

**Local Development Plan 2030**  
**Revised Timetable 2020**

Publication date October 2020

## Getting in Touch

Should you have a planning query, you can contact the Council's Planning Section in the following ways:

**By email** to: [planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

**By post** to: Planning Section,  
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council,  
Mossley Mill,  
Newtownabbey,  
BT36 5QA.

**By telephone** on: 0300 123 6677

**By text phone** on: 18001 0289034 0000

Should you require a copy of this revised Timetable in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, audio format, DAISY or Braille. It may also be made available in minority languages to meet the needs of those for whom English is not their first language.

## Keeping Informed

The Planning Section is keen to look at new methods of communicating with the community that would allow us to keep people informed about planning issues arising in the Borough, in particular, regarding progress on our new Local Development Plan.

The Planning Section has a community involvement database of persons with an interest in planning matters in the Borough. Should you wish to have your details added to this database, **please complete our Community Involvement Form**, which is available on our website. You can also contact us to request a hard copy of this form, which you can return upon completion.

Further information on all of the Council's planning responsibilities can be found on our website [www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk).

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## Introduction

The purpose of the Revised Timetable 2020 is to set out the key stages and the indicative timescale to produce the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP).

**A copy of the revised Timetable is included in Appendix 1 and is based upon the financial year, which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April one year to 31<sup>st</sup> March the following year.**

The revised Timetable has been prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan, and meets the requirements of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, which require the Council to prepare and keep under review a Timetable for the preparation and adoption of its LDP.

*The revised Timetable has been approved by resolution of the Council and has been agreed with the Department for Infrastructure in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.*

This publication also sets out further information on the new concept of 'soundness' to give interested parties an early indication of the requirements should they wish to comment on the LDP.

## Purpose of the Local Development Plan

The purpose of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030 (LDP) is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions within the Borough up to 2030.

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and Community Plan to enable us to plan positively for the future of our Borough.



It will guide future development and use of land in our towns, villages, and rural areas by addressing the spatial implication of social, economic, and environmental change. The LDP will balance competing demands and aims to ensure that good development occurs in the right place and at the right time. It is therefore a powerful tool for place-shaping.

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Regional Development Strategy, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Planning Policy Statements. The Council will continue to work in partnership with neighbouring councils to ensure policies and proposals are sustainably integrated.

The LDP will be produced in two stages and will comprise two separate development plan documents that will shape development within our Borough in the period to 2030. The first new development plan document will be a Plan Strategy, which will be followed by a Local Policies Plan.

The **Plan Strategy** will define strategic objectives for the future development of the Borough and will include a range of strategic policies and a spatial strategy that indicates in broad strategic terms, the locations where different types of development will be promoted.

The **Local Policies Plan** will include site-specific proposals, policy designations, and land-use zonings that will be required to deliver the Plan Strategy vision, objectives, spatial strategy, and strategic policies.

On adoption, the new LDP will replace the current Plans for the Borough and

operational planning policies that were produced by the previous Department of the Environment. Further information on these are available at [www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk).

## The Revised Timetable 2020

The revised Timetable (**Appendix 1**) provides indicative<sup>1</sup> dates for several key stages in the production of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030. It shows how the LDP is progressing and when there will be opportunities to have your say.

The revised Timetable also sets out dates for the key assessments that will be undertaken as part of the Plan preparation and when they will be consulted on. This will include a **Sustainability Appraisal** incorporating a **Strategic Environmental Assessment**, which aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the LDP are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.

In addition, a **Habitats Regulation Assessment** to consider the potential impact of LDP policies and proposals on European nature conservation sites.

**A Rural Needs Assessment** throughout the process will scrutinise whether LDP policies ensure fair and equitable treatment of rural communities and that the policies do not indirectly have a detrimental impact on rural dwellers and rural communities.

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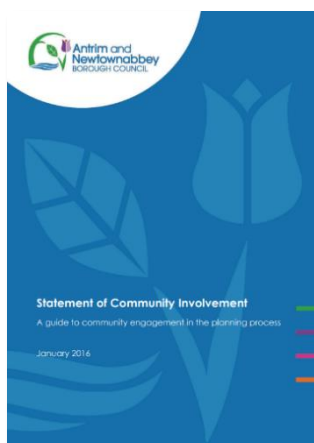
<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Regulation 6 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Finally, an **Equality Impact Screening** will be required to assess if the LDP is likely to have an impact on different sections of the community. If so, an **Equality Impact Assessment** will be undertaken.

## Progress so Far

The Council continues to progress the LDP preparation process and has already accomplished several key stages.

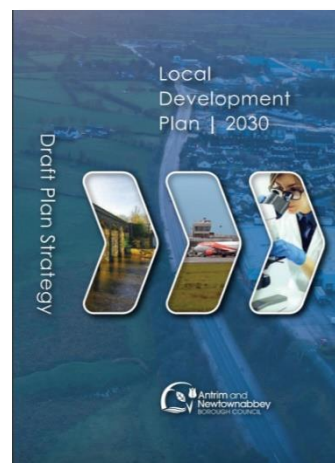
The first stage was the publication of the **Statement of Community Involvement** (SCI) in January 2016. This set out how we intend to engage with the local community during the preparation of our new LDP.



The publication of the Council's **Preferred Options Paper** (POP) in January 2017 set out the key plan issues for the Borough and the preferred options available to address them. A summary of how the issues raised during this consultation are outlined in the **POP Consultation Report** published in June 2019.



The Council also published its **Draft Plan Strategy** (DPS) for public consultation in June 2019.



It includes a Spatial Growth Strategy for the Borough as well as a wide range of Strategic Planning Policies and Detailed Management Policies.

The DPS will be submitted to the Department for Infrastructure to cause an **Independent Examination** (IE) into the soundness of the document. Once adopted, the next stage of the Plan, known as the **Local Policies Plan** (LPP) will also be subject to public consultation and IE.

## Have your Say

We will continue to engage with you throughout the plan preparation process. Further details on how we will engage with interested parties throughout the plan process is set out in our SCI and is available on our website or by contacting the Planning Section.

## Soundness

The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 sets out the general requirements for local development plans. Once the Council is satisfied that the LDP is ready for IE, the Plan is then submitted to the Department who will cause an IE to be held.

The purpose of the IE is to determine whether the Plan satisfies the requirements relating to the preparation of the Plan and whether it is 'sound'.

Soundness is a new test in the Northern Ireland plan process, and we have included information in this publication to make interested parties aware of the forthcoming new process for the examination of the Plan.

A summary of the tests is set out in **Appendix 2 of this document for information**. The Department for Infrastructure has published advice relating to the soundness tests and further details are available on the Department for Infrastructure's website at [www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk).

The Planning Appeals Commission has also published guidance on

procedures for IE, which is available on their website at [www.pacni.gov.uk](http://www.pacni.gov.uk). They explain in this guidance that those who make representation to the LDP and wish to participate at the IE will be required to identify how the LDP is unsound and provide supporting evidence.

## Delivery of the LDP

There are several factors that could potentially impact upon the timescale for delivery of the LDP. These include changes to regional policy, legislation or guidance during the lifetime of the Plan e.g. introduction of focussed changes; a sudden major change in local circumstances e.g. impacts of a pandemic or potential delays associated with IE and subsequent Binding Report, and available resources.

This revised Timetable sets out several steps and safeguards to manage the plan making process and bring forward any early warning signs to the attention of the Council. These steps are set out overleaf.



- A work programme will be presented to Council Members for each stage of the Plan process.
- Papers will be presented to Council Members on a regular basis regarding local development plan matters, including key planning topics and findings as they emerge.
- A Steering Group has been established and comprises nominated Members of the Planning Committee, the Chief Executive, the Director of Community Planning, the Director of Economic Development and Planning, and the Head of Planning. This high-level co-ordinating body ensures oversight and strategic input on behalf of the whole community, as well as from planning professionals.
- A Project Management Team has been established and comprises Senior Council

Officers, nominated Elected Member party representatives, and members of key Statutory/Government Departments. The purpose of the team is to ensure key consultees co-operate in the plan making process. This group will meet when considered necessary.

- Progress Reports on the LDP have been and will continue to be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Planning Committee. The reports show how the LDP is progressing through each stage of the Timetable.

### Review of the Timetable

The Council will review and update the Timetable as necessary and will publish an update following the Plan Strategy adoption.



**Appendix 1: Revised Indicative LDP Timetable\***

KEY STAGES IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS		ASSESSMENTS	ESTIMATED TIMESCALES
Publication of the Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement			Complete
Publication of Preferred Options Paper (POP) for public consultation		Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report (incorporating SEA & HRA), Scoping Report plus publication of Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report	Complete
Publication of draft Plan Strategy (DPS)  PUBLIC CONSULTATION <sup>2</sup> (8 WKS: REPRESENTATIONS) (8 WKS: COUNTER-REPRESENTATIONS)		Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating SEA, Scoping Report, draft HRA & Rural Needs Assessment and Section 75 Screening	Complete
Soundness Based Independent Examination Submission of the Plan to DFI - Hearing Sessions - Followed by Advisory Report to Central Government - Central Government issues Binding Report <sup>3</sup> to Council - Changes made to finalise the Plan			3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020/2021 – 4th Quarter 2021/2022
Adoption of the Plan Strategy (PS)		Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (inc. SEA), HRA, Rural Needs Assessment & EQIA (where required)	4th Quarter 2021/2022
Statutory Stakeholder Engagement: Member engagement on key issues and public consultation where required.		Invite comments from Consultation Body on draft Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA) and updating of Scoping Report	Early - Mid 2022
Publication of draft Local Policies Plan (DLPP)  PUBLIC CONSULTATION (8 WKS: REPRESENTATIONS) (8 WKS: COUNTER-REPRESENTATIONS)		Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating SEA, HRA & Rural Needs Assessment  Publication of draft EQIA if relevant	Late 2022
Soundness Based Independent Examination Submission of the Plan to DFI - Hearing Sessions - Followed by Advisory Report to Central Government - Central Government issues Binding Report to Council - Changes made to finalise the Plan			2023
Adoption of Local Policies Plan (LPP)		Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Report (inc. SEA), HRA, Rural Needs Assessment and EQIA (where required)	2024
Monitoring and Review of Local Development Plan Incorporating Public Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Annual Review</li><li>5- &amp; 10-Year Review</li><li>Commence Preparation of new Local Development Plan</li></ul>		Monitoring of Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA, HRA, EQIA)	On going

\* Dates follow the financial year, which runs from 1st April one year to 31st March the following year. The dates are indicative and may be subject to change due to factors outside the Council's control

<sup>2</sup> Included 4 weeks pre-consultation

<sup>3</sup> There is no statutory timeframe for this period

## Appendix 2: Soundness Tests (as set by Department for Infrastructure)

### Procedural Tests

- P1 Has the DPD been prepared in accordance with the council's timetable and the Statement of Community Involvement?
- P2 Has the council prepared its Preferred Options Paper and taken into account any representations made?
- P3 Has the DPD been subject to sustainability appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment?
- P4 Did the council comply with the regulations on the form and content of its DPD and procedure for preparing the DPD?

### Consistency Tests

- C1 Did the council take account of the Regional Development Strategy?
- C2 Did the council take account of its Community Plan?
- C3 Did the council take account of policy and guidance issued by the Department?
- C4 Has the plan had regard to other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the council's district or to any adjoining council's district?

### Coherence and Effectiveness Tests

- CE1 The DPD sets out a coherent strategy from which its policies and allocations logically flow and where cross boundary issues are relevant it is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils;
- CE2 The strategy, policies and allocations are realistic and appropriate having considered the relevant alternatives and are founded on a robust evidence base;
- CE3 There are clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring; and
- CE4 It is reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances.

Source: Dept. for Infrastructure Development Plan Practice Note 6, Soundness, May 2017

ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE  
50 STILES WAY, ANTRIM BT41 2UB  
T 028 9446 3113

MOSSLEY MILL  
NEWTOWNABBEY BT36 5QA  
T 028 9034 0000

[www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)