

Local Development Plan 2030
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment
for Preferred Options Paper
January 2017

This scoping report has been prepared by Shared Environmental Service in conjunction with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Revision History

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1 Non-technical Summary

Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan

This document forms part of work on a new Local Development Plan for the Borough which will look forward to 2030. The purpose of the new Plan will be to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of how the Borough should develop in the years ahead. Local Development Plans contain policies and proposals that are used when determining planning applications. A good plan will lead to decisions that are consistent and people will know what to expect in terms of change, and the locations where development will be encouraged.

Our new Local Development Plan will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and will co-ordinate with our Community Planning process to enable us to plan positively and proactively for the future of our Borough. The policies and proposals defined in our Local Development Plan will be a vital tool in facilitating the implementation of any land use related objectives contained in our Community Plan.

Our Development Plan must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Government Departments. This includes the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), and any other policies, advice or guidance such as that relating to relevant landscape character assessments and conservation areas.

Preferred Options Paper

The Plan will comprise two documents that are prepared in sequence. The first is the Plan Strategy which will be followed by the Local Policies Plan. However, before we can prepare these documents we must publish our Preferred Options Paper which will set out the key planning issues for the Borough, identify a range of options to address them and define our preferred options.

In order to do this, it is a requirement that we carry out Sustainability Appraisal on our options. This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping document is the first stage of this process.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan.

Local Planning Authorities such as use Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with local stakeholders and communities.

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 Borough, and 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 Appraisal Objectives and Appraisal criteria which will form the basis for assessment of the Local Development Plan.
- Consult on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

The objectives for sustainable development are to...

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

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Antrim and Newtownabbey 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.

2.2 The Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) will replace the following plans that cover the Council area:

- Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
- Antrim Area Plan

The Local Development Plan Timetable for plan preparation was published in 2015. Chapter 3 describes the approach that is being taken to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of the Council area.

2.3 Sustainable Development

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved'¹, 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.

2.4 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

¹ [Northern Ireland Executive \(2010\) Everyone's Involved- Sustainable Development Strategy.](#)

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.

2.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04 on Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment². Sustainability Appraisal therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporated Strategic Environmental Assessment and fulfils the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Appendices 2 & 3 demonstrate how Strategic Environmental Assessment has been addressed.

2.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location in this report or elsewhere. Those areas shaded in grey will be reported on at a later stage.

Table 2.1 Key Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	1. Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.	Appendix 4
	2. Collect baseline information	Chapter 6
	3. Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Draft of Scoping template
	4. Identify environmental issues and challenges	Chapter 6
	5. Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Chapter 7
	6. Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Refer to 3.3
Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper.	Published for consultation with Preferred Options Paper
Stage 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	Not at this stage

² [Department of the Environment \(2015\) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)

	necessary, proposing mitigation measured for alleviating any adverse effects.	
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	Not at this stage
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal report and draft plan	Not at this stage
Stage E	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.	Not at this stage
Stage F	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	Not at this stage

2.7 Other Assessments

2.7.1 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 and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the Local Development Plan, this is also carried out for Ramsar sites. Baseline data for the Habitats Regulations Assessment which will be carried out for the plan is presented in Appendix ii of 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.

2.7.2 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 Borough 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.

2.8 Scoping Report Structure

Chapter 3 details the proposed approach to Sustainability Appraisal while Chapter 4 provides an overview of plan preparation. Chapter 5 gives an overview of the baseline information and each topic is reported on in Chapter 6 with the context, relevant baseline information, trends, key issues and the implications for the Local Development Plan. The Sustainability Framework is presented in Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 summarises the current position, identifies any limitations and outlines the next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal.

3 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the Local Development Plan process. Chapters 5 to 7 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Local Development Plan.

3.2 Principles

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

3.2.1 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.

3.2.2 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.

3.2.3 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.

3.2.4 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.

3.2.5 Connected

The Local Development Plan may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond the Council area where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Other councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report and Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report through the formal planning consultation process. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Reports will also be available alongside these at formal consultations stages for information and for comment.

3.2.6 Proportionate

The Sustainability Appraisal avoids duplication therefore, for example, international strategies are not necessarily 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.

3.2.7 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.

3.2.8 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.

3.3 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 Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the outline of this Scoping Report in September 2016.

Experts with general and local knowledge of all topics were consulted to inform the preparation of each section of Chapter 6 and this is reflected in each topic.

A previous draft of this report was shared with stakeholders in November 2016 and comments received were used to improve content of this report. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and will be provided in a future version of this report

The public will be formally consulted on the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, which is accompanied by this Scoping Report for information, during consultation on the Preferred Options Paper. There will also be public consultation on the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Reports which will accompany the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal will be reviewed. Where necessary the Sustainability Appraisal Report will be revised in response to representations and any changes to the Preferred Options, Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

3.4 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 5 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 6.

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.

3.5 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 supporting criteria which will be 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. At the outset of preparation of the Local Policies Plan more detailed criteria will be developed to guide site specific Sustainability Appraisal.

3.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the significant effects, both positive and negative, of options. 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.

3.7 Assessment Method

The key parts of the Local Development Plan are:

- Local Development Plan Vision and Objectives
- Appraisal of options for Preferred Options Paper
- Appraisal of Plan Strategy and reasonable alternatives
- Local Policies Plan
- Land Allocations

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

3.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives at Preferred Options Paper

At the Preferred Options Paper stage, strategic proposals are available, with options for delivery. The options will be reasonable alternatives where these can be identified. The Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report accompanying the Preferred Options Paper will evaluate these options using the appraisal matrix shown in table 3.1. The matrix includes:

- The plan issue 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.
- In the assessment matrices, measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects were recorded where they arose in discussion to capture ways in which each option could be made more sustainable. This includes measures for minor negative and positive effects.
- A summary and comparison of the options against the sustainability objectives, giving any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures where appropriate to enhance positive effects.

Table 3.1 Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Issue	Overview											
	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												
4. Sustainability Objective												
Summary Summary and comparison of approaches against the sustainability objectives: The preferred approach: Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:												

Table 3.2 Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

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

3.9 Plan Strategy

The proposals in the draft Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. This will be published as a draft Sustainability Appraisal Report in support of the consultation on the draft Plan Strategy.

3.10 Local Policies Plan

In advance of preparation of the Local Policies Plan criteria will be developed to help guide the appraisal of sites. All the proposals in the draft Local Policies Plan will be appraised using the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and a new draft

Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published as part of the consultation on these papers.

3.11 Independent Examination and Test of Soundness

Any changes arising from representations made at earlier consultations will be incorporated in the Sustainability Appraisal Report presented at Independent Examination and inform the test of soundness.

3.12 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.

4 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan

4.1 Context

4.1.1 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.

4.2 Spatial scope of the plan

The new LDP will apply to the entire Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area which covers 728 square kilometres stretching from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the shores of Belfast Lough in the east. This is an area with an attractive and varied landscape centred on the South Antrim hills and the Six Mile Water valley which is also endowed with a rich historic and archaeological heritage.

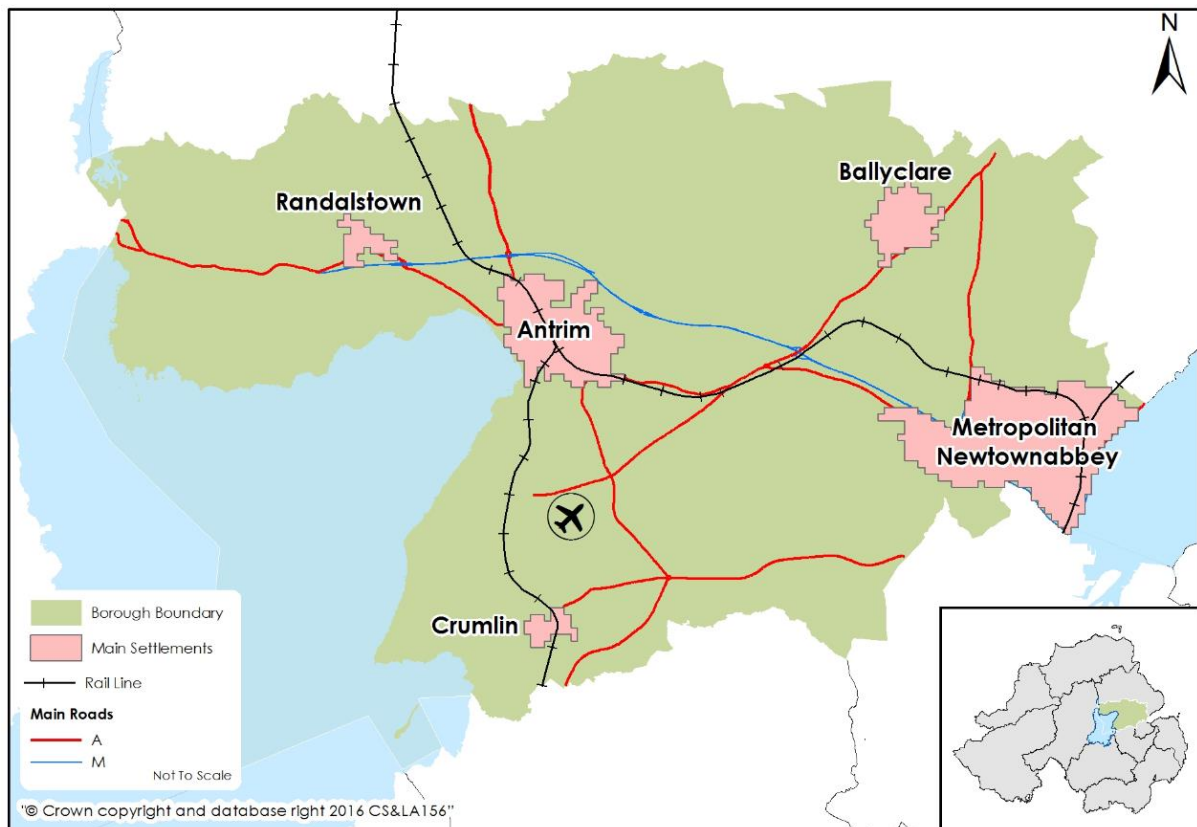
Over 140,000 people live in the Borough with the majority of the population concentrated in the two main urban areas of Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim and the towns of Ballyclare, Crumlin and Randalstown.

The Borough occupies an important strategic position within Northern Ireland with three major transport corridors traversing the area (the M2/A6, the A8 and the A26) as well as the rail lines to Derry/Londonderry and Larne.

We are home to Belfast International Airport, one of Northern Ireland's busiest gateways with over four million people arriving and departing every year.

Given its strategic advantages the Borough has been successful in attracting high profile businesses, such as Randox and Canyon Europe. The continued creation of jobs and prosperity for our residents is a key priority for the Council.

Figure 4.1: The Plan Area



4.2.1 What is the Local Development Plan?

The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a spatial land use plan which primarily is about place. It will guide future development and use of land in our towns, villages and rural areas by addressing the spatial implications of social, economic and environmental change. The LDP will balance competing demands and aim to ensure that good development occurs in the right place and at the right time. It is therefore a powerful tool for place-shaping.

Under the new planning system introduced in 2015 the LDP will comprise of two documents, a Plan Strategy and a Local Policies Plan.

The Plan Strategy will set out our vision and objectives for the development of the Borough. It will include a range of strategic and Borough wide policies to facilitate and manage development and a Spatial Growth Strategy that will indicate in broad terms, the locations where different types of development will be facilitated. It will be subject to public consultation and an Independent Examination before it is adopted.

The Local Policies Plan will be prepared once the Plan Strategy is adopted. It will include site specific proposals and local policy designations required to deliver the vision, objectives and Spatial Growth Strategy set out in our Plan Strategy. It will also be subject to public consultation and an Independent Examination before it is adopted.

Importantly, once the Plan Strategy is adopted, it will replace the corresponding parts of the existing development plans for the Borough (the Antrim Area Plan and the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan) and those regional operational planning policies that are currently retained by the Strategic Planning Policy Statement. The

remaining relevant parts of the existing plans, such as land use zonings, designations and local policy, will then be replaced upon adoption of the Local Policies Plan.

The new planning system has introduced what is commonly referred to as the 'plan led' system. As a consequence our new LDP will be the primary consideration for decision making on all new development schemes and proposals will be required to accord with its provisions unless, exceptionally other material considerations indicate otherwise.

In summary our new Local Development Plan is intended to:

- Provide a plan framework that will support the economic and social needs of our Borough, taking into account regional strategies and policies, whilst providing for the delivery of sustainable development;
- Facilitate sustainable growth by co-ordinating public and private investment that will encourage development where it can be of most benefit to the well-being of our community;
- Allocate sufficient land to meet the needs of the Borough;
- Provide a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision making;
- Help deliver the spatial aspects of our Community Plan; and
- Provide an opportunity for all stakeholders and in particular our residents to have a say about where and how development within our Borough should take place.

4.3 Preparation

The Plan will comprise two documents that are prepared in sequence. The first is the Plan Strategy which will be followed by the Local Policies Plan. However, before we can prepare these documents we must publish our Preferred Options Paper which will set out the key planning issues for the Borough, identify a range of options to address them and define our preferred options. The Preferred Options Paper will set out the plan vision and objectives.

4.4 Plan Vision and Objectives

4.4.1 Plan Vision

Our new Local Development Plan requires a clear vision as to what Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough should look like in 2030.

Based on our engagement with the public and our elected Members and taking into account the objectives of our Corporate Plan, the emerging Community Plan and the key priorities for our Borough, it is proposed that our Plan Vision is as follows:

Plan Vision

In 2030 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough will have a reputation as an excellent, attractive and diverse place in which to live and work. It will be a place that all citizens can take pride in and that is appealing to new residents, investors and visitors alike, with improved job opportunities, housing availability and connectivity that meets the needs of our community. Development will be sustainable and of high quality and will address the ongoing challenges of climate change. Our built and natural environment will continue to be high quality and well looked after and will support prosperity and economic development and provide for a wide range of recreational and leisure activities.

4.4.2 Plan Objectives

In order to support and help achieve our Plan vision, we also need to consider what the main objectives of our Plan should be. Again, we have considered this carefully in light of our engagement to date and the context in which our Plan is being prepared. The rationale for the proposed objectives is explained in the Preferred Options Paper 3.3 – 3.13. It is proposed that we need to target the following interlinked objectives to deliver the Plan Vision.

Plan Objectives

- **To provide an adequate range and quality of land and premises for business and industry.**
- **To protect strategically important business and employment opportunities.**
- **To promote the development and regeneration of our town and commercial centres.**
- **To promote high quality environmentally sustainable design.**
- **To provide a sufficient supply of land for mainstream and affordable housing and ensure a diverse choice of housing.**
- **To ensure that necessary new infrastructure accompanies new development.**
- **To accommodate necessary community facilities.**
- **To encourage better connectivity by transport and digital networks.**
- **To protect and enhance the natural and built environment.**
- **To protect open spaces of public value and promote green network linkages around our larger settlements.**
- **To promote sustainable tourism and economic diversification.**
- **To integrate climate change adaptation requirements such as flood prevention and sustainable renewable energy production.**
- **To make adequate provision for waste management.**

5 Overview of the Baseline Evidence

5.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 6 for 14 topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Many topics overlap therefore Table 5.1 outlines the scope of each topic to clarify where information is presented.

Table 5.1 Scope of Sustainability Topics

Topic	Includes
1. Health and Well-being	Health profile, physical activity, access health care, access to open space and recreation, quiet areas, noise
2. Housing	Housing, urban capacity, settlements, make up
3. Education and Skills	Primary through to third level and apprenticeships
4. Community	Community identity, shared space, prosperity and social inclusion, crime prevention and community safety, good relations, rural issues
5. Economy and Employment	Regeneration, economic growth, investment, reuse of industrial sites, tourism, economic development, industry and commerce; town centres and retailing; employment
6. Transport and Accessibility	Public transport, private transport, traffic, efficient movement, walking, cycling
7. Material Assets	Those not addressed in other topics i.e. infrastructure relating to energy/heat generation and distribution, telecommunications, waste management and pipelines; derelict and contaminated land; manufactured goods; renewable energy
8. Physical Resources	Earth science, minerals, land and soil (include land use), geothermal
9. Natural Resources	Biodiversity, fauna, flora, green and blue infrastructure, ecosystems services and approach; includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as marine
10. Water	Water quality and resources, levels, flood risk and management
11. Air	Air quality and short term changes, aspects relating to climate are covered in climatic factors
12. Climatic factors	Implications of climate change
13. Historic and Cultural Resources	Archaeology, built heritage, townscapes, cultural heritage assets
14. Landscape	Landscape, seascape

Each topic is presented using the following structure, and the headings are explained below:

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

5.2 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies

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 the Council 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.

5.3 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 6.

5.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) provides a strategic and long term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to 2035 to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It contains regional guidance to provide policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and sets the context for policy and development decisions in order to achieve sustainable development throughout the region.

The RDS recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. However, to ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, it also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their Local Development Plans.

5.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) provides an overarching statement of the general regional planning principles underlying the reformed plan led system. It provides a planning policy framework which must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans and the provisions are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The SPPS outlines a number of core principles underpinning the reformed planning system in Northern Ireland. These are:

- improving health and well-being;

- creating and enhancing shared space;
- supporting the economy;
- supporting good design and positive place-making;
- Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 regional strategic objectives across 16 subject areas, which are essentially a consolidation of the existing Planning Policy Statements in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

5.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 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.
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

The key SDS strategic objectives will be highlighted under the relevant topic.

5.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive setting out the priorities that it will pursue in the current Assembly mandate, and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The draft PfG 2016-21 was consulted on in summer 2016 and subject to further public consultation in December 2016.

The draft PfG 2016-21 contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 48 Indicators. The Strategic Outcomes touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities and are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

5.3.5 Community Planning

The new duty of Community Planning came into operation on 1st April 2015 and requires Councils to act as the lead for community planning in their areas, in partnership with the community and service providers. This will result in a long term vision for the social, environmental and economic well-being of our area and its citizens. The Community Plan also aims to promote community cohesion and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It will integrate service and function delivery and set out the future direction for development within the Council area. The Local Development Plan will consider any land use spatial planning aspects of the Community Plan.

Our draft Community Plan published for public consultation is available to view on our website. A number of draft outcomes have been identified for our Community

Plan. These have been considered in the preparation of our preferred options and are identified below:-

- Our citizens enjoy good health and well-being;
- Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places;
- Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity; and
- Our citizens achieve their full potential.

5.4 Baseline Evidence

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 6 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 Northern Ireland has been used and where there are critical data gaps these are identified.

5.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights the trends in the baseline information where evident and how the baseline might evolve without the Local Development Plan. This also helped identify key issues for each topic.

5.6 The Key Sustainability Issues

Drawing on the plans, policies 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 key issues reflect the local area and are ones that are relevant to and may be influenced by the Local Development Plan.

5.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

The key sustainability issues informed the sustainability objectives and one objective has been developed relating to each topic. They are presented in Chapter 7 with a more detailed description and rationale for each.

6 The Evidence Base

6.1 Health and Well-being

6.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

The common thread of relevant policies is that actions should improve the outcomes for everyone's mental and physical health and well-being. Measures should seek to prolong healthy life and reduce preventable deaths. Contributors to this are improving health in pregnancy and improving mental health which can have long term effects on healthy life. Health policies and strategies 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.

Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan 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. Actions can be grouped in those to improve and maintain good environmental quality in terms of air and water quality and noise; those that 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 SPPS 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.

Noise can be a health consideration affecting mental and physical well-being. The European Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within defined urban areas. DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas set out in the [policy guidance on the identification, designation and management of quiet areas](#) (September 2016). Three quiet areas were designated by the DAERA Minister in September 2016, Carnmoney Hill – Upper, Newtownabbey is one of these areas.

Belfast International Airport (BIA) Environmental Noise Directive Round Two Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 states in respect of land use planning that 'BIA continues to lobby local Government for planning policy that encourages control of development close to airports to avoid population encroachment.'

The Corporate Plan: Our Borough, Your Vision has the following 2030 goal for people: Communities will have access to high quality Council services and facilities. The support we provide will lead to a more active, healthy and empowered community.

It also commits that: Communities and agencies work together to plan and deliver better services, address disadvantage and improve the quality of life for everyone.

The LDP has scope to support these policies through creating the conditions that encourage and enable healthy lifestyles, facilitate health infrastructure and support good access to health services. Measures to maintain or enhance the quality of the environment also contribute to health and well-being.

6.1.2 Baseline Information

Life expectancy

Life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 77.7 years, and for females 82.1 years. Life expectancy for males in the Borough for 2010-2012 was 78.2 years, and for females 81.9 years. These have shown a steady increase from 2006-2008 however male life expectancy is slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average and female life expectancy slightly lower.

Healthy life expectancy is the average number of years that a person can expect to live in 'full health' by taking into account years lived in less than full health due to disease and/or injury. Healthy life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 58.6 years, and for females was 61.6 years. Disability-free life expectancy for males in Northern Ireland for 2010-2012 was 60.2 years, and for females was 60.8 years. Healthy and disability-free life expectancy is not currently available at Council level.

Causes of death

The death rates in Table 6.1.1 are standardised by age and sex with respect to the European Standard Population 2010. Data shown relates to the number of deaths per 100,000 population. Preventable are those that could be largely prevented from occurring in the first place, amenable are those where treatment could prevent death, and avoidable are those that where, with timely intervention, premature death should not occur. The data shows for the Borough and Northern Ireland that, while there is an increase in overall death rate, premature deaths are declining in recent years. While death rates from specified conditions have decreased that from respiratory disease is higher in the Borough than for Northern Ireland. The potential years lost to premature death stays similar for men and shows a slight decline for women in the Borough however relative to Northern Ireland men are likely to lose fewer years and women more. This mirrors the comparison of life expectancy for men and women.

Table 6.1.1 Mortality Rates Trends and Northern Ireland Comparison

Antrim And Newtownabbey LGD						Trend	NI	Comparison
	2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012		2008-2012	
Standardised Death Rate - All causes	1,237.50	1,235.90	1,218.50	1,236.90	1,267.50	↑	1,089.60	↑
Standardised Death Rate - Amenable	147.5	132.9	127.8	118.7	114.4	↓	126.8	↓
Standardised Death Rate - Preventable	226.8	218.8	220.6	212.2	210	↓	222.3	↓
Standardised Death Rate - Avoidable	281.9	268.6	268.2	257.4	254	↓	267.8	↓
Antrim And Newtownabbey LGD						Trend	NI	Comparison
	2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012		2008-2012	
Standardised Cancer Death Rate	295.7	289.1	288.4	290	292.1	↓	291.6	↓
Standardised Circulatory Death Rate	390.9	359.8	346.8	322.6	296.9	↓	334	↓
Standardised Respiratory Death Rate	179.4	173.9	179.3	173.4	166.7	↓	156.4	↑
Antrim And Newtownabbey LGD								
	2004-2008	2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012		2008-2012	
Potential Years of Life Lost - Males	10.3	10	9.8	9.8	10	~	10.7	↓
Potential Years of Life Lost - Females	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.4	↓	7	↑
Antrim And Newtownabbey LGD							NI	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
No. of Deaths	1,090	1,020	1,103	1,043	1,129	1,134	1,129	14,678
Deaths due to Malignant Neoplasms (%)	28.5	27.1	28.4	29.1	28.3	28.6	30.2	29.5
Deaths due to Circulatory Diseases (%)	26.6	28.7	28.4	25.7	23.8	25.7	25.3	25.3
Deaths due to Respiratory Diseases (%)	16.9	13.8	16	13.4	12.7	13.5	12.7	13.7
Deaths due to External Causes (%)	4	5.7	5.1	4.9	5.8	4.7	4.9	4.8
Deaths due to Suicide(%)	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8

Source: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service 2016

Physical Health

On Census Day 2011 the following health related data were collected for the Borough. 19% of people had long term health problems or disability that limited their day-to-day activities. Mallusk was the ward with the lowest proportion stating this (11%), while Whitehouse had the highest proportion having a long term limiting health problem or disability (34%).

81% stated their health was either good or very good. Mallusk was the ward with the highest proportion stating this (89%), while Whitehouse had the lowest proportion stating their health was either good or very good (65%). The Northern Ireland Health Survey 2014/15 found overall, 72% of adults in Northern Ireland described their health as 'good' or 'very good', which is in keeping with the rate recorded in the previous four years of the health survey therefore the level of good or very good health is significantly better for the Borough.

Physical activity

Physical activity has not been specifically recorded at a local level however at the Trust and Northern Ireland level it has increased from a very low level in 2011.

Table 6.1.2 Physical Activity Levels Northern Ireland and Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Area	Meets recommended physical activity levels of at least 150 minutes per week (%)			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Northern Ireland	38	34	53	53
Northern HSCT	39	37	54	54

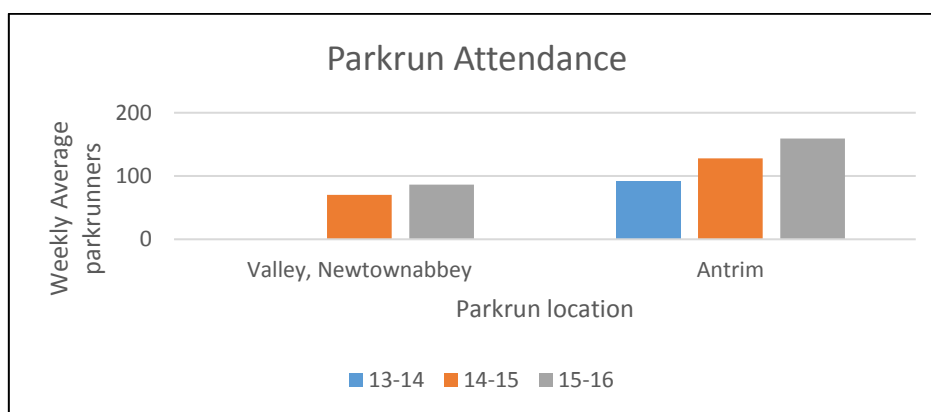
Data for time spent outdoors, based on 488 people in the Borough, shows that there is a greater level of outdoor activity than for Northern Ireland as a whole.

Table 6.1.3 Physical Activity Levels Northern Ireland and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

	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 (%)	
	2014-2015	NI Rank	2014-2015	NI Rank	2014-2015	NI Rank
Antrim and Newtownabbey	72	4	22	4	3	1
Northern Ireland	65		22		11	

There are two weekly parkrun running events in the Borough, which show an increase since 2013 in this form of participation in physical activity, Figure 6.1.1.

Figure 6.1.1 Weekly average parkrun attendance



Source: www.parkrun.org

Noise

The Borough return on noise complaints 2015-16 shows that the rate of noise complaints is relatively low at 575 with 79% from domestic sources. 9% were reported from commercial or leisure sources and less than 5% from construction. 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.

The European Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of

designated Quiet Areas within defined urban areas. DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas set out in the [policy guidance on the identification, designation and management of quiet areas](#) (September 2016). Three quiet areas were designated by the DAERA Minister in September 2016, Carnmoney Hill – Upper, Newtownabbey is one of these areas. Relatively tranquil areas are found in the Borough particularly at Tardree and along Lough Neagh and river valleys.

Providing care

Census Data in 2011 found 12% 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. Fountain Hill was the ward with the lowest percentage providing unpaid care (9%), while 15% of those living in Carnmoney provided unpaid care.

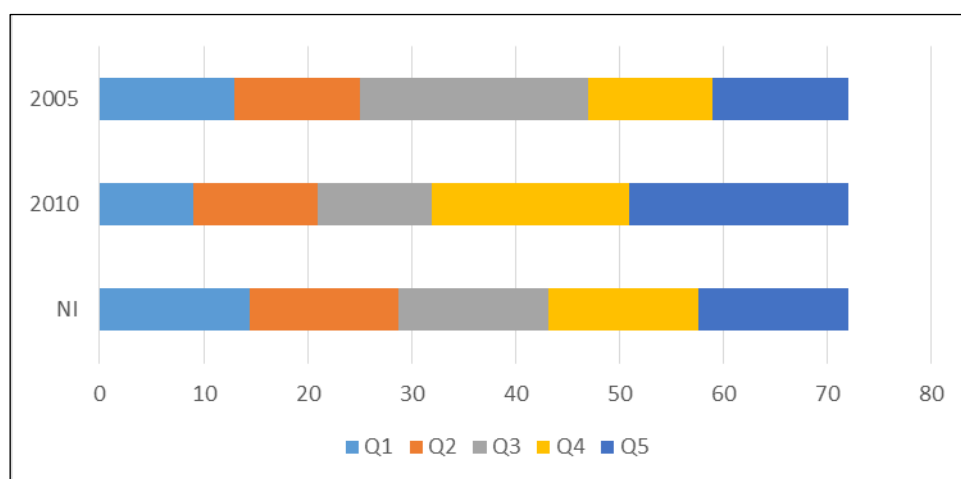
Access to services

Data published by NISRA in 2013 shows that the ambulance response time for the Borough was 7 minutes 8 seconds ranking 5th place overall out of the 11 Councils, however ranking higher than the Northern Ireland average of 6 minutes 48seconds. These times have been increasing across Northern Ireland.

Inequalities

The proportion of Super Output Areas that are in the most deprived fifth for health and disability, Figure 6.1.2, has declined since 2005, is lower compared to Northern Ireland. This has been matched by a greater proportion in the least deprived areas. 70% or fewer reporting good or very good health in Whitehouse, Monkstown 1, Dunanney, Coole and Valley 1, compared to over 90% in Aldergrove 1, Jordanstown 2 & 3, Mallusk and Rostulla.

Figure 6.1.2 Change in health Deprivation and Disability Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



Source: NINIS 2016

The Health Inequalities Regional Report 2016 compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels and between urban and rural populations. The data is at the Northern Ireland level and shows that for many indicators there is a large gap with significantly worse conditions for the most deprived. The largest inequality gaps were for teenage birth rate, admission rates for alcohol related causes, death due to drug misuse, alcohol related causes, smoking during pregnancy. The most notable

widening of gaps was for teenage birth rate, smoking during pregnancy, death due to drug misuse and admissions for respiratory illness.

When comparing the rural population against the Northern Ireland population the rural population generally had better results than for the Northern Ireland population. The measures where the rural population fared worse were elective inpatient admissions where the rate has declined but for a lesser extent than for the Northern Ireland average. Rural populations have a slightly higher prevalence of being overweight or obese. The median ambulance response time has increased for rural populations over 2011-15 from under 12 minutes to over 15 minutes compared with under 6 to over 9 minutes for the Northern Ireland as a whole.

Health Survey Northern Ireland

Health Survey Northern Ireland is a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across Northern Ireland. Only differences that are statistically significant are reported and results are based on responses from 4,144 individuals. The data is for Northern Ireland as it cannot be reported at Council level. It does however indicate issues and highlights the importance of social support networks. Some findings that can inform trends or provide a basis for future comparison are as follows.

A decline in the general health rating was observed with increasing age, with respondents in the 75 years and over age group more than four times as likely to report 'bad' or 'very bad' health (13%).

Around one-fifth (19%) of respondents showed signs of a possible mental health problem (GHQ12 score >4), consistent with previous rates back to 2005/06. Respondents in the most deprived areas (30%) were twice as likely to record a high GHQ12 score as those in the least deprived areas (15%).

Almost nine in every ten adults (88%) indicated they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with life in general however the rate for 'very satisfied' was 32% for the most deprived areas compared with 47% for the least deprived areas.

Overall, three-quarters of adults (75%) felt there was something they could do to make their life healthier in one or more of the following ways.

Figure 6.1.3 How people believe they could be healthier



Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010

Around two-fifths of adults reported having a longstanding illness, with over two-thirds (69%) in the 75 years and over age group. Respondents in the most deprived areas were more likely to report a longstanding illness (49%) and of those 79% were likely to be limited by it, this being significantly higher than in the least deprived areas.

Around half of respondents (45%) reported having 3-5 people close to them that could be counted on if they had serious personal problems, while almost all respondents (98%) reported having at least one. Over a third of respondents aged 16 to 24 years (37%) stated it would be easy or very easy to get practical help from

neighbours if they needed it. This rate increased with age reaching 71% for those aged 75 years and over.

Overall, 60% of adults were either overweight (35%) or obese (25%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from the level of 56% reported in 1997, although this has remained at a similar level since 2005/06. Globally, around 39% of adults aged 18 and over were overweight in 2014, the equivalent for Europe was 58.6%. Of children (age 2 -15) in Northern Ireland 21% were classed as overweight and 7% as obese which has not changed since 2005/06.

Greenways and Open Space

Figure 6.1.4 illustrates strategic proposals by the Department for Infrastructure to develop or enhance greenways.

Figure 6.1.4: Proposed Greenways



Source: Exercise, Explore, Enjoy. Department for Infrastructure 2016

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.

6.1.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied.

Some of the measures of health such as respiratory illness 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.

6.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- Levels of obesity in Northern Ireland and the UK are high by global standards reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Need to promote physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- Site and design development to connect with greenways where possible.
- Increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care.
- Noise and environmental quality can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- The rate of mortality due to respiratory disease is higher than the Northern Ireland rate.
- 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 affect response times.
- The Borough 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.
- There is a lack of data at the Borough level for health, information on obesity and mental health could provide useful measures for the future.
- 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.
- From 2015 to 2030 the population aged 65 plus is expected to increase by 42.1%. Within this grouping those 80 -84 are expected to increase by 63%, those aged 85 – 89 by 74% and those aged 90 plus by 88%.
- 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.
- 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.

6.2 Housing

6.2.1 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 full range of future housing needs.

Overarching policy recognises that a stable and sustainable housing market will provide high quality homes, and support economic growth and prosperity. Good quality, sustainable housing supports wider society including the most vulnerable who can be supported through the access to high quality social housing.

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 development 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 and adaptation.

Regional policy recognizes that housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. This will be achieved through promoting more sustainable housing development within existing urban areas, and ensuring that there is an adequate and available supply of quality housing for all. 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 vision for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough up to 2030 is defined as 'a prosperous place inspired by our people driven by ambition'. The Corporate Plan sets out a number of objectives in relation to place, people and prosperity. Within those objectives there are a number which are relevant to housing:

- A place where people take pride in their surroundings
- A place where people feel safe
- We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas and an efficient planning process that promotes positive development.

The Council's Draft Community Plan contains Outcome Statements include: Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places - It is important that our communities are well connected, with a good transport infrastructure and pathways. Social connections are equally important, as having compassionate and close knit neighbourhoods.

6.2.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper *Local Development Plan 2030 Meeting the Needs of Society*.

Households

- The estimated population of the Borough in mid-2015 was 140,467, which is 7.59% of the total Northern Ireland population of 1,851,621.
- There were 54,035 households recorded in the Borough in the 2011 Census, which is 7.68% of the total Northern Ireland households numbering 703,275.
- The average household size within the Borough has decreased from 3.47 in 1971 to 2.51 in 2011.
- The Borough's projected average household size in 2030 is 2.41 persons.
- The projected number of households in the Borough in 2030 is 59,814.
- The largest increases are projected in households comprising either one adult or two adults with no children.
- In 2015, just over one in five (21%) of the population in the Borough were aged 0-15 whilst 15.9% were aged 65+.
- The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) 2014 based population projections suggest that population growth in Antrim and Newtownabbey will be below the Northern Ireland average. The projection suggests the population of the Borough may increase from 140,467 in mid-2015 to 145,401 in mid-2030 amounting to an increase of 3.5% over this period.

Further baseline information on the makeup of households in the Borough is presented in this report in the section on Community.

Existing Housing Stock

There are currently 30 settlements defined in the Borough. The Northern Ireland Housing Stock statistics (published jointly by NISRA and LPS in June 2016) recorded a total of 58,270 dwellings in the Borough on 1 April 2016.

Housing Type and Tenure

The percentage of dwellings in the Borough that are apartments and terraced homes is broadly similar to the Northern Ireland average, but the proportion of semi-detached dwellings is above the Northern Ireland average and the proportion of detached dwellings is below the Northern Ireland average.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough has a high rate of owner occupation at 72% compared to the Northern Ireland average of 67%. Social rented housing makes up 13% compared to the Northern Ireland average of 15%. Private rented is also lower than the Northern Ireland average, at 11% compared to 14%.

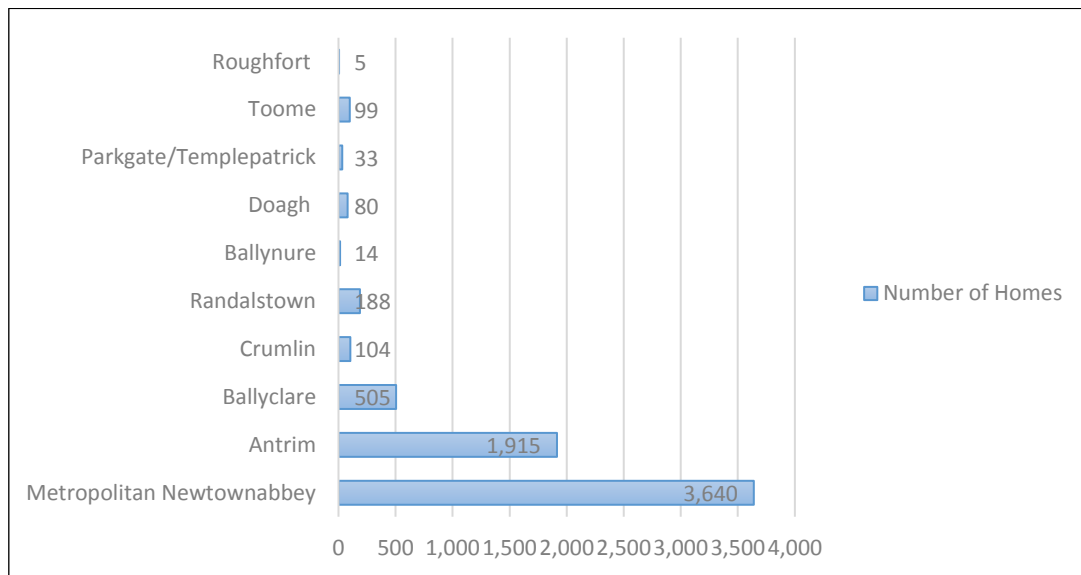
The landlord registration scheme had 5,758 tenancies registered for the Borough in March 2015, around 10% of total households in the Borough. There are 236 houses of multiple occupancy. At March 2015, 3,994 private tenants (69.3%) were in receipt of housing benefit.

Social Housing

There are 7875 social housing dwellings in total. 6583 Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and 1292 housing association.

The chart below presents the distribution of existing NIHE housing stock throughout the Borough, with the distribution roughly in accordance with each settlements position within the hierarchy.

Figure 6.2.1 Housing Executive Stock

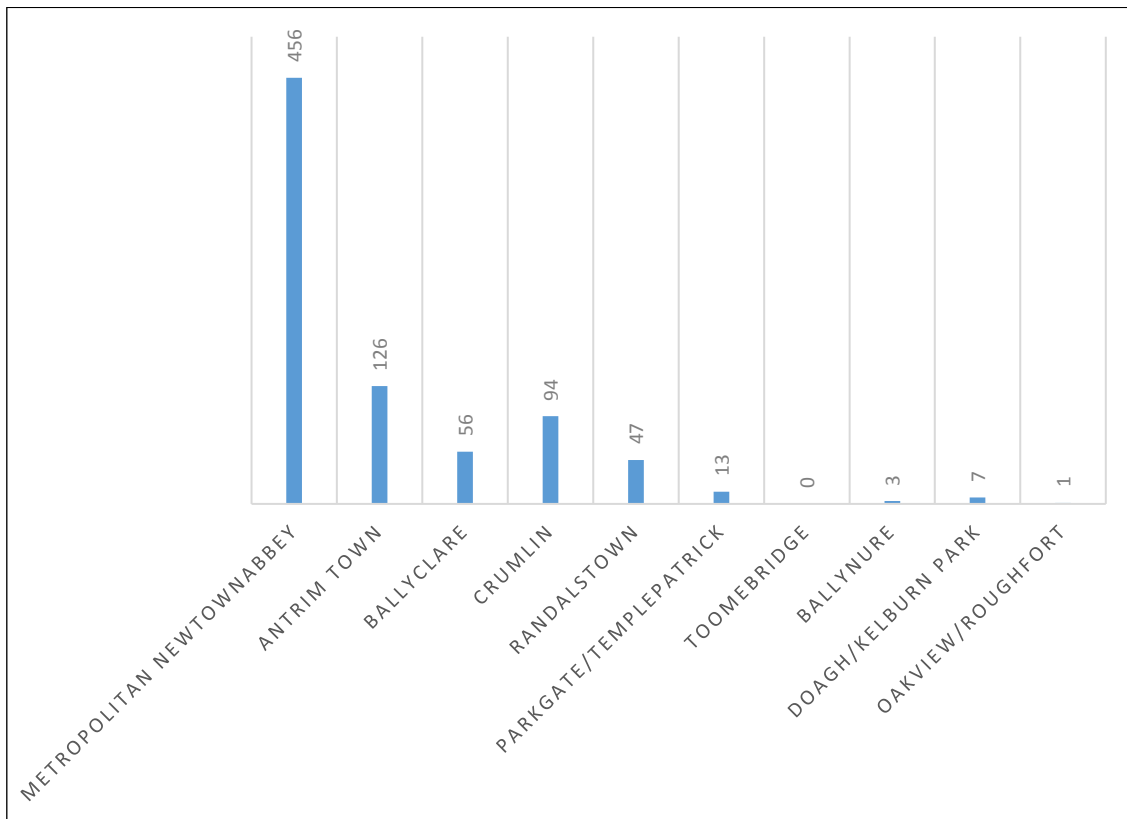


Source: Annual Housing Needs Assessment, NIHE, Jan 2016

There is a requirement for 803 new social housing units between 2015 and 2020.

NIHE has indicated that the greatest social housing need is concentrated in Antrim town (126 units), Glengormley (107 units) and Crumlin (94 units), as shown in the chart below.

Figure 6.2.2 Social Housing Need



Source: Antrim and Newtownabbey Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019.

Housing Stress and Homelessness

At 31 March 2015 there were 2628 general social housing waiting list applications at March 2015. 70% of these applications are in housing stress. There were 1,366 homeless presenters, and 913 homeless acceptances at end March 2015. Single, elderly and small adult households comprise approximately 70% of the Borough's waiting list in housing stress. There is a range of temporary 'homeless' accommodation in the Borough area – 21 privately owned single lets and 16 hostel places. The NIHE currently lets 21 properties to registered charities and community groups delivering a range of neighbourhood services in the Borough.

Affordable Housing

Affordability over the period 2010-2013 has improved greatly, and the ration of homes sold in Antrim and Newtownabbey that were affordable was 27% in 2010 rising to 37% in 2013. This reflects the drop in average house prices over this period, and a resulting significant rise in affordability compared to the height of the housing market in 2006/07.

At present it is considered that given the level of house prices, 'developer contributions' for Affordable Housing would not be viable in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Fuel Poverty, Unfit Dwellings and Decent Homes

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.

The NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) 2011³ provides a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for Northern Ireland and was modelled for each of the 26 District Councils.

This survey estimated that 42.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty. For households where the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged 60-74 years, 52.0% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 66.3% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years.

Between 2001 and 2011 unfit dwellings in Antrim and Newtownabbey legacy Councils rose from 2.9% to 4% and 1.3% to 3% respectively. The main causes of this are identified as reductions in grant funding for maintenance schemes and decreased consumer spending on housing maintenance.

In terms of 'decent homes' which considers a range of factors beyond unfitness including one that meets modern standards, the 2011 Housing Condition survey found that 10% of dwellings in the former Antrim Borough and 7% in the former Newtownabbey Borough were recorded as failing decent homes standards.

Rural New Single Dwellings

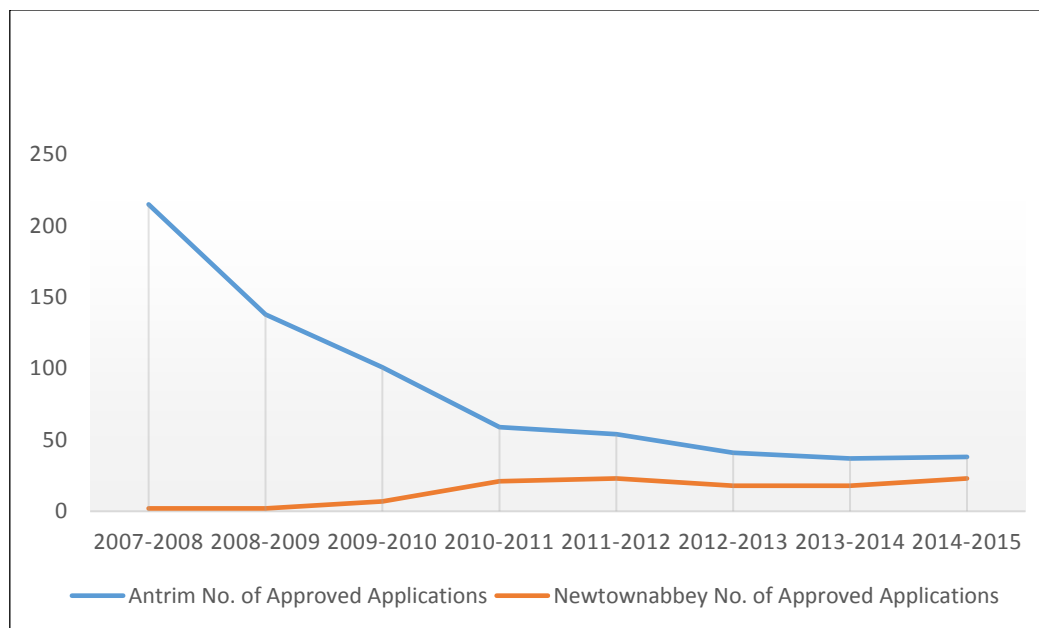
There has been a substantial decrease in the number of dwelling approvals in the rural area since 2010.

³ [Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2011](#)

From 2012 to 2015, 183 dwellings were built within the rural area, equating to a build rate of 61 per annum. There is a significant spatial variation in the Borough, with fewer numbers of approvals in the former Newtownabbey Council area. However the number of approvals in the former Newtownabbey area has risen since 2010.

It is considered that the total rural build rate is on a downward trend as reflected in approval rates.

Figure 6.2.3 Planning Approvals

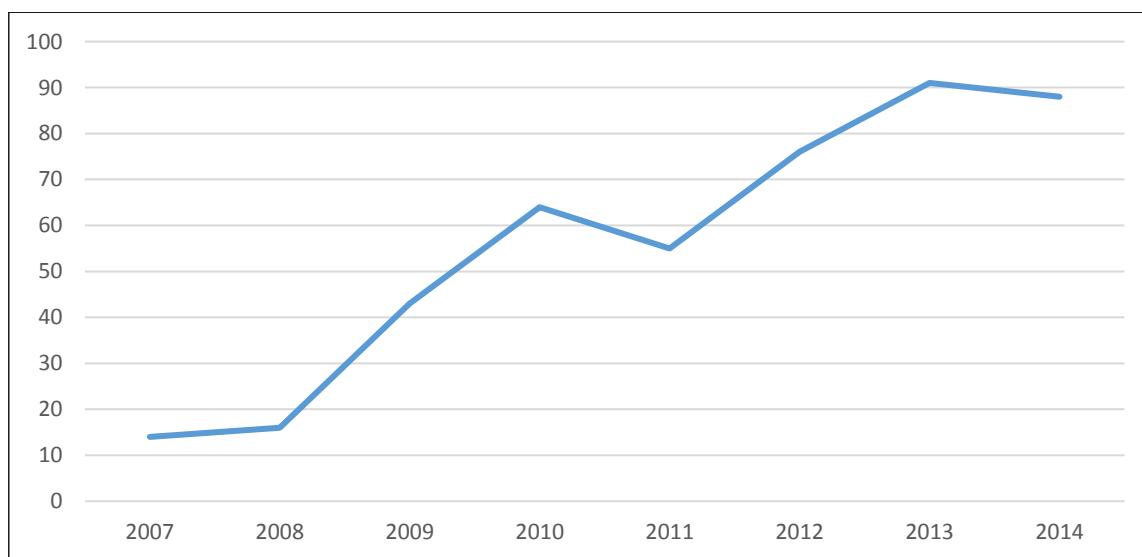


Source: DOE Planning Statistics

Repossessions

The number of repossessions completed in the Borough has increased from 14 to 88 between 2007 and 2014, with 91 in 2013 being the highest figure recorded in the last 8 years.

Figure 6.2.4 Repossessions



Source: Northern Ireland Court Service

6.2.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the plan

Without the Local Development Plan (LDP) in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

In the absence of a new plan there may be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There may 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.

6.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- In Antrim and Newtownabbey a changing demography has created a high demand within social housing for housing designed for small adult households and single elderly people.
- There is a requirement for 803 new social housing units between 2015 and 2020.
- Within the borough the greatest social housing need is concentrated in Antrim town, Glengormley and Crumlin.
- All new housing should aim to be life time homes that is, accessible and adaptable to all and meet modern standards including wheelchair accessibility.
- 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.

6.3 Education and Skills

6.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically and have better life chances.

Overarching policy recognises that the education and skills level 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 help create conditions for increased innovation, and competitiveness leading to an increase in 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 requires cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions.

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.

Local development plans 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 vision for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough up to 2030 is defined as 'a prosperous place inspired by our people driven by ambition'. The Corporate Plan sets out a number of objectives in relation to place, people and prosperity. Within those objectives there are a number which are relevant to education and skills.

6.3.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper *Local Development Plan 2030 Meeting the Needs of Society*.

Nursery schools and Childcare provision

There are 7 stand-alone nursery schools in the Borough, 10 nursery units within primary schools and 378 registered childcare providers operating in the Borough. There are no significant issues with under-filled spaces in this sector.

Primary Enrolment

Within the Borough there are a total of 53 primary schools with 12350 pupils enrolled.

Significant spare capacity exists within primary schools in the Borough through unfilled places. In 2014/15 a total of 25% of the total primary school places in the Borough were unfilled.

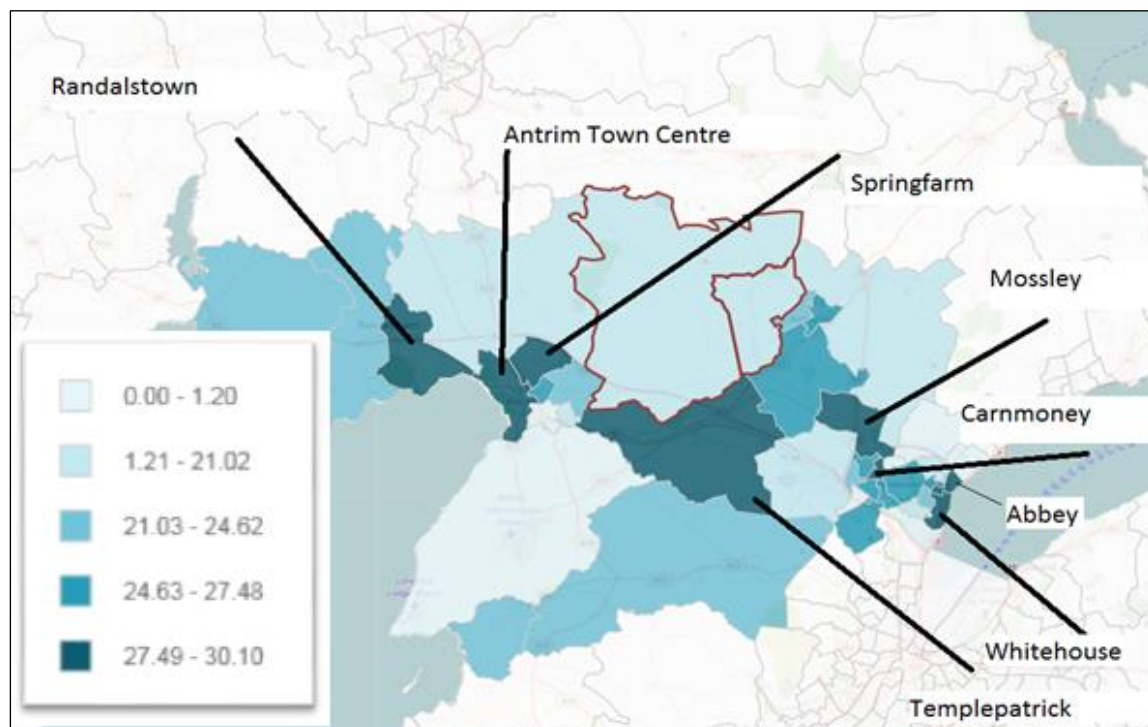
If these filled and unfilled spaces are attributes spatially by each District Electoral Area (DEA), Antrim DEA has the largest percentage of unfilled spaces, with 36% of total enrolment. Ballyclare DEA has the least amount of unfilled spaces, with 13% of total enrolment. The remainder of the DEAs exhibit similar levels of unfilled spaces.

The Primary Area Plan 2014-2018 (NEELB) noted that 16 of the 53 primary schools within the Borough were below the minimum enrolment threshold as detailed in the Sustainable Schools policy, which identifies stable enrolment trends as one of six key criteria. These schools are detailed in the ANBC paper *Local Development Plan 2030 Meeting the Needs of Society*.

When classroom sizes are considered at a ward level, those with the lowest class sizes are Mallusk with 6.0 primary pupils per class, Parkgate with 19.9. Shilvodan with 20.2, Doagh with 20.6 and Greystone with 20.4.

The following map shows the wards in the Borough with the highest classroom size, which are coloured dark blue and labelled. Abbey had the largest with an average size of 30.1 primary pupils per class and Mossley had 29.3, and Whitehouse 28.9.

Figure 6.3.1 Average class size in 2014 by ward



Source: NINIS 2016

Special Educational Needs

There are 5 special schools in the Borough with an enrolment of 465 pupils, which cater specifically for children with special educational needs. These are located at: Hill Croft School, Newtownabbey; Jordanstown School, Newtownabbey; Riverside School, Antrim; Rostulla School, Newtownabbey; and Thornfield School, Newtownabbey.

Many children with special educational needs are educated in mainstream schools. Within primary schools there are 250 statemented⁴ pupils and 2,505 pupils with

⁴ Pupils with a formal assessment of Special Educational Needs, i.e. pupils at stage 5 on the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

special educational needs in groups 1 to 4⁵ and within post primary schools 290 statemented pupils and 1,715 pupils with special educational needs in groups 1 to 4.

Secondary Enrolment

Information collected through the annual school census indicates that in 2015, 10,415 secondary school children were resident in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough.

Of these 10,415 secondary school children, 2,110 were classed as having a free school meal entitlement. This represents almost 20% of the secondary school population.

In addition we know that of this population, almost 18% are pupils classed as having Special Educational Needs at stage 1-4, and almost 3% have been formally statemented by the Education Authority.

Table 6.3.1 Number of Secondary School Children Residing in the Borough

Pupils	Free School Meal Entitlement	Statemented Pupils	Pupils at SEN stage 1 - 4
10,415	2,110	295	1,835

There are 11 post-primary schools in the Borough with 7196 pupils enrolled in the 2014-15 academic year, and 1695 unfilled spaces. This represents a 19% unfilled rate in the Borough's post-primary schools.

At the same time Ballyclare High School and Ballyclare Secondary School are two post-primary schools which are operating with pupil numbers in excess of the approved enrolment.

It is also apparent that there is a significant out-migration of secondary school pupils from their homes to attend school, as there are 10,415 secondary pupils living in the Borough, and 7196 pupils studying in the Borough. The difference between these two figures is 3219, although there may be pupils from other Council areas which also travel in to study.

Further and Higher Education

The Northern Regional College has one campus in the Borough at Shore Road, Newtownabbey, providing courses for 3,400 students. It provides a range of Further Education courses for all ages post 16 in full time and part time capacity.

The Borough has the University of Ulster Campus at Jordanstown, with a full and part-time enrolment of 13,073 students in the 2014-15 academic year. It is anticipated that the enrolment at the Jordanstown campus will fall significantly with the opening of the new Belfast Campus, and subsequent relocation of courses which is due by mid-2018.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise has a 200ha campus at Greenmount just to the south of Antrim which provides for a range of further and higher education courses in the agricultural, horticultural and environmental fields.

⁵ Pupils deemed to be in stages 1 – 4 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

The facilities at Greenmount include a state of the art dairy unit incorporating the latest technologies.

Life-long learning

In the 2014/15 academic year, there were 115 higher education and 132 further education enrolments for people aged 60+ years living in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Educational Attainment

On Census Day 27th March 2011. Considering the population aged 16 years old and over:

23.86 % has a degree or higher qualification;

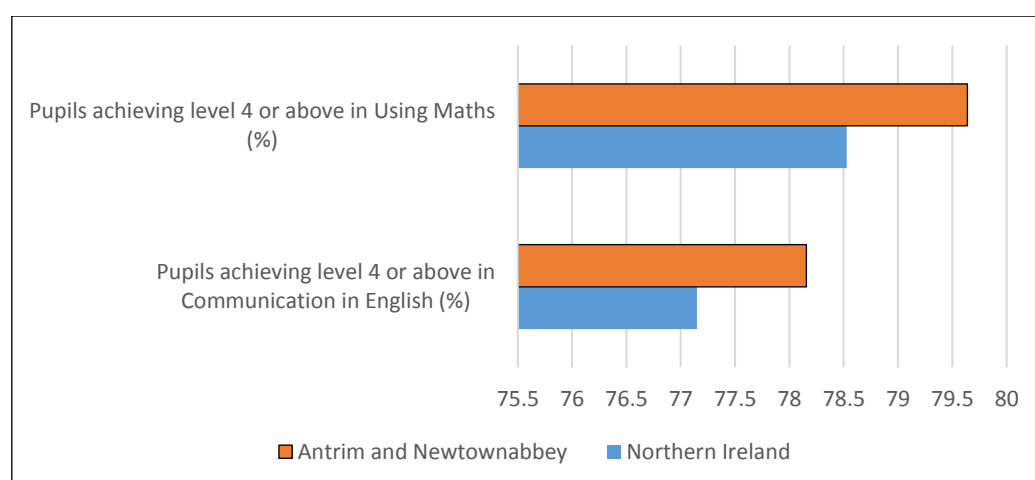
38.52% had no or low level 1 qualifications (Level 1 is 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSE or equivalent)

Primary School Attainment

In the Borough in 2012/13, 78.2% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in Communication in English (%) at Key Stage 2, compared to a Northern Ireland average of 77.1%.

In the Borough 79.6% achieved level 4 or above in Using Maths at Key Stage 2, while the Northern Ireland average was 78.5 %.

Figure 6.3.2 Educational Attainment Key Stage 2



Source: NINIS 2016

Secondary Attainment

In the Borough in 2014/15, 66.8% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE's at A*-C (or equivalent) including Maths and English which is slightly higher than the average for Northern Ireland of 66.0%. At A level the level of achievement for two A levels (or equivalent) is slightly lower than the Northern Ireland average, with 55.2 % compared to 57.7%.

Whilst the Borough has achieved above the Northern Ireland average for GCSE attainment, when this result is considered spatially, there is a significant variation in success across the District Electoral Areas (DEAs). For example if we consider the percentage of school leavers who have achieved at least 5 GCSE's grades A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths in the 2014-2015 year, it shows that attainment ranges between 48.1% and 74.1% across the DEAs.

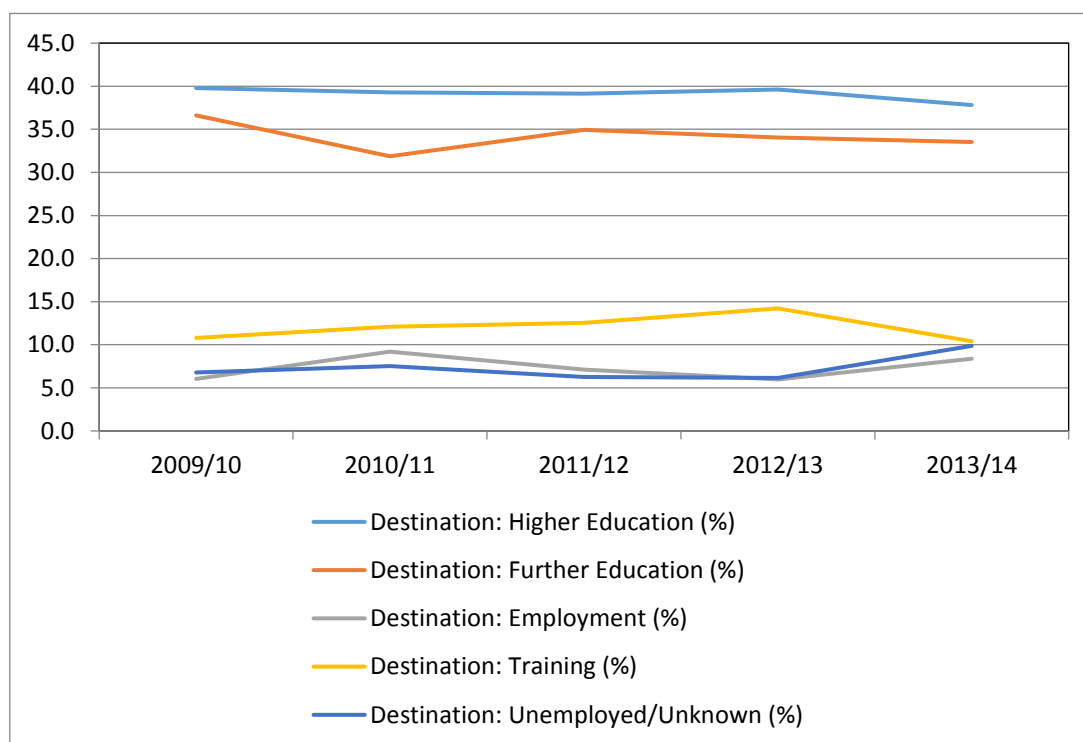
Destination of School Leavers

The graph below shows the trend data between 2009 and 2014 for destination of pupils leaving post-primary school.

Although the highest destination, Higher Education has slightly fallen since 2012-13 and fell to 37.8 % in 2013/14.

Further Education has maintained a high position, with 33.5 % of school leavers following this route in 2013/14. Training also fell from 2012-13, to 10.4%, while unemployment rose to 9.9% in the same period.

Figure 6.3.3 School Leavers Destination



Source: NINIS 2016

Higher Education Attainment

In 2013/14, 965 students gained Higher Education qualifications through full-time study, while 310 gained HE qualifications through part-time study.

285 postgraduate Higher Education qualifications were gained in the Borough in 2013/14, while in the same period, 985 undergraduate qualifications were gained.

Between 2012/13 and 2013/14, relating to HE qualifications obtained within the Borough, there was a:

- 6% decrease in medicine, dentistry, subjects allied to medicine
- 3% decrease in biological, veterinary, agricultural and physical sciences
- 15% increase in maths, computing, engineering and technology
- 9% decrease in social studies and law
- 20% decrease in business, administration, mass communication and documentation

Essential skills enrolment

In 2014/15 for the Borough, there were 2,654 enrolments on Essential Skills courses. In total, there were 40,589 enrolments in Northern Ireland.

6.3.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

Baseline trends relevant to education and skills provision that may continue in the absence of a new Local Development Plan include:

- Less opportunity to positively rebalance settlement with schools provision.

6.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- There is an imbalance in class sizes and enrolment levels across the Borough.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey shows a high level of educational achievement, but this is not consistent across all parts of the Borough.

6.4 Community

6.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

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 and, for example health initiatives, which are likely to have an influence on births, deaths and net migration. Consistent requirements of policies related to the various demographic groups are the need incorporate equality of treatment and opportunity.

Delivering Social Change seek 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.

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPPS '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.

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 Borough contributes to a united community through its Good Relations programme. This commits to build a community where children and young people can play a full and active role in building good relations; create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone; and to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

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 makes the following commitments: Our communities will have access to high quality Council services and facilities. The support we provide will lead to a more active, healthy and empowered community. Communities and agencies work together to plan and deliver better services, address disadvantage and improve the quality of life for everyone. Our community is inclusive and supportive and encourages a culture of tolerance, diversity and respect. We communicate clearly with our residents, listen to their feedback and respond to their needs.

6.4.2 Baseline information

The following summary of baseline data is primarily informed by the Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper January 2017 (MNS). Where reference is to data presented in the Evidence Paper this is indicated by MNS with the relevant paragraph or table.

This section also refers to the 2011 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 (2008 and 2005). What the baseline data tells us about population change is summarised here however, the impact on housing is considered in more detail in Section 6.2 of this scoping report.

Population and Age

Trends in population show the age structure changing and models indicate that this will continue. The trend in population growth will continue although a lower rate than for Northern Ireland as a whole. From 2015 to 2030 the population aged 65 plus is expected to increase by 42.1% (MSN Table 2.32). Within this grouping those 80 -84 are expected to increase by 63%, those aged 85 – 89 by 74% and those aged 90 plus by 88%. Population growth over all has been higher than average and some areas have seen very high levels of growth e.g. Mallusk_2 where the population has almost doubled since 2004. The population density (244persons/2km) is relatively high by Northern Ireland standards, which may mean greater pressure for development.

Religious belief

This is presented in MNS Table 2.17 which shows that at 2011, 61.15 identified as Protestant and Other Christian, 29.74% as Catholic, 8.08% as none, and 1.09% as Other Religions. The proportion of Catholics was much lower than the Northern Ireland level and all other groups were significantly higher. MSN Table 2.18 shows that District Electoral Areas vary from some such as Ballyclare which have over 90% identifying as Protestant to several where there was a much more equal representation of the two main religions. Threemilewater is notable for more than 10% stating 'None' and for the highest proportion of other at 1.53%. Trend data are not available. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey reported that 7% perceived those from a different religion in an unfavourable light.

Political opinion

This is presented in MNS Table 2.20. While Unionists secured 63% of votes overall there are some District Electoral Areas with proportions of Unionist and Nationalist voters which are relatively even, particularly for Dunsilly whereas some had less than 25% Nationalist voters with none in Ballyclare and Threemilewater.

Racial group

MNS Table 2.10 presents 2011 data on ethnicity and 2.11 on country of birth. This shows that the non-white population of 2.1% is higher than the Northern Ireland level of 1.7% and the South Asian, Chinese and Other Asian groups have significantly higher representation than elsewhere in Northern Ireland. The 2011 Census recorded 27 Irish Travellers in the Council area. The Borough has slightly fewer (10%) of its population born outside the Borough. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey found that although attitudes towards the different groups were generally positive, negative

attitudes existed towards Travellers (30% of those surveyed) and Eastern European migrant workers (21%).

Marital status

MNS Table 2.14 presents 2011 data on marital status. This shows that the Borough had lower numbers of single people (33.11%) corresponding with slightly higher numbers of married people (54.71%) compared to the Northern Ireland average.

Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at the Borough 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 2011 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons (22%) and although negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 15% in 2011, the change was to neutral rather than positive views.

Men and women

MNS Table 2.9 presents the gender structure for the Borough, which shows a slightly higher number of females (51.5%) compared with Northern Ireland as a whole (51%). The health data shows that male life expectancy is slightly higher than the Northern Ireland average and female life expectancy is slightly lower.

Persons with a disability and persons without

Sections 2.42 to 2.48 reports on data relating to disability for the Borough. Overall, the health of the area is improving but almost 1 in 5 residents (19.04%) in the Borough suffer from a long-term health problem or disability.

Persons with dependants and persons without

MNS Table 2.15 presents census data for households with dependent children which have decreased from 50.78% in 1981 to 34.66% in 2011. Households with children are predicted to peak around 2020/21 but drop further to 26.6% by 2030. More than half of households in the following Super Output Areas: Aldergrove 1, Jordanstown 2 and Crumlin 2, have dependent children whereas less than a quarter of households in Abbey 1, Whitehouse, Balloo, Carnmoney 2 and Ballyclare South 1 had dependent children.

Safety

Road traffic collisions have increased in the period 2013 to 2015 from 412 to 465.

Crime

The overall incidence of crime in the Borough has steadily declined from 2005 to 2015 and this is largely reflected in a decrease for homophobic, sectarian and racist crime but there has been a general increase in the reporting of domestic abuse. The incidence of crime in Northern Ireland against older people between 2009 and 2014 has been more consistent with an increase in violence against the person.

6.4.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied.

Population trends are largely influenced by 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. While the 2015 Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan is up to date, the plan for much of the Borough areas is 27 years old and was in preparation over thirty years ago. This means that it does not take account of changes in patterns of employment and lifestyle. Therefore in the absence of a new plan there is a risk that development will not reflect today's needs particularly in those areas outside the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) area.

In the absence of a plan, developments would not be strategically planned to meet the needs of a changing demography, therefore the needs of sections of the population, such as the growing proportion of older residents, might not be fully met. It would also be the case that diverse groups within the Borough, including some that had no representation when the Antrim Area Plan was prepared, might not be able to express their needs. There are many new strategies that can influence the plan, which would not be taken into account through strategic planning. There could be an unintentional bias to a section of the population if the most recent information on demography is not taken into account. It could also risk a perception that there is not an equality of treatment of the population.

6.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

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

- There will be a growing population, although this is at a slower rate than for Northern Ireland, and the plan will need to meet the needs of a changing population.
- A decline in household size will increase the number of homes required per capita.
- The proportion of households with children is predicted to fall from over a third to about a quarter by 2030 therefore housing and related facilities should be planned with this in mind.
- People may not need to change home so often and may 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 enable support to be provided.
- Older people have a higher rate of disability and as they will represent a growing proportion of the population the overall needs to accommodate disability will increase.
- Need to plan for and meet the needs of diverse groups, this may include allowing facilities to meet specific needs.
- Some parts of the Borough 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. This is especially the case for communities that may be perceived as polarised.
- The needs and experience of different parts of the Borough'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.

- Consider how to reduce the opportunity for crime, in particular that targeted at older people.

6.5 Economy and Employment

6.5.1 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.

In particular, policy recognises the priority in Northern Ireland to raise competitiveness through increased export, and identifying 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.

Within 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 vision for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough up to 2030 is defined as 'a prosperous place inspired by our people driven by ambition'. The Corporate Plan sets out a number of objectives in relation to place, people and prosperity. The objectives in relation to prosperity are as follows:

- We identify and support entrepreneurship, have a strong competitive business advantage and are a centre of excellence for leading edge companies.
- We have a world class infrastructure which attracts inward investment and supports productivity, exports and business growth.
- We stimulate business activity to sustain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities.
- We maximise tourism opportunities and have a strong arts and cultural community.

The Council's Draft Community Plan contains Outcome Statements which include: Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity - We need to sustain and support existing businesses in the Borough, providing choice and opportunity for citizens in services, recreational pursuits and employment. It is also important to establish new businesses and grow existing ones.

6.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper Local Development Plan 2030 *Facilitating Economic Growth*.

Economic Activity and Employment

Trends indicate increasing rates of economic activity rates and employment rates in the Borough, and a decreasing unemployment rate and claimant count rate. With an economic activity rate of 75.2%, the Borough currently ranks fifth when compared with other Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland. This identifies an improvement on the previous year, where the Borough ranked in sixth place with an economic activity rate of 74%.

According to the Labour Force Survey Local Area Database 2015 (LAD 2015), published by NISRA in June 2016, the rate of employment in the Borough (for those ages 16-64) was 70.7%, with an estimated 62,602 residents in either full or part time employment. The Borough ranks fifth when compared with other Local Government Districts in Northern Ireland.

Employee jobs in the Borough:

- Equity between males and females with regard to jobs – 50/50 distribution.
- Full-Time Positions – 64% male.
- Part-Time Positions – 76% female.
- Increasing male employment with regard to full-time and part-time posts.
- Female employment is increasing in general; however, whilst full-time posts are increasing, the number of females employed in a part-time capacity is declining.
- Declining employment in the public sector – 29.8% to 26.1% between 2013 and 2014.
- Just over half (51.5%) of the Borough's workforce in 2011 resided in other Council areas, whilst 54.3% of residents commuted to other Council areas throughout Northern Ireland.

Proportion of People in 'Good Jobs'

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by Local Government Districts is published for the Department for Economy. The 2016 (provisional) survey⁶ gave the value for Antrim and Newtownabbey of an average mean weekly pay of £466.9 compared to the figure for Northern Ireland which is £4612.5.

Key Sectors

The service sector is the most dominant sector in the Borough for employment, and has a high level of part time working, with 41% of positions being part time.

- Dominated by the tertiary (service) sector – historic trends indicate that this will continue to be the case throughout the Plan period.
- Over 80% of Antrim and Newtownabbey residents were employed in the service sector in 2011.
- Over 60% of VAT/PAYE registered businesses in the Borough in 2014 were based in the service sector.

The manufacturing sector in the Borough employs 6,407 people – 12% of the workforce (Census of Employment, 2013). Borough has the largest employment share for health and social work in Northern Ireland – 11,978 jobs (22%) of the workforce (Census of Employment, 2013).

The Northern Ireland Business Register and Employment Survey 2015⁷ states that between September 2011 and September 2015, the number of employee jobs increased by 2.8% from 54,387 to 55,937. Whilst all other employment sectors experienced an increase in the number of jobs, the construction sector observed a reduction in excess of 12% throughout the period.

⁶ [Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: 2016 \(provisional\) Local Government District by place of work: Department for the Economy 2016](#)

⁷ [Business Register and Employment Survey | Department for the Economy](#)

Throughout the period, the service sector was by far the largest in terms of employee jobs, accounting for almost 81% of all jobs in the Borough in 2015. Over 13% of employee jobs were attributed to the manufacturing sector, with a further 4.6% associated with construction. The majority of part-time employee jobs (97.2%) were in the service sector. Of all jobs in the service sector, approximately 43% were part-time positions.

The Northern Ireland Census 2011 indicates that, on Census day, approximately 52,000 residents of the Borough advised that they were currently in employment. Of these residents, over 45% were employed within the Borough, with the remainder commuting to other areas for work purposes. Of these, almost 37% (19,001) worked in Belfast, 7.9% (4,100) in Mid and East Antrim, and 4.7% (2,420) in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Furthermore, in the region of 49,060 people across Northern Ireland advised that they were in employment in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area. Whilst 48.5% (24,000) were already resident in the Borough, 17.2% commuted from Mid and East Antrim, 12.1% from Belfast, and 7% from Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Tourism

Antrim and Newtownabbey has an advantageous geographic location with neighbouring City of Belfast and a key transport gateway located within the Borough at Belfast International Airport.

The Borough has a significant tourism hub in Antrim Town comprising largely heritage-based attractions with smaller tourism hubs are focussed in and around Randalstown and at Newtownabbey; the latter provides a significant commercial leisure/activity tourism focus.

The tourism assets of Antrim and Newtownabbey amount to over 80 attractions comprising places to visit or things to do and over 60 places to stay. Activity-based tourism is significant in the Borough accounting for half of all visitor attractions.

Existing accommodation stock is of high quality and is improving year on year. However, the range of stock is limited to traditional forms of provision and there are currently no facilities coming from the emerging categories of glamping, eco-cabins and bunk houses. The Borough has no static caravan provision and touring caravan sites are at capacity.

Lough Neagh is a key tourism destination at a strategic level, however it lacks few tourism services or attractions beyond limited seasonal boat tours, water-sports at Antrim Lough Shore and the heritage site of Shanes Castle.

Many attractions and accommodation sites are developed on the strengths of their local context either by scenic value or through the quality of the natural environment. Tourism development must therefore be sustainable and protect what the tourist values.

The Borough has several highly successful and popular heritage sites including the Antrim Castle Grounds and Clotworthy House which attracted 357, 000 visitors in 2015 and Shane's Castle which attracts a steady 40, 000 visitors.

Commercial Leisure

The service sector is dominant in the Borough's commercial leisure provision, including restaurants, cafes and licensed premises.

Indoor sport or recreation facilities include the Borough's five existing leisure facilities at Valley Leisure Centre, Sixmile Leisure Centre, Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre, Antrim Forum and Crumlin Leisure Centre.

Retail

Existing retail provision in the Borough is distributed throughout the current settlement hierarchy, which consists of:

- 1 Primary Retail Core (Antrim)
- 4 Town Centres (Antrim, Ballyclare, Crumlin, Randalstown)
- 2 District Centres (Northcott and Abbey Centre)
- 1 Local Centre (Glengormley)
- Prominent out-of-centre retail locations include Junction One, and numerous retail parks in close proximity to Abbey Centre District Centre.

Role of Small Businesses

In terms of all businesses in the Borough, the evidence shows that micro and small business would appear to be the foundation of the local economy – accounting for almost 98% of all businesses in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Public Sector Employment

In terms of the split between public and private sector employment, between 2011 and 2015, the number of people employed in the public sector fell from 16,220 to 14,356 – a decline of 11.5%. As a result, the public sector now accounts for 26% of all employee jobs in the Borough, compared with 30% in 2011. The number of private sector jobs has grown from 38,167 in 2011 to 41,581 in 2015 – an increase of 8.9%.

Relationship with other Council areas

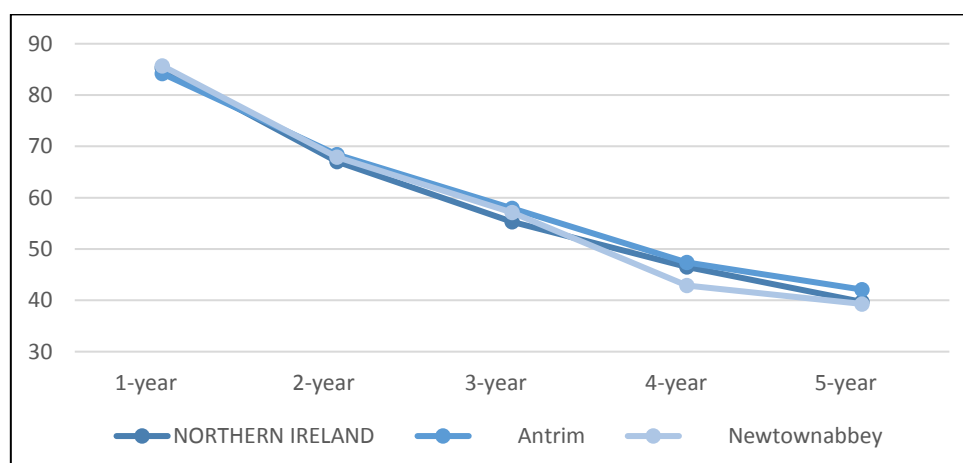
Evidence presented has identified relationships, in terms of the labour market, between Antrim and Newtownabbey and other neighbouring Council areas. The 2011 Census indicates whilst residents of the Borough were employed throughout Northern Ireland, with the exception of the Borough itself, the majority were based in Belfast City, Mid and East Antrim, and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Councils.

The reverse was also true, in that a significant number of residents from neighbouring Council areas travel to Antrim and Newtownabbey for work purposes. The evidence has shown that, on Census Day 2011, 49,060 people advised that they were in employment in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. Of these, 23,787 (48%) were residents of the Borough, whilst the remaining 52% (25,273) resided in other Councils in Northern Ireland.

Rate of start-up/death of business

The Office for National Statistics- Business Demography 2014 data contains figures for Enterprise birth deaths and survival 2009-2014. This gives a breakdown for the 2 legacy Councils, Antrim and Newtownabbey. This shows a level of survival for new enterprise is in line with the Northern Ireland average.

Figure 6.5.1 New Business Survival rates



Source: Office for National Statistics: Business demography 2014- Survival of newly born enterprises.

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in Northern Ireland to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are presented in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2013 Northern Ireland Results.

The results of the 2013 UKIS and revised results from the 2011 UKIS show that 40 per cent of Northern Ireland enterprises were innovation active in 2010-12. The equivalent UK figure was 45 per cent in 2010-12.

At 40 per cent, Northern Ireland was the least innovation active country in the UK whilst a comparison with the rest of Great Britain showed Northern Ireland had moved from second least innovation active in the 2011 UKIS to the least innovative in the 2013 UKIS.

Large enterprises with 250 or more employees were more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 48 per cent innovation active, as opposed to 40 per cent of SMEs. This pattern held at the UK level (50 per cent among large enterprises compared to 45 per cent among SMEs).

Improving the quality of goods or services was the main factor driving innovation in Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole.

Competitiveness

There is no data currently at Borough level on level of competitiveness.

Total external sales by companies in Northern Ireland were estimated to be worth £22.5 billion in 2014, representing an increase of 2.1% (£458 million) over the year. This figure exceeds the previously recorded peak in 2013.

(£22.0 billion), and external sales and are therefore at their highest over the time series presented.

This £22.5 billion represents just over a third (34.1%) of all sales by companies in Northern Ireland in 2014 (£65.8 billion).

Place making for sustainable economic growth

Vacancy rates

The National Retail Barometer⁸, published by Colliers International gives the picture for the UK. The recent release, gives figures suggesting that despite small and significant increases in rental values, vacancy rates remain high with an average rate of 14.7 % recorded for Autumn 2015.

Within Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Retail Update 2015 advises that although there have been reductions overall, out of town and prime town centre locations vacancy was at a level of 14.6%. Secondary retailing locations have seen an increase in vacancy level from 18.8 % in 2014 to 22.67% in 2015.

Vitality and vibrancy

Vitality and vibrancy of urban and rural settlement centres is recognised as a key aspect of creating the conditions to attract investment, tourism and to improve the quality of life for residents. The evidence above identifies a need to increase the number of working age people living and working in the Borough, and the vitality and vibrancy of settlements could be a future 'pull' factor to those choosing to live, work or invest in the Borough.

6.5.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

Baseline trends relevant to economy and employment that may continue in the absence of a new Local Development Plan include:

- The working age population will continue to shrink making it harder for the Borough to provide a working population to drive economic growth.
- The imbalance of land zoned for employment and industry use will continue, with Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Ballyclare having a current remaining allocation of approximately 134 hectares, and Antrim and Randalstown with 9.5 hectares.
- High vacancy rates would continue particularly in Antrim Town Centre, with the Castle Mall particularly high.

6.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land is a vital part of creating the conditions to sustain economic development that meets employment needs.
- A cornerstone of the private sector in the Borough is micro-businesses, those employing less than nine staff. There is potential to encourage these sector to develop and innovate.
- The Borough has a strong service employment base.
- Opportunity to enhance the number of people coming into the Borough to work.
- Need to ensure that the Borough is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of the wider area and

⁸ [National Retail Barometer: Colliers International Autumn 2015](#)

facilitating a high quality local environment through appropriate land use, design and layout. This relates particularly to quality of provision, location, and accessibility.

- Ensuring support for our centres to ensure vibrancy and vitality is sustained and improved.
- Belfast International Airport is located within the Borough and is defined by the Regional Development Strategy as a Regional Gateway.

6.6 Transport and Accessibility

6.6.1 Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Overarching policy recognises that a high level of connectivity is required to meet the needs of people and the services and economy that support them. Regional policy aims to deliver 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.

Strategic Planning Policy Guidance requires that the Local Development Plan promotes sustainable patterns of development which reduce the need for motorised transport, encourage active travel and facilitates public transport. This needs to be accomplished while considering the needs of the disabled and others whose mobility is impaired.

The ideal situation is a balanced approach to transport infrastructure which allows businesses to be competitive in the global market, but which does not negatively affect communities and the provision of healthy living environments, including social inclusion.

The vision for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough up to 2030 is defined as 'a prosperous place inspired by our people driven by ambition'. The Corporate Plan sets out a number of objectives in relation to place, people and prosperity. Within those objectives there are a number which are relevant to transport and accessibility:

- We will have a world class infrastructure which attracts onward investment and supports productivity, exports and business growth.
- A place where people feel safe.

The Council's Draft Community Plan contains Outcome Statements which include:

Our citizens live in connected, safe and vibrant places. It is important that our communities are well connected, with a good transport infrastructure and pathways. Social connections are equally important as is having compassionate and close knit neighbourhoods.

6.6.2 Baseline evidence

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper *Local Development Plan 2030 Meeting the Needs of Society*.

The evidence base has highlighted that there continues to be a high reliance on use of private transport in Northern Ireland and within the Borough. The evidence also shows that car ownership is higher in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK. The Borough has a higher rate of one or more cars than the rest of Northern Ireland. There is also a high level of vehicles using fossil fuels with 1% using other types of fuel. Road freight within Northern Ireland has decreased since 2012. In terms of freight moving outside Northern Ireland, waste, mail and packaging account for the largest commodity being carried. Freight handled by air transport has decreased.

The increasing use of reliance on the car has consequences for our social and natural environment in terms of noise, air and pollution. It can also have an impact on health in terms of sedentary lifestyles.

Travel Statistics

The main modes of travel are by private car, public transport, walking and cycling. According to the DRD/NISRA Travel Survey of Northern Ireland (TSNI) 2012 – 2014, travelling by car accounted for 72% of all journeys, and 81% of the total distance travelled. Public transport constituted 5% of all journeys, and 8% of the total distance travelled.

The TSNI reports that of those people who travel to work or place of study by private car, 62% advised that their main reason for choosing this mode of transport was due to the opinion that the journey would not be possible by public transport. This underlines the likelihood that therefore likely that public transport is likely to be an important service for residents in the Borough.

Furthermore, the Census also shows that of the 60,988 residents in employment in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough, 74.9% travelled to work by car or van. This includes those driving (59.9%), travelling as a passenger (5.4%), and as part of a car pool (9.6%).

Vehicle Ownership

In the Borough, in 2014/15, 82% of respondents had access to one or more cars compared to a Northern Ireland average of 78%.

Road Network

In total there are 1,357.1 miles of roads in Northern Ireland. In 2014/15 Antrim and Newtownabbey had:

- 35.3 miles of motorway
- 14 miles of A Road Dual Carriageway
- 111.5 of Single Carriage way
- 150.3 miles of B roads
- 239.2 miles of C Roads
- 806.9 miles of unclassified roads.

Road Freight

During 2013, 49.4 million tonnes of freight were lifted within Northern Ireland and transported by road by heavy goods vehicles, a decrease of 16% from 2012.

Products of agriculture, forestry and raw materials were the greatest single commodity transported within Northern Ireland and accounted for 14.8 million tonnes, 30% of all tonnes moved. 'Other products' (e.g. waste, mail and packaging) accounted for 12.4 million tonnes (25%) and metal, mineral and chemical materials accounted for 10.7 million tonnes (22%).

During 2013, 5.2 million tonnes of freight were transported on international outward journeys from Northern Ireland/ Great Britain by Northern Ireland registered hauliers. Of these, the single largest commodity was 'other products' (e.g. waste, mail and packaging) accounting for 1.6 million tonnes (30%). In 2013, 2.7 million tonnes were carried on international inward journeys to Northern Ireland/ Great Britain by Northern Ireland registered heavy goods vehicles. 'Other products' was the largest commodity category, accounting for 0.8 million tonnes (30%).

30,565 tonnes of freight were handled at Northern Ireland airports in 2014, an increase of 3% from 2013 (29,814 tonnes). The greatest amount of freight is exported from Belfast International Airport with a total of 30,073 tonnes in 2014. However, this represents a decrease of over 8000 tonnes when compared to the 2006 figure of 38,417.

Public Transport

Within Northern Ireland, during 2014-15, there were 40.3 million passenger journeys on Ulsterbus, around the same as 2013-14 (40.5 million) and a 1% decrease from 2010-11 (40.8 million). For Metro services, 26.3 million passenger journeys were taken in 2014-15, similar to 2013-14 (26.4 million) and a 2% increase from 2010-11 (25.8 million).

The vast majority of public transport services in the Borough are provided by Translink through its Metro, Ulsterbus and Northern Ireland Railways services.

The 2011 Census shows that 7.31% of the Borough's population (aged between 16 and 74) travelled to their place of work by public transport (bus/rail). When student numbers (and their mode of travel to place of study) are included, public transport patronage in the Borough increases to 13.62%. This compares favourably with the Northern Ireland average for public transport usage (13.54%). However, it also ties in to previously identified trends relating to the dominance of the private car as a mode of transport.

With regard to rail-based public transport, Northern Ireland Railways operates an hourly service via Mossley West and Antrim that connects the Borough to Belfast, Ballymena, Coleraine and Londonderry. Half-hourly Carrickfergus, Whitehead and Larne services connect the Borough to Belfast via Whiteabbey.

There are a number of Park and Ride car parks (P&R) in the Borough. These facilities are purpose built car parks conveniently located on the transportation network which are serviced by public transport, providing easy access to nearby towns and cities. They present an opportunity to choose a means of transport where at least part of the trip can be completed without using the private car, which assists in reducing congestion in town and city centres and Jordanstown.

Air Transport

There were 73,384 air transport movements (landings and take offs) during 2014, a decrease of 4% from the 2013 figure of 76,472. Between 2013 and 2014, air transport movements at Belfast International airport decreased by 5%. During 2014, 6.94 million terminal passengers passed through Northern Ireland airports, very similar to the 2013 figure (6.95 million). Between 2013 and 2014 the number of passengers travelling on scheduled flights increased by 1% (6.58 million in 2013, 6.65 million in 2014) and passenger numbers on chartered flights decreased by 21% from 0.37 million to 0.29 million.

In 2014, Belfast International Airport was the 12th busiest commercial airport in the UK with 4.0 million terminal passengers. This accounted for 2% of all UK terminal passengers. In the 5 years between 2009 and 2014, Belfast International airport saw a decrease of 11% in the number of terminal passengers while George Best Belfast City airport saw a decrease of 3%.

Active Travel

'Active Travel' means using walking and cycling as an alternative to motorised transport for the purpose of making every day journeys.

Walking and cycling are facilitated by a variety of means, ranging from existing road and pavement based infrastructure, to formal cycle paths and community greenways. Further details of community greenways in the Borough are provided in the separate paper entitled, 'Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation'.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 identified three community greenways in the Borough. Whilst the intention of community greenways is to create a network of

corridors of urban open space through the linkage of parks and other natural areas, these routes can be used by pedestrians and cyclists for the purposes of transportation. The Borough's three community greenways are:

- MNY 48/01 – Monkstown to Cavehill;
- MNY 48/02 – Loughshore to Belfast; and
- MNY 48/03 – Valley Park to Carrickfergus Escarpment.

With specific regard to cycling, the National Cycle Network (NCN) traverses the Borough. The NCN is a series of safe, traffic-free paths and quiet on-road cycling and walking routes which form a transportation link between most towns and cities. Given the distances covered by the National Cycle Network these routes are more likely to be used for recreation purposes rather than for transportation. However, the routes possess the potential for use as a means of bicycle-based travel between towns in the Borough and from Metropolitan Newtownabbey to Belfast city centre.

The NCN Route 93 runs from Londonderry to Bangor via Belfast. In the Borough, it connects from the A8 Belfast to Larne Road, through Mossley to Whiteabbey (via the Newtownabbey Way) and southward into Belfast. Aside from the Antrim Coast Road and the Causeway Coast, it enables access via connecting routes to Ballymena, Lisburn, Newtownards and Downpatrick.

The NCN Route 94, referred to as the Loughshore Trail, is a 182km circuit around Lough Neagh which travels through or near to Crumlin, Antrim, Randalstown and Toome. It forms a direct connection to Portadown and Craigavon, and allows onward travel via other NCN Routes to other towns and cities such as Londonderry, Cookstown, Coleraine, and Newry.

The NCN Route 96, known as the Lower Bann Route, links Toome with Coleraine, along mainly flat traffic free sections.

Method of Travel to Work

When comparing data for the 2011 Census for DEAs within the Borough, Airport DEA had the highest proportion of people working or studying mainly at home, while Antrim had the highest proportion travelling by taxi, bicycle and foot. Ballyclare DEA had the highest proportion of people travelling by car or van, both as a driver and passenger, while Dunsilly had the lowest proportion travelling by bike or foot. Glengormley had the highest use of public transport, and also highest use of bus, minibus or coach. Macedon had the lowest proportion driving themselves or in a car pool. Threemilewater had the largest proportion of people travelling by train.

Transport and Disability

In 2014-15, 307,110 SmartPasses were held by eligible people in Northern Ireland, an increase of 3% from 2013-14 (297,662 SmartPasses) and an increase of 4% from 2010-11 (294,603 SmartPasses). Of these, 95% were held by older people and 5% by people with a disability.

In 2014-15, 291,636 SmartPasses were held by older people (60+ SmartPass and Senior SmartPass). Comparing this to the 2014 mid-year population estimate of those persons aged 60 and over, there was an approximately 77% uptake of these SmartPasses.

In 2014-15, all (100%) buses used as Public Service Vehicles in Northern Ireland had low floor access or were disability accessible. This is the same as in 2013-14 (100%) and an increase of 9 percentage points from 2010-2011 (91%). In 2011-2013, 18% of

persons aged 16 and over, who were surveyed, reported having a mobility difficulty. On average those with a mobility difficulty made 597 journeys per year in 2011-2013, 40% less than those without a mobility difficulty (989 journeys per year)

The majority of journeys were made by car for both those with a mobility difficulty and those without a mobility difficulty in 2011-2013. However, car journeys accounted for a higher proportion of the journeys made by those with a mobility difficulty (80% of all journeys made) than those without a mobility difficulty (72% of all journeys made). Walks accounted for 9% of all journeys for those with a mobility difficulty, lower than the proportion of walking journeys made by those without a mobility difficulty (17%).

The largest proportion of journeys made by those with a mobility difficulty was for shopping (31%), higher than the proportion of shopping journeys made by those without a mobility difficulty (20%). The largest proportion of journeys made by those without a mobility difficulty was for leisure or other purposes (27%), around the same proportion of leisure/ other journeys made by those with a mobility difficulty (25%).

6.6.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

Baseline trends relevant to transport and accessibility that may continue in the absence of a new Local Development Plan include:

People living in the Borough are heavily reliant on the use of the private car. This is due to the distance they need to travel for services and facilities and poor availability and frequency of public transport. Without changes in spatial policy this trend could continue with the associated adverse impacts.

During the development of as Antrim as a New Town, more emphasis could have been placed on including cycle paths to link housing areas to the town centre. A new Local Development Plan can provide an opportunity to consider ways to increase connectivity within the Borough.

6.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- The Borough benefits from strong transport links, and occupies a strategic position on and connecting to Belfast Metropolitan Area's transport network.
- Belfast International Airport occupies a key strategic location within the Borough, with easy access by a range of modes.
- People living in the Borough are heavily reliant on the use of the private car and spatial policy has a role to play in addressing this issue to reduce the need to travel and promote a change to more sustainable transport choices.
- The heavy reliance on the car brings significant negatives to the Borough, such as increased congestion, air and noise pollution, loss of amenity and community severance. Cumulatively these can form a barrier to walking and cycling.
- One fifth of the residents of the Borough do not own a car, highlighting the importance of public transport provision and a need to move towards walking and cycling.

- Spatial policy must also consider the needs of rural people and ensure they have access to connectivity, with move away from car reliance for all journeys.
- Protect land identified as potential routes for greenways.
- Where possible plan new development to connect with greenways.

6.7 Material Assets

6.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Material assets refers to electrical infrastructure, telecommunications, waste management, derelict and contaminated land, and renewable energy. Overarching regional planning and strategic policy strives for the sustainable development of land to help ensure the integration of material assets. Planning policy at the subject level also recommends sustainable development and consideration of adjacent or simultaneous land uses and the environmental impacts.

The Northern Ireland Land Strategy and Arc21 Waste Management Plan are both relevant to material assets as is the Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) 2015 and the Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) 2010. Again, the overriding aim of these plans is sustainable land management and development. Reuse of land and waste is favoured; reductions in all waste supported; and significant increases in renewables to the energy mix encouraged. There is even an element of considering material assets cumulatively, as energy can be derived from waste that is treated on derelict or contaminated land. Applying a strategic approach to the sustainable use of land for material assets is recommended.

Antrim and Newtownabbey's Corporate Vision embeds the principles of sustainable development. It aspires to provide a world-class infrastructure that attracts inward investment and supports productivity, stimulates business activity to sustain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities. Fundamental to these aspirations are provision of adequate material assets.

6.7.2 Baseline Evidence

Detailed baseline information for material assets in the Borough is in the Local Development Plan discussion papers.

Electrical Infrastructure

A current map of existing electrical transmission infrastructure and connected sources of power generation can be accessed [here](#). This shows the transmission network but also the energy mix of fossil fuels and renewables at any time. It is important to consider additional small-scale grid connections within the context of the transmission network.

Telecommunications

The telecommunications sector in Northern Ireland is well developed with over 70 operators and 100% broadband coverage (Invest NI). Urban areas are mostly better performing than rural areas. Most of the Borough is covered for mobile coverage under 3 networks but there are areas where signal is unreliable, both outdoor and indoor.

Waste

Waste produced per household in the Borough and sent to landfill was reported as reducing in 2014/2015 due to increased recycling and composting rates, and energy recovery. Statistics (DAERA) show for the first quarter of 2016 that compared to other councils in Northern Ireland, the Council had one of the highest recycling rates at 44.2% and the highest composting rate at 19%. This is in spite of the legacy Antrim Borough Council previously producing the highest rate of household waste in 2014/15. More plastics are now accepted in the existing dry recyclables bin and the Council is on target with its recycling and landfill targets. Adequate waste

infrastructure already exists for the plan period. The Borough has Northern Ireland's only clinical waste plant at Antrim Area Hospital.

Renewables

Northern Ireland has been driving integration of renewables to the energy mix for several years. This action has been influenced by an ambitious government target (DETI) to meet 40% of electricity consumption from renewables by 2020.

Several renewable projects have been approved across the south of the Borough. These are mostly solar but also some hydroelectric and heat pumps. Single turbines have been approved in fairly large numbers to the east and north of the Borough, away from the International Airport. Six anaerobic digestion plants have been approved in the Borough since 2011. Planning approvals for renewables show a mixture of technologies distributed in the Borough based on the most appropriate locations for that particular technology.

The Borough has to continue to give due consideration to key services such as the International Airport when considering renewable proposals. It may also be useful to refer to the Climate Change section of this report.

6.7.3 Likely Evolution of the 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 and best practice be applied to any decisions.

There may be an increased risk of missing opportunities to sustainably integrate new electrical infrastructure and telecommunications based on the most appropriate location.

There may be less opportunity to sustainably approach development of renewables.

There may be less opportunity to use land use planning to sustainably integrate a variety of appropriate waste management facilities for services and communities across the Borough based on the proximity principle.

There may be less opportunity to sustainably develop derelict or contaminated land for an appropriate use.

6.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- There is a need to sustainably approach land management and futureproof land for the electrical transmission and distribution networks.
- There is a need to move away from landfill as a waste disposal method and adopt a variety of alternative waste management techniques that encourage reducing waste production and increasing reuse of materials, recycling and composting.
- The Borough provides the only treatment for clinical waste in Northern Ireland.
- There may be an increased pressure on the Borough to take waste from other areas that lack adequate waste treatment facilities.
- There is a need to prepare for future changes in the waste stream driven by legislation or policy i.e. food waste and anaerobic digestion plants.
- There may be a need to raise awareness about household waste production to help further reduce waste generated in the Borough.

- Measures to promote the rate of recycling should be incorporated in new development.
- Derelict/contaminated land should be used where compatible with the plan and sustainability objectives, and its use does not cause pollution.
- There is a need to continue to support integration of renewables to the energy mix in the most appropriate locations.

6.8 Physical Resources

Physical resources includes earth science, minerals, land, soil and geothermal energy. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life in the developed world and are mostly finite in their supply. This means that they will eventually run out.

Some physical resources also have a carrying capacity beyond which contamination from pollution is certain. Resources such as soil can become so contaminated that they can no longer adequately function.

Our use of physical resources is therefore a clear indicator of how sustainable our society is.

6.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

The sustainable management of our physical resources is recommended in our regional, strategic and subject planning policy. Safeguarding 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 aim of current government policy and programmes is sustainable development and sustainable land management, as this will underpin sustainable economic growth and a sustainable energy supply that is supported by a high quality environment and socially cohesive communities. Current policy strives to ensure that physical resources are safeguarded for the future and that sufficient local supplies are available.

Antrim and Newtownabbey's Corporate Vision embeds the principles of sustainable development. It aspires to provide a place where natural habitats are protected and enhanced, through an efficient planning process that promotes positive development and provides a world-class infrastructure that attracts inward investment and supports productivity. Fundamental to these aspirations are provision of adequate physical resources.

6.8.2 Baseline Evidence

Detailed baseline evidence for the Borough's physical resources is presented in the Local Development Plan discussion papers.

Earth science

There are four earth science Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) located within the Borough. These sites are recognised either entirely for their earth science value or in part for their geological interest. These include Tardree Quarry, Sandy Braes, Ballypalady and Aghnadarragh. The Outer Belfast ASSI also has an earth science value and is located near to but not within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

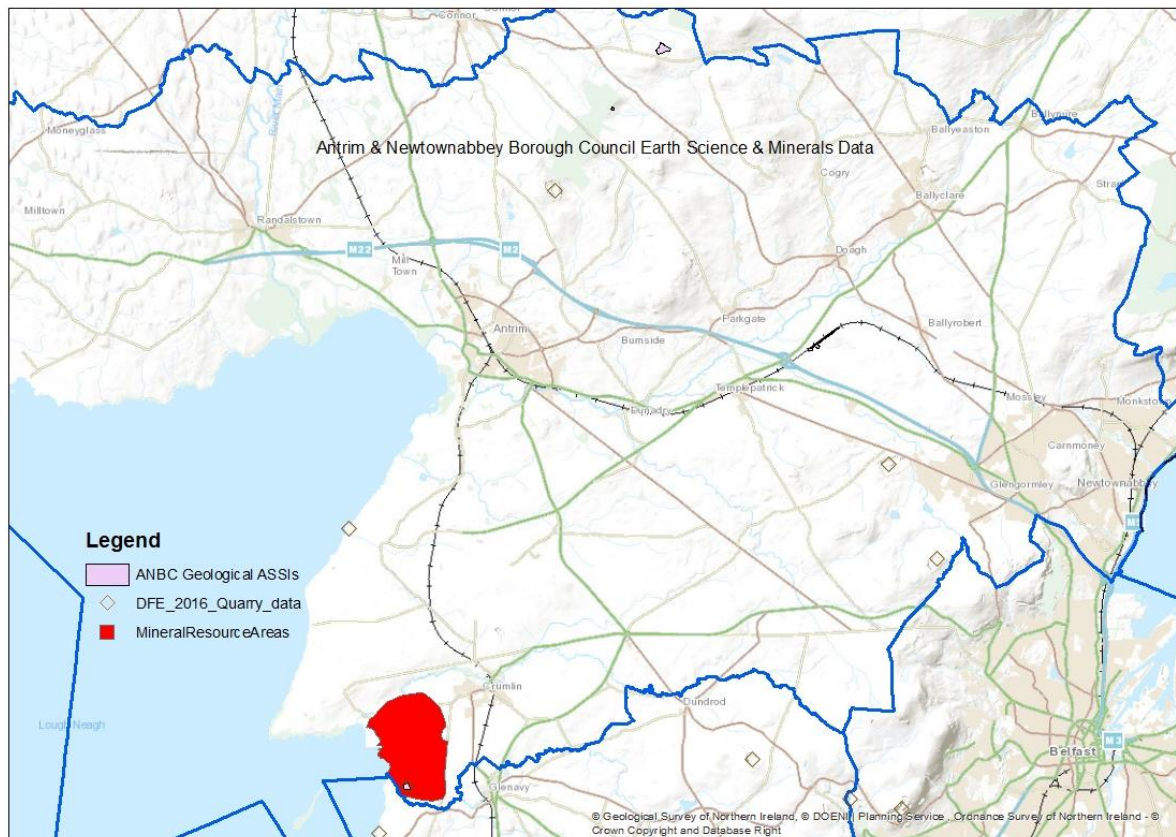
Minerals

There are currently three active quarries in the Borough; two basalt and a third for sand and gravel. A strategic lignite resource is located in the south west surrounding the Aghnadarragh ASSI.

The underlying geology contains a wide range of mineral resources. These include perlite, clay, sand and gravel, lignite, igneous/meta-igneous rocks (suitable for

crushed rock aggregates), peat, aluminium and iron. There is also potential reserves of oil, gas and shale gas within the Lough Neagh basin.

Figure 6.8.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Earth Science and Minerals Activity



A detailed Minerals Resource Map for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, with information on mineral prospecting licences, peat distribution, oil, gas and geothermal energy can be viewed [here](#).

Geothermal Energy

The Lough Neagh basin has been identified as a 'moderately productive' geothermal aquifer in Northern Ireland. It has the potential to provide geothermal energy as a source of heating and electricity.

Geothermal energy is undeveloped in this country but it could become a valid part of the future energy mix if the right infrastructure is put in place. Consideration of its installation and integration is required at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure.

Currently wind is the dominant source of renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland (Energy in Northern Ireland 2016, DETI) but the supply is intermittent. A diverse mix of renewables will be required for the UK to meet its 2050 target under the UK Climate Change Act. Technological development is recognised as a requirement to help move toward a low carbon future. This is evident in plans like the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan.

Land

Agriculture and forestry are major contributors to the Northern Irish Economy with 82% of land used for agriculture and forestry (DARD Rural Development Programme 2014-2020). According to the 2015 Agricultural Census, agricultural land alone accounted for 76% of Northern Ireland's total land area.

In the Borough, there are 890 farms, with cattle, sheep and dairy ranked as the top three types of farm. Over half are classified as either very small or small. The Borough accounts for a small proportion of farms in Northern Ireland but this still makes an important contribution to rural employment and rural life. There was a small decline in the area of land farmed between 2013 and 2015.

The Borough has 357 private forests, 10 historic parks and gardens, and 87 tree preservation orders (TPOs). The Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2017 promotes private woodland expansion and new forests/woodlands located near to urban areas for public access. It may be useful to also refer to the Health and Wellbeing, and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Figure 6.8.2 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Forest Service and Wooded Lands

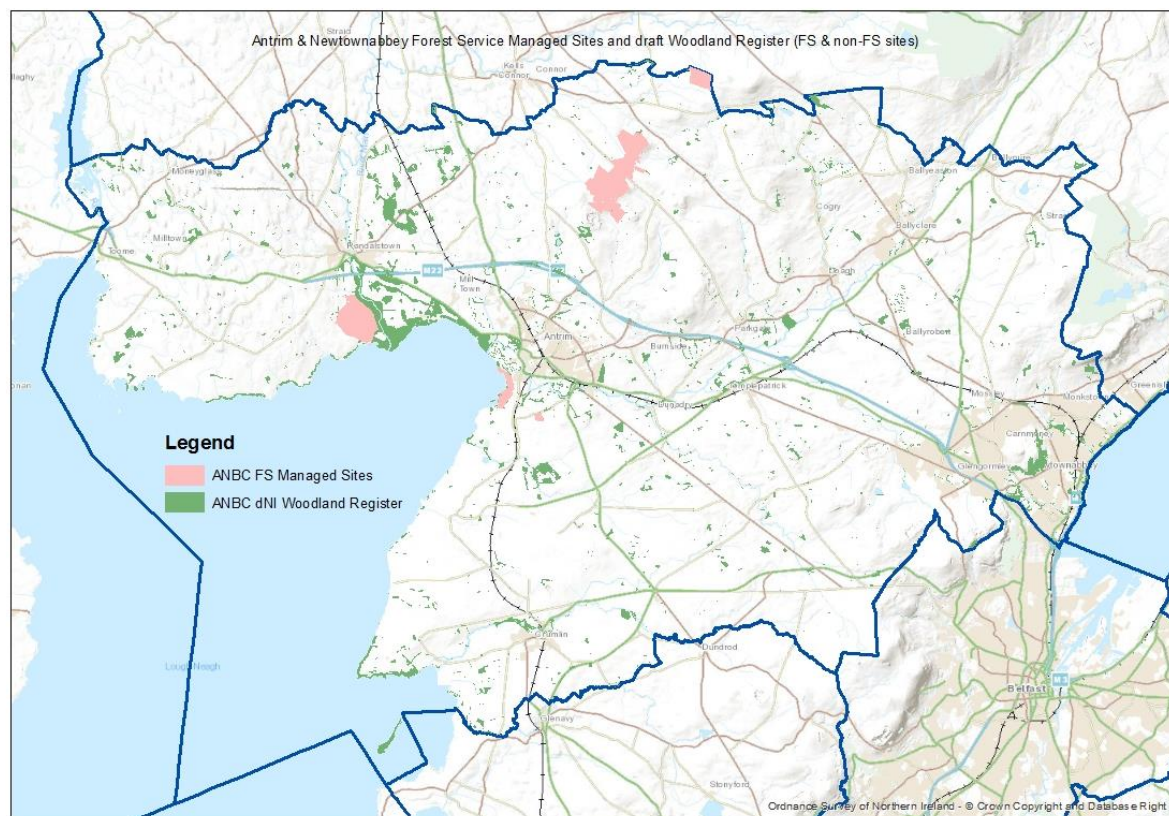
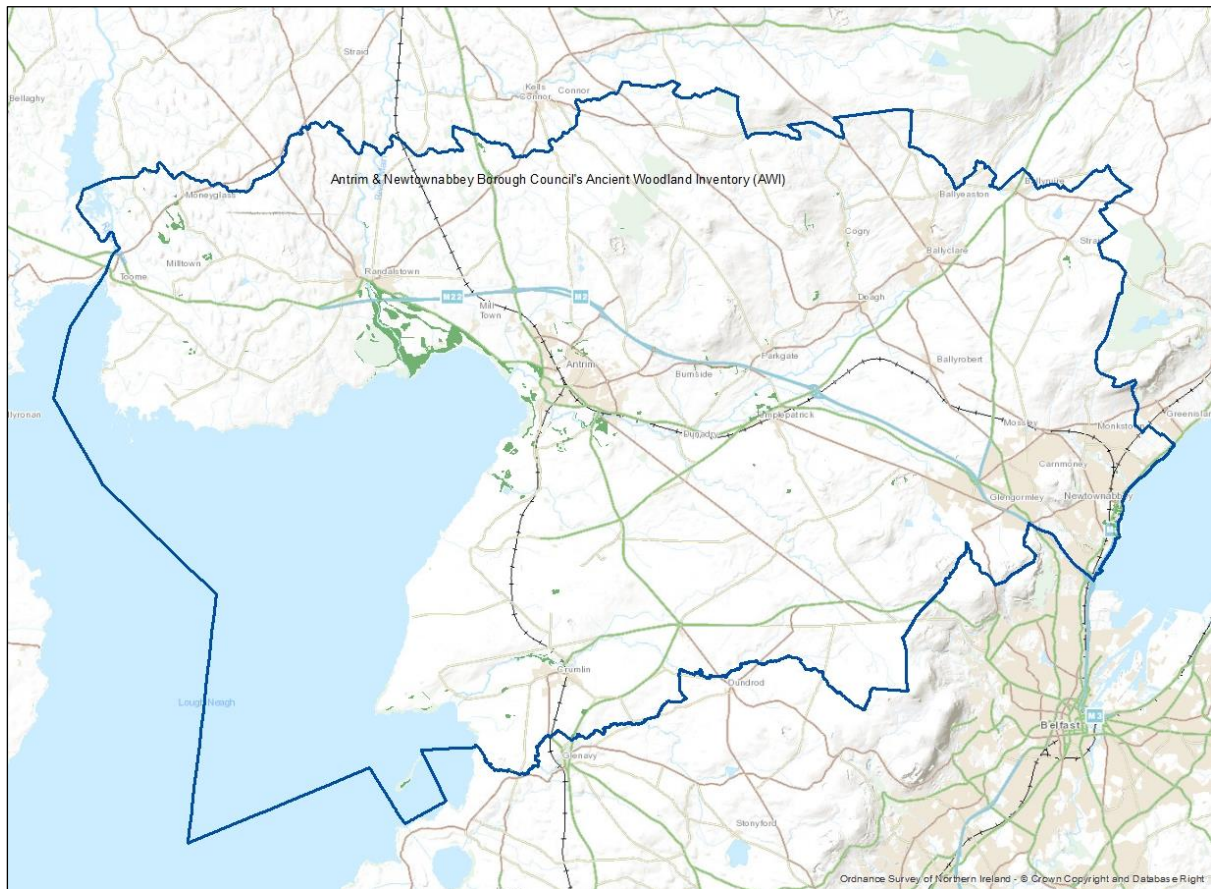


Figure 6.8.3 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Ancient Woodland



Land cover

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey ([NICS](#)) 2007 found that the main key changes in land cover were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural building. These land conversion trends to improved grassland and curtilage, had previously been observed in the 1998 survey. New buildings were mostly on neutral or improved grassland, indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat loss was also recorded.

The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas where they are already minimally present is a key biodiversity issue in Northern Ireland.

Soil

A mixture of gleysols and brown earths are the most common soil types found across the Borough. These mostly range from very good to good quality. A proper functioning soil should be able to minimise erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Agricultural grade lands are found across the Borough and range from very good quality to less favourable. Pockets of peat are also found and are graded as poor agricultural lands however this does not reflect the ecological value that they provide.

It may be useful to also refer to the Water section of this report.

6.8.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), planning policy statements (PPSs) and the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern

Ireland (PSRNI), would all still be applied. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

There may be a risk of environmental damage from inappropriate mineral extraction and associated development.

There may be less opportunity to spatially manage mineral development and influence the location of the most sustainable sites based on existing infrastructure.

There may be less opportunity to spatially develop infrastructure to support the integration of geothermal energy into our energy mix.

There may be less opportunity to spatially manage and sustainably approach development in areas prone to erosion (weaker soil structure) or increased flood risk.

There may be a continued risk of soil erosion and pollution affecting its role in supporting farming, biodiversity, and other services provision.

There may be less opportunity to identify the most suitable land for new forests/woodlands that could provide public recreation access, climate change adaptation and enhance local biodiversity.

6.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Mineral resources in the Borough should be safeguarded from inappropriate development and future accessibility protected.
- Currently older mineral sites (pre-1985) may be causing undue damage or deterioration to the local environment.
- There are only a few active quarries in the Borough.
- 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.
- A strategic lignite reserve could provide a substantial energy source for at least 20 years but this would be a carbon heavy energy choice and go against current drives to lower carbon emissions under the UK Climate Change Act that Northern Ireland has fully endorsed.
- There is potential access to a productive source of geothermal energy for heating and electricity.
- Soil quality across the Borough should be protected using effective conservation measures due to a lack of specific legislative protection for soils at a regional or local level.
- Peat soils are found across the Borough and hold an important ecological value as important water and carbon stores that provide habitat for specialist plants, animals, birds and insects.
- A potential opportunity exists to extend existing forests/woodlands or plant new areas to encourage public access, enhance local biodiversity and provide climate change adaptation.

6.9 Natural Resources

6.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Natural resources are protected at a regional level through spatial planning policy. This aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

Our strategic planning policy highlights the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. It provides protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly links these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Local level management plans for natural resources such as Lough Neagh reflect this ethos. Conservation management plans aim to protect it as a fishing resource but also ensure provision of its recreational and biodiversity values.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan can integrate natural heritage features, promote ecological networks and green/blue infrastructure to help connect open space and natural habitats. These measures encompass regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as provide climate change adaptation.

One of the aims of our draft Programme for Government is for a society to live and work sustainably, whilst protecting the environment. Between this and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life and environment, are clear.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Corporate Plan embeds the principles of sustainable development. It aims to protect and enhance the natural habitats of the Borough through an efficient planning process that promotes positive development, as well as aspiring to provide the people of the Borough with a place they feel proud to live in. Protecting our natural resources will be key to achieving this.

6.9.2 Baseline information

Detailed information on natural resources has been provided across a variety of Local Development Plan discussion papers.

6.9.3 Designated and Undesignated Sites

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has a variety of habitats and species protected under International, European, regional and local level site designations.

In the Borough, there are 9 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) out of a total number of 375; 1 Special Area of Conservation out of a total number of 57; and 4 nature reserves out of a total number of 41. There are some reserves in the Borough managed by environmental charities and in the future, there may be additional Marine Conservation Zones and/or a Marine Special Protection Area to consider on the north shore of Belfast Lough.

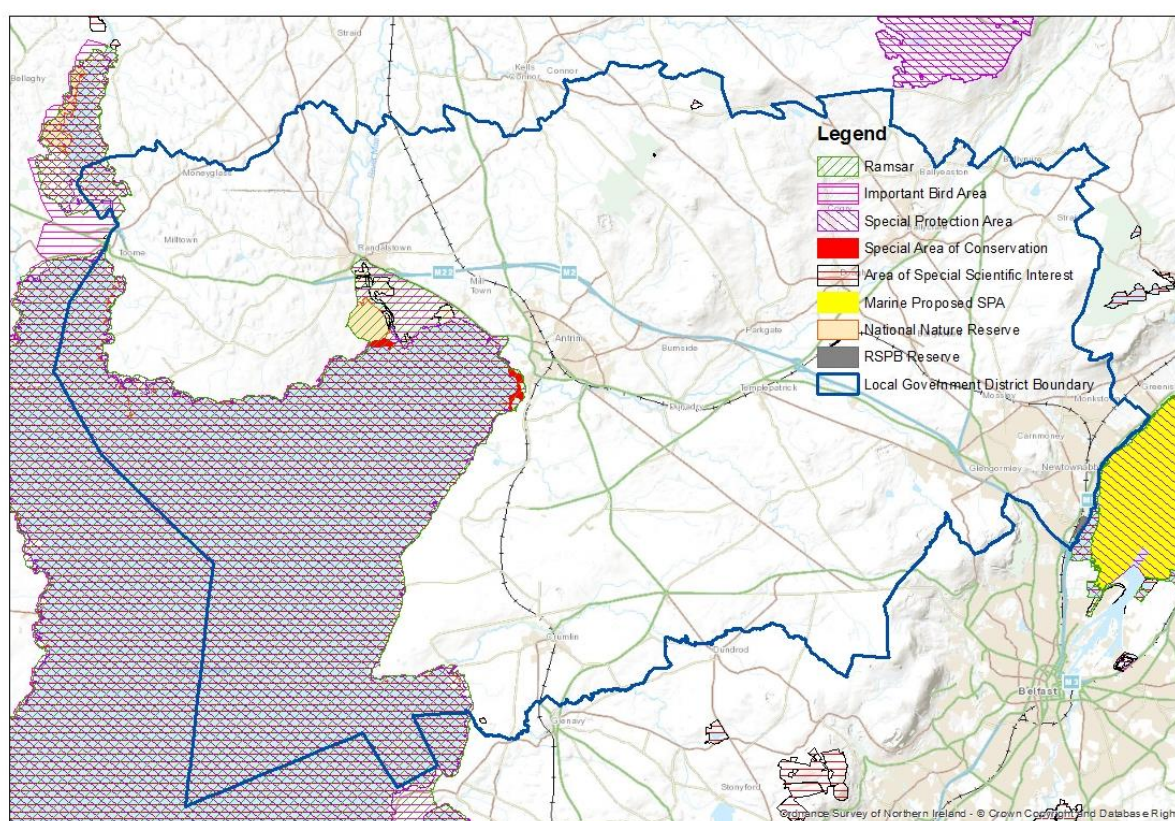
Table 6.9.1 Nature Conservation Sites in ANBC

Designation	Number of sites
Ramsar (R)	2
Important Bird Area (IBA)	2
Special Protection Area (SPA)	2
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	1
Proposed Marine Special Protection Area (pMSPA)	1
Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)	9
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	4
Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	2
Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI)	28
RSPB Reserve	1

Reference: ANBC Local Development Plan 2030 Shaping our Environment and SES

Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and Belfast Lough, are internationally protected, primarily for their bird interest. In places, these sites are buffered with wetland habitats (mudflats, fen and wet woodland) that are additionally protected for their nature conservation value.

Figure 6.9.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Designated Sites



Source: Share Environmental Service

Site condition assessments are a responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The information presented for the Borough showed that most site information was either out of date or in an unfavourable condition.

[Lough Neagh Shoreline Management Plan](#)

A five-year Lough Neagh Shoreline Management Plan was developed in 2015. It targets most of the privately owned land around the shores of Lough Neagh and details measures to help improve the features of the Special Protection Area/Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) by working with farmers, sand traders, landowners, shooting clubs, conservation groups and fishermen. The vision of the plan is to maintain and improve the high ecological status of Lough Neagh through partnership working. A Lough Neagh Conservation Action Plan and a Local Biodiversity Action Plan also exist.

A Mapping Project of Lough Neagh's site features was carried out by Kane Ecology in June 2016. The Lough Neagh SPA/ASSI Mapping Project made Conservation Management Zones (CMZs) across the Lough, with several located in the Borough (01-05 and 14) as shown in Figure 6.9.2. Over half of these are of a high to medium conservation priority.

Species declines were evident with the decline in the last 20 years of diving ducks (tufted, pochard, goldeneye) highlighted as particularly profound. Breeding wader numbers also continue to decline. Breeding wader numbers have significantly declined in Northern Ireland and Ireland in the last 30 years. Breeding curlew are now red listed in Ireland i.e. high conservation concern; lapwing, snipe and redshank (medium conservation concern)⁹. A research project conducted in 2013 found that curlew, lapwing and snipe have declined by 82%, 89% and 78% respectively¹⁰.

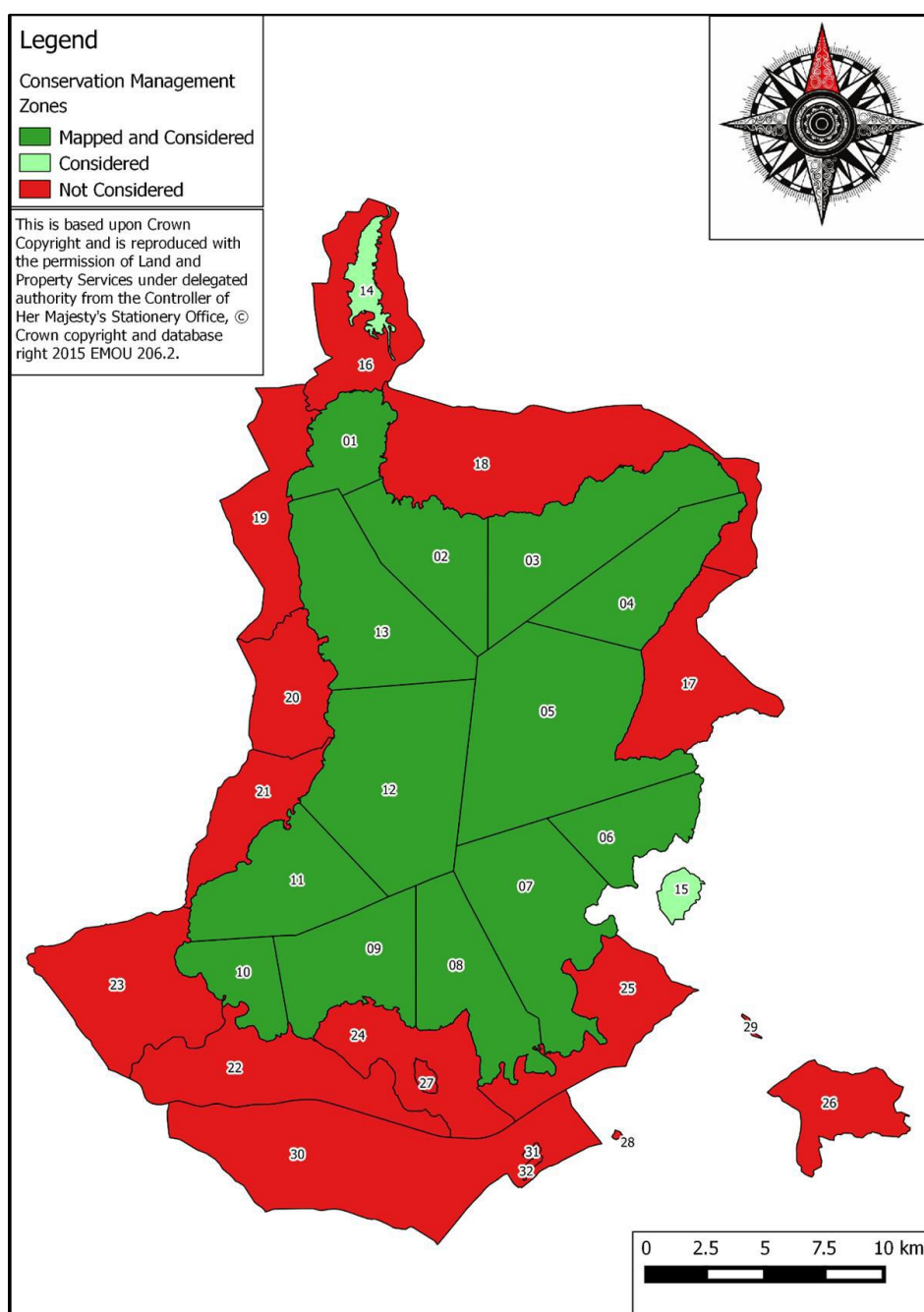
Reasons for these declines include habitat loss but also climatic factors. Significant habitat losses of wet grassland and standing water due to inappropriate management were recorded but increases in marsh and dense scrub were also evident.

Both Loughs are of a significant conservation value within the UK. Additional information from [The Wetland Bird Survey](#) show fluctuating bird numbers for Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, and to a lesser extent Belfast Lough.

⁹ [Birds of Conservation Concern](#)

¹⁰ Colhoun, K. *et al* (2013): [Population estimates and changes in abundance of breeding waders in Northern Ireland up to 2013](#)

Figure 6.9.2 Conservation Management Zones



Source: Lough Neagh SPA/ASSI Mapping Project 2016, Kane Ecology <http://www.kaneecology.co.uk/>

Biodiversity

There is a rich diversity of species and habitats present in the Borough, with a significant number of bats, birds, moths and wetland habitats (lowland fens, reedbeds, ponds, rivers, wet woodland and floodplain grazing marsh) recorded. Many species and habitats found in the Borough are protected under legislation including [The Wildlife \(NI\) Order 1985 \(as amended\)](#).

The [Antrim LBAP](#) consisted of 7 Species Action Plans (SAPs) for bats, Irish hare, lapwing, red squirrel, river water crowfoot, swift and tree sparrow; and 11 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) for rivers, streams, standing water, woodland, farmland, grassland, heath and urban habitats. The [Newtownabbey LBAP](#) highlighted

woodlands, rivers and streams, agriculture, coasts, and urban and managed open space as suitable habitats.

Threats to local biodiversity across the Borough have been reported as habitat loss or fragmentation, movement of invasive species, climate change, agricultural intensification and pollution causing nutrient enrichment of waters.

Currently Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are completing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) [consultation](#). The consultation is requesting priority habitat, fauna and ecosystem services information and should be available in 2017.

Green/Blue Infrastructure

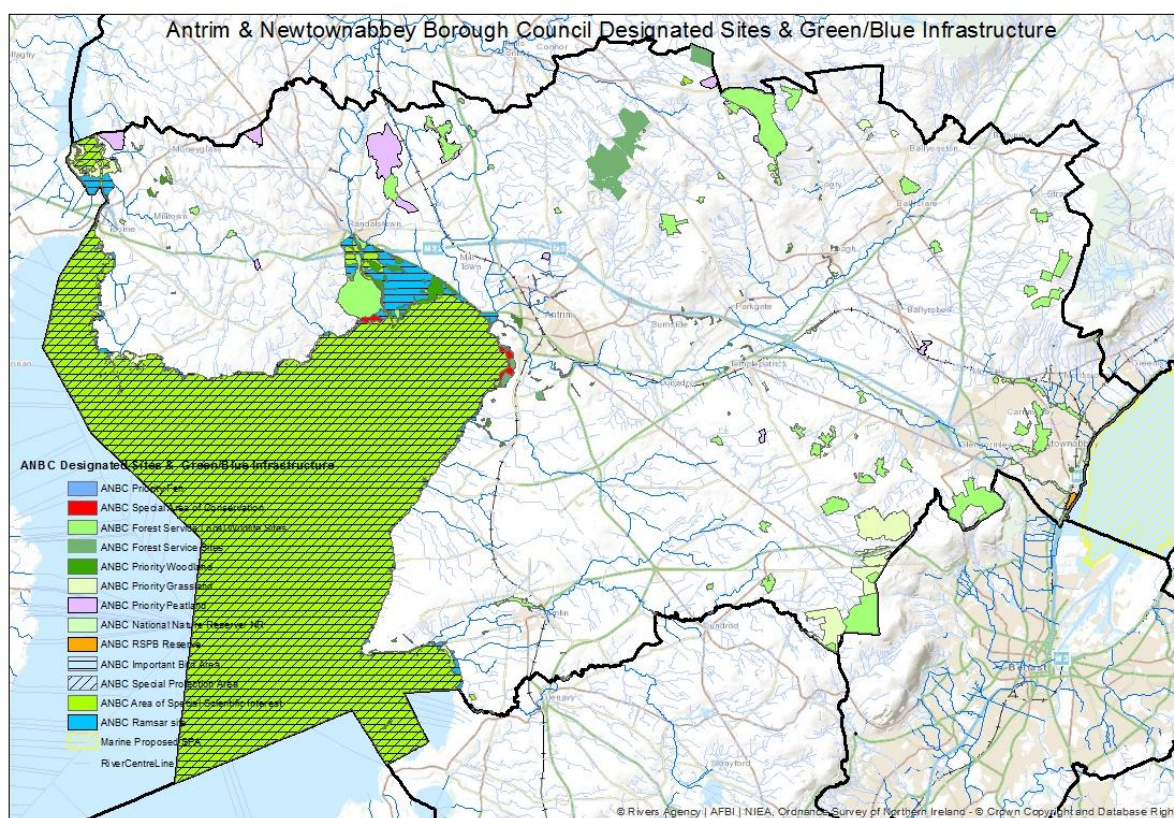
Green infrastructure incorporates forests, woodlands, parks, urban gardens, allotments and open space but also includes blue infrastructure such as ponds, rivers, loughs and drainage features. Green infrastructure can provide biodiversity conservation, recreational space, amenity value, natural flood defences, carbon stores, as well as a means to reduce erosion and air or water pollution. Green/blue infrastructure can be used as a planning tool to deliver sustainable development. Through careful planning, natural and semi-natural features can be strategically connected to form a network that provides environmental, economic and social benefits.

The Shaping Our Environment Evidence Paper highlights that there is a shortage of allotment plots across the Borough. It also notes that, if synthetic pitches are promoted in the area, then this could lead to a loss of existing or potential green infrastructure.

A future detailed assessment of public open /green space provision is expected from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. In the Local Development Plan discussion papers, 25 parks, 7 allotments, 16 cemeteries and 10 golf courses were listed. There are also many water-based recreational opportunities due to the location of the Council with access to loughs, a coastline, four major rivers and six fisheries. All of these locations are accountable as green/blue infrastructure and are in addition to the layers shown in Figure 6.9.3.

Sport Northern Ireland audited sports provision in the Council area and against population projections found a predicted shortfall for sports pitches. Sport Northern Ireland considers the value of a synthetic pitch to be 4 times that of a grass pitch but only natural facilities can be accounted toward green infrastructure. The Council has recently opened a number of new pitches and is currently reviewing provision within the Borough.

Figure 6.9.3 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council blue/green infrastructure



Source: Shared Environmental Service

Please also refer to Figure 6.9.1 for all of the designations applicable to Belfast Lough; Ramsar, Important Bird Area, Special Protection Area and Area of Special Scientific Interest.

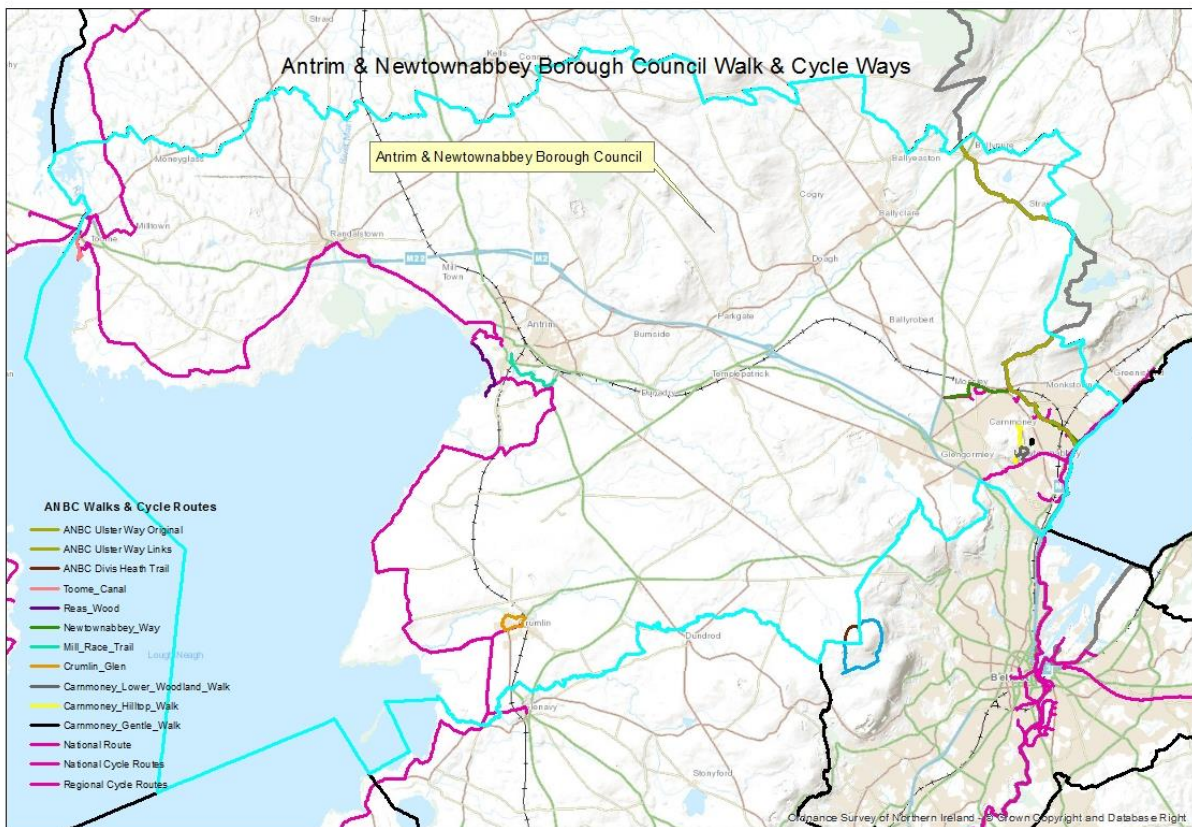
Greenways, walking and access

It is worth referring to the earlier section on Health and Wellbeing for an impression of proposed strategic greenway development under the Department for Infrastructure¹¹.

Currently in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP), there is the Newtownabbey Way greenway and three community greenways (MNY48/01-03). A greenway is being considered from Monkstown to Greenisland and from Doagh to Larne. There are also 23 informal walking routes and 11 out of 123 miles of public rights of way (PROW) in the Borough. The Ulster Way crosses the east of the Council area in spite of being lost in sections to development.

¹¹ [Greenway Development](#)

Figure 6.9.4 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Walk and Cycle Ways



Source: Sustrans; Walk NI

6.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the Plan in place, the Regional Development Strategy, Strategic Planning Policy Statement, extant Area Plans and Planning Policy Statements would continue to be applied in the decision making process. Consultations with stakeholders would also continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

There may be a higher risk of inappropriate development occurring in the west of the Council area due to a lack of a more recent plan.

There may be less opportunity to protect and conserve unpublished Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCIs) that are outside of BMAP 2015's jurisdiction.

There may be the risk of damage to, or loss of existing green infrastructure from inappropriate development.

There may be less opportunity to identify and conserve land as green infrastructure.

There may be a risk of European site deterioration once the UK fully leaves the European Union.

There may be less opportunity to effectively implement landscape wedges (LWs), local landscape policy areas (LLPAs) and new environmental designations feasible.

6.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There is a diverse natural heritage across the Borough with the wetland habitats of the Loughs being particularly significant. There are opportunities to

use this natural heritage as an environmental asset and a sustainable economic and social resource.

- On Lough Neagh there are significant declines in numbers of species that are site features. Deterioration of wet grassland and open water habitat is also evident.
- Breeding wader species are in significant declines across Northern Ireland and these are linked to Lough Neagh during wintering and transit periods.
- There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Borough.
- There is a shortage of allotment plots across the Borough.
- If synthetic pitches are promoted in the area, then this could lead to a loss of existing or potential green infrastructure.
- Not all walking routes across the Borough are fully protected.
- Public Rights of Way are not as common in Northern Ireland as in the rest of the UK and only a small amount (11 miles) exist in the Borough area.
- There may be unpublished Local Wildlife Sites outside of BMAP that may be unprotected.
- There is a need to continue to support the integration of blue/green infrastructure to connect wildlife sites.
- There is a need to continue to support the integration of cycle and walkways across the Borough.

6.10 Water

6.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and to protect human health. The Water Framework Directive 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) sets the groundwater quality standard at 50 mg NO₃/l. Under the Nitrates Directive, Northern Ireland must monitor surface waters for nitrate pollution against a mandatory standard of 50 mg NO₃/l. The European Flood Directive 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, there are regulations in place to implement these Directives. 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.

River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive, 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.

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) produces a river basin management plan for each river basin district within Northern Ireland. This is produced in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure. The second planning cycle covers the period from December 2015 - December 2021. The Borough includes areas covered by River Basin Management Plans for the North East and for Neagh Bann. The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) encourages the incorporation of measures to reduce the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are a requirement of the European Union Floods Directive. Article 7 of the Directive required each member state to prepare Flood Risk Management Plans by December 2015. The FRMPs for Northern Ireland highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most Significant Flood Risk Areas from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. They identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risks. The Borough includes areas covered by FRMPs for the North East and for Neagh Bann.

The Borough's Corporate Values include 'We strive for economic, social and environmental sustainability.' The LDP can support the objectives above through siting and design to minimise pollution and disruption to water flow and flood capacity.

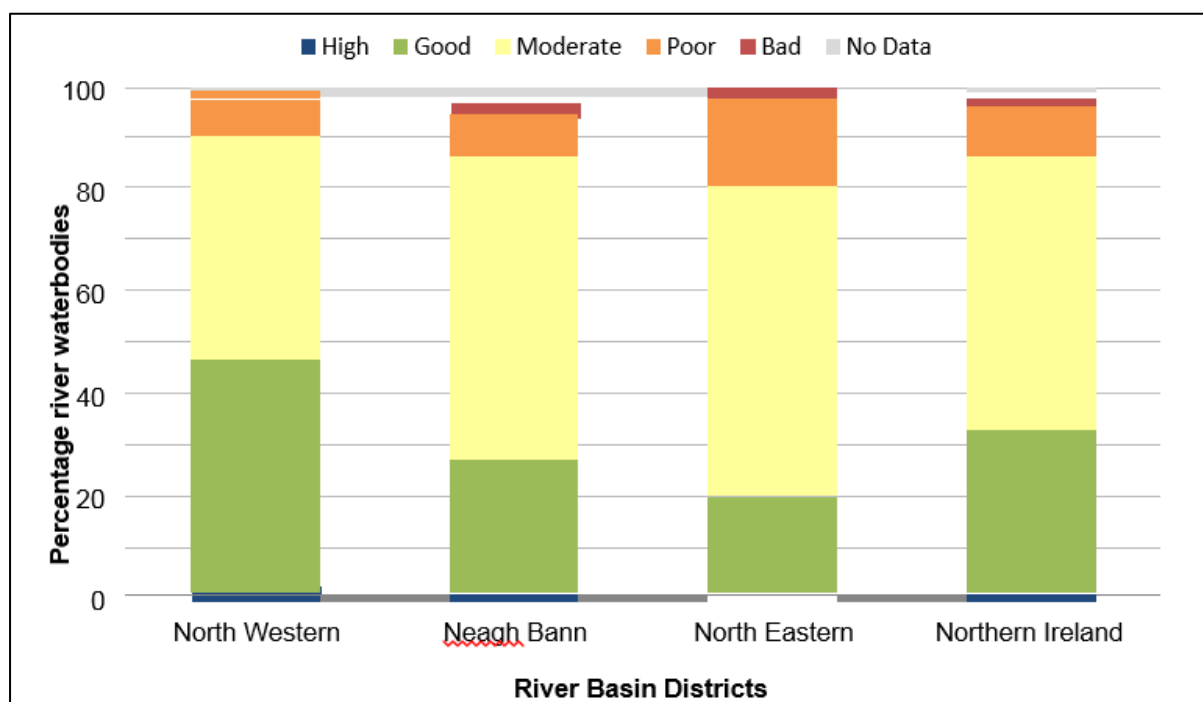
6.10.2 Baseline information

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Borough level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a Northern Ireland level.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.86% in 2014. 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 Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme. Nitrate levels are well within regulatory standards.

The Borough falls within two River Basin Management Plans (December 2015), Neagh Bann and North East. North Eastern River Basin District had significantly worse river water quality in 2015 by comparison to the whole of Northern Ireland. High or good quality was 20% compared to 32.7% for Northern Ireland. Neagh Bann River Basin District had similar river water quality in 2015 by comparison to the whole of Northern Ireland although high or good quality was 28% compared to 32.7% for Northern Ireland. Further information specific to water bodies in the Borough will be provided by NIEA for future inclusion in this scoping report.

Figure 6.10.1 Water Framework Directive overall classification 2015



Source: River Basin Management Plans (December 2015)

2015 Overall Status

- HIGH
- GOOD
- MODERATE
- POOR
- BAD
- GEP
- MEP
- PEP
- BEP

River Water Bodies within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

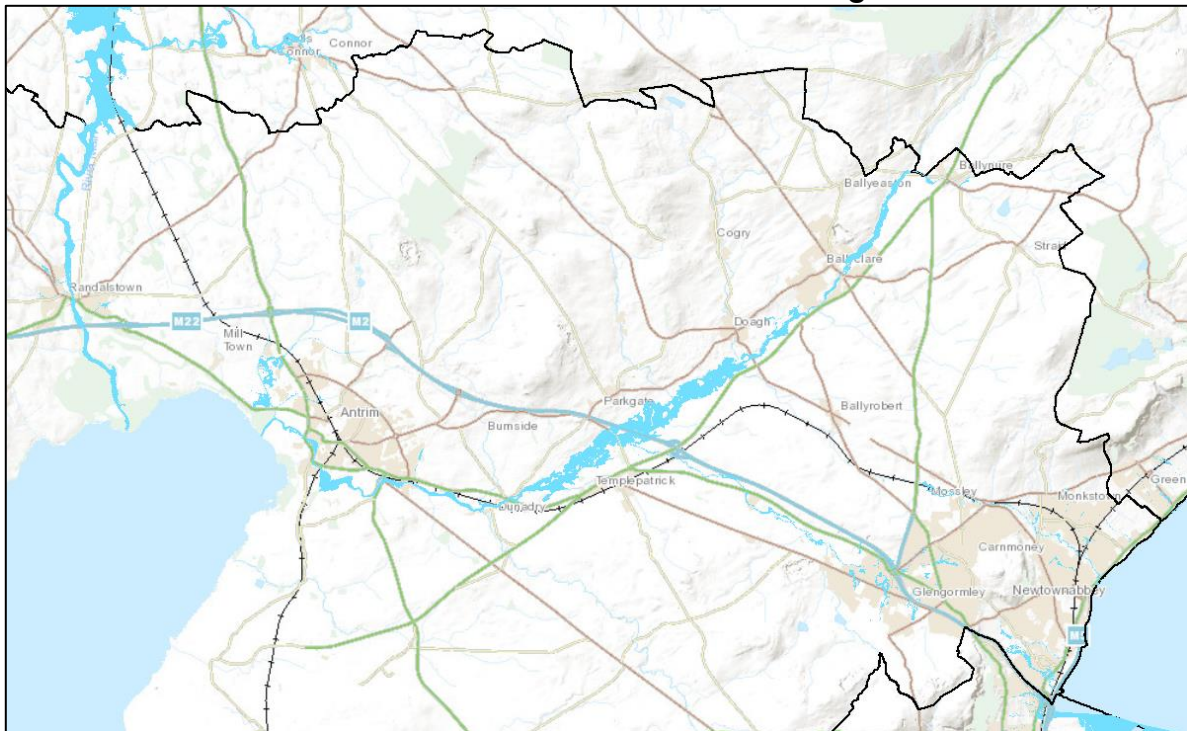
0 3.25 6.5 13 km

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
www.dair-ni.gov.uk

An Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.dair-ni.gov.uk

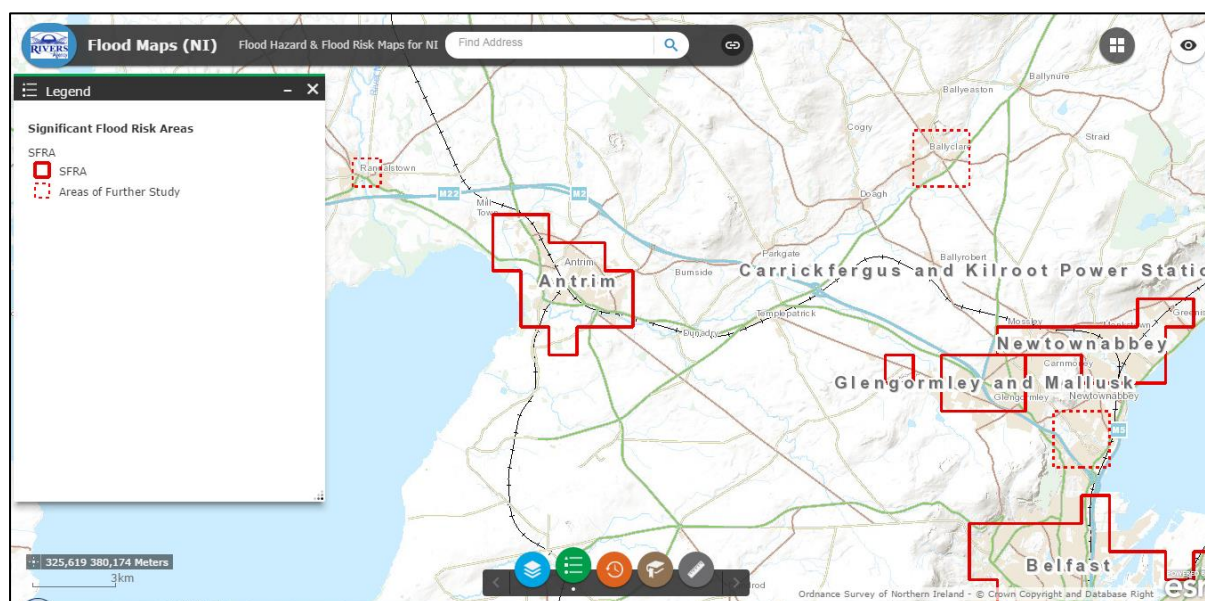
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Figure 6.10.3 Areas which have an estimated risk of flooding of 1:100 years taking account of the effects of climate change.



80

Figure 6.10.4 Areas identified as either significant flood risk areas or areas where flood risk needs to be further assessed



Source: Flood Maps (NI)

Flooding is further considered in the Shaping Our Environment Discussion Paper. The Borough has 12 controlled reservoirs

6.10.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied.

In the absence of a 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 to achieve good ecological status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach may 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.

6.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015 and demand has decreased by almost 11% between 2009 and 2015.
- Development in general requires a water supply and therefore it can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- Taking too much water from rivers, lakes and groundwater causes problems for wildlife, reduces the amount of water available for people to use and affects the environmental ecology. New development in land prone to flooding can reduce the capacity of that part of the flood plain, or lead to demand to provide flood defences both of which may exacerbate flooding elsewhere, causing effects on human health and safety, or interrupting use of the development.

- Flood alleviation and defence measures to enable development should be avoided.
- Another flood related issue arises because there are not currently legal requirements relating to impounded water therefore there are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Emissions from development can impact on water quality and quantity. During construction there is potential for pollution of surface or groundwater from, for example, sediment, fuel or concrete or due to release of contaminants from historical land use.
- Badly designed, installed or sited culverts can significantly impact upon the water environment and the cumulative impact of piecemeal culverting can also have significant implications for the future status of a waterbody.
- During operation contaminated runoff may cause pollution, the rate of surface water runoff may change or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- Incorporate measures that can be implemented including provision of attenuation ponds, or other SuDS that control flow off site, and ensure they are maintained.
- Development has the potential to contribute to the spread of invasive aquatic or waterside species which have adverse effects on the water environment.
- Wastewater generates the need for treatment of dirty water. Where this is in an urban area, this is likely to be directed to sewage treatment works and it is necessary to ensure that capacity matches growth of development.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site but 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 long term.

Other wastes may also cause pollution at the point where they are disposed of, or utilised. Wastes from livestock, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters have the potential to cause pollution elsewhere

6.11 Air

6.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

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.

Air Quality in Northern Ireland is managed by the Department and Councils in compliance with domestic legislation (the Environment Order 2002, the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and the Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010). These stem from European Air Quality Directives but an Air Quality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2007 provides the strategic framework for air quality in Northern Ireland.

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 local air quality management by Councils (LAQM).

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. Agriculture significantly contributes to our economy; we remain heavily reliant on the car for transport; and we are heavily reliant on fossil fuels for energy. All these sources emit air pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions. Regional policy recommends developing policy links between air quality and climate change and fully supports an air quality strategy.

In our draft Programme for Government (dPFG) there are several outcomes that can be linked to good air quality. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably; to live healthy and active lives; and to create a place that people want to live, work and visit. Air quality may not have a specific planning policy but under our strategic planning policy, it can be a material consideration. Maintaining good air quality is an important aspect of sustainable development as it is fundamental to the quality of our environment, society and the economy. The dPFG has set improving air quality as an indicator of achieving its outcomes.

The Borough's Corporate Vision embeds the principles of sustainable development. It aspires to provide a place where natural habitats are protected and enhanced; and communities have access to high quality services and facilities that improve the quality of life for everyone. Ensuring good air quality by minimising emissions from across sectors and adopting new technologies and behaviours to do it will be paramount for the Corporate Vision.

6.11.2 Baseline information

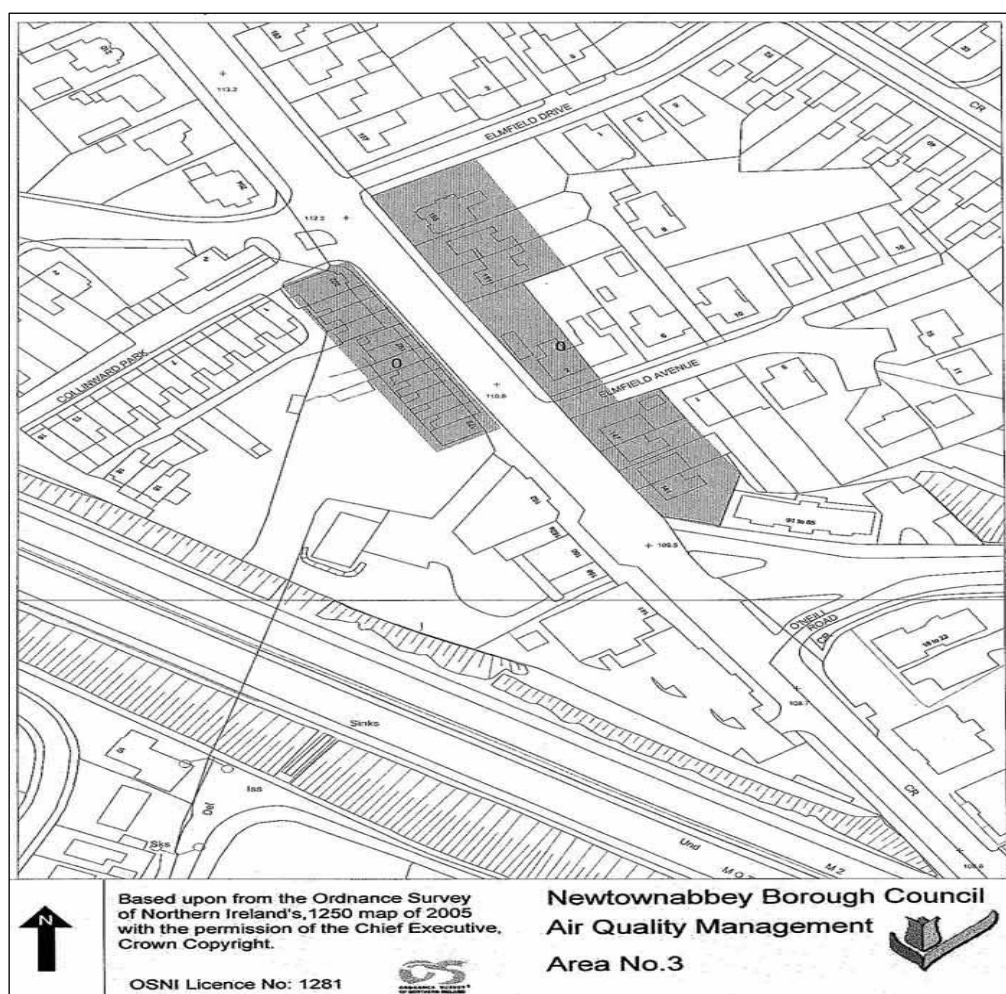
Detailed baseline evidence for the Borough's air quality has been provided within the Local Development Plan 2030 papers including reports on agriculture, transport and energy related information.

A current view to existing air quality across Northern Ireland can be accessed [here](#).

Previous exceedances of air quality objectives for across the Borough include particulate matter 10 (PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂)¹². Overall, across the Borough there has been a decline in exceedance cases.

There is currently one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in place in Newtownabbey [Antrim Road, Elmfield](#) because of recurring exceedances of nitrogen dioxide. The Borough intends to continue monitoring and to implement an action plan.

Figure 6.11.1 Newtownabbey Antrim Road Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

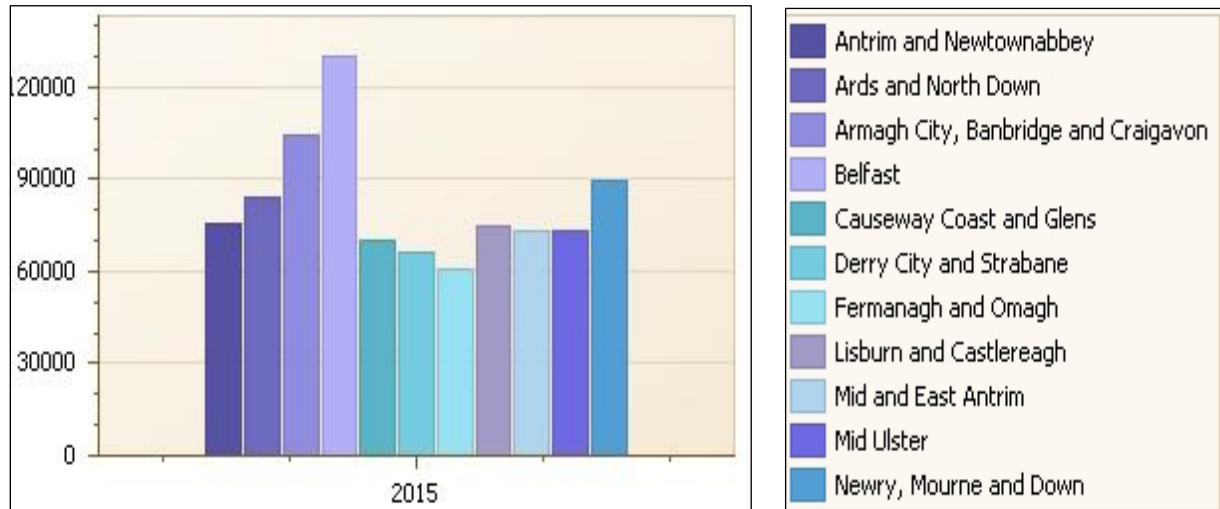


The most recent reports for the Borough can be found [here](#) and a 2016 Progress Report should be available in 2017.

Nitrogen dioxide is monitored across Northern Ireland as an indicator of good or poor air quality. It is a pollutant from transport and fossil fuel combustion and can cause respiratory conditions. Across Northern Ireland, nitrogen dioxide levels have remained relatively stable whilst ground level ozone is variable but with no declining trend evident. Graphs for nitrogen dioxide levels are in the Air and Climate chapter of the [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016](#).

¹² [Air Quality Management Areas](#)

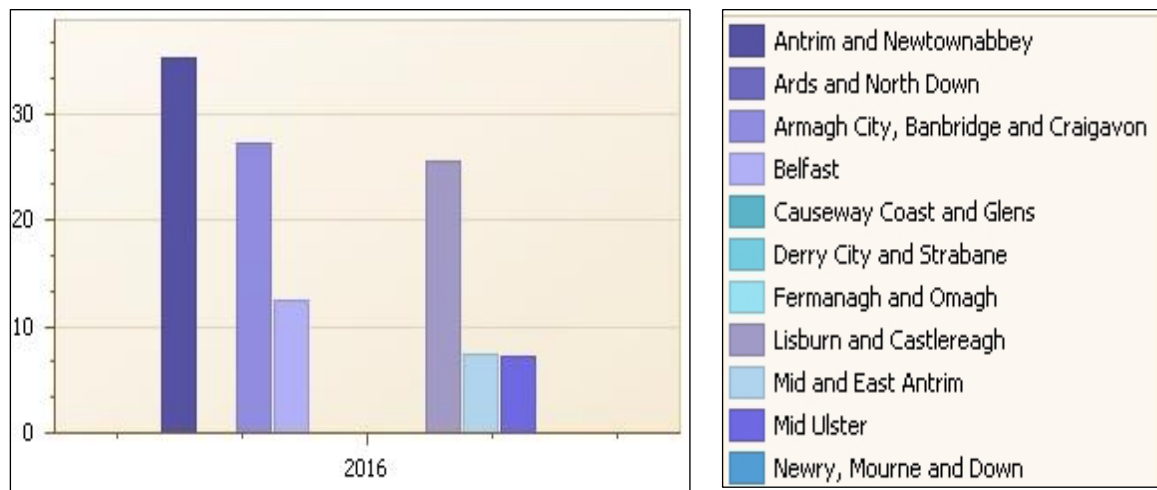
Figure 6.11.2 Licensed cars by Local Government District



Reference: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

Although the amount of licensed cars in the Borough appears to be about average, the number of people with access to one or more cars is slightly higher than the Northern Irish average. In Northern Ireland there has more or less been a continuous increase in private car ownership since 2004. Public transport will be key to tackling the level of private car use but this is in the knowledge that Translink reduced services in 2015 because of significant reductions in funding. Currently nearly 75% of workers in the Borough travel to work by car or van¹³.

Figure 6.11.3 Motorway Road Length (km)



Reference: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

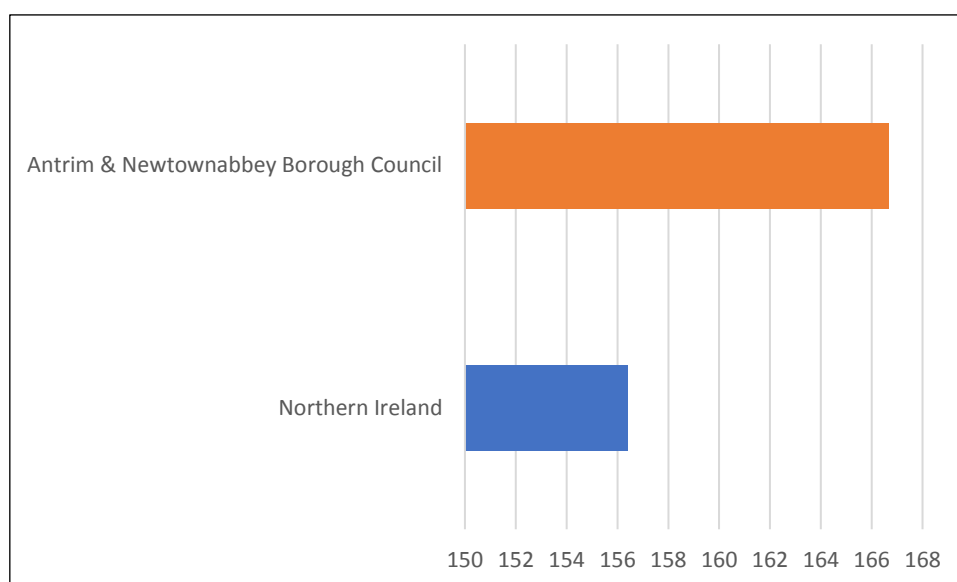
The Borough also has several main transport routes and hubs including the M2/M22 and the International Airport. In total, there are 1357 miles of road across the

¹³ Local Development Plan 2030 papers

Borough including 22 miles of motorway. Road transport emissions are very likely to remain a key issue within the Borough.

There is an important link between air quality and human health. Recent figures for Northern Ireland show that there have been 553 deaths from particulate matter (PM¹⁰), and 330 from nitrogen dioxide. Life expectancy is shortened in the UK by 8 months because of poor air quality¹⁴. The Borough has a slightly higher than average rate of death from respiratory issues/diseases.

6.11.4 Standardised Respiratory Death Rate



Reference: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)

Other air pollutants include ammonia emissions from agriculture. These have decreased from 2006 levels but have been increasing since 2010. There are 890 farms in the Borough area and the majority of these are classified as very small or small. In total they account for only 3% of farms in Northern Ireland. Cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry are the top four farm types in the area¹⁵.

Ammonia from poultry houses and odours from slurry spreading and animal houses contribute to air pollution. In Northern Ireland, ammonia emissions have been reported as 93% from livestock and 7% from the application of fertilizers. Trends for declines in emissions from livestock on a UK basis may not be reflected in Northern Ireland because cattle numbers have declined by a much lesser extent whilst pig and poultry numbers in Northern Ireland have increased.

Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it is linked to deterioration of habitats and species i.e. ecosystems [Air Pollution Information System](#). Also in the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016, ammonia emissions from fertilizers have declined but overall ammonia emissions have only declined slightly, indicating other background source(s).

¹⁴ DAERA, Programme for Government Air Quality stakeholder event, August 2016

¹⁵ Local Development Plan 2030 papers

Electricity supply from renewables has more or less increased every year in Northern Ireland since 2001 by over 1000%. In 2015, nearly 20% of electricity supplied in Northern Ireland came from renewables and was in keeping with the Executive's Strategic Energy Framework. Additional graphs and information can be found in the [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016](#). This type of diversification in our energy supply means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion are reducing. Long term trends in greenhouse gas emissions show a reduction of 23% from 2004-2013. Additional information can be found in the [Carbon Intensity Indicators](#). Similarly, particulate matter (PM₁₀) is on a downward trend and sulphur dioxide has had a significant decline due to the transition in residential heating from coal to gas. There are still issues to be tackled in air quality such as managing levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These are released when coal, oil, gas, wood and waste are burnt and some records in Northern Ireland have been recorded as comparable to industrial sites in England¹⁶.

6.11.3 Likely Evolution of the 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 continue and best practice be applied to any decisions.

There may be the risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriate development in previously zoned lands under legacy Area Plans (APs) that would be better suited to a different type of zoning.

There may be less opportunity to influence planning and development in areas of existing poor air quality.

There may be less opportunity to influence planning and development to maintain or improve air quality standards.

There may be the risk of decreasing air quality due to development not promoting other modes of transport than the private car.

6.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air

- Exceedances of nitrogen dioxide at Antrim Road, Newtownabbey (Elmfield) have been recurring.
- Key regional transport routes (the main train line to Belfast, M2/M22, A6 and A8) are located within the Borough and continuously contribute to background levels of air pollutants.
- Key service providers including the International Airport, University of Ulster and the Antrim Area Hospital are located within the Borough.
- The Borough has a high reliance on private car use.
- To reduce transport emissions, other modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling should be made accessible and encouraged.
- There is a need to continue to support the development of renewables and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as other air pollutants.
- There is a need to consider air quality when planning the location of adjacent developments and land uses particularly when residential areas may be impacted.

¹⁶ [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016](#)

6.12 Climatic Factors

6.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

The typical weather conditions of an area are based on natural variabilities that together create the climate. These variabilities can cause extreme weather events but also normal or expected conditions. It is only when there is a shift in the usual weather patterns and climate that the term, 'climate change' should be applied.

During the last few decades, concerns about the global climate have been linked to the effect that human activities have had on it. Carbon and sulphur dioxide from fossil fuel combustion, and nitrogen oxides and methane from deforestation, transport and agriculture, have all been entering the atmosphere. These additional gases add to the natural background levels already present, which increases natural warming of the planet, which is known as the 'greenhouse effect'. This is the cause of anthropogenic climate change i.e. climate change influenced by man.

In 2014, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) carried out an assessment of climate science. It stated that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions are the highest they have ever been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides are the highest they have ever been in the last 800 000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed warming since the 1950s. Climate scientists have predicted that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-Industrial Revolution times by nearly 1^o C. Global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land. (UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Paris 2015. They agreed ambitious greenhouse gas reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming to below 2°C of pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement aims for a low carbon future based on sustainable development.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Corporate Vision embeds the principles of sustainable development. It aspires to provide a place where people feel safe, natural habitats are protected and communities have access to more active, healthy and empowered lives. It will become increasingly important to consider the impacts of climate change in order to achieve these aspirations.

In Northern Ireland, at a strategic level, climate change has been viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. Regional guidance recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply.

The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014 led to our current Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), which details mitigating and adapting to climate change. In the SPPS, the planning system is promoted as a tool to shape new and existing development to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport. This should help reduce the need to use cars and enable people to access public transport, walk and cycle.

UK devolved administrations are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the UK Climate Change Act 2008, i.e. 80% reduction on greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by 2050. To help meet the 2050 target, the Northern Ireland Executive has

set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025.

In 2015, a motion was brought to the Northern Ireland Assembly to introduce a Climate Change Bill and 74% of respondents favoured a domestic based piece of climate change legislation.

In 2015/16, the Cross Departmental Working Group for Climate Change agreed 37 actions in an Action Plan to address climate change. Twelve actions were taken forward and a future action plan should be agreed in 2016/17.

The second Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information. More information can be found [here](#).

6.12.2 Baseline information

Baseline climate change information can be found at a regional level from Departmental sources such as the [Carbon Intensity Indicators](#) and the [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report](#). Information has also been provided in the Local Development Plan discussion papers.

Global context

The IPCC Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report presents historical trends for increasing emissions of greenhouse gases, contributors to temperature change and trends in average temperatures and sea levels ([Fifth Assessment Report \(AR5\)](#)).

UK Context

The second Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report is due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. The Adaptation Sub Committee (ASC) has prepared the independent evidence report which sets out the latest risks and opportunities to the UK from climate change. An interim report has been published entitled The UK Synthesis Report 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.

The first UK National Adaptation Programme (NAP) was published in July 2013 for each devolved administration and Northern Ireland's National Adaptation Programme was launched in 2014.

Northern Ireland Context

There are nine climate monitoring stations across Northern Ireland that are managed by Queens University for temperature and precipitation monitoring. One of these is located in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Published research from this monitoring predicts that across Northern Ireland and during all seasons, increases in temperature will be evident and become increasingly warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Precipitation is projected to fall slightly; winter is projected to be wetter and summer is projected to be drier.

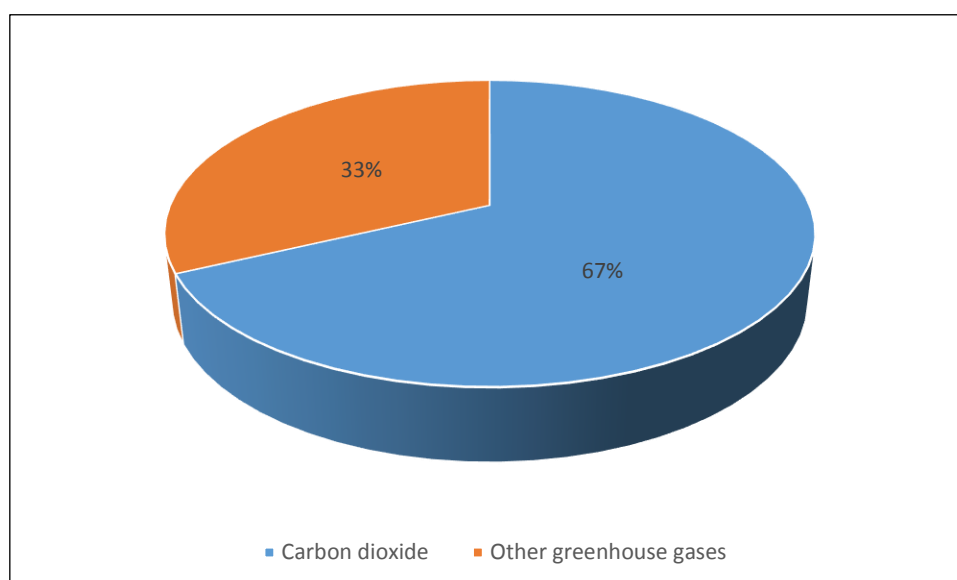
For further information, D.Mullan@qub.ac.uk should be contacted.

The [Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016](#) also presents annual trends for temperature and rainfall that show increasing annual temperatures and decreasing rainfall in summer months.

Northern Ireland accounted for 4% of the total UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2013. This is considered high, relative to its contribution to GDP (2.1%) and the UK population (2.8%). Estimated greenhouse gas emissions were 22.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and had decreased by 16% compared to baseline levels in 1990. In contrast, the UK as a whole, reduced emissions by 30%.

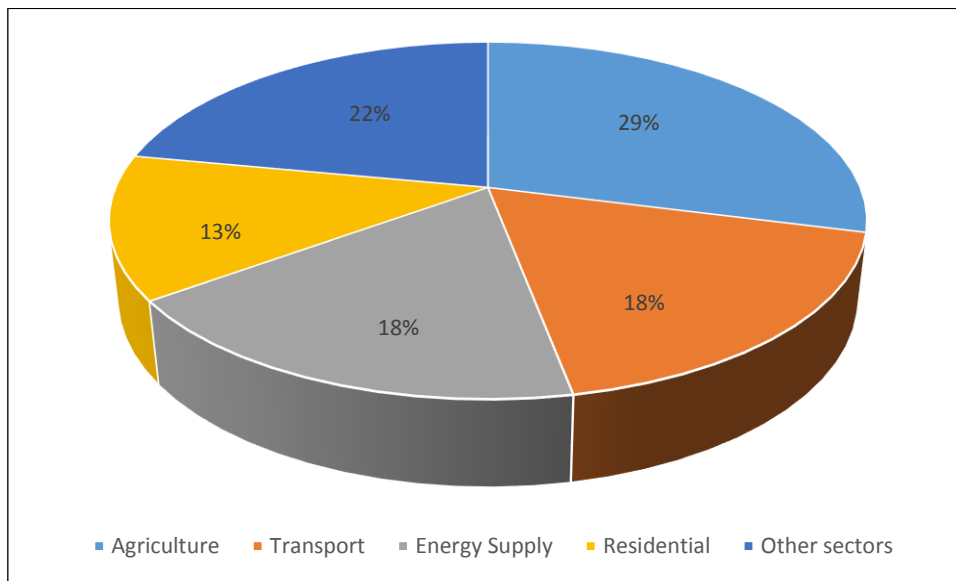
Carbon dioxide accounted for 67% of all greenhouse gas emissions. It was the most common gas emitted across all sectors except for agriculture and waste. Methane was the highest emission from these sectors and accounted for 21% of the total greenhouse gases emitted. Nitrous oxide from soils was the other significant gas emitted in the agriculture sector. Northern Ireland also accounted for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the importance of agriculture in the Northern Ireland economy. Northern Ireland accounted for 7.8% of the UK's methane emissions and 9.1% of the UK's nitrous oxide emissions. These are associated with landfill and agriculture.

Figure 6.12.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Northern Ireland 2013



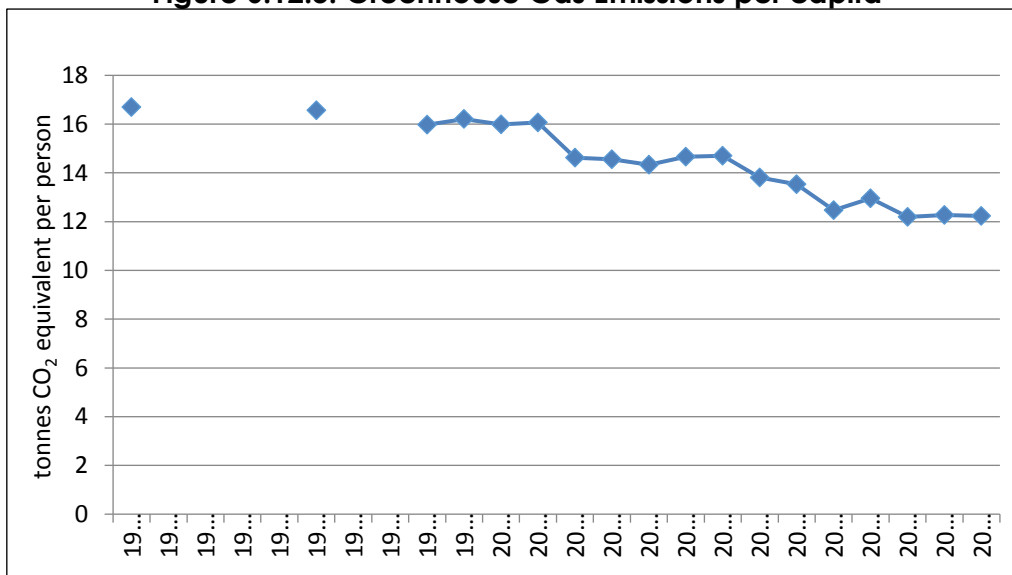
Agriculture, transport, energy supply and residential were the top four sectors in terms of emissions in Northern Ireland. Most sectors show a long term decreasing trend with the largest decreases in the energy supply, residential and waste sectors.

Figure 6.12.2 Main Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors in Northern Ireland



A set of [Carbon Intensity Indicators](#) (CI) indicators has been developed to help government track carbon reduction policies. These indicators reflect a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in terms of intensity, as opposed to absolute figures. Emissions intensity reflects the amount of carbon dioxide generated per unit of output. Note that most of the trends are positive i.e. declining emissions and cover the power (energy), buildings (housing), industry, transport, agriculture and waste sectors. Although population growth and economic growth are the two main drivers of climate change, the Carbon Intensity Indicators show that in Northern Ireland, greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 16% from 1990 to 2013 whilst the population increased by 15% and the economy also increased.

Figure 6.12.3: Greenhouse Gas Emissions per capita



Northern Ireland has the highest emissions from rural driving at 63% whilst the UK is at 40%.

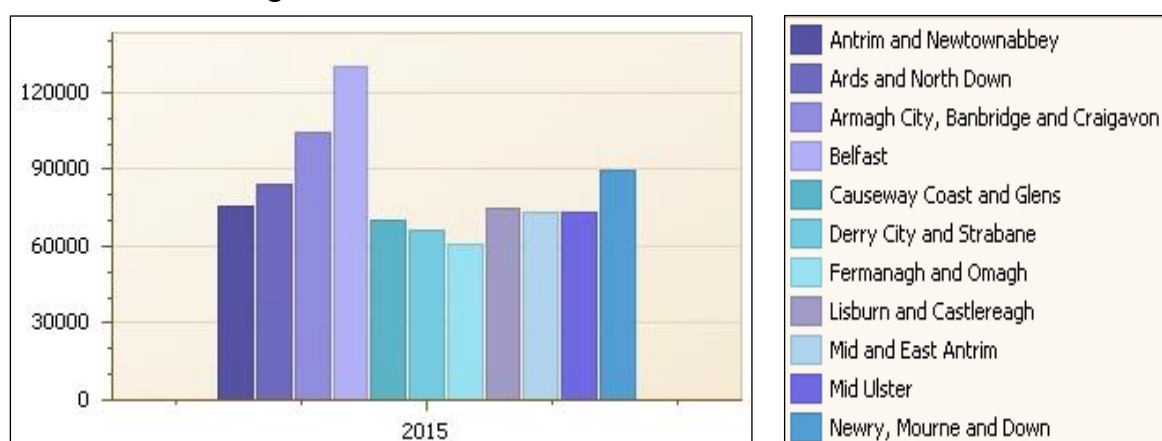
Local Context

Greenhouse gas emissions

The dominant farm type in the Borough is livestock production with cattle, sheep and dairy contributing over half the farms in the Borough. Pig farms total just over 1% (10) of all farms but this accounts for over 23 500 pigs. To help put this into context, the 787 registered farms with cattle have just under 79 000 cattle. Methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide are the top emissions.

Northern Ireland has the highest rate of car ownership in the UK. In 2015, over 900 000 cars were registered in Northern Ireland and just under 100 000 of those were in the Borough. Antrim and Newtownabbey has a higher than average rate of private car ownership relative to the rest of Northern Ireland.

Figure 6.12.4 Licensed Cars in Northern Ireland in 2015



Reference: Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service 2016

The Transport and Accessibility and Air Quality sections of this report are also relevant to climate change.

Flooding

One of the effects of climate change is increased incidences of flooding in areas already prone to it but also in new areas because of adjacent development or building on flood plains. In Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, the Strategic Flood Maps show a significant risk of flooding from rivers and surface water. Further study is required in Randalstown and Ballyclare but both these areas already experience surface water and river flooding. Current strategic flood maps can be accessed [here](#).

Renewable Energy

There are currently no connected windfarms in the Borough but many single turbines have been approved. More approvals exist than those pending and are clustered to the north and east of the Borough. There is a need for more renewables to come on line to add to the current energy mix. Several solar farms have been approved near the east of Lough Neagh and south across the Borough; hydro schemes, heat pumps and anaerobic digesters have also been approved.

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) provides a 24-hour visual of energy production and distribution across the grid. There is also a breakdown of the fuel mix being used, which includes sources of renewable energy. It can be accessed [here](#).

6.12.3 Likely Evolution of the 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 and best practice be applied to any decisions.

There may be less opportunity to use land use planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns, including sustainable transport options, and energy efficient building design.

There may be a risk that important carbon stores such as peatlands, woodlands and floodplains are damaged or lost.

There may be less opportunity and more uncertainty for renewable energy developers and a risk that they will not invest within the Borough.

There may be a risk that investors with low carbon strategies are forced to avoid investing in the Borough because of a lack of climate change mitigation, adaptation and awareness.

There may be an additional risk of failing to contribute to targets set under the UK Climate Change Act 2008.

6.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climatic Factors

- Influence the use of land to encourage and enable sustainable development patterns that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Influence the sustainable development of land to ensure protection of land that acts as natural floodplains, water and carbon stores.
- Encourage renewable energy (RE) projects and the necessary infrastructure into the optimum areas for such projects.
- Ensure adequate public transport links to services and facilities across the Borough are in place.
- Provide sustainable travel options to help reduce private car use and improve air quality.
- The Borough should continue to encourage a network of interconnecting cycle routes.
- The Borough should continue to encourage a network of interconnecting walking routes and protect the Ulster Way.

6.13 Historic and Cultural Resources

6.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Overarching policy recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our cities, towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. It is also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. Historic and Cultural resources have the potential to benefit both our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. They contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about our special places in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Regional guidance recognises that quality natural assets, interesting architecture, and built heritage can contribute to a feeling of being somewhere unique, which make places more attractive to either live in or visit. Renovation of both listed and locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and supporting the local economy. Historic and Cultural Resources also include many other assets including state care monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and demesnes and important archaeological sites. All of these protected assets play a role in providing places where we can tell the story of our past, which many visitors to Northern Ireland wish to share.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's corporate plan seeks 'A place where people take pride in their surroundings...a place where we protect and enhance where possible our natural habitats and built heritage'¹⁷

The Corporate Plan sets out a number of objectives in relation to place, people and prosperity. Within those objectives there are a number which are relevant to historic and cultural resources:

- A place where people take pride in their surroundings
- A place where people feel safe
- We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas and an efficient planning process that promotes positive development.

6.13.2 Baseline information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper *Local Development Plan 2030 Shaping our Environment*.

Antrim and Newtownabbey has rich heritage which is to be valued and protected. Historic and Cultural Resources includes tombs, forts, castles and churches, townhouses, farmhouses, grand and vernacular architecture and parkland. It also includes sites of archaeological potential, industrial and defence heritage, designated conservation areas, and areas of townscape and village character.

¹⁷ Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council: Our Borough, Your Vision 2015-2030

The location of all aspects of historic and cultural resources explored here is presented in the interactive Historic Environment Map Viewer, produced by the Department for Communities ¹⁸

Listed Buildings and Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities, compiles a list of buildings considered to be at risk in Northern Ireland. These are buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest whose future seems threatened and may be suitable for restoration and repair. While these are not exclusively 'listed' buildings, the vast majority are.

Figures for the Borough would suggest that there are 7 buildings considered to be at risk. Those buildings considered to be at risk in the Borough are:

- 1 New Street, Randalstown, County Antrim;
- Church of the Sacred Heart, Staffordstown Road, Toomebridge;
- Protestant Hall, 19 Railway Street, Antrim;
- Iron footbridge, over the Six Mile Water, south-east of Muckamore Bridge, adjacent to Seven Mile Straight Muckamore Antrim;
- Ben Neagh, 11 Crumlin Road, Crumlin;
- Monkstown Abbey; and
- Abbey House, Whiteabbey Hospital, Newtownabbey.

Sites and Monuments Record

There are 6 State Care Monuments that are maintained for both public amenity and conservation at:

- Cranfield Church – Medieval church, graveyard, holy well, cross and penal site.
- Spring Farm Rath- circular earthen mound
- Antrim Round Tower – early Christian monastic site, round tower and possible medieval church
- Ballywee Enclosed Farmstead- early Christian settlement and souterrains
- Muckamore Priory- Medieval Augustinian Priory
- Castle Lug – medieval tower house.

There are 101 Scheduled Monuments in the Council Area. Many more exist and continue to be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. There are also many more known archaeological sites although which are important remain un-scheduled.

Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest

There are presently no Areas of Special Archaeological Interest designated within the Borough, through the Antrim Area Plan (AAP), or Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP).

Area of Archaeological Potential

BMAP designated 2 Areas of Archaeological Potential in the Borough, they are:

- Ballyclare (11.6ha)
- Ballyeaston (3.6 ha)

¹⁸ [Historic environment map viewer | Department for Communities](#)

The AAP does not indicated any Areas of Archaeological Potential, given the age of the plan.

The new LDP will consider the designation of new Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Areas of Archaeological Potential in the Borough, through consultation with the Historic Monuments Council.

Industrial Heritage

The Borough contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic, as well as the social development of the area. The Borough benefits from a rich industrial heritage associated with the various waterways in the area. Many of the most important industrial heritage sites have been identified for special protection as scheduled monuments or listed buildings, for example, Patterson Spade Mill and Mossley Mill, however there are many others, which do not have any special designation and therefore protection.

Defence Heritage

The Borough is particularly rich in defence heritage associated with the wartime airfields and their associate infrastructure, like Langford Lodge, Nutts Corner and Aldergrove.

Langford Lodge is particularly well preserved with its control tower, hangers, runways and remnants of air force camps nearby. Other interesting locations of note are at key points along the course of the Six Mile Water which were prepared for demolition in case of enemy invasion and the radar platform, anti-aircraft and ammunition bunker site south of HydePark Road, Mallusk.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. The sites within the Borough are:

- Antrim Castle, Antrim
- Shane's Castle, Antrim/Randalstown
- Ram's Island, Lough Neagh;
- Drumadarragh House, Burnside (designated in BMAP)
- There are also a number of supplementary sites which are:
- Fisherwick House, Doagh (designated in BMAP)
- Castle Upton, Templepatrick
- Glendaragh, Crumlin
- Greenmount, Antrim
- Holystone House, Doagh
- Loughanmore, Parkgate; and
- The Steeple, Antrim

Conservation Areas

There are presently three Conservation Areas in the Council area at Antrim, Randalstown and Merville Garden Village. Areas of Townscape Character and Village Character Areas of Townscape Character and Areas of Village Character are those areas which exhibit a distinct character and intrinsic qualities. There are presently 10 Areas of Townscape Character and 3 Areas of Village Character designated in the Council area through BMAP.

The Antrim Area Plan does not include any Areas of Townscape Character or Areas of Village Character.

6.13.3 Likely Evolution of the 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 and best practice be applied to any decisions.

Baseline trends relevant to historic and cultural resources that may continue in the absence of a new Local Development Plan include:

- The gap between designations for Areas of Archaeological Potential, Historic Parks and Gardens, Areas of Townscape Character and Village Character at BMAP and lack of designation at Antrim Area Plan would not be addressed.
- New Areas of Significant Archaeological Potential would not be addressed.
- Opportunities to identify linkages between the town centre of Antrim and its historic Castle Gardens might be missed.

6.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic and Cultural Resources

- Historic and Cultural resources play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place, in settlements and in rural locations.
- The historic parks in the Borough among the key assets.
- The Borough has a rich archaeological heritage, and this could be further explored through new areas of archaeological potential.
- The Borough has a rich industrial heritage primarily associated with the various waterways in the area.
- The Borough has a rich defence heritage, primarily associated with the 3 former wartime airbases at Nutts Corner, Langford Lodge and Aldergrove.
- The Borough's rich heritage asset could provide greater opportunity as a resource for tourism activity.
- Linkages between features, and their overall setting in townscapes should be considered.

6.14 Landscape

6.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

The European Landscape Convention requires 'landscape to be integrated into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as any other policies with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape'.

There are regional resources developed by DAERA that inform the state of the landscape in the form of the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (2000) and Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Assessment (2015). It also published Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes, which provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development.

Through the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985 (NCALO) the finest landscape areas are designated as either Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Parks land, and require steps to be taken to manage them for both conservation and recreation. However, there are no such designated areas in the Borough.

The Sustainable Development Strategy and draft Programme for Government seek sustainable use of the environment to make it better and create a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest. There are policies in the SPPS, which seek to conserve natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and to protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. There are also specific policies about the landscape impact of outdoor advertisements, open space, sport and outdoor recreation and renewable energy. Almost half of the Planning Policy Statements, which provide more specific guidance about types of development or locations where development takes place, include specific requirements to conserve landscape. There is also 'Building on Tradition' – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside.

Corporate Plan objectives for the Borough include a place where people take pride in their surroundings; a place where we protect and enhance, where possible, our natural habitats and built heritage; we have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods, and rural areas. The LDP can influence landscape through policies, key site requirements and spatial zoning including protective designations.

6.14.2 Baseline information

The Shaping the Environment Evidence Paper January 2017 provides further information on landscape in the Borough and related policy. The Borough does not have any national landscape areas however there are several types of areas that are identified as requiring protection through the planning process.

Table 6.14.1 Landscape designations

Designation	Plan	Number
Local Landscape Policy Areas	BMAP	38
Rural Landscape Wedges	BMAP	3
Areas of High Scenic Value	BMAP	8

The Borough incorporates some or all of 16 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), 5 Northern Ireland Regional LCAs and 1 Seascape (13 Belfast Lough). The most notable features that characterise the area are as follows.

The setting of the Borough includes wide low plains bounding bodies of water from Belfast Lough to Lough Neagh and Lough Beg and the River Valleys of Six Mile Water, Three Mile Water and Maine. The slopes of the South Antrim Hills and Belfast Hills partially frame these plains. Prominent points include Knockagh, Carnmoney and Tardree providing views over and beyond the area.

The following features distinguish parts of the Borough. On the lakeshores fens, wetlands and wet woodland predominate and cutover peatlands are found around Lough Beg and Randalstown with raised roads surviving through them. Water sports and cruises from the Loughshore Park in Antrim offer another perspective from Lough Neagh. Field boundaries are mainly hawthorn hedgerows interspersed with trees, more often ash to the west and beech to the east. Ash dieback is likely to result in the loss of trees in the landscape. Deciduous woodland in river valleys is publicly accessible in many places. Farm dwellings typically have trees associated. Belfast Lough shore has intertidal mudflats and coastal lagoon at Whitehouse. Estate lands at Shane's Castle, Moneyglass, and Castle Upton exert a strong influence in those areas. Tranquil areas are found particularly at Tardree and along Lough Neagh and river valleys.

Settlements are centred on rivers. Many are small with open spaces within and close connections to the rural surrounds. Safe approaches and flat lands to the south of Antrim lend themselves to transportation with Belfast International Airport, the former RAF base at Nutts Corner and private airfields. There are major arterial routes, particularly linking access points to Northern Ireland from Belfast International Airport and Larne Harbour. They provide connection between the two regional centres of Belfast and the North West along the M2 from which lead routes to the North and the West of Northern Ireland thus these corridors are subject to high levels of use. There are also important railway commuter routes. Belfast Lough has extensive urban and prominent industrial land use along the northern shore and busy shipping lanes but it is also popular for recreational boating.

The east is heavily urbanised with housing, commercial, industrial use and infrastructure such as overhead electricity distribution. While there are landscape corridors between settlements the impression from access roads is of a continuation of the Belfast conurbation to Mallusk and Jordanstown. Basalt quarries, many no longer worked, are found on hill slopes. Farmland is predominantly pasture.

Along Belfast Lough the seaward side of the main road features open space providing for viewing and access to the coast. There is a large area of public forestry at Tardree. Industrial heritage is important with mill buildings frequent along rivers. There is some wind energy with a small number of single turbines and small wind farms and growing development of large-scale solar energy. Significant numbers of sites have been used as film locations in recent years.

There is a lack of quantitative information about trends of landscape change.

6.14.3 Likely Evolution of the 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), relevant Area Plans (APs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), would all still be applied. In the absence of a new plan, the level of landscape protection for the area in the Antrim Area Plan will be substantially less than that for the parts included in BMAP.

The level of recognition of and protection of distinctive or characteristic landscape features will differ within the Borough and may lead to disproportionate pressures in the western part.

In the absence of new policy, the growing number of applications for renewable energy, particularly solar energy, has the potential to make significant changes to the character of the area.

6.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- The predicted growth for the Borough and neighbouring Belfast will increase the pressure for development.
- There is a need to maintain the rural and coastal character along the major arterial routes.
- The setting of settlements, prominent landscape features, film locations and tranquil areas should be protected.
- There is a need for a strategic approach to siting of renewable energy.

7 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The Sustainability Objectives follow with a more detailed description and rationale for each. The appraisal prompts will be used to help ensure that the effects of alternatives are fully and consistently assessed against each sustainability objective at each stage of appraisal.

1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and well-being.

Rationale

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 minimize 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it improve access to health care services?
- Will it reduce response times for the emergency services?
- Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?
- Will it enable people to grow their own food?
- Will it create open space that people can use?
- Will it provide opportunities for and encourage physical activity for all?
- Will it avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health?
- Will it promote good mental health?
- Will it provide meeting places?
- Will it increase social contact and intergenerational contact?
- Will it protect the tranquillity of Carnmoney Hill as a Quiet Area?
- Will it increase the sense of safety?
- Will the proposal support family cohesion?
- Will it reduce the risk of traffic accidents?

2. The objective for sustainable development is to 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it encourage low carbon, life-time homes?
- Will it encourage affordable housing?
- Will it reduce homelessness
- Will it meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, families, retired people, ethnic minorities, disabled?
- Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?
- Will it provide housing which meets locally identified needs (in terms of type, tenure and size)?

- Will it encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability, such as wheelchair standard housing?
- Will it provide a mix of housing types?

3. The objective for sustainable development is to enable access to high quality education.

Rationale

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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it improve education level and employability of the population?
- Will it promote access to education and skills training?
- Will it help rural communities access education and skills training?
- Will it improve opportunities for cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions?
- Will it help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation?

4. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society

Rationale

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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it promote inclusion of all groups?
- Will it retain, create, or enhance shared space?
- Will it increase accessibility to shared space?
- Will it promote positive social interaction?
- Will it give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services?
- Will it reduce the factors causing inequalities?
- Will it meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities?

5. The objective for sustainable development is to 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy?
- Will it support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially to areas of greatest deprivation?
- Will it support enhancement of the skills base.
- Will it support the change towards a low carbon economy for the Borough?
- Will it help make the Borough a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest?
- Will it make the best use of the excellent transport links, including Belfast International Airport as a Regional Gateway?
- Will it ensure the vitality and vibrancy of town centres can be improved?
- Will it increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work?

6. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Rationale

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it encourage modal shift to active travel?
- Will it benefit those without access to cars?
- Will it retain, create, or enhance walking and cycle routes?

7. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.

Rationale

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 minimize 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will the proportion of waste to landfill decrease?
- Will the proposal make recycling easier?
- Will recycling rates increase?
- Will composting rates continue to increase?
- Will it increase reuse of resources?
- Will waste production figures per household reduce?
- Will it ensure that there is sufficient transmission/distribution lines and infrastructure which is fit for purpose?
- Will it enable renewable energy production?
- Will it reduce the amount of contaminated or derelict land?

8. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Rationale

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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will earth science features remain protected?
- Will it enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably?
- Will it retain potential future use/benefit of physical resources (education/tourism/recreation/biodiversity)?
- Will it enable materials to be locally sourced?
- Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- Will it allow for the future use of geothermal energy?
- Will it avoid increase of curtilage cover in the area?
- Will it retain semi natural land cover/biodiversity?
- Will it avoid soil erosion/pollution?

9. The objective for sustainable development is to 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. 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 as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it protect or enhance local biodiversity?
- Will protect or enhance existing or potential wildlife corridors?
- Will protect or enhance designated site and their buffers?
- Will locally important sites and buffers be protected?
- Will the proposal protect or enhance of blue/green infrastructure?
- Will the proposal increase blue/green infrastructure in the Borough?
- Will the proposal support/provide ecosystem services?
- Will the proposal incorporate blue/green infrastructure?

10. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.

Rationale

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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it improve air quality?
- Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants?
- Will it reduce transport emissions?

- Will other modes of transport than the car be encouraged/feasible?
- Will it avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)?
- Will it help achieve the objectives of any Air Quality Management Plan?

11. The objective for sustainable development is to 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it improve the quality of surface and ground water?
- Will it lead to more efficient use of water?
- Will it minimise risks from flooding?
- Will it avoid the need for flood defence?
- Will it protect or enhance floodplains?
- Will it maintain water flows for good ecological quality?
- Will it result in discharges that change the temperature of the receiving water?
- Will it protect aquatic food resources?

12. The objective for sustainable development is to 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 lessen greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- Will it reduce energy consumption?
- Will it increase the proportion of renewable energy?
- Will it protect or enhance habitats that capture carbon?
- Will it protect or enhance floodplains?
- Will it increase/encourage other forms of transport than the car – cycling/walking?
- Will it reduce polluting forms of transport?
- Will it reduce emissions from livestock production?
- Will it incorporate measures to adapt to climate change?

13. The objective for sustainable development is to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.

Rationale

Built 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage?
- Will it allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings?
- Will it allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved?
- Will it preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?
- Will it support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment?
- Will it protect and enhance local distinctiveness and sense of place?
- Will it provide for clearer assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites immediate to settlements?
- Will it provide opportunities for cultural activities?

14. The objective for sustainable development is to 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.

Appraisal Prompts

- Will it minimise visual intrusion?
- Will it protect the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors?
- Will it protect areas designated for landscape?
- Will it protect views to the coast?
- Will it integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness?

7.1 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.

7.2 Compatibility of Objectives

The Vision and Objectives for the Local Development Plan will be compared with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives to assess how they are aligned. This will be presented in the Interim Report and help establish whether the approach to the Local Development Plan is in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

7.3 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. A record of the assumptions made and uncertainties encountered during the Sustainability Appraisal will be included in Sustainability Appraisal reports.

Glossary

AHRRGA	Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BHSCT	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
COE	Council of Europe
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DCs	District Councils
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DECLG	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
DfC	The Department for Communities
DfE	The Department for the Economy
DfI	The Department for Infrastructure
DHPCLG	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
DoH	The Department of Health
DoJ	The Department of Justice
EC	European Commission
EO	The Executive Office
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (Ireland)
Four Nations	Devolved Administrations and English Government (NI Lead Department indicated in brackets)
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
LDP	Local Development Plan
LNP	Lough Neagh Partnership
MCG	Marine Coordination Group
MI	Marine Institute
MSN	Meeting the Needs of Society Evidence Paper
NA	Not Applicable
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NHSCT	Northern Health and Social Care Trust
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWRA	Northern and Western Regional Assembly
OPW	Office of Public Works
RoI	Ireland
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SA	Sustainability appraisal
SEHSCT	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
WHSCT	Western Health and Social Care Trust

Appendix 1: Compliance Checklist

Schedule 2 of the 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 in this Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	An introduction to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan including the plan objectives and vision is presented in Chapter 4. Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Baseline information is presented in Chapter 6, under topics and each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the Local Development Plan.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The baseline characteristics of the Borough are presented in Chapter 6, as Key Sustainability Issues.
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(9) and the Habitats Directive.	A Habitats Regulations Assessment screening has been carried out and is presented in Chapter 1 of this report and Appendix ii.
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.	Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies. Each section of Chapter 6 outlines the main policy themes for that topic.
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 – (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna;	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report.

Requirement	Location
(v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).	
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.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report.
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.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	Not required at this stage
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided at the opening of this report.

Appendix 2: Sustainability Objectives and relationship to SEA topics.

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	Population Human Health
2...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
3...enable access to high quality education.	Population
4...strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climatic Factors
7...manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
8...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
9...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora Fauna
10...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
11...improve air quality	Air
12...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
13...conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage
14...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape

Appendix 3: Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	3 Enable access to high quality education.	4 Strengthen society.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	7 Manage material assets sustainably.	8 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	9 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	10 Protect, manage and use water resources	11 Improve air quality.	12 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	13 Conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	14 Maintain and enhance landscape character.
1 Improve health and well-being														
2 Provide good quality, sustainable housing	✓													
3 Enable access to high quality education	✓	✓												
4 Strengthen society	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6 encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
7 Manage material assets sustainably.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0								
8 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	0	✓							
9 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	✓	0	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓						
10 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	✓	0	0	?	0	✓	✓	✓					
11 Improve air quality	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
12 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage.	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	0	0	✓	✓	0	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	



Compatible



Neutral



Incompatible



Uncertain

Appendix 4: Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies

Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans and 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 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 Local Development Plan (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 formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT					
Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy	2010	NI	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.
DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	NI	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.
Regional Development Strategy 2035	2012	NI	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:	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	NI	Dfl	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. 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 policies in SPPS and, should any variation be proposed, it will need to be in compliance with other regional policy.
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	Dfl	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. Consideration will be given to if and how policies not in SPPS should be adopted.
Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	2014	Europe	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	The principles of integrated sustainable urban development should be implemented where possible with particular attention to reflecting regeneration plans in the council area.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	
General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)	2013	Europe	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 three objectives work set out in the Environmental Action Plan. Appraisal against the SA objective relating to the environment and health and well-being will help to ensure this.
The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive 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.	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 .
Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	2001	Europe	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 appraisal.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	2001	Europe	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 this.
Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005	UK	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.
Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The draft Programme for Government 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	2011	NI	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.
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	2006	NI	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.
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	International	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 the Sustainable Development Goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
OTHER					
Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	2012	NI	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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	
The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	2009	NI	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.
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	2015	Sub-Regional	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 LDP 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.
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	1999	Europe	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 European Spatial Development Perspective.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	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	The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured. This will be taken into account in plan preparation.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	2011	NI	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.
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	1998	NI	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 its 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 its local development plans.
Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	1998	Europe	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	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	
1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING					
Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision is "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport is a key development 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. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport...." 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. At the core of the Strategy is to ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS which informs the LDP.
Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	2004	NI	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. Consideration will be given to if/how policies not incorporated in SPPSs should be adopted in LDP.
A fitter future for all - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	2015	NI	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				2019. Seeks to create a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.	Subject Policies list for the SPPS which informs the LDP.
Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	2013	NI	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. Through coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to be enabled and supported to achieve their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant to the LDP for example promoting age friendly environments and quiet/tranquil areas and shaping places to encourage physical activity.
A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland	2012	NI	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.	The LDP can help achieve this by shaping places to encourage physical activity.
Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2011	NI	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.
Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan: Describes a planned approach for the delivery of the Transforming your Care (TYC) proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation in Section 4.2. Presents the big themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local	Identifies need for healthcare infrastructure including community care.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				Commissioning Group areas (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 the 5 local areas. In terms of the changes in capital infrastructure needed to fully implement TYC, the Population Plans will require a detailed working up of 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.	
Northern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	Sub-Regional	NHSCT	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 healthcare infrastructure requirements.
NI Water Recreation and Access Policy	2013	NI	NIW	NI Water is one of the largest land owners in Northern Ireland having responsibility for approximately 8,600 hectares throughout the province. A significant proportion of this land has recreational appeal and is regularly accessed by members of the public. The Recreation and Access Policy sets out the way public access arrangements are communicated and controlled, and provides the public with clear guidance that governs recreational activities and access on NI Water owned lands and waters. Appendix A lists facilities with public access, existing agreements and permitted activities.	This may identify sites with potential for recreation contributing to health and well-being and/or economic growth.
2. HOUSING					
Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	NI	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 by considering housing stock.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2015	NI	DfC	The action plan includes 33 actions. This is an update on progress.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP e.g. Determining the Amount of Housing Growth and the Housing Growth Allocation
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan includes 33 actions relating to the supply and quality of housing across all sectors.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP e.g. Determining the Amount of Housing Growth and the Housing Growth Allocation
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	NI	DfC	Government has three main roles in relation to housing: Helping to create the right conditions for a stable and sustainable housing market that supports economic growth and prosperity; Providing support for individuals and families to access housing, particularly the most vulnerable in society; and Setting minimum standards for the quality of new and existing homes and for how rented housing is managed. This strategy sets out how we intend to fulfil these roles 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.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP e.g. Determining the Amount of Housing Growth and the Housing Growth Allocation
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	2010	NI	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	2008	NI	Dfl	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."	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	2005	NI	Dfl	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."	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP e.g. Determining the Amount of Housing Growth and the Housing Growth Allocation

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments	2001	NI	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 developing the LDP and sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	2016	NI	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 informs potential requirements for social housing which can inform the LDP.
Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	2016	NI	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.	Taken into account in preparation of the LDP.
Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	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.
Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NI	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NI	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.
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	Vision: ... to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.	Opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	2015	NI	NIHE	The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by the Department to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. The 3-Year SHDP is published together with an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus. The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of acquired development sites. The Housing Executive would welcome development proposals for these areas.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will be used to inform social housing zonings within the plan area.
Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NI	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	In enabling housing need to be addressed the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	
The Belfast Metropolitan Housing Market Area: a local housing system analysis	2011	Sub-Regional	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 Travel to Work Areas. It now includes all of Larne local government district (LGD), and all but one ward of Antrim LGD
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	MEA	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 inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013.
3. EDUCATION AND SKILLS					
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the	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. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils,

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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. This Corporate Goal supports the draft Programme for Government Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.	these will be added when the scoping report is next updated.
Providing Pathways 2017-2020' a draft Area Plan for 2017 to 2020	2016	NI	DE	The Education Authority (EA) consulted on Northern Ireland's first regional area plan for education, 'Providing Pathways 2017-2020' which closed in December 2016. The plan aims to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs in sustainable schools that are of the right type, of the right size, located in the right place.	Consultation closed and not published. Once published should be taken into account.
Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	2009	NI	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.
Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	2009	NI	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	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	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.	This should be considered in LDP preparation however bearing in mind that there may be chances in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
4. SOCIETY					
Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	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.	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.
Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	2015	NI	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.	Rural proofing is being carried out on the plan throughout development.
Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	NI	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	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

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	2012	NI	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.
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	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.	The LDP will consider this in developing policies and spatial zoning aligning with any regeneration plans.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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	
Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017	2015	NI	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.
Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017	2012	NI	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 in proposals and policies for example for housing and shared space.
The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	NI	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	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Together: Building a United Community	2013	NI	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	The plan will support this strategy by creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all.
Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	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 framework 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Social Investment Fund	2011	NI	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 inform existing and proposed facilities that may be considered in plan preparation.
Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	2006	NI	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. These are reflected in the SA objectives used to appraisal LDP proposals.
NIHE Good Relations Plan	2007	NI	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 will take account of this plan in proposals and policies for example for housing and shared space.
NIHE - Race Relations Policy	2006	NI	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial	The LDP will take account of this Strategy in proposals and policies for example for housing and shared space.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; Migrant worker issues	
5. ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT					
Lough Neagh Fishery Management Plan	2015	Sub-Regional	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.
Going for Growth - a strategic action plan	2014	NI	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. Committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. 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.	The implications of this plan for potential development will be considered.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	2010	NI	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 is due for consultation by the end of 2016.	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.
Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	2013	NI	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.
Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development	2010	NI	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.
Connected Health Economy	2013	NI	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 sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	
Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	2010	Europe	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.
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity	2012	NI	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,	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping the environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	
6. TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY					
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	Dfl	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, 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 ² 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. Adoption of this in the plan will be considered.
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	Regional	Dfl	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 SPPS 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 SPPS 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.
Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	NI	Dfl	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.
Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) and PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	NI	Dfl	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.
7. MATERIAL ASSETS					

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
arc21 Waste Management Plan	2014	Sub-Regional	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. The SA considers waste management as part of material assets.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	2010	UK	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.	Consideration will be given to how regional policy for renewables is incorporated in the LDP.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	UK	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	This is a source of evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision at the UK scale.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	
Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	2013	NI	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. Consideration will be given to how regional policy for renewables is incorporated in the LDP.
The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	2013	NI	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.	There is a need to accommodate investment in waste management. The SA considers waste management as part of material assets.
Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) for Ireland	2010	RoI	DCCA	The OREDPA identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources and sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. Three high level goals have been identified for the OREDPA: Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs; Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy; Offshore	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns. For offshore renewables there will be planning considerations where infrastructure connects will land.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	
Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	2015	NI	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.
Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	2013	NI	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.
Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	2012	NI	DfE	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland's waters 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 NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters by 2020.	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.
Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015 DETI	2012	NI	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	A number of 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. This

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				<p>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.</p>	<p>may have impact on demand for development.</p>
DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	NI	DfE	<p>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.</p>	<p>Consideration will be given to how regional policy for energy and renewables is incorporated in the LDP.</p>
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	2010	NI	DfI	<p>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)</p>	<p>Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.</p>

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	2009	NI	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.
Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	2002	NI	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.
Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	2002	NI	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.
Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2	2009	Europe	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.	Consideration will be given to how regional policy for renewables is incorporated in the LDP.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	Europe	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. Consideration will be given to how regional policy for waste is incorporated in the LDP.
Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	Europe	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.
Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	1994	Europe	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	Consideration will be given to how regional policy for renewables is incorporated in the LDP.
9. NATURAL RESOURCES					

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (in preparation)	NA	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 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 Marine Policy Statement and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan is proposed to be published in late 2016.	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 Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.
Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	NI	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 240 hectares of ancient woodland and delivering peatland and wetland habitat restoration around the Lough Neagh basin with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of these actions where appropriate.
Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	2014	NI	DAERA	Aims to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations through a network of Marine Protected Areas (SACs, SPAs, ASSIs, Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones). The Department will develop, in consultation with stakeholders, recommendations for management actions and measures necessary to deliver the conservation objectives for MCZ features.	Public authorities have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, to ensure that such activities are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site or, where this is not possible, least hinders the achievement of these objectives. This will be taken into account in preparing LDP proposals.
Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	2013	NI	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-	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP where required.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy	2013	NI	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.
Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	2012	NI	DAERA	The Position Paper set out the Executive's objectives and lead departments for the sustainable development of the marine area including energy production and infrastructure development; tourism and recreation; port development; sewerage services; flood risk management and drainage; integrated coastal zone management; climate change; coastal change; and protection of the historic environment. It was intended to identify the policy context within which a Northern Ireland Marine Plan will be developed. The status of this document is not clear.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Eel management plan: Neagh/Bann River Basin District	2010	International	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.
Eel management plan: North East River Basin District	2010	Sub-Regional	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.
An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	2006	NI	DAERA	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, or have an indirect relationship, for

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	2013	RoI	DECLG, MI	The first step in the implementation of the MSFD in Ireland was an Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters and establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for the marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status. Each state is required to ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with the objectives of the Directive.
Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	NI	DfI	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage incorporated in SPPS to further the Executive's commitment to sustainable development and to conserving and where possible enhancing and restoring our natural heritage.	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.
Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	2013	Europe	EC	The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on: Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. It promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	
EU Biodiversity Strategy	2011	Europe	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.
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)	2009	Europe	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.
European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	Europe	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	Europe	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.
UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: Promote sustainable economic development; 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; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Lough Neagh Biodiversity Action plan	2008	Sub-Regional	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; Reed bed; Rivers and Streams; Wet Woodland. The implementation of these plans will help towards ensuring the biodiversity of Lough Neagh is maintained and enhanced.	Information on priority species and habitats, where available can inform policies and specific sites.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	1982	International	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.	In considering the River Basin Management Plan objectives the LDP can also be expected to contribute to this convention.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	1982	International	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	In considering the River Basin Management Plan objectives the LDP can also be expected to contribute to this convention.
The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	2016	International	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	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	1971	International	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 will take account of Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
10. WATER RESOURCES					
Pollution Reduction Programme - Belfast Lough	2015	Sub-Regional	DAERA	Programme established in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 -2021	2015	NI	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 ² . It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area County Fermanagh. The principle 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	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. NIEA will provide specific advice on the local issues for each council area.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 -2021	2015	NI	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 ² , including 1000km ² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principle 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. NIEA will provide specific advice on the local issues for each council area.
Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	2016	NI	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	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 LDP 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	NI	Dfl	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.
Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	2014	NI	Dfl	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	Sub-Regional	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.
Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015	2015	Sub-Regional	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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	NI	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.
Flood Maps (NI)	2011	NI	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,
Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	NI	Dfl, 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 storm water 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	Highlights potential long term problems relating to water supply and flooding which may inform spatial considerations in LDP.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	
Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources	2012	Europe	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 Dfl 2016, see separate entry.
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Europe	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.	Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.
Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	2006	Europe	EC	The directive requires each country to identify its most popular bathing waters for regular testing. In Northern Ireland 23 sites are formally identified. It requires Members States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters and to inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles.	Designated bathing waters will be taken into account in plan preparation where relevant. These sites represent assets for health and well-being and tourism. However there are none in the Borough at present.
The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	2000	Europe	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 and sustainable water management to help ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	Europe	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 Dfl 2016, see separate entry.
Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	Europe	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 Dfl 2016, see separate entry.
Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	Europe	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.
PC 15 NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021	2015	NI	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.
Our Strategy for NI Water	2014	NI	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 Urban	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				Drainage Solutions. 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.	
NI Water Resources Management Plan 2012	2012	NI	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 underway with a target for publication in 2017.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply. The Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan due to be published in 2017 should also be considered.
11. AIR QUALITY					

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	Europe	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.
Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	Europe	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 the LDP on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	2007	UK	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	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 Local

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	Plan 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. This could be through, for example, identifying measures for offsetting the impact on air quality arising from new development including supporting measures in an air quality action plan or low emissions strategy where applicable. Provision for renewable energy and measures to reduce car use are examples of contributors to improving air quality. Meeting air quality targets will improve health and well-being for the public thereby and also have environmental benefits.
12. CLIMATE					
Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps	2015	UK	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.) could strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report, Summary for Northern Ireland	2017	NI	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	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 reduce fuel poverty will address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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. SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. SPPS promotes and encourages developers to use SUDS and also indicates that council's should continue to promote the use of SUDS through their Local Development Plans. SPPS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage.	vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update	2015	NI	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	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	
Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	2015	NI	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.
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	2014	NI	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 and to promote use of SudS and protect peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	2013	NI	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 relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan	2012	NI	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	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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.	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.
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	2012	Rol	DHPCLG	Ireland's first National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) aims to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change. The NCCAF requires the development and implementation of sectoral and local adaptation plans which will form part of the national response to the impacts of climate change. Each relevant Government Department (or State Agency, where appropriate) is required to prepare adaptation plans for their sectors. 12 Sectors were identified in total including Transport, Flood Defence, Agriculture and Energy. The objectives are: providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and committing to actions to support the adaptation process.	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.
2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	2013	Europe	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 adaption in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.
Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU	2012	Europe	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 on new and renovated buildings.
Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	2010	Europe	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	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design on new and renovated buildings.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				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 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	Rol	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.
Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	Rol	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.
Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the <i>reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020</i> . 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.

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The Paris Agreement	2015	International	UN	<p>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.</p>	<p>The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.</p>
The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	International	UN	<p>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</p>	<p>The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.</p>

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994	International	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.
13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES					
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada 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. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves.
Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	NI	Dfl	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	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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
				achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	
14. LANDSCAPE					
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	2000	Europe	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, every day 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.
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	2016	NI	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.	This 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.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	2014	NI	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 and design of development in the coastal zone.
Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	2014	NI	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.	Signing of the Charter is optional. Where it has been signed it commits to consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	2000	NI	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.
Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside	2012	NI	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.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy	2010	NI	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	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.

Title	Year	Scale	Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.				each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	

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