



**Ms. Sharon Mossman
Forward Planning Team
Department for Infrastructure
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB**

12 September 2019

Re Consultation Response to Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Draft Plan Strategy

Dear Ms. Mossman,

I am responding to the above consultation on behalf of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. This response was endorsed by Members of our Planning Committee at its meeting on 5th September 2019.

Having reviewed this Draft Plan Strategy document and further to discussion between officials of both councils on 24th July 2019, we are of the view that, overall, there is no significant conflict with the emerging draft Plan Strategy for this borough.

We acknowledge that there are some differences in policy approaches to particular planning issues. However, we do not anticipate that this will have significant planning implications for the outworking of our own LDP.

We also note that unlike this Council's emerging draft Plan Strategy, you have opted not to delineate boundaries for strategic spatial designations in the countryside at this stage in the LDP process. Taking account of this point, this council reserves the right to comment further on such strategic matters at your Local Policies Plan stage when such designations are to be delineated by means of boundaries on maps.

One specific point of some concern for us is the lack of any specific greenway policy in the Antrim & Newtownabbey draft Plan Strategy. Our emerging draft Plan Strategy states that the LDP will support the delivery of regional greenways proposed within our borough with the expectation that these will be continued within neighbouring council areas and beyond. Four such regional greenways (one included in the primary network

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and three included in the secondary network) straddle our council boundary. We would welcome positive protection for these routes within the final version of your Plan Strategy so as to demonstrate joined up planning aligned to the regional direction on this matter.

I trust this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Paul Duffy
Head of Planning

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