/ enhance designated site and buffers
- d) Locally important sites and buffers be protected
- e) Protect/ enhance of green/blue infrastructure (g/b)
- f) Increase g/b infrastructure in the Borough
- g) Support/provide ecosystem services
- h) Incorporate g/b infrastructure

#### Negative Effects

- i) Loss of local biodiversity
- j) Damage/interrupt existing or potential wildlife corridors
- k) Damage designated site and their buffers
- l) Locally important sites and buffers damaged
- m) Damage g/b infrastructure
- n) Decrease g/b infrastructure in the Borough
- o) Reduce ecosystem services

### 13. maintain and enhance landscape character.

#### Rationale

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and seascapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

#### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

#### Appraisal Prompts

##### Positive Effects

- a) Minimise visual intrusion
- b) Protect and/ or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors
- c) Protect areas designated for landscape
- d) Avoid major impacts on views to the coast
- e) Sensitively integrate new development to protect/ enhance local distinctiveness

##### Negative Effects

- f) Increase any visual intrusion
- g) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors
- h) Damage areas designated for landscape
- i) Damage views of the coast
- j) Lose local distinctiveness through new developments which do not enhance or protect the character of the area

## 14. protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

### Rationale

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

### Key Sustainability Issues

Refer to 5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

### Appraisal Prompts

#### Positive Effects

- a) Conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage
- b) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings
- c) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved
- d) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets
- e) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment
- f) Protect/enhance distinctiveness and sense of place
- g) Provide for clearer assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites immediate to settlements
- h) Provide opportunities for cultural activities

#### Negative Effects

- i) Loss of built and cultural heritage
- j) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings
- k) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved
- l) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets
- m) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment
- n) Loss of distinctiveness and sense of place
- o) Reduced clarity and protection of complex and extensive archaeological sites through the impacts of developments
- p) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities

## APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL INTERIM AND SCOPING REPORT

| SA Topic                      | Date       | Comments   | How addressed  |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| DAERA:<br>General<br>Comments | 22/05/2017 | <p>The Interim SA Report details how the assessment was undertaken in Chapter 2 on pages 13-17.</p> <p>The LSE of implementing the plan are described and evaluated in Chapter 3 of the SA report, and Appendix 8. Alternatives are chosen and reasons given for selection. The Report finds that there are no 'significant' effects.</p> <p>It is stated on page 16 that: "for the majority of issues the positive effects of all options already outweigh the negative effects". <b>It should be borne in mind that the purpose of the Interim Report is not to 'balance out' effects, but to describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment and to assess reasonable alternatives and give the reasons for selection.</b></p> <p>Under Sustainability Objective 10 – protect, manage and use water resources sustainably, the reports need to reference the DfI / NIW Living with Water Programme for the Lagan catchment. This is a major strategic drainage infrastructure programme being undertaken to deal with both water quality and quantity issues in Belfast. The water quality issues within Belfast in particular should be specifically referred to, rather than generally as part of the North East river basin management plan. The current failure to meet WFD objectives is a serious issue that has the potential to limit development in future. Currently the reports state that waste water pressures can be mitigated. However, this is a simplification of the current situation in Belfast and the catchment and should be reflected in these documents.</p> | <p>Since the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report at POP stage, the SA Water topic has been significantly updated.</p> <p>The LWWP has been recognised in the SA. Discussion on water quality issues is included in chapter 5.10</p>                                     |
| Consideration<br>of Options   | 22/05/2017 | <p>Option 2, Facilitating Housing Growth scores '+' for Objective 9 to "protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity". The analysis does not mention the potential loss of priority habitat associated with 'brownfield' sites; 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously developed Land'. It could be argued that the building of houses is more likely to have a negative, or at best, a neutral effect on biodiversity unless there are specific policies associated with the options to incorporate green roofs/ walls or water features and potentially any 'priority habitat features'.</p> <p>On page 23, Option 3; Option 3B has a more positive outcome than 3A, however it is stated that it is not possible to determine the most favourable option in sustainability terms.</p> <p>Option 6 concerns 'West Lisburn/ Blaris Major Employment Location'. This scores negatively on five</p>   | <p>Within the SA at the draft Plan Strategy stage, when applicable, potential impacts on urban biodiversity were discussed.</p> <p>Error noted. Typo.<br/>SCAs have not been taken forward.</p> <p>Please note that negative outcomes were recorded for three objectives but</p> |

| SA Topic | Date | Comments  | How addressed   |
|----------|------|---|---|
|          |      | <p>sustainability objectives. No measures to reduce negative air quality effects are identified.</p> <p>Option 8, page 26 concerns land at the Maze. The option scores negatively against enhancing biodiversity. No measures to reduce the negative effect are identified.</p> <p>Option 9, page 27 concerns the 'Facilitating Sustainable Rural Economic Development'; no measures to reduce the negative effect are suggested for Objective 9, 'protect and enhance biodiversity'.</p> <p>Option 10, page 28, scoring appears to be erroneously reversed in the table.</p> <p>Option 13, page 31 concerns the 'Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre'. No consideration appears to have been given to the volume of private transport that will be attracted to the Centre and whether this will cause a negative impact on air quality.</p> <p>Option 17, page 35 'City Centre Development Opportunity Sites' scores neutral impact on objective 9, protect and enhance biodiversity. The analysis does not mention the potential loss of priority habitat associated with 'brownfield' sites;</p> <p>'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously developed Land'. It could be argued that the development of certain city centre lands could be more likely to have a negative, or at best, a neutral effect on biodiversity unless there are specific policies associated with the options to</p> | <p>measures were only identified for the water resources objective. During the SA process, measures to reduce predicted negative outcomes can be highlighted by the LDP team.</p> <p>During the SA process, measures to reduce predicted negative outcomes can be highlighted by the LDP team.</p> <p>Please note that Key site requirements and waste water pollution prevention guidelines were referred to in Appendix 6.</p> <p>Please note that scoring presented in Appendix 6 for Option 10 A&amp;B aligns to the scoring presented in Chapter 3 (page 28).</p> <p>A neutral score was recorded at POP stage. SA scores are dependent on baseline evidence and related information to the policy and SA objective. Scores are agreed based on discussions from the SA day and a second review.</p> <p>Within the SA at the draft Plan Strategy stage, when applicable, potential impacts on urban biodiversity were discussed.</p> |



| SA Topic | Date | Comments  | How addressed  |
|----------|------|---|--|
|          |      | <p>incorporate green roofs/ walls or water features and potentially any 'priority habitat features'.</p> <p>Option 19, Page 37 concerns 'Promoting the Lagan Navigation as a Key Tourism/ Recreation Opportunity Area'. There is the potential for negative impact on objective 14, Landscape if tourism facilities are not sensitively designed and located. Care needs to be taken to ensure that there would be no spread of aquatic alien invasive species.</p> <p>Option 20 concerns 'Protecting and Promoting the Lagan Valley Regional Park as a Key Tourism/ Recreation Opportunity Area'. The objectives score positively in the summary results table on page 38 for Objectives 9, 10 and 14, however, given the caveat expressed in the summary on page 38 in respect of "appropriate" development, it may be more realistic to score these Objectives as 'uncertain' (?). Appropriate measures to reduce negative effects should be written in at the policy making stage of the Plan.</p> <p>Option 26A, pages 46 &amp; 154, Renewable Energy, it could be argued that to constrain areas where wind turbines may be located is a negative in relation to reducing GHG emissions as this may reduce the opportunity to generate energy from a renewable resource, increasing likely reliance on fossil fuels and increasing emissions.</p> <p>Regarding Option 26b, Renewable Energy, it could be argued that the effect on objective 14 'maintain and enhance landscape character' could be scored uncertain (?) or negatively (-).</p> <p>Option 30: Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage Assets, the table shows Option 30A scoring negatively for 'improve health and well-being'. The links between the visual amenity delivered by the natural world and the health and recreational benefits given by greenery are well documented and NIEA would consider that this option should score positively for objective 1. Against Objective 7, an uncertain relationship could be argued.</p> | <p>Please note potential impacts on landscape were referred to for Option 19 (Appendix 6 – page 137). Local biodiversity is discussed under the Natural Resources topic and against the natural resources SA objective.</p> <p>SA scores are dependent on baseline evidence and related information to the policy and SA objective as discussed on the day of appraisal, with a second review of scores and comments.</p> <p>Agree – LCCC are not proposing constraint areas. However, it is important to recognise that a diversity of renewable energy will be needed to futureproof the energy system in NI i.e. not just reliance on wind energy.</p> <p>SA scores are dependent on baseline evidence and related information to the policy and SA objective as discussed on the day of appraisal, with a second review of scores and comments.</p> <p>Error noted. This should be a positive score.</p> <p>Within the SA at the draft Plan Strategy stage, when applicable, the potential positive benefits from the natural environment and people's health and wellbeing have been discussed.</p> <p>SA scores are dependent on baseline evidence and</p> |

| SA Topic                                   | Date | Comments  | How addressed   |
|--|------|---|---|
|  |      |   | related information to the policy and SA objective as discussed on the day of appraisal, with a second review of scores and comments. |
| Baseline Information within Scoping Report |      | <p><b>Section 6.10 Water</b></p> <p>On page 88, the following line appears:</p> <p>6.10.2 Baseline information</p> <p>Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a Northern Ireland level.</p> <p>This is incorrect NI Water are required under the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations to report at Council level on drinking water quality within each individual council area by the 30 June each year (see below):</p> <p>Publication of Information</p> <p>34.—(1) The water undertaker shall, not later than 30th June in each year, publish a report relating to the preceding year containing—</p> <p>(a) a statement of the number of treatment works, service reservoirs and other supply points from which it supplied water during any part of that year;</p> <p>(b) a statement of the number of its water supply zones for the year;</p> <p>(c) a summary of appropriate information of samples taken and any associated departures authorised under Part VI;</p> <p>(d) a statement of the action taken by the water undertaker during the year to comply with—</p> <p>(i) any departure authorised under Part VI; and</p> <p>(ii) any notice served under regulation 19(3)</p> <p>(e) a statement of the overall drinking water quality, to include information on</p> <p>microbiological and chemical testing and samples taken;</p> <p>(f) a statement of events and incidents affecting drinking water quality;</p> <p>(2) A report under paragraph (1) may include such other information as the water undertaker thinks fit.</p> <p>(3) At the same times as it publishes a report in accordance with paragraph (1), the water undertaker shall send a copy of it to every district council within whose area it supplied water in the preceding year.</p> | SA Scoping Report has been updated accordingly.   |

| SA Topic | Date | Comments   | How addressed  |
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|          |      | <p>(4) In addition to the report provided under paragraph (3), the water undertaker shall provide appropriate information on drinking water quality specific to every district council.”</p> <p><b>Section 6.11 Air Quality</b></p> <p>On page 94, the UK Air Quality Strategy should be cited here (there is an incorrect reference to a Northern Ireland Air Quality Strategy).</p> <p>There should be reference to Air Quality Management Areas (an outcome of Local Air Quality Management)</p> <p>On page 95, Baseline air quality</p> <p>There is a PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon) monitor at Lisburn Kilmakee. Levels of PAHs monitored at this site are in exceedence of the UK Air Quality Strategy objective, although have been decreasing in recent years. The levels are indicative of a certain amount of solid fuel burning by households. (See p25 of the 2017 NI Environmental Statistics Report).</p> <p>On page 96 (Air quality and human health), note that the mortality figures cited are annual estimates</p> <p>More general points are to: note that, regarding renewables, biomass combustion can adversely impact air quality and note that there is Local Air Quality Management Planning Policy Guidance available on the Dept’s website: <a href="http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/news-and-reports/useful-guidance">http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/news-and-reports/useful-guidance</a></p> <p><b>Section 6.14 Climatic Factors</b></p> <p>On page 107, the figures need updated to relate to the latest inventory published in June 2016. Link to statistical bulletin below: <a href="https://www.daera-">https://www.daera-</a></p> | <p>Air Quality Review section updated and reference added regarding DEFRA’s Air Quality Strategy for England, Wales and NI (Volume 1).</p> <p>Error regarding LAQM has been updated and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are referred to when they are applicable to the Council. This information is sourced from the DAERA website <a href="https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/">https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/</a></p> <p>The Air Quality section has been updated since the DAERA comments were submitted in 2017 but the detail regarding the Kilmakee monitor has not been added. Smoke Control Areas were referred to and continue to be when they are applicable to the Council baseline. This information is sourced from the DAERA website <a href="https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/">https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/</a></p> <p>SA Scoping Report has been updated accordingly.</p> <p>This information has been discussed during the appraisals of policies at the draft Plan Strategy stage.</p> <p>Please note that the topic title is now Climate Change.</p> |

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|          |      | <p><a href="https://ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2014-statistical-bulletin">ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990-2014-statistical-bulletin</a></p> <p>The references, texts and tables in relation to carbon intensity indicators should be removed. The data used to assess progress in the reduction of GHG emissions is the GHG inventory (link provided).</p> <p>On page 108, first paragraph; the 2nd Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2019-2024) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information.</p> <p>UK Context:</p> <p>The first National Adaptation Programme (NAP) was published in July 2013. The NAP is primarily for England but also covers reserved, excepted and non-devolved matters.</p> <p>In July 2016, the Adaptation Sub Committee (ASC) published an independent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report setting out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. This report, along with the Government's response was presented to Parliament in 2017. The priority areas identified to be managed for climate change risks are flooding and coastal change, high temperatures, risks to natural capital, water shortages, impacts on global food system and risks from new and emerging pests/diseases.</p> <p>This should to be considered for inclusion under NI Context:</p> <p>Northern Ireland Context:</p> <p>The first NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme was published in 2014. It contains the government's response to the climate change opportunities identified in the 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment. The 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment contains an NI Summary which</p> | <p>The Climate Change section has been significantly updated since the DAERA comments were submitted in 2017.</p> <p>The most up to date versions of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and the NI Environmental Statistics Report are referred to which changes every year.</p> <p>Advice from DAERA was sought on the climate change section and the GHG inventory is now used as the main source of figures in the section.</p> <p>The most up to date versions of relevant reports are referred to.</p> <p>The format of the Climate Change section has been significantly updated since the DAERA comments were submitted to LCCC in 2017. The most up to date versions of relevant reports are checked for as many are annually updated.</p> |

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| Historic Environment Division |      | <p>identifies risks and opportunities specific to our region. A second NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme is currently being developed to address the identified risks and is due to be published in 2019.</p> <p>In the Table on page 167, reference to NI Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan 2012 should be deleted from table and replaced with CDWGCC Annual Progress report 2016: <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/cross-departmental-working-group-climate-change-annual-report-2016">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/cross-departmental-working-group-climate-change-annual-report-2016</a></p> <p>This link takes you to the website including most recent annual report, action plan and projections. This information should also be considered when redrafting the climatic factors section highlighted above.</p> <p><b>Appendix 4: Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies</b></p> <p>On page 152, Natural Resources table, the Marine Plan row; replace the last sentence of the 'Objectives/Requirements' column with 'Consultation of the draft Marine Plan is planned for 2017' as consultation has not yet taken place. Also, Marine Plan row; Implications for LDP column: add/amend the following words in the first sentence for accuracy:</p> <p>Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as the Marine Plan (when published) and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>On page 153, Natural Resources table, Draft NI Marine Position Paper row; this document was never formally adopted by the Department and therefore reference to it should be removed.</p> <p><b>Sustainability Appraisal – The Approach</b></p> <p>HED highlight the relevant content that we have already provided in our response to you (see Appendix 8 of your SA Interim report Page 184-196), such as the role of the historic environment in education and training, the reuse of vacant historic buildings and the impact of single dwellings and tall structures in the countryside. We urge that in updating your SA at plan strategy stage you take account of this previously submitted content where we have highlighted additional sustainability issues,</p> | <p>The emissions reduction action plan has been retained in the PPP, as the LDP should aim to support the achievement of the actions in the plan. The Annual Progress Report has been noted as an information source for the climate change chapter.</p> <p>Comments updated to reflect the consultation in 2018. Formal plan has yet to be published.</p> <p>SA Scoping Report updated accordingly.</p> <p>This document is now no longer referred to.</p> <p>The Historic Environment section of the SA Scoping Report and the appraisal prompts used in the appraisals have been updated to reflect the comments from HED.</p> |

| SA Topic | Date | Comments   | How addressed   |
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|          |      | <p>comments on baseline evidence (including plans and programmes) and on scoring, as this is very relevant to successful and informed SA in relation to the Historic Environment.</p> <p><b>Overview of the Evidence Base</b></p> <p>Please refer to our previous comments attached in Appendix 8 of your SA Interim report and consider the following additional evidence in relation to the historic environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We again highlight that scheduled historic monuments are not specifically discussed. While part of the wider SMR record these sites merit specific consideration in your scoping, because they are sites of national importance (SPPS 6.8/PPS6 BH1 applies) and because of the implications of their protection. Works that affect the protected areas of these monuments are subject to a special permission – Scheduled Monument Consent – which is legislatively separate and distinct from Planning Permission. It is critical that these be considered appropriately through SA at the Plan Strategy stage. We urge that in considering the historic environment consideration is also given to historic routeways and boundaries such as townland and parish boundaries.</li> <li>• It is important to clarify that Listed Buildings of special architectural or historic interest are protected under Article 80 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011. In this Act ‘listed building’ means a building which is for the time being included in a list compiled under this section; and, for the purposes of the provisions of this Act relating to listed buildings, the following shall be treated as part of the building—</li> <li>• (a) any object or structure within the curtilage of the building and fixed to the building;</li> <li>• (b) any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1st October 1973.</li> <li>• In considering the preparation of a list of non-designated Historic Buildings of Local Importance, such as vernacular dwellings we advise that the Record Only buildings on our Listed Building Database may be of assistance.</li> </ul> <p>In terms of Plans, Programmes and Policies we highlight that others should be included in relation to the Historic Environment in addition to our previous response. These include;</p> | <p>Scheduled monuments and other historic structures are referred to in the SA Scoping Report Historic Environment section.</p> <p>Appraisal prompts refer to conserving, protecting and enhancing a sense of place and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Listed Buildings are referred to in the SA Scoping Report Historic Environment section.</p> |



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|          |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada)</li> <li>• The Xi'an Declaration</li> <li>• Conservation Area Character Appraisals</li> <li>• The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</li> <li>• The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986</li> <li>• Creating Places – Achieving quality in residential developments</li> <li>• Historic Buildings &amp; Energy Efficiency - A Guide to Part F: Northern Ireland Building Regulations 2006</li> <li>• Building on Tradition – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside</li> </ul> <p><b>Do you think all of the Key Sustainability Issues have been identified?</b></p> <p>No, while the statements listed in the section are true in themselves HED would strongly recommend consideration of the sustainability issues highlighted in our previous response, including (updated list);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Assets at risk from neglect, decay or development pressures and vacancy.</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing designated and non designated historic environment assets, their fabric and their settings, and using appropriate materials in conservation.</li> <li>• Areas where there is threat or likelihood of further significant loss or erosion of landscape/seascape/townscape character or quality, or where development (including some permitted development) has had or potentially may have significant impact (direct and or indirect) upon the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it.</li> <li>• Traffic pollution, air quality, noise pollution, and other problems affecting the historic environment.</li> </ul> <p>Conversely the following detail opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Led Development and supporting the vitality and viability of town centres.</li> <li>• Developing or maintaining a strong sense of place and identity by informing design based on historic environment evidence.</li> </ul> | <p>The Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies in the Historic Environment section of the SA Scoping Report, and the PPP in Appendix 4 have been updated accordingly.</p> <p>The Historic Environment section of the SA Scoping Report and the Key Sustainability Issues have been updated. In addition, consultee comments were available and used during the appraisal process.</p> |

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|          |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting innovative reuse of existing historic building stock and use of sympathetic materials and addressing Built Heritage at Risk through change of use, reuse and temporary works.</li> <li>• Promoting heritage based tourism as well as promoting awareness, involvement and understanding of the historic environment.</li> <li>• Achieving climate change resilience, through sensitive reuse of historic assets as low carbon housing/office accommodation.</li> <li>• Encouraging and nurturing traditional craft and building skills and using the historic environment as an educational resource.</li> <li>• The creation of Quiet Areas in Parks, Gardens and Demesnes and along greenways.</li> </ul> <p><b>The Sustainability Appraisal Framework</b></p> <p>Yes, although HED highlights our preference that the term Historic Environment should be used consistently in reference to the suite of heritage assets, both in the objective 13 and throughout the documentation and scoring matrices.</p> <p>Similarly, the term ‘protect, conserve and enhance’ has been adopted with reference to the historic environment in Sustainability Objective 13, but in Option 29; Protecting and Enhancing Built Heritage Assets, the word ‘conserve’ is omitted. HED highlights our preference that the term ‘protect, conserve and enhance’ should be used consistently in reference to the suite of heritage assets throughout the documentation and scoring matrices.</p> <p><b>Appraisal of Preferred Options</b></p> <p>No. HED make the following comments in relation to scoring of some of the options in relation to objective 13</p> <p>Option 2. We would highlight the potential for adverse effects on historic environment assets and their settings, including previously unrecorded archaeological remains. Potential positive effects may include the reuse of vacant or underused historic properties for housing.</p> <p>Option 3. We would highlight the potential for adverse effects on historic environment assets and their settings, including previously unrecorded archaeological remains. However, as per the comment re biodiversity we believe that other policy provisions can be applied to offset impacts. Potential positive impacts may occur in encouraging the occupation and reuse of vacant</p> | <p>Terminology has been updated and the Historic Environment reference is used throughout the SA reports.</p> <p>Option titles are controlled by the Plan Team. Option 29 has been transferred to SP18 and HE1-14.</p> |

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|          |      | <p>vernacular dwellings, which are valuable heritage assets in the countryside.</p> <p>Option 5. HED would suggest that the options would be better scored as uncertain, as historic landscape character and the setting of heritage assets will be impacted and there is potential for encountering previously unidentified archaeological remains.</p> <p>Option 6. HED would suggest that the options in relation to Blaris in relation to objective 13 should be scored as uncertain. The historic rural landscape will be impacted, and there are identified historic environment assets (including a medieval church) in the landscape, as well as a potential for encountering previously unrecorded archaeological remains.</p> <p>Option 7. We recognise impacts here can be positive if the development is heritage led. If it isn't, impacts are less certain and potentially negative due to development in the setting of protected heritage assets. Text should include a statement regarding statutory designation of parts of site as historic environment assets.</p> <p>Option 8. Text should include a statement regarding statutory designation of parts of site as historic environment assets, including listed buildings, scheduled monuments and World War 2 Defence Heritage infrastructure at this site, as previously stated in our response of 14.02.17. It is important that full account is taken of the historic environment assets and implications in proposed zoning and design at this site.</p> <p>Option 9. A scoring of uncertain for the options would be more appropriate, (as per explanation text for 9B). There will be likely impacts on historic rural landscapes, the setting of heritage assets and potential for re-using historic rural buildings.</p> <p>Option 10. There is potential for adverse impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological remains.</p> <p>Option 11. HED recognises the potential positive outcomes of this option, if it takes proper account of historic environment assets and embraces and helps protect, conserve and enhance these assets, their fabric and their settings, through approaches such as heritage led development.</p> <p>Option 12. Designating town centre boundaries in the conservation areas of Hillsborough and Moira is likely to attract different planning policies and approaches to development. There is likely therefore to be the potential for positive and negative impacts on historic assets, their fabric and their settings. HED consider that an uncertain scoring may be more appropriate.</p> <p>Option 14. Extending the town centre boundary at Forestside involves the inclusion of a listed building, which may be subject to different planning policies and</p> |               |

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|          |      | <p>approaches to development. There is likely therefore to be the potential for positive and negative impacts on historic assets and their settings. HED consider that an uncertain scoring may be more appropriate. If the Dundonald Local Centre extends to include heritage assets the same principle would apply.</p> <p>Option 15. HED recognises the potential positive outcomes of this option in the reuse of underused and vacant historic buildings, if it takes proper account of historic environment assets, their fabric and settings and embraces and helps protect, conserve and enhance these assets through approaches such as heritage led development, applying the principles of conservation, existing policies and attaining the appropriate consents. If not, outcomes may be negative. We therefore consider this option should be scored as uncertain.</p> <p>Option 16. HED recognises the potential positive outcomes of this option in the reuse of underused and vacant historic buildings, if it takes proper account of historic environment assets, their fabric and settings and embraces and helps protect, conserve and enhance these assets through approaches such as heritage led development, applying the principles of conservation, existing policies and attaining the appropriate consents. If not, outcomes may be negative. We therefore consider this option should be scored as uncertain.</p> <p>Option 17. HED highlight potential positives and negatives to this objective and believe it would be more appropriately scored as uncertain. A potential negative is the impact on below ground archaeological remains within the area of archaeological potential and unsympathetic development in the setting of heritage assets.</p> <p>Option 19. Positive effects can be ensured through carrying out works in line with the provisions of statutory consents (including scheduled monument and listed building consent) and conservation principles. The compilation of a conservation management plan for the Lagan Navigation could help ensure a more consistent approach to development along, and conservation/restoration work to the asset.</p> <p>Option 21. HED highlights the potential positive outcomes of this option in the identification, conservation and reuse of any heritage assets in these areas, through approaches such as heritage led development, applying the principles of conservation, existing policies and attaining the appropriate consents.</p> <p>Option 22. There is potential here for positive or negative impacts. While the impact on cityscape is discussed there needs to be recognition of the impact on historic rural landscape, historic environment assets and their settings</p> |               |

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|          | 25/05/2017 | <p>and potentially on previously unrecorded archaeological remains.</p> <p>Option 23A – HED considers that without further information as to location etc, the relocation of the Sprucefield Park and Ride has an uncertain effect on the historic environment.</p> <p>Option 25. To achieve positive outcomes for this option we highlight the importance of the identification, conservation and reuse of any heritage assets along greenways, through approaches such as heritage led development, applying the principles of conservation, existing policies and attaining the appropriate consents.</p> <p>Option 26. HED are uncertain as to how areas of constraint will be implemented with respect to the historic environment. We have concerns regarding the inappropriate location and cumulative effect of tall structures, such as wind turbines, in the setting of heritage assets and wider historic environment, particularly when viewed with church spires which have been landmarks for generations.</p> <p>Option 27. HED highlights the potential negative impacts on the historic environment through the inappropriate location and cumulative effect of tall structures, such as masts, in the setting of heritage assets and wider historic environment, particularly when viewed with church spires which have been landmarks for generations.</p> <p>Option 29. HED stress the positive effectiveness that this approach can have on some of the other objectives such as air quality, material assets, education, employment, physical resources and natural heritage and biodiversity. Historic structures contain embodied energy and their sustainable reuse has positive outcomes in terms of reduced impact on environment and physical resources. We highlight that many heritage assets are important habitats for protected species such as bats and badgers.</p> <p>Option 30. HED highlights the potential positive outcomes of this option on the historic environment, through the designation and greater protection of the rural environment. In many cases the landscape is inseparable from the historic environment and often forms the setting of heritage assets. The historic environment often shares common pressures with Landscape with regard to development.</p> <p><b>Do you agree with the measures to reduce the negative effects and promote the positive effects?</b></p> <p>HED believe that mitigation measures to offset impacts on the historic environment should be articulated more clearly, examples of some types of measures include</p> | <p>During the appraisal process, Plan Teams can discuss measures to reduce negative effects and promote the positive effects.</p> |

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| Maze Long<br>Kesh<br>Development<br>Corporation |      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where a heritage led approach is required, including appropriate background research, consultation and use of specialists with experience in the historic environment.</li> <li>• where compliance with statutory consents and conservation principles is required</li> <li>• where in some cases key site requirements for larger scale development zones might include provisions requiring assessment and evaluation of impacts on archaeological remains (including on previously unrecorded below ground archaeological remains) and on the setting of historic environment assets.</li> </ul> <p>Our comments in relation to the appraisal of options should help inform where mitigation might be considered.</p> <p><b>Do you have any further comments to make on the SA Interim Report?</b></p> <p>HED welcome the fact that some heritage sites feature prominently in the preferred options paper and that there is generally recognition of the important role which these assets can play in the wider economic, social, environmental and tourism aspirations of the plan. We stress the need to further utilise our evidence bases (and others) towards characterising the distinct historic environment and make the sustainability appraisal process as effective and informed as possible. We reiterate the relevance of our previous comments in you Appendix 8, and would welcome clearer articulation of mitigation measures going forward to plan strategy stage.</p> <p>Sustainability Appraisal Interim report, Page 6 – Historic Environment Division (HED) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is not listed in the Glossary.</p> <p>Page 7; Objective 13, ‘protect’ is in twice (typo).</p> <p><b>LCCC LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL</b></p> <p>Comments 1-6</p> | <p>Glossary updated.</p> <p>SA scores are dependent on baseline evidence and related information to the policy option and SA objectives as discussed on the day of appraisal. The discussion supporting the SA scores is presented in Appendix 6 of the SA Interim Report.</p> |