

Local Development Plan | 2030

Draft Plan Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
Incorporating Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA)

SA Scoping Report

June 2019

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Have your say

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is consulting on the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy 2030.

Pre-Consultation on the draft Plan Strategy

To allow everyone time to read and understand the draft Plan Strategy and all its associated documents, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is publishing all documentation in advance of the formal 8 week period of public consultation. This period of pre-consultation will run from Friday 28 June 2019 to Thursday 25 July 2019.

Please note that no representations should be made during this period.

Formal Consultation on the draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy is published for formal public consultation for a period of 8 weeks beginning on **Friday 26 July and closing at 5 pm on Friday 20 September 2019.**

The draft Plan Strategy is published alongside a range of assessments which are also open for public consultation between Friday 26 July 2019 and Friday 20 September 2019 including a Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment), a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment and a Section 75 Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment Report.

Please note that representations received after the closing date on Friday 20 September 2019 will not be considered.

How to respond

The purpose of the consultation is to determine if the draft Plan Strategy is 'sound'. There are 12 tests of soundness and further information on these tests is available in the Department for Infrastructure's published Development Plan Practice Note 6 'Soundness'. We strongly recommend that you read this and other Departmental guidance if you intend to make a representation to the draft Plan Strategy. It is also recommended that you read the Planning Appeal Commission's published guidance entitled 'Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans' as this also gives information in relation to soundness and representations. Representations, should be made in writing and we would encourage you to use the methods set out below:

Online

- Via our online consultation hub at:
www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/draftplanstrategy
- Downloading a copy of the response form from our website and forwarding it to the Forward Planning Team; or
- Requesting a copy of our response form to be posted to you or you may collect a hard copy from Antrim Civic Centre or Mossley Mill and return it to the Forward Planning Team.

By Mail

- Email us at planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
- In writing to the following postal address:

Forward Planning Team
Mossley Mill,
Carnmoney Road North,
Newtownabbey BT36 5QA

Come and Meet us

We are also holding a series of drop-in events and public meetings where you will be able to speak to a member of the Forward Planning Team about our Draft Plan Strategy. Full details are available on our website or by contacting the Team. Planning Officers are also available between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday at Mossley Mill. They are also available at Antrim Civic Centre by contacting us in advance to arrange an appointment.

Keeping the Community Involved

The Council wishes to encourage the ongoing involvement of the local community in the plan process. You can sign up to receive our Local Development Plan emails to keep up to date on the progress of the Plan and upcoming events.

If you would like to receive our Local Development Plan emails, please contact the Forward Planning Team.

General Data Protection Regulation

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by producing a specific Local Development Plan Privacy Notice, which lets you know how we manage any personal information we receive from you. It contains the standards you can expect when we ask for, or hold, your personal information and an explanation of our information management security policy. A copy of our Local Development Plan Privacy Notice is available on our website. All representations received will be published on our website and made available at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre for inspection at the addresses above. All representations will be forwarded to the Department of Infrastructure in advance of Independent Examination

Overview of SA Scoping Report

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan

This document forms part of work on a new Local Development Plan (LDP) 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.

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

The LDP 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.

Draft Plan Strategy

In January 2017 the Council published its Preferred Options Paper (POP).

The purpose of the POP was to:

- Promote debate on issues of strategic importance that will influence the shape of future development in our Borough up to 2030;
- Set out a number of planning issues that we wanted to engage with the public on; and
- Provide possible options for the strategic direction that our new Local Development Plan might take.

The POP was subject to a 12-week period of public consultation in order to provide the opportunity for the public and other key stakeholders to shape the Council's LDP. Those responses to the POP consultation stage have been important in developing the strategy and development management policies within the draft Plan Strategy. The LDP will consist of two documents that are prepared in sequence. The first stage is the publication of the Plan Strategy, which is then followed by the Local Policies Plan.

The draft Plan Strategy was published on 28 June 2019 with a 4-week pre-consultation period followed by an 8-week formal consultation period from 26 July to 20 September 2019. It is a legislative requirement of The Planning Act (NI) 2011 that an appraisal of the sustainability of the Plan Strategy be carried out. The Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment), is also

open for public consultation along with a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment, and an Equality (Section 75) Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment Report.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001) ('the SEA Directive').

A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Antrim and Newtownabbey LDP. Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives. This process helps to evaluate possible strategic, policy and site specific options, as well as the most sustainable in terms of economic, social and environmental performance.

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 LDP;
- Collect relevant baseline information about the environmental, social and economic conditions in Antrim and Newtownabbey and consider how these might change in the future;
- Identify sustainability issues and challenges which could affect or be addressed by the LDP;
- Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, consisting of sustainability objectives and appraisal prompts, which will form the basis for assessment of the LDP; and
- Invite comment on the scope and method of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Antrim and Newtownabbey

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental topics have been identified. For each topic sustainability objectives were identified by considering the wider strategic and policy context, and reviewing baseline information and any evidence of trends and issues.

The objectives for sustainable development within Antrim and Newtownabbey are to:

1... improve health and well-being.

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimise the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

2... strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are

inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

4... enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

5... enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

6... manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimise adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

9... improve air quality

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded, careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaptation is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. 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.

13... Maintain and enhance landscape character.

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

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List of Abbreviations

ANBC	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
AAP	Area of Archaeological Potential
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
EO	Executive Office
ES	Ecosystem Services
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
HED	Historic Environment Division
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
HSNI	Health Survey for Northern Ireland
IDBR	Inter Departmental Business Register
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGD	Local Government District
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MI	Marine Institute
MPS	Marine Policy Statement

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

1 Introduction

This Scoping Report is the second formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan (LDP). It updates and builds on the Scoping Report prepared alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP), published on 18th January 2017. The SA Scoping Report presents information about the topics being assessed under the SA, which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Scoping Report will be updated throughout the Plan preparation and will be included with all SA Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

1.1 The Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan

The LDP will replace the following plans that cover the Council area:

- Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001 and its alterations;
- Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001;
- Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001;
- Draft Newtownabbey Area Plan 2005; and
- Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015.

A revised LDP timetable for Antrim and Newtownabbey was published in July 2018. The timetable sets out indicative timeframes for the key stages in the production of the LDP. Section 3 describes the approach we are taking to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of our Council area.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council shares land or water boundaries with five neighbouring Councils – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Mid Ulster District Council.

In order for cross-boundary issues to be effectively addressed, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will continue to liaise with these neighbouring Councils throughout the LDP process to address cross cutting issues and identify how these can be best taken forward as part of the plan process. This is particularly important in relation to the delivery of key elements of the Regional Development Strategy to ensure a holistic approach to strategic matters is pursued and for policies to be complementary.

1.2 Sustainable Development

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

¹ NI Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy

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

SA is the approach used to promote sustainable development within LDPs by evaluating the social, environmental and economic effects of all aspects of the LDP throughout its preparation.

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

- Building a dynamic, innovative economy that delivers the prosperity required to tackle disadvantage and lift communities out of poverty;
- Strengthening society so that it is more tolerant, inclusive and stable and permits positive progress in quality of life for everyone;
- Driving sustainable, long-term investment in key infrastructure to support economic and social development;
- Striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment;
- Ensuring reliable, affordable and sustainable energy provision and reducing our carbon footprint; and
- Ensuring the existence of a policy environment which supports the overall advancement of sustainable development in and beyond Government.

1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

1.4 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

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

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

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: 'Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment'¹. SA

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

therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates SEA and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA. Appendices 2 & 3 of this report demonstrate how SEA has been accomplished.

1.5 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

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

Table 1.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Sections 4 & 5
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Prior to POP consulted DAERA 03/10/2016, response received 14/11/2019. For draft Plan Strategy update consulted NIEA 21/09/18, response received 12/10/18. Recommendations incorporated where appropriate (refer to Appendix 6).
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Section 5
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Section 6
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 2.3
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 (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in January 2017
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 necessary,	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP in January 2017.

Stage	Description	Location
	proposing mitigation measured for alleviating any adverse effects.	
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	SA Report
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	SA Report
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.	SA Report
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.	SA Report

1.6 Other Assessments

1.6.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) 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 LDP; this is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance designated under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). A draft HRA has been published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan Strategy and an updated version will be undertaken for the Draft Local Policies Plan. A final HRA will be published when each of these are adopted.

1.6.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force on 1 June 2017, applies to NI Government Departments and Councils. It 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'¹ and 'A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities'². 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. Where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

This Scoping Report 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 Sustainability 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. The Council has published a Section 75 Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment Report.

1.7 Scoping Report Structure

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

¹ DAERA (2015) Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing

² DAERA (2017) A guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 - May 2017

2 Sustainability Appraisal: the Approach

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to the SA throughout the LDP process. Sections 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's LDP.

2.2 Principles

The SA process is carried out under the following principles:

Role

SA is a tool to aid plan-making which identifies potential effects of options, how these may be mitigated with a view to informing on the most appropriate option. It does not, however, give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

Integrated

SA is an essential part of the plan-making process. It 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 LDP.

Shared Information

Where appropriate, data collected for other purposes such as LDP Evidence Papers or Community Planning is used for evidence or for future monitoring.

Relevant

The SA 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 LDP.

Connected

The LDP may be influenced by, or have an impact on, neighbouring areas. This SA considers strategies and plans beyond the Council area, where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring Councils were invited to comment on the SA Scoping Report and SA Interim Report when these were published in January 2017 and will be invited to comment on the SA Report. It is also acknowledged that Antrim and Newtownabbey has direct connectivity with the marine environment and indirect connectivity through its watercourses and river systems.

Proportionate

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

Up-to-date

The SA Reports will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that current policies, plans and programmes are reflected, and recent data is used.

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.

Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of SA, to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required on the SA Scoping Report was with the Statutory Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body (DAERA) and was consulted on the outline of the SA Scoping Report in November 2016. Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the LDP Evidence Papers and Section 5. Statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SA Reports published at POP stage in January 2017 and were re-consulted regarding updates to the SA Scoping Report in September 2018.

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

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council shares land or water boundaries with five neighbouring Councils: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Mid Ulster District Council. These Councils will be invited to comment on the draft Plan Strategy and SA Reports along with other statutory consultees including DAERA.

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

2.3 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 Section 4 and the evidence base is presented in Section 5.

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

2.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the SA 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 SA Framework consists of Sustainability Objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework which may be updated as further information becomes available. The Sustainability Reports to accompany the Plan Strategy will include proposed indicators for monitoring any significant effects of delivery of the LDP in relation to the Sustainability Objectives.

2.5 Significant Effects

The SA will assess the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect, therefore assessment is a matter of judgement from discussion that takes account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

2.6 Assessment Method

The key stages are SA of:

- Options and reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper;
- Options and reasonable alternatives for the Plan Strategy; and
- The Local Policies Plan.

The proposed method for the appraisal of each part of the LDP follows.

2.7 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the draft Plan Strategy

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

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

Table 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Policy								
OPTION(S)	Option 1:				Option 2:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health & well-being								
2... strengthen society								
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and comparison of alternative options against the sustainability objectives. • Identification of the most sustainable option. • Identification of the preferred option. • Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option. • Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred option. • Summary of possible measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. 								

Table 2.2: Scores and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Rating		Description
++	Significant Positive	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	Minor Positive	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	Neutral / no effect	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
-	Minor Negative	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	Significant Negative	Policy/ 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

Key:	++ Significant positive	+ Minor positive	0 No overall	- Minor negative	-- Significant negative	? Uncertain
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2.8 Plan Strategy

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

2.9 Local Policies Plan

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

2.10 Cumulative Effects

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

3 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan

3.1 Context - Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

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

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

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

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

3.2 Spatial Scope of the Plan

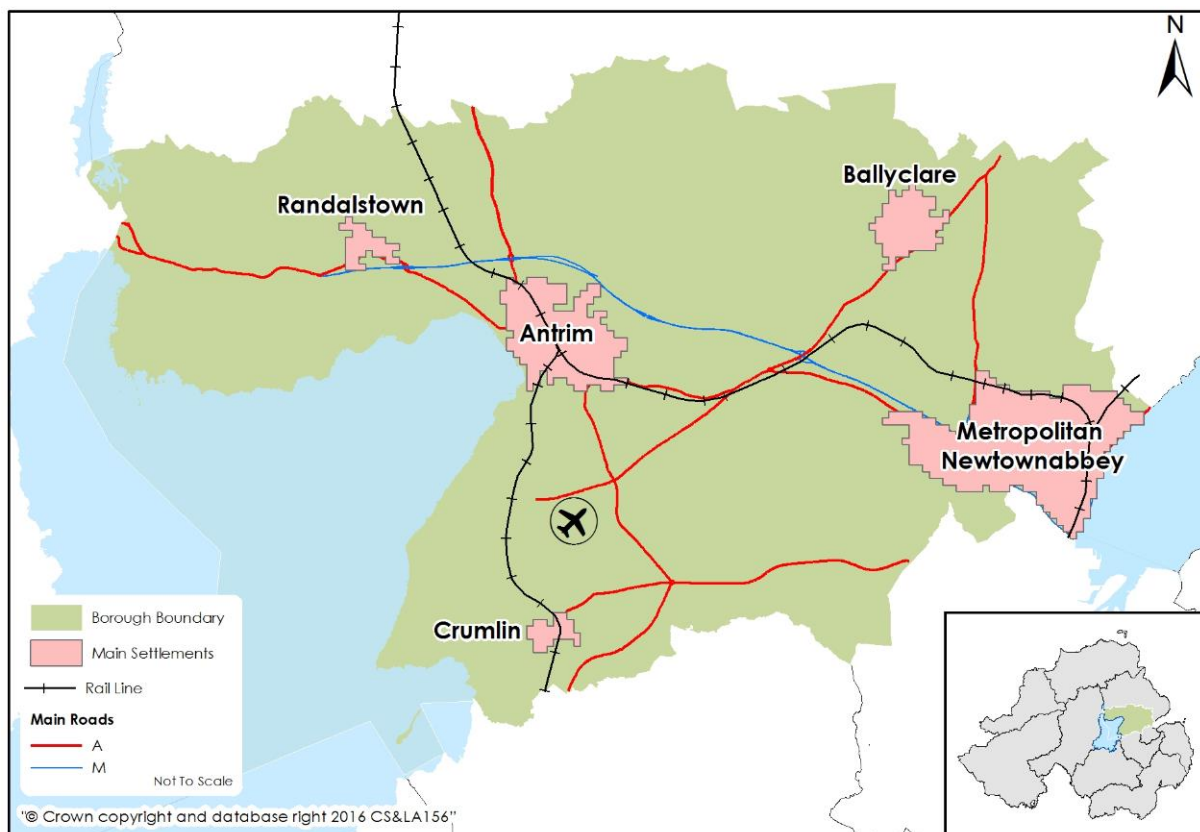
The new LDP will apply to the entire Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area which covers 728 square kilometres stretching from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to the shores of Belfast Lough in the east. This is an area with an attractive and varied landscape centred on the South Antrim hills 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/M22, A6, A8 and A26) as well as the rail lines to Derry/Londonderry and Larne.

Belfast International Airport, one of Northern Ireland's busiest gateways, with over four million people arriving and departing every year, is also located within the Borough.

Given its strategic location 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 citizens is a key priority for the Council.

Figure 3.1: The Plan Area

3.3 Preparation

The purpose of the Antrim and Newtownabbey LDP is to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy¹ (RDS) 2035 and guide development decisions within Antrim and Newtownabbey up to 2030.

The new LDP has been prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and takes account of the Council's Community Plan to enable us to plan positively for the future of the Borough. It will ensure that land is zoned appropriately and that infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Borough for future generations.

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the RDS, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)² and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)³, the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and, when adopted, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. The new LDP will replace the current statutory development plans that apply to the Borough.

The Plan will be produced in two parts; the Plan Strategy is published first, followed by the Local Policies Plan. The Plan Strategy identifies the aims, objectives, growth

¹ DRD (2012) Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035

² DOE (2015) Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

³ Planning NI Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Planning Guidance (found at Planning NI

https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/planning_statements_and_supplementary_planning_guidance.htm)

strategy and strategic policies applicable to the Plan Area. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

3.3.1 What is the Local Development Plan?

The LDP is a spatial land use plan which is primarily 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 draft Plan Strategy sets out our vision and objectives for the development of the Borough. It includes 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 the 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 extant development plans for the Borough 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 LDP 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.

3.4 Plan Vision and Objectives

3.4.1 Plan Vision

The Local Development Plan must set out a clear vision as to what Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough should look like by 2030.

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

The 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 the 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.

In summary Antrim and Newtownabbey will be:

- A Place of Economic Opportunity;
- A Vibrant and Liveable Place;
- A Place with a Sustainable Future.

3.4.2 Plan Objectives

In order to support and help achieve the Plan Vision, a series of Strategic Objectives have been developed. Again, the Council has considered this carefully in light of the public engagement to date and the context in which the Plan is being prepared.

The rationale for the proposed objectives is explained in the draft Plan Strategy paragraphs 3.4 – 3.14. The Council proposes the following interlinked Strategic Objectives to deliver the Plan Vision:

Strategic Objectives

(SO 1): Promote sustainable growth by managing development and securing new infrastructure provision in our settlements and countryside to meet the needs of all our citizens.

A Place of Economic Opportunity

(SO 2): Establish Antrim and Newtownabbey as a premier business location where both existing and new, innovative, cultural and creative enterprise can prosper.

(SO 3): Provide a range and quality of land and premises to facilitate business growth, promote economic diversification and protect our strategically important employment locations.

(SO 4): Promote development and regeneration of our town centres and commercial areas.

(SO 5): Support the development of sustainable tourism and enhanced tourism infrastructure.

(SO 6) Improve accessibility, connectivity and ease of movement to, from and within our Borough and promote sustainable travel choices.

A Liveable and Vibrant Place

(SO 7): Promote positive placemaking and ensure that high quality new development respects, enhances and integrates with our historic environment and natural heritage.

(SO 8): Ensure a sufficient supply of land for new homes, provide a diverse choice of housing and strengthen community cohesion.

(SO 9): Accommodate and promote well-designed and accessible community, education and health facilities.

(SO 10): Promote the protection and accessibility of our open spaces.

A Place with a Sustainable Future

(SO 11): Promote biodiversity and conserve the natural assets of our countryside, coast and loughs.

(SO 12): Ensure the responsible use of land and natural resources and promote sustainable energy production to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

(SO 13): Tackle flood risk by making space for water and promote sustainable drainage systems.

(SO 14): Ensure the responsible management of waste and support measures to increase recycling.

4 Overview of the Baseline Evidence

4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Section 5 for fourteen topics, which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Several topics contribute to social, economic and environmental themes. Due to these overlaps, Table 4.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to help clarify where information is likely to be presented in this report.

Table 4.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

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

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

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies;
- Baseline evidence;
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the LDP; and
- Key Sustainability Issues.

4.2 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 LDP. 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 LDP;
- To reflect sustainability themes contained in regional policies and strategies;
- To identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan; and
- To highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for the Council which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the LDP.

4.3 Strategic Context

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

4.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

The RDS provides a strategic and long term perspective on the future development of NI 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 Derry/Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. The RDS also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth, to ensure all areas benefit from economic growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. It also recognises there is a need to understand the role and function of settlements and their role in serving rural communities. The RDS promotes co-operation between places and encourages clustering of Hubs so that services do not need to be duplicated but rather shared. The towns recognised in the RDS as having such potential include Antrim.

Antrim is also recognised in the RDS as having the key strength of “a well-developed transport infrastructure that provides easy access to all the main external gateways for Northern Ireland” due to the town's position on two main transport corridors, the Belfast – Derry/Londonderry corridor and the southern corridor.

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 LDPs.

4.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The 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 LDPs 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 NI. These are:

- Improving health and well-being;
- Creating and enhancing shared space;
- Supporting the economy;
- Supporting good design and positive place-making; and
- Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

The latter part of the SPPS contains 72 regional strategic objectives across 16 subject areas, in addition to the introduction of new policy for retailing.

4.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

The Sustainable Development Strategy¹ 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 strategic objectives that are key are highlighted under their relevant topic.

4.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive setting out the priorities that it intends to pursue. The Executive formed in March 2016 adopted an outcomes- based approach in developing a PfG. At its centre was a framework of outcomes designed to target those things that will make

¹ NI Executive (2010) Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy

real improvement to people's quality of life. The draft PfG was consulted on in summer 2016 and a fuller version was subject to further public consultation in December 2016. In the absence of an Executive an Outcomes Delivery Plan was published in June 2018 setting out the programme of work the Northern Ireland Civil Service has put in place for 2018/19 to give effect to the previous Executive's stated objective of improving wellbeing for all - by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth

The draft PfG contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 42 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of residents.

While efforts continue to restore the institutions of Government, Departments continue to act, operating within the adjusted indicative departmental financial allocations announced to Parliament by the Secretary of State, in line with the direction set by previous Ministers and the Executive in their draft Programme for Government.

4.3.5 UK Marine Policy Statement and Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

The UK MPS, the UK Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the policy and legislative framework for the management of the marine area in Northern Ireland. The UK vision for the marine environment, set out in the UK MPS, is the attainment of '*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*'.

The MCAA is a UK-wide Act which includes a number of provisions for the management of the UK's marine area. For NI, key provisions within this Act include a licensing system for management of development within the marine area from the mean high water spring tide out to 12 nautical miles (the inshore region).

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. This includes provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the NI inshore region; and provision to improve marine conservation and protection. The draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland was consulted on for an eight week period beginning 18 April 2018. Once adopted, it will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements.

Section 58 of the MCAA and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to "*have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area*". This means that all public authorities must have regard to the UK MPS and other relevant policy in the preparation of LDPs and all associated documents.

4.3.6 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 LDP will consider any land use spatial planning aspects of the Community Plan.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here' was published in June 2017. It can be found at www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan/.

A number of outcomes have been identified for the Community Plan. These have been considered in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy and are identified below:

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

The Community Plan also includes the 'wildly important goal' that "*our vulnerable people are supported*".

4.3.7 Corporate Plan – Our Borough Your Vision 2019-2030

The Council has a Corporate Plan 2019-2030 which establishes the purpose and priorities of the Council. It has a strategic vision of "*A progressive, smart and prosperous Borough. Inspired by our people; Driven by ambition*". The Council wants to make the Borough "the best place to live, work, visit and invest" with three strategic objectives – a place of economic opportunity; a vibrant and liveable place; a place with a sustainable future.

The plan includes the following themes:

Place

- People take pride in their surroundings.
- People feel safe.
- Our environment, natural habitats and built heritage are protected and enhanced.
- We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods, and rural areas.
- We have an efficient planning process that promotes positive development and sustainable growth.

People

- We deliver high quality Council services and improve access for people, communities and businesses in the Borough.
- 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 equity, diversity and respect.

- We communicate clearly with our residents, listen to their feedback and respond to their needs. Customers increasingly use the Council's digital platforms and can self-serve a wider range of council services.
- People choose to reuse or recycle their waste.
- We achieve excellence in customer and service quality standards and this will be recognised through accreditation schemes and awards.

Prosperity

- We have a world class infrastructure which supports the expansion of indigenous businesses, attracts investment, and supports productivity, exports and business growth and acts as a centre of excellence for global companies.
- We will identify and support entrepreneurs and have a strong competitive business advantage which sustains existing jobs and creates new employment opportunities.
- We have an attractive tourism offer and have maximised the benefits to our Borough.
- We have a strong arts and culture brand which enhances the image and reputation of the Council.

4.3.8 Masterplans and Regeneration

Town Centre Masterplans are non-statutory documents which focus on regeneration and public realm improvements. A town centre master plan for Antrim was published in 2010. Masterplans aim to ensure that the viability and vitality of the town centres are enhanced and that they are visually attractive to residents, businesses and visitors, whilst also improving the overall accessibility.

There are also Village Plans extant in the Borough which are also currently under review and are expected to be updated through the LDP process. Village plans help to identify and address the current issues facing each village to facilitate economic, environmental, physical and social improvement. These documents have informed the preparation of the POP and Plan Strategy and will continue to be taken into account throughout the LDP process.

4.4 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 Section 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide specific information at a local Council level, information for NI has been used. Where there are critical data gaps, these have been identified.

Information sources include data collected for the LDP Evidence Papers and the baseline reports published for the Community Plan which are found in the Community Planning section of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council website: www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/communityplan/

The baseline topics for the SA have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in 'Local Development Plans: Environmental Evidence

and Information'¹ have been referred to, as well as the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report².

In addition to the LDP and Community Plan evidence, we have used evidence presented on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) website. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on NI. Much data at Council or sub-Council level was sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) website. NINIS is part of NISRA and aims to make small area information held within Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies available to as wide an audience as possible. The NINIS website contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies.

4.5 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 LDP. This also helped identify key issues for each topic.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough was included within these previous Area Plans prior to April 2015:

- Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001 - for the legacy Antrim Borough Council area;
- Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 – for the urban parts of the legacy Newtownabbey Borough;
- Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 – for the part of Greenisland that transferred to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough in 2015
- Draft Newtownabbey Area Plan 2005, - for the legacy Newtownabbey Borough Council area; and
- Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015³; – for the legacy Newtownabbey Council area.

These do not reflect the new Borough Council baseline or the 'Love Living Here' Community Plan.

4.6 The Key Sustainability Issues

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

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

² DAERA (2018) Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2018 (Date published: 31 May 2018)

³ BMAP was adopted in September 2014, but was subsequently quashed as a result of a judgment in the Court of Appeal delivered on 18 May 2017.

4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

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

5 The Evidence Base

5.1 Health and Well-being

5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity. 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 the environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active travel.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's Locality 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 NI and reduce inequalities in health. Outcome 12 of this framework, 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped into the following general themes:

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

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

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

establish permitted noise levels and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for NI provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

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.

5.1.2 Baseline Information

Detailed information on health and well-being has been provided in the 'Love Living Here' Community Plan and in the LDP Evidence Paper 1 Population. NISRA statistics have also been referred to, alongside data from the Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI) and the Health Inequalities Annual Report 2019¹. This topic overlaps with the Community, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Natural Resources, and Landscape sections of this report.

Life expectancy

Average life expectancy at birth for males in the Borough (using information aggregated from 2015 to 2017) is 79.1 years (NI: 78.5) and for females 82.0 years (NI: 82.3)². Average life expectancy in the Borough has shown a steady increase since 2006-2008. While male life expectancy is slightly higher than the NI average, female life expectancy is slightly lower.

Healthy life expectancy is the average number of years that a person can expect to live in 'good health' and is calculated using respondents' perception of their own health according to the Health Survey Northern Ireland (HSNI). The average healthy life expectancy at birth for NI (using information aggregated from 2015 to 2017) is 59.1 years for males and 60.3 years for females³. The average healthy life expectancy for men living in rural areas is 1.3 years more than the NI average and 3.0 years for women⁴. Disability-free life expectancy for males in NI aggregated for 2015-2017 was 55.0 years, and for females was 55.4 years. Healthy Life Expectancies and Disability Free Life Expectancies are not currently available at Council level, however the Health Inequalities NI Annual Report 2019 notes that at NI level both are showing a declining trend.

Causes of death

In 2017, of the 16,036 total registered deaths in NI, 28.6% (4,581) were cancer related. While cancer is the most commonly recorded cause of death, other principal causes include circulatory diseases (24%) and respiratory diseases (13%). Alzheimer's and other dementias accounted for 12% of deaths registered in 2017⁵.

In 2017, 1,192 or around 7% of deaths registered in NI occurred in the Borough. Of these, cancer was accountable for the majority of deaths (339) followed by

¹ Department of Health - Health Inequalities Annual Report 2019 (Date published: 27 March 2019)

² Health Inequalities Annual Report 2019 Data Tables (Date published: 27 March 2019)

³ NISRA - PiG Measurement Annex - Healthy life expectancy at birth (Date published: 19 December 2018)

⁴ Health Inequalities Annual Report 2019 Data Tables - Urban Rural Analysis - Healthy Life Expectancy (Date published: 27 March 2019)

⁵ NISRA: Registrar General Annual Report 2017 (Date published: 07 November 2018)

circulatory disease (283) and respiratory disease (158). The fourth highest amount of deaths (87), were from mental or behavioural disorders, followed then by deaths linked to diseases of the nervous system (82)¹.

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 NI Health Survey 2014/15 found overall, 72% of adults in NI 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 LGD level, however at the Trust and NI level it has increased from a very low level in 2011.

Table 5.1.2: Physical Activity Levels NI and Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Area	Respondents meeting recommended physical activity levels of at least 150 minutes per week (%)				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2016
Northern Ireland	38	34	53	53	55
Northern HSCT	39	37	54	54	55

Source: NINIS Physical Activity - Health Survey (administrative geographies)

Statistical data for leisure time spent outdoors, shows that there is generally a greater level of leisure time spent outdoors by residents of the Borough than for NI as a whole. 80% of respondents from the Borough reported that they spent leisure time outdoors more than once a week in 2017.

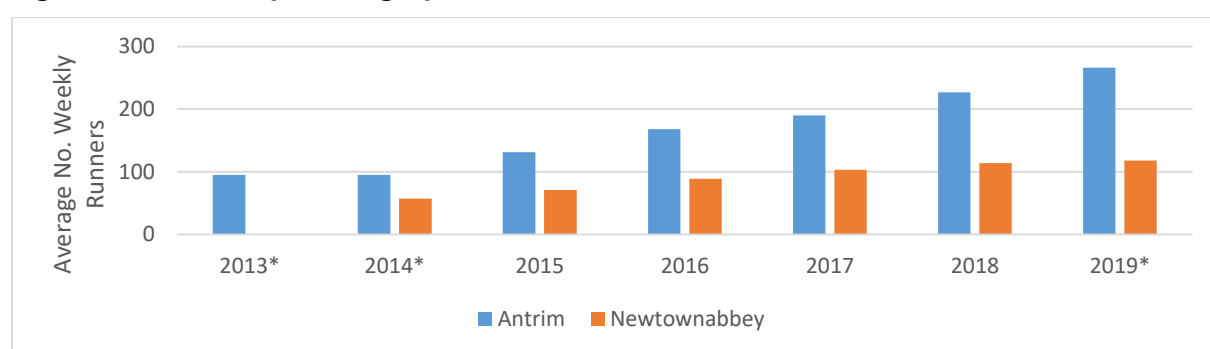
¹ NISRA: Registrar General Annual Report 2017 Cause of Death Tables (Date published: 07 November 2018)

Table 5.1.3 Leisure time outdoors NI and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough

Variable	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	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017
Northern Ireland	65	66	67	72	22	23	22	22	11	11	11	6
Antrim and Newtownabbey	72	62	72	80	22	30	24	17	3	8	4	3

Source: NINIS People & Places - Leisure Time Outdoors (administrative geographies)

The historic environment (see also Section 5.14) plays an important role in the provision of high quality assets and spaces which help to promote good health and wellbeing. There are two weekly parkrun running events in the Borough, one of which has its route around the grounds of Antrim Castle Gardens. The number of people participating in this form of physical activity has steadily increased since their establishment in 2013/14 (Figure 5.1.1).

Figure 5.1.1 Weekly average parkrun attendance

* Average calculated over partial year

Source: www.parkrun.org

Obesity

The HSNi 2017/18 reports that in the NI adult population, 37% were classed as overweight and 27% as obese¹. For 2005/06 the HSNi reported figures were 35% and 24% respectively. The annual figures derived from the HSNi appear to indicate an increasing trend in the proportion of people suffering from weight issues.

Weight has been linked to some cancers including breast and bowel, so there is a direct link between weight and the largest cause of death in the Borough. A greater proportion of men than women are overweight or obese.

The HSNi 2017/18 also reported that 18% of children (2 years to 15 years) in NI were classed as overweight and 9% as obese. This represents a slight increase on most previous years dating back to 2010/11. The most recent statistics on child BMI published through NINIS are for the period 2013-15. These indicate that 25.54% of children in the Borough had a BMI classified as overweight or obese (NI: 21.57) in Primary 1 and 5.93 % had a BMI in the obese range (NI 5.23%). For children in Year 8, 28.22% had a BMI classified as overweight or obese, of which 8.36% were in the

¹ Department of Health: Tables from health survey Northern Ireland - Adult and Child Obesity Tables (Date published: 09 January 2019)

obese range (NI 27.27%, 6.55%)¹. These statistics indicate that relative to the other 10 Councils, Antrim and Newtownabbey has the highest proportion of children with a BMI in the obese range at Year 1 and the second highest proportion at Year 8.

Noise

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

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

- Major roads – (more than 3 million vehicle passages per year);
- Major railways – (railways with more than 30,000 train passages per year);
- Major airports – (airports with more than 50,000 movements per year); and
- Agglomerations – (urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants).

Noise maps of relevance to Antrim and Newtownabbey include those published for Belfast International Airport, industrial sites, major roads and major railways, all of which are evident in the Borough. Newtownabbey is included within the ‘Belfast agglomeration’. The most affected areas from traffic-related noise are the M2/M5 corridors and A2 Shore Road. Noise from industrial sites is evident on the maps at three sites in the Borough. Belfast International Airport has an indicated noise envelope extending several kms in a roughly SW-NE direction reaching from Lough Neagh as far as the M2 at Templepatrick³. The Belfast International Airport 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*”. A Noise Action Plan for Round 3 has not yet been published.

DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas in policy guidance and in connection with the city of Belfast. One Quiet Area has been designated in the Borough, at Carnmoney Hill. 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 that 12% of the NI population 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 for the years 2011-2017 shows that the median response time for an ambulance in the Borough in 2017 was 10 minutes 25 seconds ranking 3rd fastest overall out of the 11 Councils, and lower than the NI average of 11 minutes 27seconds⁴. The median response times have seen a considerable increase

¹ NINIS – Health of the Population - Childhood BMI (administrative geographies)

² DAERA Round 3 Noise Maps and Noise Mapping Technical Reports (Date published: 26 January 2018)

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

⁴ NINIS Health and Social Care – Ambulance Response times (administrative geographies)

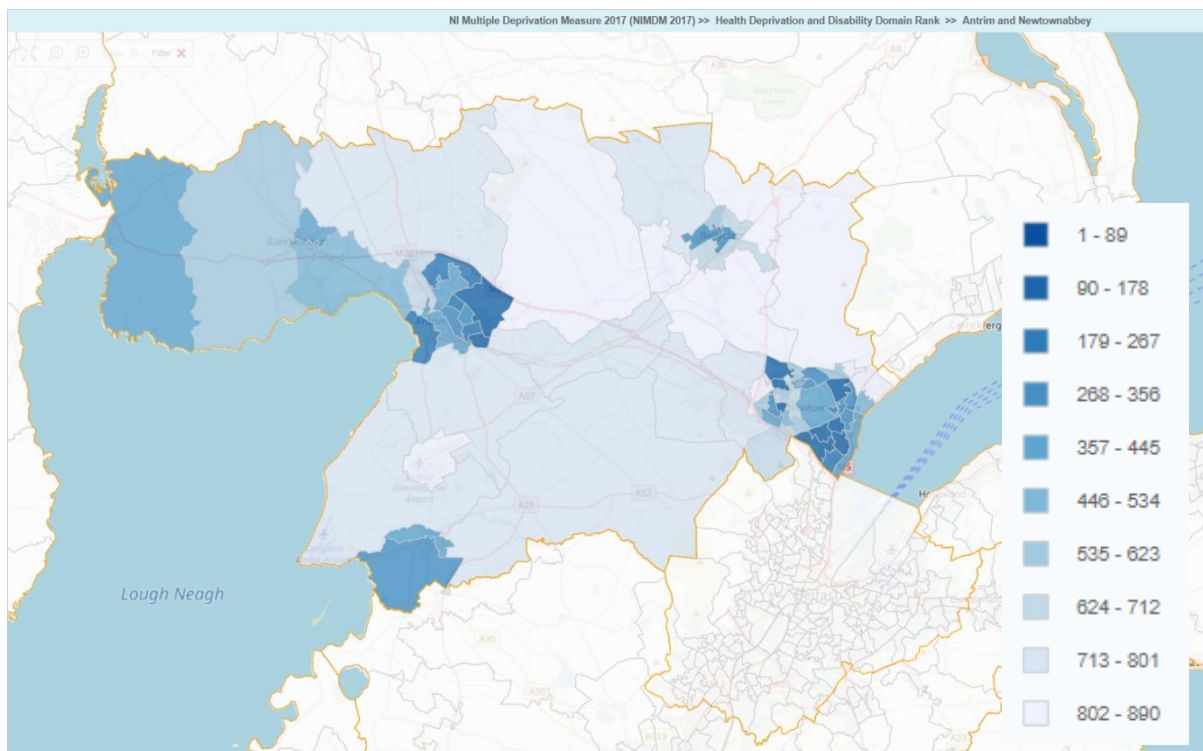
throughout NI since 2013. The average median response times for the years 2010-2013 was 7 minutes 6 seconds in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Health Inequalities

Inequalities in health are differences that occur within a population as a direct result of social circumstance. There are many social causes to health inequalities that may include where someone is born, lives or works.

New statistics measuring the geographical distribution of deprivation or disadvantage were published by NISRA in November 2017. The updated Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM2017) replace the NIMDM 2010, however the older NIMDM2010 is still used for older data the Health Inequalities Report discussed below. The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain identifies proportions of the population whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or disability. It can be seen that the highest ranked (most deprived) SOAs, which are coloured in the darkest blue colours on Figure 5.1.2 are clustered within the settlements of Newtownabbey and Antrim, however Crumlin, Ballyclare and Toome are also identified. Dunanney, is the most deprived SOA for this measure in the Borough, ranked 92 out of a total of 890 possible areas in NI. Of the 100 least deprived SOAs for health deprivation and disability (ranks 802-890) across NI, ten are in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Figure 5.1.2: NIMDM 2017 Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank (Super Output Areas)



Source: NINIS

The Health Inequalities Annual Report 2018¹ compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels across the eleven LGD areas. In addition to an analysis of gaps within each LGD and its most deprived areas, an assessment of the gap between the LGD and NI is also presented as contextual information. In that report, 'inequality gaps' refer to: 'The difference between health outcomes for the 20%

¹ Department of Health - Health Inequalities Annual Report 2018 (Date published: 28 February 2018)

most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) within an area (as defined using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010/2017) and the area's average.'

The report found that health outcomes inequality gaps in Antrim and Newtownabbey were worse than the NI average for five indicators, most notably childhood obesity and similar to the NI average for 31 indicators. Six health outcomes were better than the NI average, most notably alcohol-related admissions.

The five health indicators with the widest inequality gap are shown on the graphic in Figure 5.1.3. The indicators with the largest deprivation equality gaps, the most notable narrowed deprivation inequality gaps and the most notable widened deprivation inequality gaps are all presented in Figure 5.1.3.

Figure 5.1.3: Health Inequality Gaps for Antrim and Newtownabbey

Largest inequality gaps between the 20% most deprived areas within the Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and the LGD average:

SDR Drug Related (145%)	Smoking During Pregnancy (104%)	SAR Alcohol Related (104%)	Teenage Birth Rate (U20) (103%)	SAR Self-Harm (95%)
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Most Notable Changes in Inequality Gaps

Most Notable Narrowed Deprivation Inequality Gaps	Most Notable Widened Deprivation Inequality Gaps
Elective Admissions	Female Life Expectancy
Self-Harm Admissions	Suicide
Alcohol Related Admissions	Lung Cancer Mortality
Drug Related Admissions	Drug Related Mortality
Under 75 Respiratory Mortality	Smoking in Pregnancy

This is a summary of findings only. For a full assessment and all figures see downloadable tables at:
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2018>

Source Health Inequalities Annual Report 2018

Health Survey Northern Ireland

Health Survey NI¹ is a Department of Health survey that has run every year from April 2010 across NI. Only differences that are statistically significant are reported and results are based on responses from 4,144 individuals. The data is for NI 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.

In 2015/16, a decline in general health rating was observed with increasing age for men and women - in keeping with previous health survey findings. Respondents in the most deprived areas were less likely to describe their health as good or very good (59%) than those in the least deprived areas.

¹ Department of Health – Health Survey Northern Ireland (found at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research/health-survey-northern-ireland>)

The 2107/18 survey reported that just under one-fifth (18%) of respondents had a high GHQ12 score, indicating a possible mental health problem. This rate has remained relatively stable since 2010/11. Respondents in the most deprived areas were more likely (22%) to record a high GHQ12 score than those in the least deprived areas (15%), however the percentage for those in the most deprived areas has decreased from 28% in 2010/11¹. Prevalence also increased with age for long-term conditions with 22% of those aged 16-24 reporting one, compared with 70% of those aged 75 and over.

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 5.1.4 How people believe they could be healthier



Source: Health Survey Northern Ireland 2010

Around two-fifths (43%) of adults reported having a longstanding illness in the 2017/18 survey, with over two-thirds (70%) in the 75 years and over age group. Respondents in the most deprived areas were more likely to report a longstanding illness (53%). 45% of respondents in the most deprived areas indicated that their longstanding illness is a limiting one which reduces their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

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, 64% of adults were either overweight (37%) or obese (27%). The percentage of adults classed as obese or overweight has increased from a level of 56% reported in 1997, and from the 59% reported in the 2010/11 Health Survey.

Radon

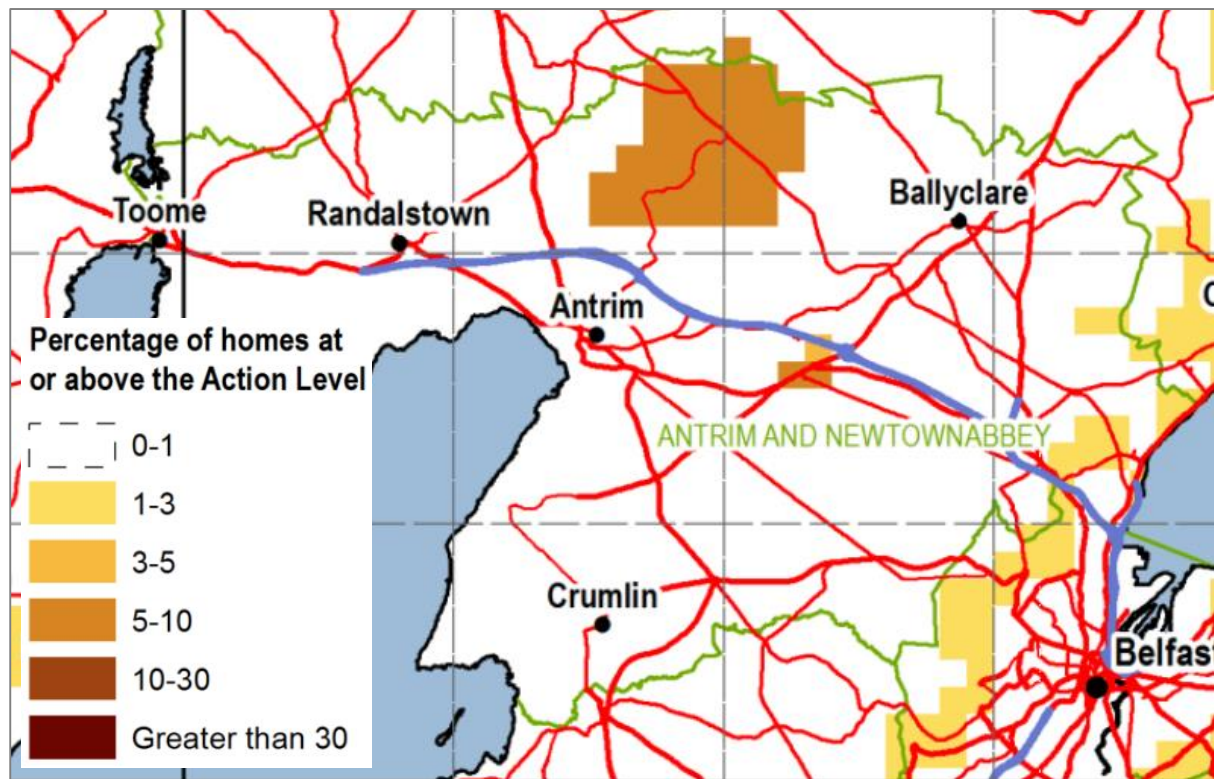
Radon is a natural radioactive gas that occurs at low levels outside but which can become concentrated in enclosed places, such as houses, workplaces and other buildings. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer, particularly in smokers. After smoking, radon exposure is the second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

An indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout NI has been published by Public Health England with the Geological Survey. An extract from this atlas is shown in Figure 5.1.5. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that

¹ Department of Health - Tables from Health survey Northern Ireland: Health Survey NI Trend Tables (Date published: 09 January 2019)

householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre.

Figure 5.1.5: Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' showing Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough



Source: Public Health England / British Geological Society 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' 2015

The atlas shows that most of the Borough has very low probability for radon, however there is a 5% or greater probability of exceeding the recommended action level in the Tardree and Templepatrick areas. The map helps to inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes.

5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a LDP in place, 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.

5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- Levels of obesity in NI 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, the historic environment and walking / 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 NI 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 NI; 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 NI 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.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

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

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.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes Age-friendly practices. It states that *'An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people that are important to them.'*¹ This ethos is reflected in the objectives of the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021 which includes aims such as *'the co-ordinated delivery of suitable warm housing'* and *'timely and reliable transport provision'*. Other aims include social participation and volunteering opportunities which help address isolation and loneliness and the active participation and citizenship of older people in decision making on policies and the provision of services. The draft Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 promotes co-operation amongst Departments, Agencies and other service deliverers. Its aims include that children and young people are provided the opportunity to experience good relations with those of a different race, religion or culture.

Together: Building a United Community Strategy² is another Executive programme. It 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*

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

² Together: Building a United Community Strategy (Date published: 23 May 2013) <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/together-building-united-community-strategy>

everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'.¹

The Borough contributes to a united community through its Good Relations programme². This includes the following commitments:

- To build a community where children and young people can play a full and active role in building good relations;
- To 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 Plan³ 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.

The Corporate Plan 2019-30 makes the following commitments:

- We will continue to develop the Borough so that people will want to visit, live and work in it, where they feel safe and where their local environment is protected and enhanced.
- We will support communities and empower residents to take responsibility for their environment so that people will be united by a strong sense of pride in their place.
- [The Borough will be] A place where our people work together to encourage a culture of equity, diversity and respect.
- We will ensure that the most vulnerable in our community can still access our services in a way that suits their individual needs.

5.2.2 Baseline information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan, '*Love Living Here*'. Data has also been sourced from statistical baseline reports used for the Community Plan, as well as LDP Evidence Papers on 1. Population and 8. Community Facilities. NISRA and the NINIS have also been referred to. The Community topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Housing, Education and Skills, Economy and Employment, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

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 1,000 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 5.2 of this scoping report.

¹ The Executive Office: Together: Building a United Community Strategy

² Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council 'Good Relations' (found at <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-information/community-initiatives/good-relations/> accessed 02/05/2019)

³ Department of Justice Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017 (Date published: 16 June 2015)

Population and Age

Trends in population show that the age structure of the Borough is changing and models indicate that this will continue. The trend in population growth will continue although at a lower rate than for NI as a whole. The population of the Borough aged 65 plus is expected to increase by more than 8,000 people, from 22,801 in 2016 to 30,920 in 2030¹. Within this grouping, those 80 -84 are expected to increase by 1,677 (36%), those aged 85 – 89 by 1,006 (36%) and those aged 90 plus by 455 (33%)². Population growth overall 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 Borough's population density (248 persons/km²)³ is relatively high by NI standards, which may mean greater pressure for development.

Religious belief

Evidence Paper 1. Population reports that in the 2011 Census, 61.1% in the Borough identified as Protestant and Other Christian, 29.74% as Catholic, 1.09% as Other Religions and 8.08% as none. The proportion of Catholics was much lower than the NI average and all other groups were significantly higher. Table 18 of Evidence Paper 1 shows that the Borough's District Electoral Areas can vary widely in the breakdown of their religious belief. Some, such as Ballyclare, had a very high proportion (over 86%) identifying as Protestant whereas others (Airport, Dunsilly, Glengormley urban) had 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

Details are provided in section 4.36 of Evidence Paper 1. Although local government elections took place in 2019, the most recent council election results currently available are from the 2014 elections. For the Borough as a whole, Unionist candidates secured 63% of first preference votes while Nationalist candidates received 21%. In some District Electoral Areas, such as Dunsilly, proportions of Unionist and Nationalist voters were relatively even. Some areas of the Borough had less than 25% Nationalist voters, with none in Ballyclare and Threemilewater.

Racial group

Evidence Paper 1. Population presents Census 2011 data on ethnicity and on country of birth. It shows that the non-white population of 2.1% is higher than the NI level of 1.7% and the South Asian, Chinese and Other Asian groups have significantly higher representation than elsewhere in NI. 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%).

¹ NISRA 2016-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland - 11 LGDs - projection summary (2016-2041) Date published: 26 April 2018

² NISRA 2016-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland - 11 LGDs – 5 year age bands and sex (2016-2041) Date published: 26 April 2018

³ NISRA Mid-2017 Population Estimates: Population Densities (Administrative Areas) published 28 June 2018

Marital status

Evidence Paper 1. Population presents Census 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 NI average.

Households with Dependent children

Evidence Paper 1. Population presents Census data for households with dependent children. These have decreased from 50.78% in 1981 to 34.66% in 2011. The evidence Paper reports that households with children are predicted to peak at approximately 17,000 households around the year 2020/21 but NISRA projections are that households with dependent children will drop to 15,643¹ (26.4%) by 2030. The Paper notes that at the last census more than half of households in the Super Output Areas of Aldergrove 1, Jordanstown 2 and Crumlin 2 had dependent children, whereas less than a quarter of households in Abbey 1, Whitehouse, Balloo, Carnmoney 2 and Ballyclare South 1 had dependent children.

Shared Space

There are a range of facilities available in the Borough for people to use or visit that can be considered 'shared space'. These spaces can encourage social interaction and can also help to maintain people's health and well-being through physical and cultural activity. Examples include parks and gardens, community centres, leisure centres, pavilions, playing pitches, outdoor gyms, allotments, community gardens and equipped play areas.

The Young Life and Times Survey carried out by ARK on 16 year olds in 2017², 66% of respondents reported that they 'very often' or 'sometimes' socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community compared to only 55% doing so with people from a different ethnic background. In the same survey carried out in 2017³, the figures had decreased to 63% and increased to 59% respectively. Respondents attending integrated schools were more likely to socialise or play sport with people from a different ethnic background.

Additional detail on community facilities in the Borough is provided in LDP Evidence Paper 8 Community Facilities.

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 NI against older people between 2009 and 2014 has been more consistent with an increase in violence against the person.

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 ranks geographical areas in NI across several deprivation domains. Antrim and Newtownabbey as a whole has lower rates than the NI average⁴ for all of the individual indicators contributing to the crime and disorder deprivation domain:

- Rate of Violence (including sexual offences) robbery and public order
- Rate of Burglary
- Rate of Theft

¹ NISRA Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016 based) (Date published: 06 December 2018)

² Access Research Knowledge Research (ARK) Update Number 79 May 2012

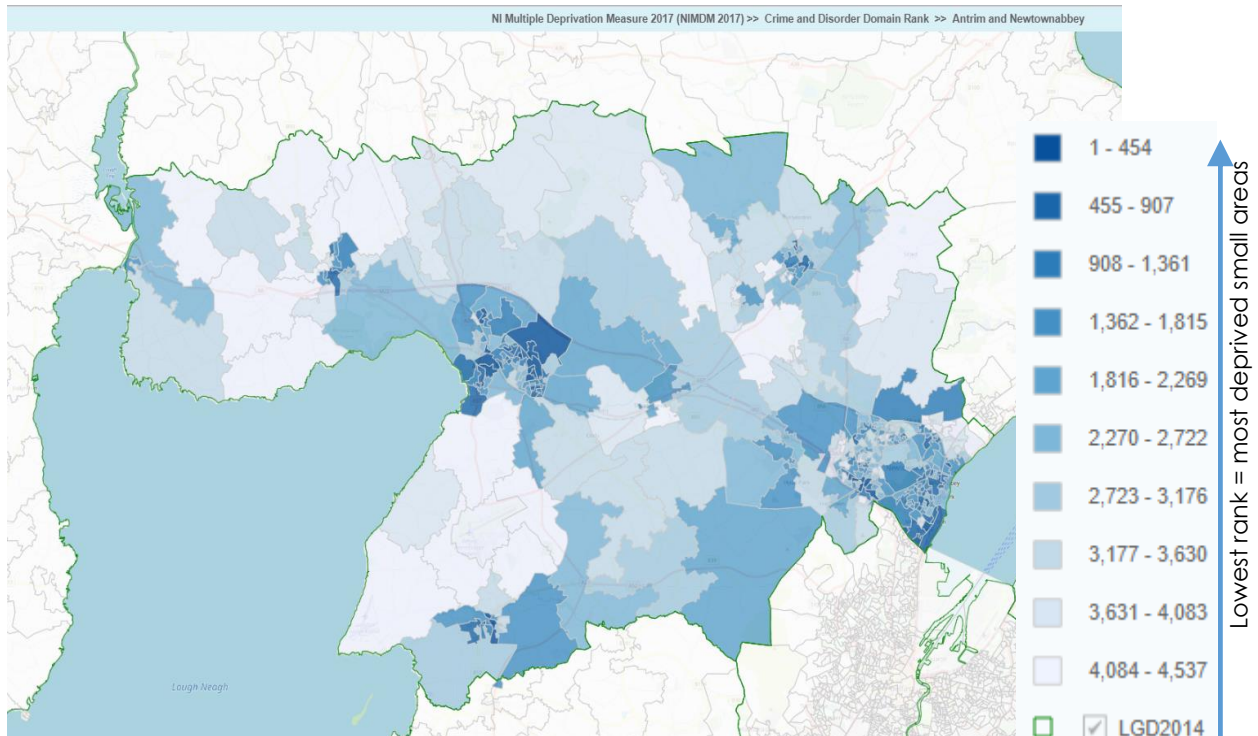
³ Access Research Knowledge Research (ARK) NI Young Life and Times survey 2017 (<https://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/2017/index.html>)

⁴ NISRA Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 - LGD2014 indicators

- Rate of Vehicle Crime
- Rate of Criminal Damage and Arson
- Rate of Deliberate Primary and Secondary Fires
- Rate of Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents

The NIMDM can also be used to examine more discrete geographical areas within Councils. Figure 5.2.1 shows a map of the 'small areas'¹ in the Borough, coloured according to their rank / position against all 'small areas' in NI, in the crime and disorder domain.

Figure 5.2.1: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough NIMDM 2017 - Crime and Disorder deprivation domain (small areas).



Source: NISRA: NI Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 – Small Areas - Crime and Disorder domain Scores range from 1 (most deprived) to 4,537 (least deprived).

Spatially there is a wide range of scores across the Borough. 22 'small areas' in the Borough are ranked among the top 10% most deprived in NI. It can be seen on Figure 5.2.1 that many of the highest ranked (darkest coloured) areas are located in urban areas of Antrim, Crumlin and Newtownabbey, however some of the more rural parts of the Borough are also ranked high for this domain. Large differences in deprivation can occur over a short distance, for example Rostulla_1 (rank 90) is the fourth highest ranked 'small area' for crime and disorder in the Borough, while neighbouring Rostulla_2 (rank 4,513) is the lowest.

5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a LDP in place, 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

¹ Small Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics. They nest within the 890 Super Output Areas and the 582 Electoral Wards in Northern Ireland. There are 4,537 SAs in Northern Ireland.

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 draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan is relatively up to date, the plan for much of the Borough areas is 30 years old and was in preparation over 35 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 draft 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.

5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- There will be a growing population, although this is at a slower rate than for NI, and the plan will need to meet the needs of a changing population.
- A decline in average 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.

- Conservation / regeneration of local heritage assets can contribute towards fostering community pride and identity.

5.3 Housing

5.3.1 Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies and Strategies

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

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

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influence the independence and quality of life of older people. 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.

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

The vision of the Council's Corporate Plan up to 2030, is defined as, '*A progressive, smart and prosperous Borough. Inspired by our people. Driven by ambition*'. It includes a number of objectives in relation to Place, People and Prosperity including several that require delivery of sustainable housing - a place where 'people take pride in their surroundings', a place where 'people feel safe', 'vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods and rural areas..'; and communities are healthy, inclusive, and respectful.

The Council's Community Plan 'Love Living Here' aims to support positive outcomes for the Borough including that 'our citizens live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places' as well as being able to 'enjoy good health and well-being'. Sustainable housing for all citizens – in both design and location, will be a fundamental aspect of these aspirations and help to create a place where people want to live, can feel safe, and experience diversity and equality.

5.3.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in LDP 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 1. Population and has been provided by the NIHE in consultation

comments. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being and Community sections of this report.

Households

The estimated population of the Borough in mid-2017 was 141,787, which was 7.6% of the total Northern Ireland population of 1,870,834. The population of the Borough is projected to increase by 3% to 146,003 by 2030¹. There were 54,035 households recorded in the Borough in the 2011 Census, which is 7.68% of the NI total (703,275)². For the year 2030 the number of households in the Borough is projected to be 59,241³. The average household size within the Borough decreased from 3.47 in 1971 to 2.51 in 2011. For the year 2030 the average household size in the Borough is projected to be 2.41 persons. The greatest proportion of the projected increases in household numbers is predicted for households comprising either one adult, or two adults with no children⁴. Current projections suggest that in 2030, 4,720 households (8% of the total households) in the Borough will be one person households with an occupant aged 75 years or older⁵.

Existing Housing Stock

There are currently 30 settlements defined in the Borough. The NI Housing Stock statistics (published jointly by NISRA and LPS in April 2018) recorded a total of 59,428 dwellings in the Borough⁶.

Housing Type and Tenure

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

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

At March 2018, the landlord registration scheme had 2,882 no. landlords and 4,592 private tenancies registered⁷. However, as this reporting period coincides with the renewal of landlord registrations, the Housing Executive has advised that the figure may be under-reported. In March 2015 5,758 tenancies were registered for the Borough, around 10% of all households. In March 2018 there were 236 registered Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO). At March 2015, 3,994 private tenants (69.3%) were in receipt of housing benefit, this reduced to 3,697 in March 2018⁸.

Affordable and Social Housing

As per the Housing Investment Plan Update 2018 the requirement for new social housing in the borough has continued to increase since 2012. The current Housing Needs Assessment (NIHE, Sept 2018⁹) indicates that there is a remaining social

¹ NISRA - 2016-based Population Projections for Areas Within Northern Ireland (Date published: 26 April 2018)

² Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council LDP 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 1, Population

³ NISRA Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016 based) (Date published: 06 December 2018)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ NISRA Annual housing stock statistics (Date published: 06 June 2018)

⁷ Housing Executive SA Scoping Report Consultation Response to Antrim and Newtownabbey BC, 11/10/2018.

⁸ Housing Executive SA Scoping Report Consultation Response to Antrim and Newtownabbey BC, 11/10/2018.

⁹ NIHE, September 2018, 15 Year Social Housing Need Assessment To 2030 - Antrim and Newtownabbey

housing need of 1,272 units to the year 2030. Need is greatest in Metropolitan Newtownabbey (768), Crumlin (179) and Antrim (155). At 31 March 2018 there were 2562 general social housing waiting list applications at March 2018. 66% of these applications are in housing stress. Single, older persons and small family households comprise 88% of the housing stress waiting list in the Council area. There were 1,299 homeless presenters, and 904 homeless acceptances at end March 2018¹.

Homelessness

In March 2018 there were 1,299 homeless presenters, and 904 homeless acceptances at end March 2018². 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

Although house prices have previously dropped between 2010 and 2013, house prices are now increasing and accessing owner occupation is likely to become more of an issue. The housing market can be seen to be recovering steadily with house prices at Quarter 4 2017, now 24.9% higher than 2013³. It is likely that although the housing market has improved over the last number of years, that associated economic issues are likely to remain that could adversely affect household finances and cause issues for people saving for a deposit or paying mortgages – lead to difficulties with heating and maintenance.

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) 2011⁴ provides a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for NI and was modelled for each of the 26 District Councils.

This survey estimated that 42.0% of households in NI 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.

The House Condition Survey 2016 reported that 14% of households in the Borough were in fuel poverty. It should be noted that while this is a decrease from 25% in 2006, at the time of the 2016 survey, oil prices had significantly decreased and were at a low level. As energy prices have since increased, we now believe the fuel poverty measure may be higher again⁵.

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.

¹ NIHE consultation comments 2018

² NIHE consultation comments 2018

³ NIHE consultation comments 2018

⁴ Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2011

⁵ NIHE consultation comments 2018

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. The 2016 House Condition Survey reported that 8% of dwellings (61,000 dwellings) failed the Decent Homes Standard across Northern Ireland¹.

Rural New Single Dwellings

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

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 overall total rural build rate is on a downward trend as reflected in approval rates.

5.3.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the plan

Without a LDP in place, there may be less opportunity to consider zonings for housing in the context of current conditions and adapt to meet the areas of greatest need. There may also be less opportunity to design housing policy to accommodate the needs of future residents.

5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- Affordable housing is required for all housing types and sizes but a changing demography has created a high demand within social housing for small adult households and elderly people.
- The current Housing Needs Assessment (NIHE, Sept 2018) indicates that there is a remaining social housing need of 1,272 units to the year 2030 with the greatest need in Metropolitan Newtownabbey (768), Crumlin (179) and Antrim (155)
- In March 2018, there were just over 2560 social housing waiting list applications.
- Two thirds of social housing waiting list applications are in housing stress with single people, older people and small family households making up nearly 90% of these applications.
- There are a significant number of houses in the Borough deemed as unfit.
- There are a significant number of houses in the Borough in fuel poverty.
- New housing should aim to be as sustainable as possible – low carbon, life time homes.
- Low carbon homes and houses that are based on environmentally sustainable designs could help to alleviate fuel poverty.
- Homelessness remains a significant issue with nearly 1000 cases in March 2018.
- There has been a downward trend for rural builds.
- Consideration should be given to the re-use of historic building stock for housing.

¹ NIHE consultation comments 2018

5.4 Education and Skills

5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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 NI. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and will help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

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

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

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

Our Skills Strategy, 'Success through Skills – Transforming Futures'¹, has as one of its key aims the aspiration to enable people to access and progress up the skills ladder, in order to raise the skills level of the whole workforce, raise productivity and secure Northern Ireland's future in a global marketplace. This strategy is complemented by 'Further Education Means Success'² which examines the skills needed in the future to grow the Northern Ireland economy and highlights areas for action.

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

¹ Department for the Economy Success through Skills - Transforming Futures (Date published: 25 May 2011)

² Department for Employment and Learning Further Education Means Success - Further Education Strategy (Date published: 12 January 2016)

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

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

The vision for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough up to 2030 is defined as 'A progressive, smart and prosperous Borough. 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.

5.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in Evidence Paper 8. Community Facilities (referred to as EP8 in this section).

Nursery schools and Childcare provision

Evidence Paper 8 (EP8) reports that there are 7 stand-alone nursery schools in the Borough, 10 nursery units within primary schools and 23 pre-schools. EP8 also reports 366 registered childcare providers operating in the Borough. There are no significant issues with under-filled spaces in this sector.

Primary Enrolment

'Providing Pathways'¹ states that the Borough's population in the age range 0-15 years is projected to decrease by 0.1% by 2024.

EP8 reports a total of 53 primary schools with 12,779 pupils enrolled in the Borough in 2017/18.

EP8 has also identified that significant spare capacity exists within primary schools in the Borough through unfilled places. In 2017/18 an average of 24% of the total primary school places across the Borough were unfilled, however Table 5.4.1 demonstrates that considerable variation exists between settlements.

Table 5.4.1: Primary School Enrolments (Summary) 2017/2018

Area sub-total	Total Enrolment	% unfilled spaces
Metropolitan Newtownabbey sub-total	5,698	23%
Antrim sub-total	2,424	33%
Ballyclare sub-total	1,080	8%
Crumlin sub-total	816	28%
Randalstown sub-total	691	30%
Villages, hamlets and countryside sub-total	2,070	16%

Source: Evidence Paper 8, Education Authority Primary Schools Annual Area Profile September 2018

The Sustainable Schools policy states that the minimum (not optimal) enrolments for new primary schools should be 140 pupils in urban areas, and 105 pupils in rural areas. The figures presented in Table 5 of EP8 suggest that 8 (out of 38) primary schools in urban areas and 9 (out of 17) primary schools in villages, hamlets and

¹ Education Authority (NI) (2017) 'Providing Pathways' – Strategic Area Plan 2017-2020.

countryside were not meeting the sustainable schools criteria in 2017/18. Around half (8) of the rural schools are at capacity, with less than 5% of places unfilled.

The Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 has identifies a need to provide school places at certain primary schools in Antrim, Whiteabbey and Templepatrick.

Special Educational Needs

There are 5 special schools in the Borough with an enrolment of 598 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.

Sections 7.21-7.22 of EP8 also report on pupil numbers with special educational needs that are educated in mainstream schools. Across NI, the proportion of pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs was 5% in 2016/17, an increase of more than 21% since 2011/12¹.

The Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 identifies a need to establish autism-specific provision at Abbey Community College.

Secondary Enrolment

'Providing Pathways²' states that the Borough's population in the age range 0-15 years is projected to increase by 5.8% by 2024.

EP8 reports that within the 10 post primary schools in the Borough there were 8,195 pupils enrolled in the 2017-2018 school year.

EP8 also identifies wide variations in the spare capacity within post-primary schools in the Borough through unfilled places. In 2017/18 an average of 15% of the total post-primary school places across the Borough were unfilled, however Table 6 of EP demonstrates that considerable variation exists between schools, with schools in Antrim and Ballyclare exceeding their approved enrolment while Glengormley High and Crumlin Integrated College are substantially below approved enrolment with 42% and 69% places unfilled respectively. The Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 identifies a need to encourage and facilitate the development of sustainable integrated school provision at Crumlin Integrated College.

It is also apparent that there is a significant net out-migration of post-primary pupils attending schools outside the Borough. Although 8,195 pupils were enrolled at post-primary schools in the Borough, 10,640 pupils of post-primary age were resident in the Borough in 2017³. Pupils may also travel in to the Borough from neighbouring Council area to study.

Further and Higher Education

The Northern Regional College has one campus in the Borough at Shore Road, Newtownabbey. It provides a range of Further Education courses for all ages post 16 in full time and part time capacity and EP8 reports that it provided courses for 5,542 students in 2017/18.

¹ Northern Ireland Audit Office, Special Educational Needs Key Facts (published 27 June 2017)

² Education Authority (NI) (2017) 'Providing Pathways' – Strategic Area Plan 2017-2020.

³ NISRA Children Education and Skills - Post Primary Pupils (administrative geographies) 2017

The University of Ulster's Jordanstown Campus is located in the Borough and had a full and part-time enrolment of 12,590 students in the 2017-18 academic year¹. 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 2020.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provides a range of further and higher education courses in the agricultural, horticultural and environmental fields. CAFRE's campus at Greenmount, south of Antrim, includes a state of the art dairy unit incorporating the latest technologies.

'Success through Skills' indicates that the DfE will work with colleges, other agencies and stakeholders to assess the need for, and if required deliver, additional future skills training in key economic areas to support further inward investment. It also includes the aim that colleges will develop a new e-learning strategy and implementation plan to support all aspects of using technology to deliver professional and technical education in innovative and effective ways.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment in Antrim and Newtownabbey is broadly average for the NI LGDs, with Table 5.4.2 showing that over half of school leavers in 2017/18 had 2+ 'A' Levels A* to E. However, across the Borough there is significant variation in educational attainment. The indicators used in the NIMDM 2017 show that while six SOAs have 20% or less of their pupils leaving with fewer than 5 GCSE passes, six SOAs also have more than 60% of pupils leaving school with fewer than 5 GCSEs (including English and Maths).

Table 5.4.2: Qualifications of school leavers 2017/2018⁽¹⁾ ⁽³⁾

	2+ A-levels A*-E⁽²⁾	5+ GCSEs A*- C⁽²⁾	5+ GCSEs A*-C⁽²⁾ inc. GCSE English and Maths
Antrim and Newtownabbey	56.3%	83.0%	69.7%
NI Total	56.7	85.2	70.6

1. Excludes special and independent schools

2. Includes equivalent qualifications

3. District Council of pupil residence is based on the residential postcode of each individual pupil

Source: NISRA 2017/18 statistical bulletin Qualifications & destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers table 2017/18 published: 31.05.18

Skills Level of Working Age population

Antrim and Newtownabbey has an above average proportion (37.7% in 2018²) of resident 16-64 year olds with a qualification level of degree level or above (NI 34.9%) and the lowest (6.8%) with no Qualifications (NI 14.7%). In 2018, the proportion of those in employment qualified to level 4+³ was 41.1% (NI 42.4%).

However, the NIMDM 2017 also demonstrates that there is a significant variation across the Borough in the proportion of the population with 'no or low levels of qualifications' (NVQ Level 1 / equivalent or none). In 17 of the Borough's 72 SOAs, more than 40% of the working age population have no or low levels of qualification.

¹ LDP Evidence Paper 8, Community Facilities, paragraph 7.19

² Source: Labour Force Survey, December 2018

³ Persons qualified to Level 4 and above include Higher Degrees, First/Foundation Degrees, Diplomas Levels 4 through 8, Nursing Degrees, Teaching Degrees or NVQ Level 4+

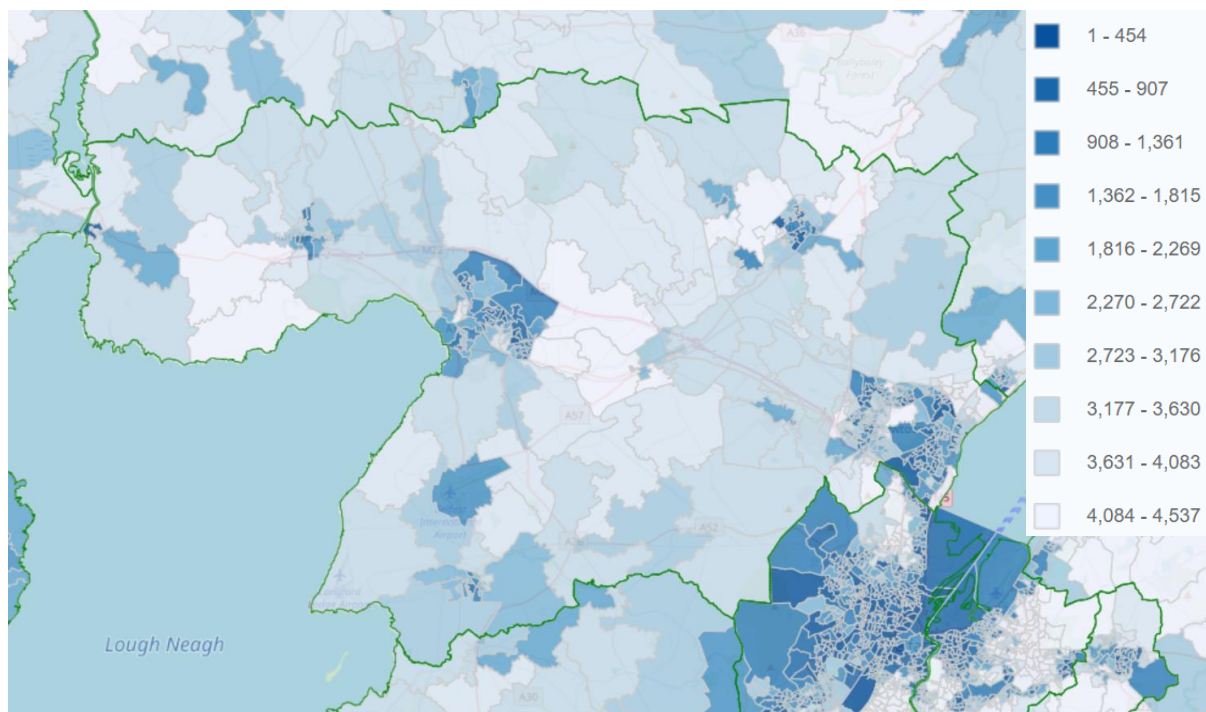
The National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) 'Traditional Building Craft Skills – Skills Needs Analysis of the Built Heritage Sector,' report for Northern Ireland 2009 highlights a shortage of people with Traditional Craftskills, such as thatchers, stone masons and ironmongers¹. The Historic Environment Division of the NIEA has indicated that the NVQ Level 3 in Heritage Skills is a pathway to the creation of apprenticeships in traditional building skills in NI.

NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

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

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

Figure 5.4.1: NIMDM 2017 Education, Skills and Training Domain Rank (Small Areas)



Source: NISRA NIMDM 2017 Small Area Interactive Maps - Education, Skills and Training Domain

Figure 5.4.1 shows the NIMDM 2017 rank for Small Areas in the Borough for the Education, Skills and Training deprivation domain. The figure shows that, generally

¹ Provided by NIEA Historic Environment Division in scoping consultation response.

speaking, areas in towns are ranked higher / more deprived (the darker blue colours) than rural areas. It also shows that the most deprived SOAs (top quintile, ranks 1 - 454) are within Metropolitan Newtownabbey (with areas of Monkstown, Rathcoole and Carnmoney ranked below 100) however Antrim, Toome and Ballyclare also feature.

5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, relevant Area Plans and 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 LDP include:

- Less opportunity to positively rebalance settlement with schools provision.

5.4.4 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.
- Skills training of traditional craft skills, such as thatching, stone masonry and ironmongery should be encouraged.

5.5 Economy and Employment

5.5.1 Review of Plans, Programmes and Policies and Strategies

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

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

In particular, policy recognises the priority in NI 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 current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy, there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations.

The vision for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough up to 2030 is defined as '*A progressive, smart and prosperous Borough. Inspired by our people; Driven by ambition*'. The Corporate Plan 2019-30 sets out a number of objectives in relation to Place, People and Prosperity. The commitments in relation to prosperity include:

- We will encourage and support economic growth in our Borough to create a vibrant and prosperous economy;
- We will support the start-up of more businesses, the expansion of indigenous businesses and attract investment through collaboration;
- We will deliver economic growth by promoting entrepreneurship, social enterprise, innovation and internationalisation and promote skills development to meet the future needs of local business; and
- We will make our Borough more attractive for our residents, investors and visitors and build on the strengths of our area to maximise tourism and our arts and cultural offering.

The Council's Community Plan '*Love Living Here*' contains Outcome Statements which include: "*Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity*". The priorities include:

- Our local economy thrives, with local businesses starting up, growing, expanding and generating employment.

- Enterprise and innovation are encouraged and supported from an early age to build businesses and entrepreneurs of the future.
- Our area has a skilled population and infrastructure which is attractive to investors and employers.
- Barriers to accessing employment are reduced or removed enabling all of our citizens to have equitable access to the opportunities available in the Borough.

The draft Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Tourism Strategy 2017-2022 identifies potential opportunities for investment and growth and outlines how the Council can support and grow a local tourism sector.

5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Evidence Papers 3. Economic Growth, 4. Retail and Commercial Leisure Study and 5 Tourism. Data has also been sourced from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) and the Department for Economy. The Council's Economic Strategy and Action Plan, 2018 provides a recent examination of the Borough's economic and business base. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

Overview

Newtownabbey is included in Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) in the RDS. The RDS identifies the BMUA as the major conurbation in Northern Ireland with a thriving retail, service, administration, cultural and educational centre in the City of Belfast. It is the Region's largest employment centre.

The RDS identifies Antrim as having accessibility as a strength, being the largest town close to Belfast International Airport. It also identifies tourism potential associated with Antrim's proximity to Lough Neagh and its tributary rivers, which provide opportunities for water-sports, scenic walks and angling. Antrim's economic drivers revolve around construction, distribution, transport and hospitality. The area's principal strength literally revolves around a well-developed transport infrastructure that provides easy access to all the main external gateways for NI as well as easy access to all parts of NI. The RDS also identifies potential opportunities for clustering with Ballymena and Larne (in the neighbouring Mid and East Antrim Borough).

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. The Borough's working age¹ economic activity rate in 2017² was 80.5% (up from 75% in 2015) and was the highest of all the LGDs (NI average 72.5%).

The Labour Force Survey published by NISRA indicates that in 2017 71,000 people within the Borough were in employment. The working age rate of employment in the Borough was 76.0%³, the highest of all LGDs (NI average 69.3%). This figure has shown an increase from 70.7% in 2015.

¹ The working-age population is defined as those aged 16 - 64 for both males and females.

² NISRA Economic Activity and Qualifications (administrative geographies) 2017

³ Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2017 (Date published: 25 September 2018)

Proportion of People in 'Good Jobs'

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings is published for the Department for Economy. The 2018 survey gave a median gross weekly pay of £452.80 for those living in Antrim and Newtownabbey compared to the NI average of £423.10¹. The median gross weekly wage for those working (as opposed to living) in the borough was slightly lower, £451.30². These figures may reflect a tendency for residents to commute out of the borough for work.

Key Sectors

The service sector is the most dominant sector in the Borough for employment, accounting for 82% of jobs in 2017³. Historic trends indicate that this will continue to be the case throughout the Plan period.

- Over 60% of VAT/PAYE registered businesses in the Borough in 2014 were based in the service sector.

The 2013 Census of Employment⁴ found that the manufacturing sector in the Borough employs 6,407 people – 12% of the workforce. The Business Register and Employment Survey 2017 estimated 7,387 were employed in manufacturing in 2017. The Borough has the largest employment share for health and social work in NI – 11,978 jobs (22%) of the workforce (Census of Employment, 2013).

The NI Business Register and Employment Survey 2017⁵ indicates that between September 2011 and September 2017, the number of employee jobs in the Borough has increased from 54,387 to 59,747. 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.

The NI 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 NI 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 the 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 of 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.

¹ NISRA NI Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2018 NI geographies, by place of residence (Date published: 25 October 2018)

² NISRA NI Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2018 NI geographies, by place of work (Date published: 25 October 2018)

³ NISRA Employee Jobs (administrative geographies) 2017 (derived from Business Register and Employment Survey)

⁴ NISRA Census of Employment publications and tables (date published: 03 June 2015)

⁵ Department for the Economy Business Register and Employment Survey 2017 | Department for the Economy

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 Shane's Castle. It received around 156,000 visitors in 2017, comparable with Jordanstown Loughshore Park (176,000) and Hazelbank Park (187,731). A new Gateway Centre at Antrim Lough Shore Park is currently under construction which will help enhance the Council's leisure and tourism offer on the shores of Lough Neagh.

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 almost 440,000 visitors in 2017, Shane's Castle which attracts a steady 40,000 visitors¹. The top visitor attractions in the Borough also include the Museum at the Mill, Sentry Hill Historic House & Visitor Centre, Pattersons Spade Mill, Richardson's Walled Garden at Greenmount and Pogue's Entry Historical Cottage.

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)
- 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

The Inter Departmental Business Register recorded 4,105 VAT-registered or PAYE businesses in the Borough in 2018². Of these, 3,490 (85%) are micro-businesses with under 10 employees. Micro and small (<49 employees) businesses would appear to

¹ NISRA Northern Ireland Local Government District Tourism Statistics 2017 (published 26 July 2018).

² Inter Departmental Business Register 2018 (published 18th December 2018)

be the foundation of the local economy – accounting for almost 97% 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%. In September 2017 it stood at 13,919¹. As a result, the public sector now accounts for 23% 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 and 45,828 – an increase of over 18%.

Relationship with other Council areas

Evidence Paper 3 describes 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 NI, 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 NI.

Rate of start-up/death of business

The Office for National Statistics² publishes figures annually reporting on enterprise birth deaths and survival. This 'business demography' dataset gives a breakdown for the legacy Council areas of Antrim and Newtownabbey. In 2017 the five-year level of enterprise survival was 47.6% for Antrim and 40.0% for Newtownabbey, a combined average of 43.8% which is slightly below the NI average of 44.7%.

The annual 'birth rate' for new businesses in Antrim and Newtownabbey was 370 in 2017 (up from 300 in 2015) however the 'death rate' was 275 (up from 255 in 2015)³. Across NI in 2017, the greatest proportion of new business births were for the industry groups of Information & communication (14.2%), Transport & storage (inc. postal) (15.0%), Property (15.4%) and Business administration and support services (16.5%).

Innovation

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

The results of the 2017 UKIS and revised results from the 2011 UKIS show that 40 per cent of NI enterprises were innovation active in 2010-12. The equivalent UK figure was 45 per cent in 2010-12.

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

¹ Department of Finance | Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2017 (published 27th September 2018)

² Office for National Statistics Business demography, UK 2017

³ Office for National Statistics: Facts and Figures from the IDBR Business Demography 2017

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 NI 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 NI were estimated to be worth £21.4 billion in 2017¹, representing a decrease of 10.1% (£2.4 billion) over the previous year.

This £21.4 billion represents just under a third (32.1%) of all sales by companies in NI in 2017 (£66.6 billion).

Exports of services represented 20.1% of total export sales in 2017 and were estimated to be worth £2.0 billion. Exports of services increased by 10.7% (£0.2 billion) over the year.

Vacancy rates

The National Retail Barometer², published by Colliers International gives the picture for the UK. The results are reported in Evidence Paper 4. Retail and Commercial Leisure Study. Nationwide vacancy rates remain high with an average rate of 11.2% at January 2018, but are a substantial improvement on the 2012 peak of 16.3%. Evidence Paper 4 reports that at January 2018 the NI average vacancy rate was 18.1, considerably higher than the UK average.

A series of town centre health checks have been carried out to support the preparation of the LDP; these are reported in section 4.0 of Evidence Paper 4.

Vacancy rates in the borough's towns were as follows: Antrim 20.30%, Ballyclare 14.70%, Crumlin 15.30%, Randalstown 13.70% and Glengormley 10.50%. Abbey Centre had a vacancy rate of 12.10%. There were no vacant units at the Northcott centre, however it only contains five units.

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.

5.5.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, baseline trends relevant to economy and employment that may continue in the absence of a new LDP include:

- The working age population will continue to shrink making it harder for the Borough to provide a working population to drive economic growth.

¹ Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics, Goods and Services 2017 - published 22 March 2019

² National Retail Barometer: Colliers International Autumn 2015

- The imbalance of land zoned for employment and industry use will continue, with Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Ballyclare having a current remaining allocation of approximately 143 hectares, and Antrim and Randalstown with 12.64 hectares (2018).
- High vacancy rates would continue, particularly in Antrim Town Centre, with the Castle Mall particularly high.

5.5.4 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 types of business 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 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 RDS as a Regional Gateway.

5.6 Material Assets

5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Material assets are referred to in the SEA Directive but it is not defined. For the purposes of this report, the material assets sustainability topic covers a range of policy areas, including telecommunications, electrical infrastructure and energy distribution, energy including renewable energy, derelict and contaminated land, and waste management.

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

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

The Council's Corporate Plan has a vision up to 2030 that is underpinned by three elements – Place, People and Prosperity. There are aspirations for all of these including vibrant communities, positive development, high quality services, people able to choose to reuse or recycle their waste, and a 'world class' infrastructure that can attract and support local and global businesses. The Corporate vision also aims to provide a 'competitive business advantage' and an attractive tourist industry. All of these aspirations are really only achievable if delivery of material assets is managed efficiently and the most appropriate services and technologies are used.

5.6.2 Baseline Evidence

Detailed baseline information for material assets has been provided in the LDP 2030 Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 11. Public Utilities, 13. Renewables and 15. Waste. Other sources of information including the SONI website have also been used. This topic overlaps with the Physical Resources and Climate Change topics in this report.

Telecommunications

The telecommunications sector in NI is well developed with over 70 operators and 100% broadband coverage (Invest NI). More information can be found on the Ofcom website (www.ofcom.org.uk). 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. This can negatively affect local citizens, businesses and visitors/tourists.

Electricity Infrastructure

The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. It is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1,500km of transmission power lines and 45,000km of distribution power lines. The SONI website (www.soni.ltd.uk) displays the current energy sources for NI in real time, including connected sources of renewables. Currently all users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity¹.

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

The future security of supply in NI is dependent on its capacity to generate, transmit and distribute energy efficiently. It is anticipated that NI will fall into a generation supply deficit in 2021³. The planned closure of Kilroot power station and reduction in capacity at Ballylumford power station (both of which are located outside of the Borough), combined with limited capacity of existing transmission lines, have contributed to an increasing lack of security and stability of supply in NI.

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

Renewables

The Strategic Energy Framework 2010 for Northern Ireland set a target to achieve 40% of electrical consumption from renewable sources by 2020. In December 2017, 38.1% of total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources located in NI with wind power accounting for 84.3% of that renewable energy production⁴.

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

² DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

³ Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017

⁴ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Electricity Consumption and renewable generation in Northern Ireland; Year Ending March 2017

Several renewable projects – mostly solar, have been approved across the south of the Borough¹. Single turbines have been approved in fairly large numbers to the east and north, as well as a 6-turbine windfarm². Since 2011, six anaerobic digestion plants have been also been approved. Planning approvals for renewables show a mixture of technologies distributed in the Borough based on the most appropriate locations for that particular technology. More information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

Waste

The Borough Council is part of the ARC21 Waste Management Group (WMG)³, which comprises of six Councils and is responsible for the preparing, monitoring and reviewing of the ARC's Waste Management Plan. Arc21 account for 59% of the region's population making it the largest WMG.

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 NI, 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.

In 2017, the Borough was the top performing Council for reuse, recycling and composting of municipal waste (54.6%), and 6% higher than the NI average⁴. However, there is likely to be an increased need to recycle more waste. The use of derelict/contaminated land⁵ for delivery of waste facilities could become more of a need based on the most appropriate location for facilities. The Borough also has NI's only clinical waste plant located at Antrim Area Hospital. More information on waste is in the Climate Change section of this report.

5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a LDP in place, there may be an increased risk of missing the most sustainable locations for delivery of material assets, particularly renewable energy projects and waste management facilities. Likewise, without up to date spatial information, there may be less opportunities to develop derelict or contaminated land for an appropriate delivery of a material asset based on best use of location. It may become increasingly difficult to increase the diversity of the energy supply and to continue to improve on existing waste reuse, recycling and composting rates.

5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- There are likely to be areas where telecommunications could be improved, particularly in rural areas, where improved access would help support local citizens and visitors alike.
- There is a need to sustainably approach land management and futureproof land for the electrical transmission and distribution networks.
- Electrical infrastructure is likely to become more of a local consideration as diversity of supply increases and access to renewables is encouraged.

¹ Antrim & Newtownabbey pre-POP Evidence Papers 2016

² https://www.thewindpower.net/windfarm_en_19272_carn-hill.php

³ <https://www.arc21.org.uk/>

⁴ NINIS 2017: Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling (administrative geographies)

⁵ DAERA – NIEA Historical Landuse Database

- There is a need to continue to support integration of a diversity of renewables to the energy mix in the most appropriate locations.
- The Borough has a high reusing/recycling/composting rate of household waste and continues to be a top performing Council in NI but new local level measures are likely to be needed to help further increase these rates.
- Derelict/contaminated land is likely to become more attractive for delivery of appropriate material assets such as waste treatment facilities.
- There may be an increased pressure on the Borough to take waste from other areas that lack adequate waste treatment facilities with potential impacts on local infrastructure and people.

5.7 Physical Resources

5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The physical resources sustainability theme covers minerals, earth science sites, geothermal energy, land and soil. Physical resources provide us with the building blocks we need for everyday life, but are mostly finite in their supply. This means that they will eventually run out.

The sustainable management of physical resources is a common theme of regional, strategic and subject planning policy. The need to safeguard sufficient land to provide physical resources into the future is evident. Land is recognised as multifunctional, in that it can act as a connective wildlife corridor; provide amenity value, building resources, adaptation for climate change; remove water and soil pollution; support biodiversity and create landscape character. Adequate amounts of land are required to deliver all of these functions. Some physical resources such as soil can become so contaminated from pollution that they no longer adequately function.

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

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

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.

5.7.2 Baseline Evidence

Detailed baseline evidence for the Borough's physical resources is presented in LDP Evidence Paper 12. Minerals and 18. Rural Pressure Analysis. This topic overlaps with the Housing, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this scoping report.

Earth science

There are five Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) with earth science selection features located within or immediately adjacent to the Borough. These sites are recognised either entirely for their earth science value or in part for their geological interest. They are Tardree Quarry, Sandy Braes, Ballypalady railway cutting, Agnadarraugh Quarry and the shoreline of Belfast Lough.

A further seven sites in the Borough are identified as Earth Science Conservation Review sites (ESCRs). These sites are recognised for their provision of good exposure of geological features. They include four quarries, a railway cutting, a stream and a peat bog. (see Figure 5.7.1).

Minerals

The Borough's underlying geology contains a wide range of mineral resources. These include perlite, clay, sand and gravel, lignite and igneous rock (particularly suitable for crushed rock aggregates), and peat. The consultation response submitted by DfE following publication of the POP in 2017 indicates that while iron-rich clay and ironstone are present in the Borough, they probably do not have any mineral resource potential. There are currently no mineral prospecting licenses in effect within the Borough¹.

There are currently three active quarries in the Borough; The basaltic rocks of the Antrim Plateau are a valuable source of the high quality hard rock aggregate material widely used by the construction industry throughout NI. At present, there is no indication of potential interest in the council area for metallic or industrial mineral exploitation in the immediate future².

An identified strategic resource of lignite is located in the south west of the Borough, at the eastern shore of Lough Neagh close to Crumlin (also shown on Figure 5.7.1). In their consultation response to the Council following the publication of the POP in 2017 the DfE has indicated that it is highly unlikely that lignite in the Borough would be worked over the life of the LDP, given currently available extraction technologies and the need to reduce carbon emissions. However, there is a case for safeguarding the resource to allow for future consideration of its use³.

On the basis of previous exploration carried out in the Lough Neagh and Larne Basins and current knowledge of the geology, there is the possibility that these basins, could contain significant conventional oil or gas resources⁴. There is an extant petroleum exploration licence PL1/10 covering part of the Borough⁵ (area shown on Figure 5.7.1). In May 2019 a consultation exercise was launched in respect of an application for a second exploration licence (PLA1/16⁶). The application area covers the southern portion of the Borough.

There were 14 sites identified in Antrim and Newtownabbey by the Department of the Environment in their 2014 Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMP) (see Figure 5.7.1). The majority of these (nine) were for basalt, two sites are identified for peat

¹ Department for Economy Minerals licensing Mineral Prospecting Licences Map April 2018 (found at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/mineral-prospecting-licences-map-council-boundaries> - accessed 02/05/2019)

² Department for Economy Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council - minerals development - DfE response (Date published: 23 October 2017)

³ Ibid.

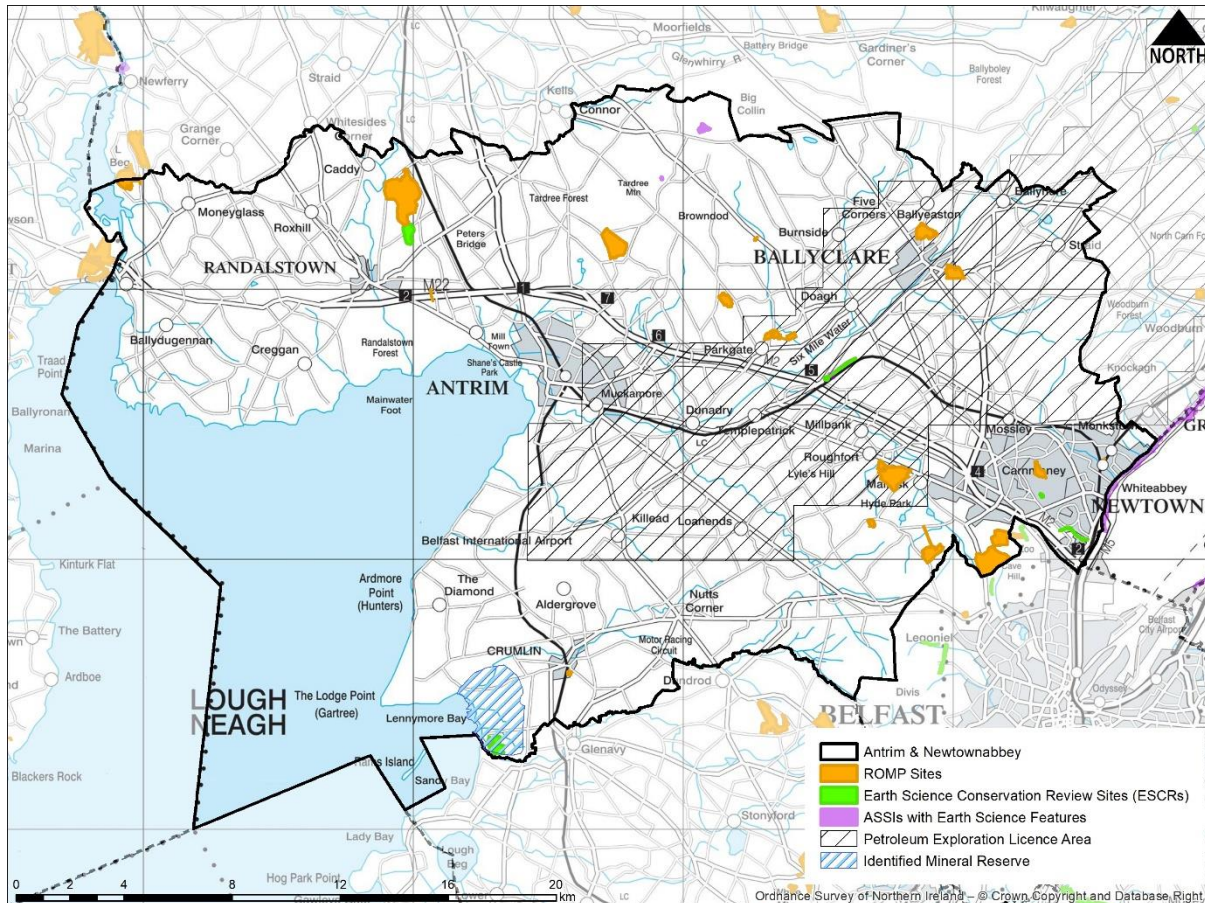
⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Department for Economy Petroleum licensing in Northern Ireland Petroleum Licences Map March 2017 (found at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/petroleum-licensing> -accessed 02/05/2019)

⁶ Department for Economy Petroleum Licence Application PLA1/16 (found at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/petroleum-licence-application-pla116>)

extraction and one sand/grit. The Evidence Paper 12. Minerals indicates that the ROMP enables a mechanism to review all existing planning conditions on extant mineral planning permissions, providing an important opportunity to secure improved operating and environmental standards within the quarrying industry. However, action on the ROMP has been delayed due to the need for the Department of Infrastructure to produce further legislation.

Figure 5.7.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Earth Science and Minerals Map



Source: NIEA Digital Datasets, Geological Survey of NI

The British Geological Survey and its counterpart the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland have produced a Mineral Resources Map of Northern Ireland. The map includes peat distribution, oil, gas and geothermal energy resources. It is intended to assist strategic decision-making in respect of mineral extraction and the protection of important mineral resources against sterilisation. The detailed Minerals Resource Map for County Antrim, which includes Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough, can be found on the British Geological Survey website www.bgs.ac.uk¹ however it should be noted that mineral prospecting areas indicated on this map are not current.

Geothermal Energy

There is considerable potential for the use of both shallow and deep geothermal energy resources for the production of heat, and possibly electrical power, within

¹ Minerals UK - Mineral resource maps in Northern Ireland (found at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/planning/resource.html> - accessed 02/05/2019)

the Borough¹. The Lough Neagh basin has been identified as a 'moderately productive' geothermal aquifer in NI. The locations believed to have the greatest deep geothermal energy potential are around Antrim and to the northwest of Mallusk. The Borough also has widespread potential for the use of shallow geothermal energy². Ground source heat pump (GSHP) technology uses the ground's heat energy provide heating for domestic and non-domestic buildings via horizontal closed loop systems buried at depths of 1 – 2 metres or vertical systems installed in boreholes up to 100 metres deep. The Sherwood Sandstone aquifer that is present beneath Newtownabbey and Mallusk is suitable for this type of technology.

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 NI (Energy in NI 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 NI economy, with 82% of land used for agriculture and forestry³. Since 2012 the agricultural census has documented a decline in the total area farmed over the preceding 15 year period, mainly as a result of the transfer of land to non-agricultural uses and the withdrawal of the most marginal (hill) land from production.

The annual agricultural census⁴ indicated that there were 872 farms in the Borough in 2018, down from 890 in 2015. The agricultural census also demonstrates a gradual decline in the number of farms in the Borough. There were 1,091 farms recorded on the census in the former districts of Antrim and Newtownabbey in 2000, reducing to 921 in 2008. The main types of farm in the Borough are cattle & sheep (667 farms (76%) of which 370 (42%) are in 'less favoured areas' which are areas of poorer quality agricultural land and qualify for special aid under EU schemes). There are 106 dairy farms (12.1%). Just under 4% of farms in the Borough are for pigs or poultry⁵.

Seven out of ten farms in the Borough are classified as 'very small' (less than 1 labour unit to run). The Borough accounts for a small proportion (3.5%)⁶ of farms in NI but this still makes an important contribution to rural employment and rural life.

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2017 promotes private woodland expansion and new forests/woodlands located near to urban areas for public access.

LDP Evidence Paper 18 presents the results of rural land pressure analysis from single dwellings in the countryside and renewables applications. It has identified areas where there is high or medium pressure for rural single dwellings. Overall, the

¹ Department for Economy Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council - minerals development - DfE response (Date published: 23 October 2017)

² Ibid.

³ DAERA 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (version 5.2 approved 15/12/17) (published: 09 February 2017)

⁴ DAERA Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018 (published: 31 January 2019)

⁵ DAERA Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018 (published: 31 January 2019)

⁶ DAERA Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018: 872 farms in Antrim & Newtownabbey out of a total of 24,895.

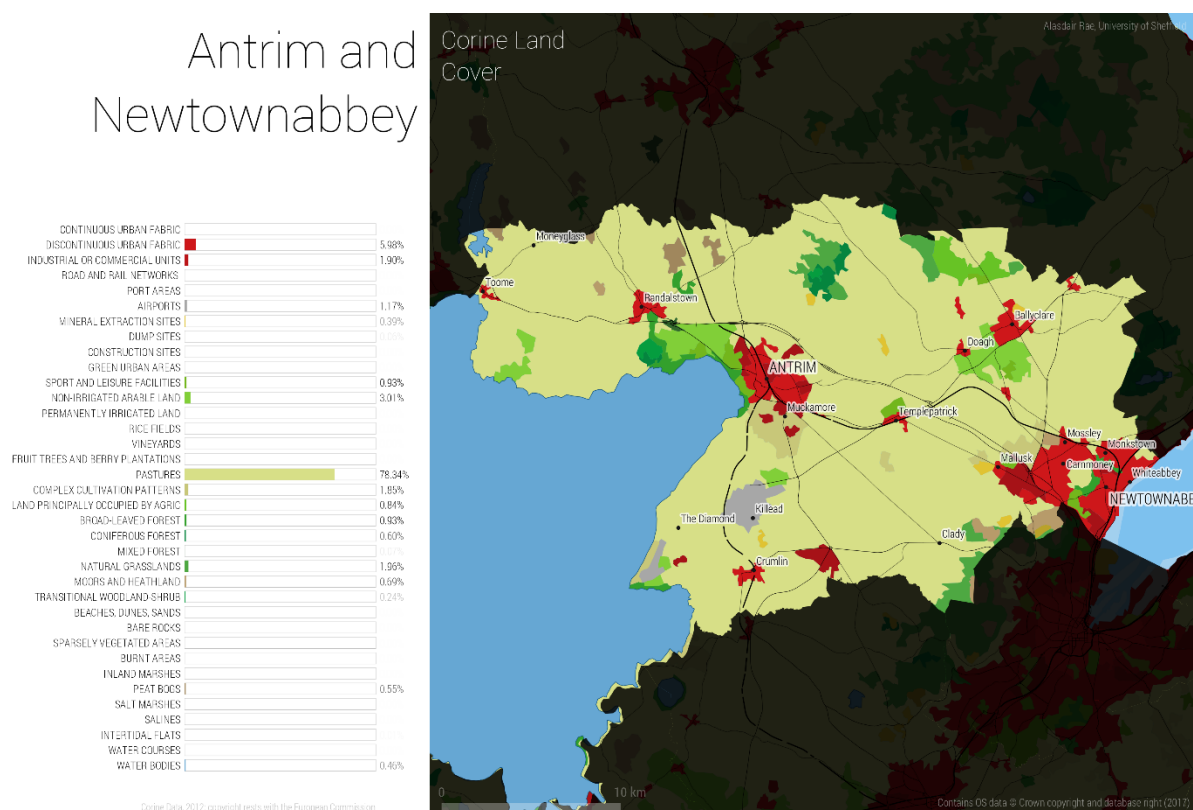
development pressure analysis shows little evidence of significant pressure across the Borough and in general, upland areas and the more scenic areas which coincide with historic restrictive policy designations, have experienced less pressure for development.

Land cover

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

Figure 5.7.2 shows a simplified version of the Corine land use classifications for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough. The detailed land use categories can be arranged into the four general categories of 'Built on', 'Green urban', 'Farmland' and 'Natural'. Antrim and Newtownabbey currently has around 84% of its land cover classified as farmland, slightly higher than the NI average of 72%, and 6% classed as natural land cover, much lower than the NI average of 23%. The proportion of 'built on' land in the Borough, 8%, is quite high in comparison with the NI average of 3.5% and is third highest overall behind Belfast City (54%) and Ards and North Down (9%). It also has a slightly above average proportion of 'green urban' land, 2% (average 1.7% for Councils other than Belfast, which has 18%).

Figure 5.7.2 Land Cover Map of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough, derived from Corine (2012)



The NI 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

also 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 NI.

Soil

Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation in NI, but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store for - and source of - gases like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It also filters water and provides a base for biodiversity and raw materials. A properly functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion and can reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil quality through pollution and erosion.

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. 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.

Groundwater

In their consultation response to the Council following the publication of the POP in 2017 the DfE has stated that Groundwater is a water source that can be used for growth and economic development and should be viewed as a resource that requires careful protection. The DfE indicates that the majority of the council area is underlain by Basalt rocks which are a moderately productive aquifer. Groundwater is stored and transported through extensive networks of fractures throughout the basalts. This groundwater has been exploited successfully by small to medium sized businesses in recent years and many farms in this area use groundwater pumped from boreholes for a range of agricultural activities. Many of the larger businesses operating around Mallusk abstract groundwater from these basalts. The DfE considers that the groundwater held within the basalts is currently under-utilised and could help to support medium scale water supply demands. The abstraction of groundwater is regulated by DAERA through abstraction licensing. More information on groundwater quantity and quality is included in the 'Water' Section of this report.

5.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a LDP in place, 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.

5.7.4 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 near to adequate transport routes to ensure the most efficient transfer of goods to end users.
- An identified strategic resource of lignite is located in the south west of the Borough, at the eastern shore of Lough Neagh close to Crumlin.
- A strategic lignite reserve could provide a substantial energy source for at least 20 years. However this would be a carbon heavy energy choice and would 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. They 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.

5.8 Transport and Accessibility

5.8.1 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. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport by reducing reliance on private transport and improving energy efficiency.

Encouraging people to use public transport and car sharing and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling is key to achieving regional policy outcomes. The LDP will also be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport, but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and at the workplace.

Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

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 Council's Corporate Plan sets out a number of aspirations under Place, People and Prosperity, some of which could be supported by the successful delivery of active and sustainable travel. Improving access for people and communities, and enabling more healthy and active communities are two examples which could be supported by delivery of accessible walking and cycling routes. There is also an aspiration to have 'a world class infrastructure' which should include public transport and active travel options.

The Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here', places emphasis on achieving five outcomes up to 2030, two of which will result in citizens enjoying good health and well-being; and being able to live in connected, safe and vibrant places. Greater connectivity throughout the Borough could be achieved by planning more accessible active and sustainable travel options for people. This could have multiple benefits for people's mental and physical health and well-being and for community relations.

5.8.2 Baseline evidence

Relevant baseline information for Transport and Accessibility is presented in the LDP Evidence Paper 10. Transportation. NINIS is another important source of information. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Community, Economy and

Employment, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

Transport Emissions

In Northern Ireland (NI), the transport sector is the second biggest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and contributes 22% of total GHG emissions¹. The emissions are a by-product from the combustion of fossil fuels. In spite of increasingly efficient vehicles, emissions have increased since 2014. In NI, the transport sector has shown an increase on 1990 baseline levels of just over 29%². GHGs are linked to a warming climate. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is also generated from road traffic. It can cause respiratory issues with prolonged exposure particularly damaging. In NI, it is measured across 15 automatically managed sites and based on an annual mean limit (40µg/m³), set by the UK Air Quality Strategy, exceedances were recorded at four roadside sites – one located on the Antrim Road, Newtownabbey³. Road transport also contributes to levels of airborne particulate matter (PM₁₀) which people then breathe in. PM can particularly affect people with heart and lung issues. The transport sector has a responsibility to reduce its emissions for health and climate reasons. This could be achieved by improving public transport and active travel options in terms of both connectivity and accessibility. Planning could help reduce reliance on the car by enabling shorter journeys with park and rides/shares.

Transport Routes

The borough is 'well located' in relation to the strategic transport network⁴. There are three Key Transport Corridors (KTCs) within it, enabling access to the coast via the M2 and A8; to the north west via the M2/M22 and A6; and to the north or south via the A26. These KTCs are shown in Figure 1 of the LDP Evidence Paper 10. In addition, there are a number of other protected routes 'providing efficient links between all the main towns, airports and seaports'⁵; the M5, A52, A57, A2, B90 and the B101.

The borough has the highest amount of motorway length, relative to other Councils, at 35.2 kilometres (km)⁶. Both dual (21.7km) and single carriageway (108.2km) are present, as too are B (150.7km), C (239.2km) and unclassified roads (817km). The majority of Councils have a higher proportion of all road types. The borough has the fourth lowest amount of total road length present (1371.9km). In spite of this, the existing road transport network connects the borough to the rest of NI and the Republic, as well as the UK and Europe, with its links to the Belfast International Airport and the Belfast Metropolitan Area⁷.

Vehicle Ownership

In 2017, 78,616 licenced cars were recorded in the borough. Relative to other Councils, this was the median, with a higher amount of registered vehicles in half of the other Councils⁸. In the Continuous Household Survey 2015-2017, the Borough Council recorded 88% of households with access to one or more cars⁹. This was higher than the NI average of 81%. In the 2011 Census, it was recorded that 19.5% of residents in the borough did not own a vehicle. This shows that a significant

¹ DAERA 2018: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2016 Statistical Bulletin

² DAERA 2018: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2016 Statistical Bulletin

³ DAERA (2018): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10

⁴ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

⁵ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

⁶ NINIS: Travel and Transport – Road Lengths (administrative geographies)

⁷ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

⁸ NINIS: Travel and Transport – Cars - Private & Company (administrative geographies)

⁹ NINIS: People and Places – Car Ownership Access (administrative geographies)

proportion of residents are reliant upon public transport, taxis or active travel. Nearly 43% had access to at least one vehicle and just over 29% had access to at least two.

Travel Statistics

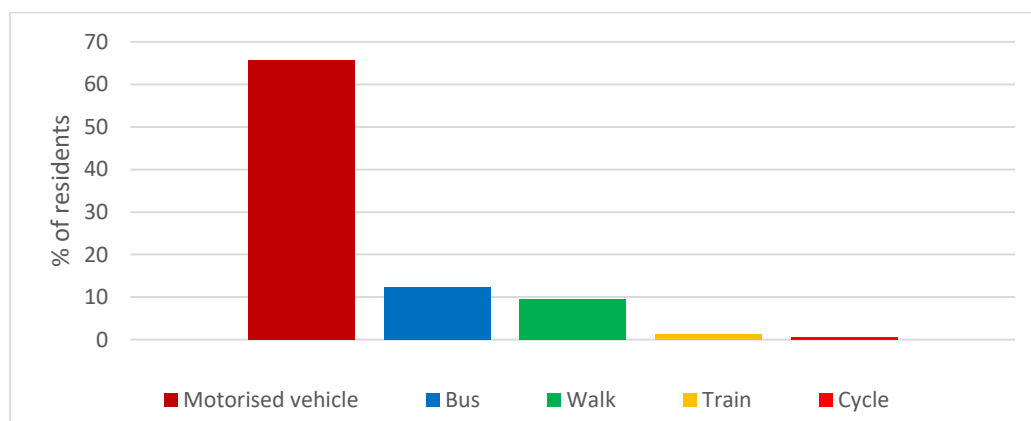
The DfI's Travel Survey for NI (TSNI) 2015-2017, reported that 70% of all annual journeys were made by car. In contrast, journeys made by public transport, including black taxi, accounted for only 5%; walking for 16%; and cycling for 1%¹. NINIS data for 2014-2016, shows that 19% of journeys in the borough were by either public transport, or active travel – walking or cycling. This is not as high a proportion as recorded in several other Council areas. There also does not appear to be an increasing trend for this type of journey.

Travel to Work/Study

Within the Borough, there are approximately 90,309 people in employment, at school, or in study². In total, nearly 66% of this group drive their own vehicle; or travel as a passenger to their place of work, school, or study. Of the remaining commuters, 13.6% use public transport to travel to work or their place of study (12.3% by bus and 1.3% by train). Nearly 10% walk and less than 1% cycle. These figures are lower than regional figures, which reported that 13% of those sampled walk, and 2% cycle³. Measures such as new park and rides, safe cycle lanes and footpaths are likely to be needed to help encourage people to use sustainable and active travel options.

The majority of the population remain reliant on motorised transport and it is generally accepted that reliance on cars can lead to higher levels of traffic congestion; pollution – air, noise, climate, water, ground; sedentary lifestyles; and social exclusion. Increasing the use of public transport and active travel would help to reduce these impacts. The modes of travel to work or study opted for within the borough are shown in Figure 5.8.1. (The 66% of the population that are reliant on motorised vehicles includes those who are car/van passengers (14.88%), car pool (7.07%), use taxis (1.29%), or motorbikes/scooters (0.38%).

Figure 5.8.1: Modes of Travel to Work or Place of Study in Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



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

¹ Department for Infrastructure Statistical Press Release 2019: Travel Survey for Northern Ireland 2015-2017

² NINIS: Census 2011 - Method of travel to work or place of study (resident population) KS702NI (administrative geographies)

³ Department for Infrastructure 2018: Walking and Cycling to/from Work in Northern Ireland 2016/17

Electric Vehicles & Other Fuel

In an attempt to help combat climate change, the transport industry has been developing measures to improve fuel efficiency as well as use of alternative fuels. The transport sector is one of the main contributors to GHG emissions in NI and it needs to reduce its impact and shift away from fossil fuels. Electric vehicles are now becoming more common because they emit less GHG emissions than petrol or diesel. Nearly 100% of cars in the borough are either diesel (38,885), or petrol (39,016). Less than 1% (715) is registered as 'other fuel'¹. The Borough Council has the second highest number of cars registered as 'other fuel' after Belfast, despite having fewer cars overall than five other councils. This category of vehicle has grown significantly from 367 in 2015 and 512 in 2016, to 715 in 2017. This suggests that the borough has a higher proportion of non-fossil fuelled cars than other council areas i.e. hybrid electric, electric, gas-bi fuel; or gas and fuel cell technology².

Currently there are several car-charging points located across the borough³. These are located in and around the settlements of Newtownabbey, Ballyclare, Templepatrick, Crumlin, Antrim and Randalstown⁴. It is likely to become increasingly important for the Borough Council to increase the number of adequate and accessible electric charging points, as low emission vehicles become more mainstream. This is particularly important in light of recent DfI research that found people are reluctant to purchase electric vehicles because they are worried about the recharging aspect⁵.

Park and Ride/Share

According to Translink, there are 11 park and ride/share facilities located in the Borough Council⁶. These purpose built facilities enable people to choose not to use the private car for part of their journeys. Park and rides can also facilitate car sharing. Well-located facilities can help to reduce congestion across the transport network with positives for air quality and climate change as well as people's health and well-being. A full list of park and ride/share facilities is in Evidence Paper 10.

Air Transport

The busiest airport in NI, Belfast International Airport (BIA), has 'a key strategic location within the Borough'⁷. In 2018, it provided service for more than 60,500 flights and served 6.2 million passengers – the highest number ever recorded⁸. The number of annual flights and passengers at BIA show an increasing trend. The airport also transfers freight. It is an important economic asset and efficient transport links to and from it are essential for the airport's success. Currently there are road and bus links to the airport but the nearest rail link is 10 km away in Antrim town. This could be an aspect of the borough's transport network that the LDP could help facilitate.

Public Transport

The Borough benefits from both bus and rail services provided by Translink through Metro, Ulsterbus and NI Railways⁹. Figure 5.8.2 shows the main public transport hubs for the borough. There is a bus station and a rail station in Antrim. Ballyclare also has

¹ NINIS: Travel and Transport – Cars Licensed – Private & Company by Fuel Type (administrative geographies)

² Department for Infrastructure communications 2019

³ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

⁴ <https://www.ecarni.com/charge-point-map>

⁵ Department for Infrastructure: Public Attitudes towards Electric Vehicles in Northern Ireland 2015/2016.

⁶ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

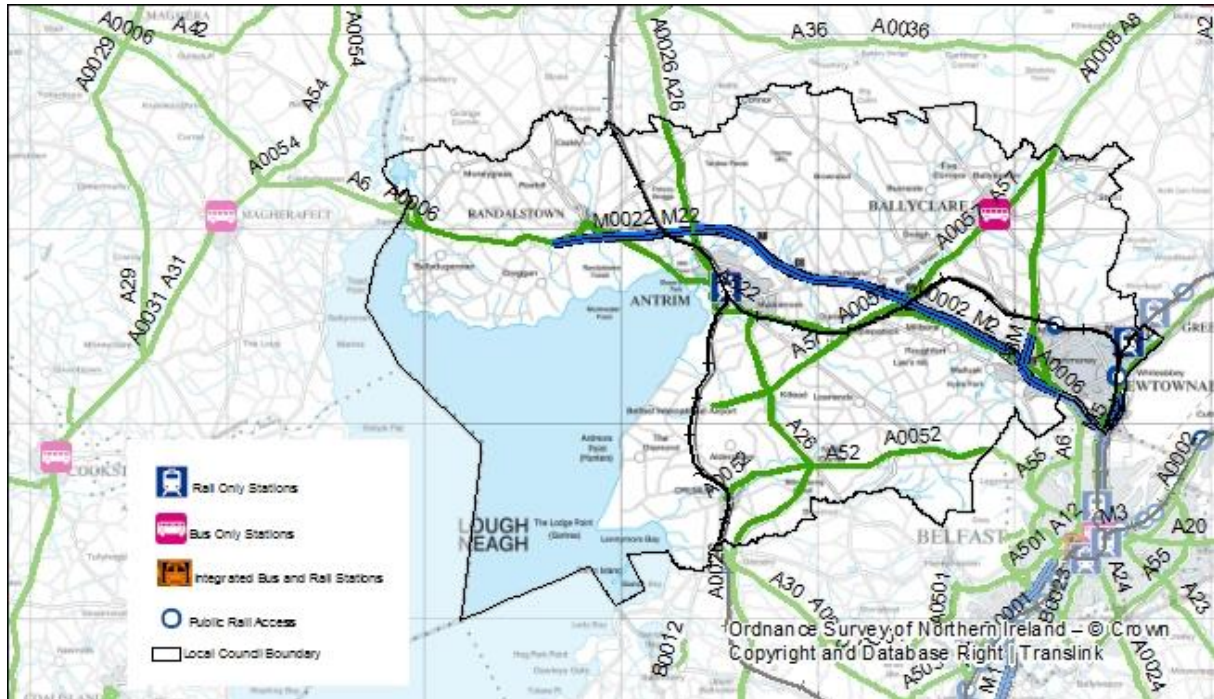
⁷ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belfast_International_Airport#Passenger

⁹ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

a bus station. A network of A-roads and motorway connect these hubs to neighbouring towns and villages as well as the city of Belfast. The rail link from Antrim to Belfast has a stop in Mossley West and enables rail travel north and south of each location. There is also a rail stop at Jordanstown.

Figure 5.8.2: Public Transport Hubs in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council



Source: Spatial NI

In the TSNI 2015-2017, 65% of respondents reported that their journey to work was 'not possible by public transport'. Where it was feasible, 22% of respondents reported 'poor connections' and 21% reported the journey 'too far/long'. This would indicate that local measures are needed to help make it easier for people to opt for public transport.

Community Transport

In the borough, the South Antrim Community Transport charity provides low-cost, accessible transport solutions for people and groups with mobility issues. It is particularly important in rural areas where people may be socially isolated or disconnected from services and facilities. SACT provides for individuals (480) and community groups (80)¹.

Active Travel

Active travel is cycling and walking. It is more sustainable than other modes of travel because of its lesser carbon footprint and no effect on air quality. Active travel can also maintain and improve people's health and well-being. The TSNI 2014-2016, found that the proportion of journeys made in the borough using public transport or active travel, was 19%². This was below the NI average of 24% as several other Council areas recorded a much higher proportion of sustainable journeys.

Walking and cycling routes can connect communities to facilities and services, as well as to open and green space and the wider countryside. The concept of active

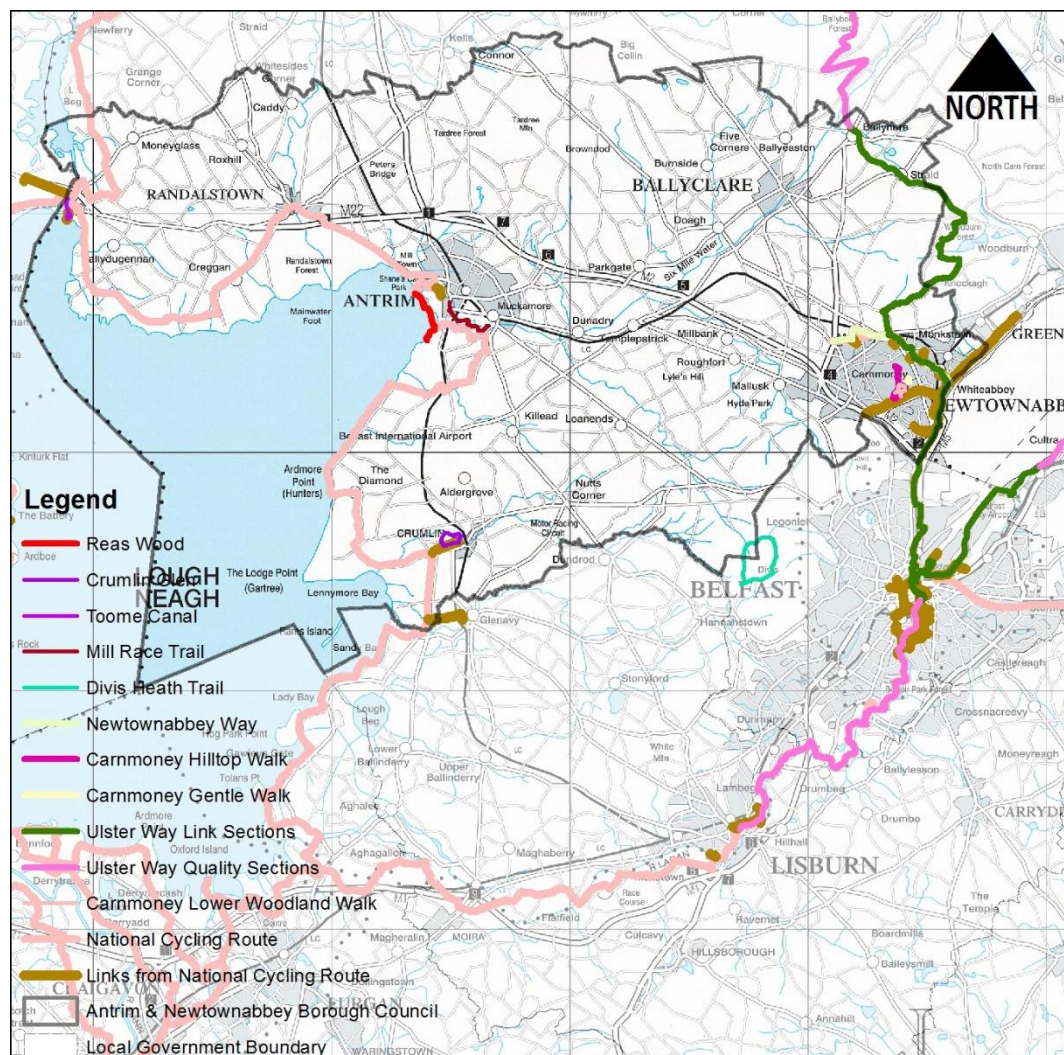
¹ Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

² NINIS: Travel and Transport – Journeys made by walking, cycling or public transport (administrative geographies)

travel can enable people, to access places without using a vehicle as well as to provide benefits for local air quality and people's health and well-being. The LDP can be used to encourage and support active travel as a consideration in new developments and projects as well as in existing towns.

There is a variety of established walking routes within the borough including a section of the Ulster Way. This crosses the east of the borough and connects to neighbouring Councils. The Ulster Way and other walks such as the Divis Heath Trail present opportunities for partnership working across Councils. The established walks are evident in and around Toome, Antrim, Crumlin, Carnmoney and Newtownabbey; with the Newtownabbey Way enabling access down to the shores of Belfast Lough. There appears to be a lack of established routes in and around Randalstown and Ballyclare as well as the wider countryside. A national cycling route enables cyclists to travel around Lough Neagh and along parts of Belfast Lough. It also connects to established walking routes in Crumlin, Carnmoney and Toome but there could be more opportunities to increase connectivity. The established walking routes and cycling routes are shown in Figure 5.8.3.

Figure 5.8.3: Walking and Cycling Routes in Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



Source: Walk NI, Sustrans NI

Greenways

Figure 5.8.4: Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes



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

In 2016, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) published A Strategic Plan for Greenways¹. It identifies 1000 km of greenway routes made up from potential primary and secondary networks, with much of the disused railway network used to connect people and places. A third tier of community greenways could also be feasible that would help further connect local communities to facilities and services; to local green and open space; and with neighbouring communities. The Northern Ireland Greenways Project is voluntary and helps to collate all the projects together.

The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015 identified three community greenways in the Borough Council – Monkstown to Cavehill; Loughshore to Belfast; and Valley Park to Carrickfergus Escarpment. BMAP also identified access points into the Belfast Hills at Cavehill and Carnmoney Hill. An additional 26km greenway has also been identified from Doagh to Larne, on the former railway bed between Belfast and Ballyclare². There could be other local greenway projects that are as yet, not identified.

5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, reliance on private vehicles and the trend for increasing transport emissions are unlikely to improve. Without up to date spatial information, opportunities to increase connectivity and accessibility using public transport and active travel are more likely to be missed. Without up to spatial planning,

¹ Department for Infrastructure (DfI) (2016): Exercise-Explore-Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways

² Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy. Evidence Paper 10: Transportation 2019

opportunities to connect people to key services by public transport routes or likely to be less feasible. Integrate G/BI alongside active travel may also become more difficult

5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- There is an opportunity for the LDP to help reduce emissions from the transport sector by enabling shorter journeys, improving public transport facilities and active travel.
- The Borough benefits from strong transport links, and occupies a strategic position on and connecting to Belfast Metropolitan Area's transport network.
- It is generally accepted that reliance on cars can lead to multiple negative impacts on the environment and people's health and well-being - increased congestion, air and noise pollution, loss of amenity, sedentary lifestyles, and social exclusion.
- Relative to other Council areas, the borough has a significant amount of motorway but a much lower proportion of all other road types - A, B, C, and unclassified.
- A significant proportion of residents have access to at least one vehicle (88%), which is higher than the NI average (81%).
- Nearly 20% of residents do not own their own vehicle and are reliant upon taxis, public transport and/or active travel.
- There is a high reliance amongst residents to use motorised vehicles to get to work or place of study.
- The dominant mode of travel to work or place of study is the motorised vehicle with 66% of residents opting for this.
- Less than 1% of vehicles (715) in the borough are non-fossil fuelled with the majority of these hybrid or electric.
- The Council should futureproof itself for an increasing no. of electric cars and ensure an adequate no. of accessible electric charging points will be available.
- Belfast International Airport occupies a key strategic location within the Borough and transport links to and from it need to accommodate efficient movement of passengers and freight.
- To futureproof the airport, a rail link could be investigated.
- Measures to improve public transport provision and encourage more journeys by public transport and/or active travel are needed to help reduce the number of journeys made by car and the associated impacts on air quality, climate and people's health and well-being.
- The Borough Council is below the NI average for the number of journeys made by active or sustainable travel.
- There are opportunities to connect people to services and facilities as well as to the wider countryside by enabling active travel routes.
- There is a community transport charity (SACT) that provides transport solutions to people and groups with mobility issues.
- There may be opportunities for more established walking routes in and around Ballyclare and Randalstown and for new cycling routes at the local level.
- There are several opportunities for greenways to be developed within the Borough Council – three within the former Belfast Metropolitan area and one from Doagh to Larne. Each project presents an opportunity to connect people and places using active travel.
- There may be other feasible greenway projects that could add to local level G/BI infrastructure network and enable active travel.

5.9 Air

5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

The Clean Air Strategy 2019 has set objectives regarding the impacts of poor air quality. The strategy covers a range of issues such as protecting human health, protecting the environment; reducing emissions from transport, farming, homes and industry; and also securing clean growth and innovation. The Strategy is part of a 25 Year Environmental Plan set out by government to help deliver better air quality throughout the UK. A distinct relation between good air quality and good quality of human and animal life is made.

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

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

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

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2030 sets Place, People and Prosperity at the core of its vision. It aspires to provide a place where the natural environment and the built heritage are protected and enhanced; and communities have access to high quality services and excellent service. A world class infrastructure is aspired to alongside an attractive location for tourism. All of these aspirations can only be achievable if air quality is maintained and improved. It will be essential for the

Council and its partners to manage all aspects where a positive difference to local air quality can be made.

The Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here', has five outcomes up to 2030 of which two would be linked to good air quality. The Community Plan aspires for citizens to 'enjoy good health and well-being' and to 'live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places'. The LDP provides an opportunity to spatially manage development and its potential impacts on local air quality in a positive way.

5.9.2 Baseline information

Sources of information include the NINIS and DAERA. This topic also overlaps with the health and well-being, material assets, physical resources, transport and accessibility, climate change, natural resources and historic environment sections of this report.

Air Quality

There is currently one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in place in Newtownabbey for recurring exceedances of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)¹ directly linked to traffic.

Nitric oxide (NO) and NO₂ are primarily released from the combustion of fossil fuels used in transport, energy and industry. These nitrogen oxides (NO_x) can quickly contribute to the formation of acid rain and ozone (O₃), both of which are harmful to the natural and built environment². Particulate pollution also occurs when fine particles are emitted during combustion of fossil fuels and from road transport. These particles are called particulate matter (PM₁₀) and can be breathed into the lungs³. Impacts on human health are referred to below. Aerial emissions of ammonia and methane are the primary air pollutants from the agricultural sector.

Information on the Borough's air quality and monitoring can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk where progress reports and screening assessments can also be found.

Air Quality Monitoring

Urban background levels of NO₂ have 'remained relatively stable over the past number of years' but at roadside sites, levels have been variable⁴. In 2016, NO₂ was monitored across 16 sites in NI including one at the Newtownabbey Antrim Road. Sites monitor annual and hourly mean levels against target values set under the UK Air Quality Strategy (AQS). The main source of pollutants within this urban area is traffic – congestion and volume.

The annual mean objective of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) across urban areas in Northern Ireland in 2017 was 40 µg/m³, slightly above the concentration for the Newtownabbey Antrim Road of 35µg/m³ ⁵. It is key that this concentration does not exceed 40 µg/m³ as it would be a breach of the UK Air Quality Strategy.

Transport Sources

NO₂ is generated from the combustion of fossil fuels and the transport sector is a significant source. The UK Clean Air Strategy has highlighted traffic emissions as one of the top three sources of air pollution problems in Northern Ireland. There are

¹ www.airqualityni.co.uk

² www.airqualityni.co.uk

³ www.airqualityni.co.uk

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 2018 (Published 31 May 2018)

⁵ Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report May 2019

several key routes located in the Council, which are principal routes in and out of the city of Belfast. Reliance across the Council on road transport is high with households having access to one or more cars well above the NI average.

There is a planned phase out of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2040, which should help to significantly reduce traffic related pollution and improve air quality¹. As part of the transition toward a cleaner transport system, there are already 27 electric car charging points within the Borough². It is likely that an increased amount of charging points will be needed in the future. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

Agricultural Sources

Ammonia (NH₃) is an air pollutant with sources in transport and industry but in NI it is mostly associated with the agriculture sector³. Most of the ammonia throughout Northern Ireland in 2017 came from the agricultural sector⁴. High emissions are associated with intensive dairy, pig and poultry farming and it has been identified in a UK Clean Air Strategy as one of the main sources of air pollution in NI⁵. In NI 92% of NH₃ emissions derives from livestock and 8% from fertilisers⁶. It is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it can be linked to the deterioration of habitats and negative effects on species⁷. These have decreased from 2006 levels but have been increasing since 2010. Approximately 3% of farms in NI are located in the Borough. These are mostly cattle, sheep, pigs or poultry farms⁸. There is a need to consider local air quality at these sites. More information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

Energy Sources

In NI, there has been a rise in the use of natural gas for residential heating and a move away from oil and coal for domestic heating purposes. Electricity generated from renewables has also increased every year since 2001⁹. Diversification in our energy use means that pollutants such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂), PMs and carbon emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been reducing. According to the 2011 Census, 65% of households in the Council area use oil but only 19% use gas¹⁰. There may be potential for more households and businesses to benefit from the gas infrastructure. 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 NI have been recorded as comparable to industrial sites in England¹¹. More information is in the Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

Electricity supply from renewables has more or less increased every year in Northern Ireland since 2001. In 2017/18, nearly 36.4% of electricity supplied in Northern Ireland came from renewables¹² and was in keeping with the Executive's target for 40% of electricity from renewables by 2020. This type of diversification in our energy supply

¹ Climate NI

² www.ecarni.co.uk

³ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue May 2019

⁵ BBC News: Clean Air Strategy: Traffic Pollution 'significant problem' in NI. January 2019

⁶ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 11 May 2019

⁷ Air Pollution Information System UK

⁸ NINIS 2019

⁹ DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

¹⁰ Antrim and Newtownabbey Council- Preferred Options Paper (POP)

¹¹ Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016

¹² DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 11 May 2019

means that carbon emissions and other pollutants from fossil fuel combustion are reducing.

Smoke Control Areas

Some areas within the Borough have been declared as Smoke Control Areas (SCA)¹. These have been created to help improve local air quality by reducing air pollutants like smoke, SO₂ and PM₁₀ from the burning of fossil fuels.

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. It is estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality². Public Health England³ estimates that in NI around 553 deaths annually may be attributed to pollution from particulates, of which 40 occur in Antrim and Newtownabbey. NO₂ can be a severe respiratory irritant and prolonged exposure can be particularly dangerous for children⁴. NO_x readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain and O₃. Acid rain pollutes land and water systems whilst O₃ at the ground level acts as a respiratory irritant⁵. PM₁₀ can cause heart and lung issues with carcinogenic risks and the majority of PM₁₀ in urban areas is from road transport⁶.

NISRA publishes death rates for the number of related respiratory deaths for men and women under the age of 75. The figures for the Borough Council are slightly above the Northern Ireland average⁷.

5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a LDP in place, it is likely to become more difficult to spatially influence development so that other modes of transport to the car can be facilitated and supported. There may be a higher risk of decreasing local air quality through inappropriately located development and less opportunity to spatially influence development so that air quality can be maintained or improved.

5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air

- There is one AQMA in the Borough for recurring exceedances of NO₂ directly linked to the volume of traffic and traffic emissions.
- The Borough has a high reliance on private car use with a higher than NI average for the number of households with access to one or more cars.
- There is likely to be a need for a variety of measures to help reduce the number of cars on the road including facilitating and supporting other modes of transport including walking and cycling.
- Local measures to help futureproof the Borough's transport system for more electric vehicles are likely to be needed.
- Local measures are likely to be needed to help reduce the impacts of ammonia emissions from the farming community.
- The Borough benefits from gas infrastructure and the number of users could potentially increase.

¹ DAERA Smoke Control Areas Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (found at <http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/laqm/smoke-control-areas?id=448>)

² DAERA presentation for draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

³ Public Health England (2014) Estimating Local Mortality Burdens Associated with Particulate Air Pollution, pp. 21

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

⁵ www.airqualityni.co.uk

⁶ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 10 May 2018

⁷ <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>

- Facilitating and supporting renewable energy projects could help to further improve air quality.
- There are smoke control areas in the Borough.
- There is a need to consider air quality when spatially planning development particularly when residential areas and people's health may be impacted.
- Air pollution can be particularly bad for people's respiratory health and local measures are likely to be needed to help reduce health risks.

5.10 Climate Change

5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Since the late 18th century and the Industrial Revolution, greenhouse gases (GHG) - carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and fluorinated gases - have been entering the atmosphere at an accelerated rate from man's activities. These additional gases are mostly from fossil fuel combustion but also deforestation and agricultural practices. They add to background levels and increase the natural warming of the planet - the 'greenhouse effect'. Climate scientists have estimated that the earth's atmosphere has already warmed from pre-Industrial Revolution times by nearly 1°C and that global sea levels have increased by 15-20 centimetres with thermal expansion and ice loss from glaciers and land¹.

Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate human-induced climate change so the RDS recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. In the SPPS, climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport, with renewables, energy efficiency and green/blue infrastructure accounted for. It details mitigation and adaptation for climate change. Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' (PPS18) sets out policy for renewables in NI. It encourages their integration to improve our security of energy supply, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and lower our carbon emissions².

A NI National Adaptation Programme (NAP) for climate change was launched in 2014 and an update is due later this year. Preceding UK level Climate Change Risk Assessment Reports have already highlighted the importance of focusing more action and further research on flooding and coastal change, health risks from higher temperatures, water shortages, natural capital, food trade; and new pests, diseases and invasive species. The first NI Adaptation Programme focused on flooding, water, natural capital, agriculture and forestry. Flooding was identified as 'potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks' in NI³.

The NI Executive's draft PfG includes 14 strategic outcomes with 42 indicators of success. One of the outcomes is 'to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment'. There are nine indicators to help achieve progress on this outcome. These include increasing innovation in our economy, increasing use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability (by measuring GHGs), increasing household waste recycling, and improving air quality⁴.

In the Council's Corporate Plan, 2019-2030, the vision for the Borough is to make it, 'A progressive, smart and prosperous Borough. Inspired by our people. Driven by ambition.' To enable delivery of this, various objectives are referred to under 'Place', 'People' and 'Prosperity'. Underpinning the vision are aspirations including making 'people feel safe', the 'environment protected and enhanced', and providing 'a world class infrastructure which supports the expansion of indigenous businesses, attracts investment, and supports productivity...'. The LDP can help deliver the

¹ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

² Department of Environment August (2009): Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy

³ Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

⁴ Northern Ireland Executive: Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021

Council's Corporate Plan vision by adequately considering the impacts of climate change and futureproofing the Borough for them.

The Council's 'Love Living Here' Community Plan, recognises 'the value of our natural and built environment' and recognises that a sustainable environment is important for both mental and physical well-being. By taking account of climate change, the Council can help to ensure a more resilient and sustainable Borough with future development planned for in the context of mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

5.10.2 Baseline information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP 2030 Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 19. Coast as well as across multiple sources including the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS), The NI Environmental Statistics Report, and The NI Greenhouse Gas Inventory. This topic also overlaps with the Health & Well-Being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

International context

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Program. The IPCC's role is to provide Assessment Reports based on scientific and technical information, with response strategies – adaptation and mitigation - to the predicted impacts of anthropogenic climate change. The IPCC's first assessment report was in 1990 and helped create the international United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The IPCC delivers regular reports on climate change issues and its fourth in 2007, began to integrate climate change with sustainable development policies. The fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was released between 2013 and 2014. In it, levels of GHG are reported as the highest they have been since the pre-industrial era. Atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O are the highest they have been in the last 800,000 years. Their effects are extremely likely to be the dominant cause of observed global warming since the 1950s. It reports that GHG emissions need to reduce by 40-70% by 2050 to have a likely chance of avoiding the 2°C increase.

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, partially led to the UNFCCC - the Global Warming Convention. The UNFCCC led to countries committing to reduce their GHG emissions to help combat climate change under the Kyoto Protocol (1997). The Kyoto Protocol set internationally binding emission reductions. Heavier burdens were placed on developed nations, where the amount of GHG emissions was higher. The United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland were both signatories. Although the Protocol was adopted in the 1990s, the first commitment period did not start until 2008. We are now in the second commitment period, from 2013 to 2020, and an 18% reduction in GHG emissions on 1990 levels is expected¹. The UNFCCC was created to help reduce global warming and cope with its consequences and it remains the key international treaty to do this². The UK is an independent signatory and remains committed to fulfil its international obligations, regardless of the Brexit outcome.

In 2016, the UNFCCC met in Paris to discuss strengthening the global response to climate change. With the support of 196 countries, the Paris Agreement was made.

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

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

It aims to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C or less on pre-industrial levels. Ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions are requirements of this agreement. In total, 179 out of 197 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, including the UK and Ireland¹.

UK Context

The UK was the first country to have a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions with the UK Climate Change Act 2008.² It led to the formation of the independent body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee. These advise the UK and devolved administrations on carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. The devolved administrations of the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the Climate Change Act, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA³ in December 2017 indicate that GHG emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990, which is close to the target. The 2008 Act also requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change. The first Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was produced in 2012.

The second CCRA Evidence Report⁴ highlighted the following six priority risk areas:

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

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

Northern Ireland context

In the UK's CCRA 2017, additional priority risks have been identified for NI where more action will be needed and further research⁵. These will all be responded to in NI's Climate Change Adaptation Programme due in 2019⁶. The previous 2014 Adaptation Programme focused on flooding, water, the natural environment, and agriculture and forestry. It also referred to the need for leadership, collaboration and cooperation to deliver adaptive capacity and resilience⁷.

NI Climate Scenarios

Climate change is one of the top four environmental concerns amongst the general public, with 27% of households reporting it in 2017/18⁸. According to the UKCP18, by 2100, winters and summers will both be warmer; winters will have more precipitation and summers will have less. However, natural variations mean that some cold winters, some dry winters, some cool summers and some wet summers will still occur and this may need to be factored into decision-making. Sea level rise at Belfast will

¹<https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification>

² Defra 2012: A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland

³ DAERA Statistics and Analytical Services Branch Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Projections Update published 15/12/2016

⁴ HM Government January (2017): The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme>

⁷ Department of Environment (January 2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

⁸ DAERA (May 2019): The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistic Annual Report 2019 Issue: 11 – Figure 1.7

be 0.18 to 0.64 metres higher than the 1981-2000 average in the mid-range emissions scenario; and extreme weather events will be more likely¹. For example, over a month's worth of rain fell in a few hours at the end of July 2018, after a month of very hot weather due to a heatwave over northern Europe². The top ten warmest years in the UK have been recorded since 1990³.

Queens University Belfast manages nine climate-monitoring stations across NI for temperature and precipitation and one of the stations is situated at Greenmount, Antrim. Climate projections informed by this monitoring predict that average temperatures will increase and become progressively warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Temperature increase will occur in all seasons, with inland areas showing a larger degree of warming than coastal areas. Summers will be drier and winters wetter but overall precipitation will fall slightly⁴. The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2019 also reports an increasing average temperature over the last 100 years.

To help futureproof NI for climate change, the NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme (the Adaptation Programme) was published in 2014⁵ and it presents a cross-sectoral approach to robust mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change in NI. It is NI's response to the risks and opportunities highlighted in the CCRA 2012. The CCRA 2012, focused on five themes:

- agriculture and forestry
- business
- health and well-being
- buildings and infrastructure, and
- natural environment.

Threats and opportunities for these were presented in the Adaptation Programme. Some adaptation activities on these themes include works to reduce the risk of flooding at water treatment works and reviews by Departmental bodies into the resilience of their buildings in extreme weather events. For example, in the UK, it has been estimated that approximately 2000 deaths per year can be attributed to the effects of heat⁶, with this figure likely to increase with predicted temperature increases and exposure to sun.

The vision of the Adaptation Programme is for *"A resilient NI which will take timely and well informed decisions that are responsive to the key risks and opportunities presented by climate change."* The four key areas for action are:

- Flooding
- Water
- Natural Environment, and
- Agriculture and Forestry

In total, 130 risks and opportunities were identified under these four primary areas. Climate change is expected to exacerbate threats to all of these. Objectives and adaptation principles for each theme are needed to help fulfil commitments under the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The Adaptation Programme identifies Councils as 'particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their

¹ Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

² Climate Northern Ireland eBulletin Issue 67 August 2018

³ International Journal of Climatology: The State of the UK Climate 2017 Volume 38 Issue S2

⁴ Mullan et al (2012): Developing site-specific future temperature scenarios for Northern Ireland: addressing key issues employing a statistical downscaling approach. International Journal of Climatology, 32(13): 2007-2019; and presentation from Dr D. Mullan QUB

⁵ DAERA Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014

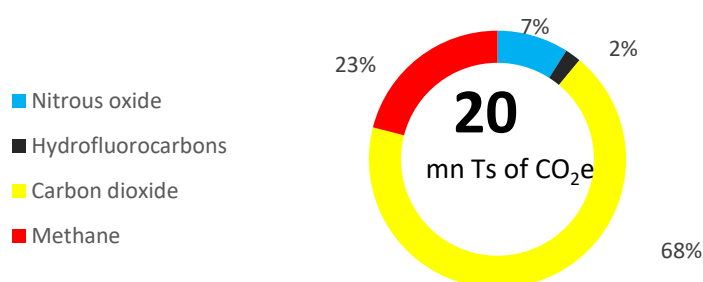
⁶ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report: Summary for Northern Ireland

responsibilities', on climate change issues. The next NI Adaptation Programme is due in 2019.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2017, NI accounted for 4.3% of UK GHG emissions. These were estimated to be equivalent to 20 million tonnes of CO₂. CO₂ emissions accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. It was the most common gas emitted from most sectors but not agriculture, or waste management. Methane (CH₄) was a more significant GHG from both of these sectors because of livestock and landfill. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) was the other significant GHG emission from the agriculture sector. This is a difficult GHG to both measure and reduce. NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the economic importance of agriculture in NI¹. Overall, there was a decrease in GHG emissions of 3% compared to 2016 and the longer-term trend showed a decrease of 18% compared to the 1990 baseline year².

Figure 5.10.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Northern Ireland 2017



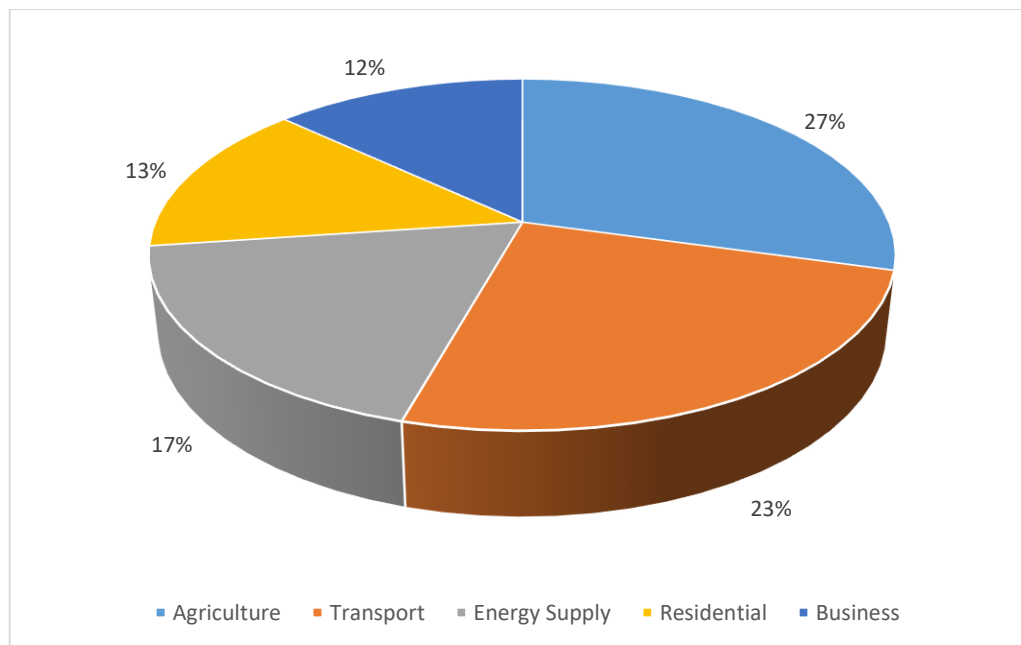
Source: DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

The largest GHG emitting sectors in NI are agriculture (27%), transport (23%), energy supply (17%), residential (13%) and business (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from farming practices, vehicle emissions and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a long-term decreasing trend in emissions since the base year, with the largest decreases in the energy supply, residential and waste management sectors. Between 2016 and 2017, GHG emissions decreased most from the energy supply sector (15.1%) but increases were evident from transport, agriculture and land use change.

¹ Defra 2012: A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland

² DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

Figure 5.10.2: Largest Contributors of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Northern Ireland 2017



Source: DAERA 2019, Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

The transport and agriculture sectors both showed higher emissions in 2017 than in the baseline year with a 30.2% increase from the transport sector due to more vehicles on the road and a 2% increase from the agriculture sector due to more livestock. Four other sectors are also accountable for GHG emissions. These are industrial processes, land use change, public and waste management. Of these, the land use change sector has shown a 23% increase in emissions from the baseline year. This reflects conversions as well as losses from semi-natural land cover to developed land¹.

The NI Executive's target to reduce GHG emissions on 1990 levels by at least 35% by 2025 is in place². The draft PfG's outcome 'to live and work sustainably – protecting the environment' uses GHG emissions as an indicator of progress toward meeting this outcome. It uses NI's 2014 figure for MtCO₂e and based on this, we are currently neither failing or succeeding to meet that measure and outcome³.

Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors

Agriculture

In 2017, the agriculture sector continued to be the main contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 27% of all emissions and an increase of 2% on baseline levels. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources and account for 92% and 8% of all ammonia (NH₃) emissions⁴. The agriculture sector is also the main source of CH₄ and N₂O, accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of CO₂, it emits N₂O to a significant level. Farming is an important part of NI's economy so there is a responsibility to develop effective measures that will help reduce GHG emissions like N₂O and NH₃ even if they are difficult to estimate. According to NINIS, there are 872 farms in the Borough

¹ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

² www.theccc.org.uk

³ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

and include cattle and poultry¹. This is the fourth lowest of all the Councils and fifth lowest in terms of area. Measures to reduce GHG emissions could include steps to improve soil management and avoid soil erosion. More information is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

Transport

In 2017, the transport sector accounted for 23% of all GHG emissions in NI and an increase of 30.2% on baseline levels. This reflects the reliance people have in NI for motorised vehicles and also reflects the rural nature of the country. It is a significant contributor of CO₂ but also nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. NO₂ can cause respiratory issues and is partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned². By 2050, all cars in the UK are likely to be ultra-low emission vehicles. New transport and residential developments need to be encouraged to consider future changes in the transport system. Likewise, the LDP should be used to help reduce GHG emissions from transport by providing accessible walking and cycling routes as well as adequate public transport options. Spatially planning land use to provide the most effective local and regional level travel routes, should help to reduce car dependency and increase sustainable and active travel. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility, and Air Quality sections of this report.

Energy Supply

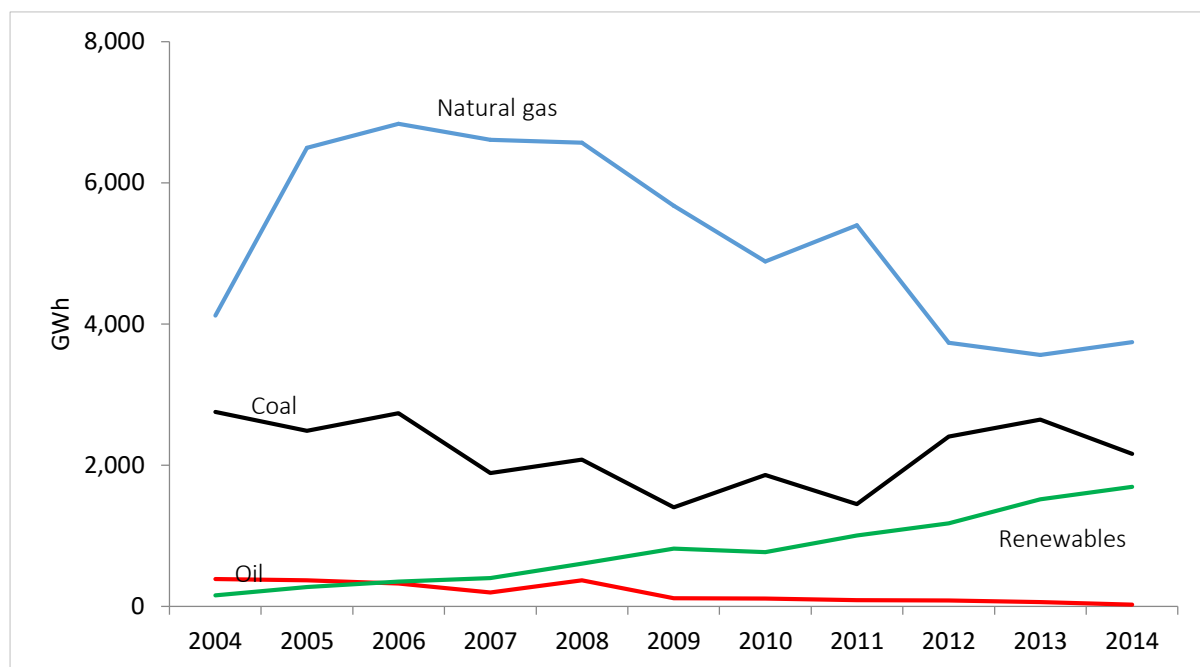
The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions with a 15% decrease in 2017 from 2016³. This is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas; improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewables⁴. There are currently two gas-fired power stations in NI. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient than coal and oil, so preferred in terms of GHG emissions and efficiency. The change from coal and oil has helped to reduce GHG emissions from the sector. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include diversity of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

¹ NINIS Farm Census (administrative geographies) 1999-2017

² www.climatenorthernireland.org

³ DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

⁴ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

Figure 5.10.3: Electricity Generated by Fuel Type

Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy is not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because it uses natural energy with a low or zero carbon footprint. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline levels by 80% by 2050 (UK Climate Change Act). In 2016, Northern Ireland ranked second in the UK for renewable energy production¹ and in 2017/18, 36.4% of NI's electricity needs were from renewable sources².

The Council area has a mix of renewables including wind (single turbines), solar and anaerobic with 57 renewable energy generating sites³. Notably, one of the main investments within the council area has been the £7 million solar farm completed by NI Water in 2018, needed to power one of Northern Ireland's largest treatment plants- Dunore Water Treatment Works. This project saves around 2000 tonnes of carbon every year from entering the atmosphere and has provided a leading example for other businesses⁴. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

Residential

The residential sector is one of the top contributors to GHG emissions (Figure 5.10.2). Northern Ireland remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas. The 2011 Census reported 65% of households in the Borough using oil but only 19% using gas⁵. Emissions from houses can be linked to not just their source of fuel heating but also their energy efficiency - environmentally sustainable design. The LDP could be used to help facilitate and encourage lower carbon lifestyles and help to reduce overall

¹ Department for the Economy (June 2018): Energy in Northern Ireland 2018

² DAERA (May 2019): The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Annual Report 2019 Issue: 11 - Figure 2.10

³ Department for the Economy (June 2018): Energy in Northern Ireland 2018

⁴ www.niwater.com/ni-water-leads-the-way-in-renewable-energy

⁵ NINIS: Census 2011 – Antrim & Newtownabbey as 100 Households

GHG emissions from the sector. Requiring green building design within the LDPs could help encourage promotion of measures that reduce GHG emissions but also help adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures could include green roofs, passive solar design, natural lighting, access to renewables, planting greenery, incorporating Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and connecting to active travel routes.

Waste Management

The waste management sector is responsible for 4% of GHG emissions and has seen a 56.8% decrease in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2017¹. Methane is a powerful GHG and the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfilling practices². There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the 1990 baseline year due to the closure of landfills and methane capture.

Currently there are five recycling centres within the Borough and a 54.6% recycling rate of municipal waste³. This is above the NI average of 47.6%. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

Impacts of Climate Change Flooding

Increased incidences of flooding is one of the predicted impacts of climate change. This is expected due to increased levels of precipitation, flash storm events, storm surges and higher sea levels. Flooding has been identified as '*potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks*' to NI⁴. It can occur near waterbodies but also from excess surface water. More information is in the Water section of this report but some areas are already at significant risk of flooding from surface and river flooding⁵.

Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on adjacent sites and downstream, as well as increase pressure on natural floodplains. This places risk on both the natural and built environment but one in ten homes in the UK have been built in a flood risk area⁶. The introduction of SuDS (sustainable drainage systems) within the built environment is a key way to provide sustainable flood relief to homes affected by adverse weather conditions. SuDS not only enables surface water to be minimised whilst protecting the natural and built environment, but can also add to local biodiversity and improve the quality of public realm. SuDS are adaptable to changing weather conditions compared to regular underground drains⁷. One of the draft PfG outcomes is to '*connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure*' and this could be supported by avoiding development in or near to flood risk areas and integrating SuDS.

Coastal Flooding and Erosion

There is a relatively small section of coastline within the Borough along Belfast Lough. There has been minor coastal erosion in which public paths and walkways have been closed due to the effects of storms⁸. The LDP should help ensure appropriate

¹DAERA 2019: Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2017 Statistical Bulletin

²DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – 2019

³NINIS Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling (administrative geographies) 2017

⁴DAERA Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014

⁵Department for Infrastructure - Flood Maps

⁶www.climateinireland.org.uk

⁷Ashley, RM, Walker, AL, D'Arcy, B et al. (5 more authors) (2015): UK sustainable drainage systems: past, present and future. Proceedings of ICE - Civil Engineering, 168 (3). pp. 125-130

⁸www.newtownabbeytoday.co.uk/news/path-closed-due-to-erosion

development in the coastal area that considers the increasing risk of storm surges and erosion by enabling 'provision for change'¹.

Biodiversity Loss

Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move². In certain locations, such as Lough Neagh, these changes could lead to habitat loss and in other areas, non-native species may be able to thrive and outcompete native species and habitats. Buffer zones around nature conservation sites and green/blue infrastructure around priority habitats should be considered to aid movement of species due to climate change.

Health

The predicted effects of climate change include higher temperatures, milder winters, higher levels of rain and increased frequency of storm events. All of these weather events bring with them potential risks to human health. With the increasing average temperatures and predicted increases in periods of hot weather, some people may become increasingly vulnerable. Buildings in Northern Ireland have not yet been sufficiently adapted to deal with this warmer weather. There is an opportunity to develop policies that can enable integration of adaptation measures for climate change by encouraging environmentally sustainable design measures that can provide shade, use passive solar design, collect rainwater, and integrate G/BI.

5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, there could be fewer opportunities to create sustainable development patterns that can integrate measures to help combat and adapt to climate change. There may be fewer opportunities to reduce GHG emissions from transport and it could become increasingly difficult to facilitate appropriate renewable energy projects. Likewise, there may be fewer opportunities to develop more resilient communities that can cope with the impacts of climate change including flooding and erosion, extreme heat, and water shortages.

5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- Climate change is one of the top four environmental concerns amongst the general public in NI with 27% of households reporting it in 2017/18.
- There is a need to spatially influence the development of land to deliver and support sustainable development patterns that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable adaptation to climate change by reducing car journey times, facilitating accessible modes of sustainable and active travel, facilitating lower carbon energy sources, delivering lower carbon lifestyles, integrating green/blue infrastructure as well as SuDS, and conserving and enhancing water and carbon stores, as well as buffering sites.
- Flooding is potentially one of the most significant risks to be considered in NI, and local level measures such as green/blue infrastructure, and SuDS need to be considered to increase local resilience.

¹ Antrim & Newtownabbey LDP 2030 Plan Strategy Evidence Paper 19: Coast 2019

² Carroll, M.J., Williams, M.A. & Bradbury, R.B. (2015). The Nature of Climate Change: Europe's Wildlife at Risk. Research Report 55. RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, Sandy.

- Measures to encourage/ enable electric vehicles, active travel and car sharing are needed to help reduce reliance on the car and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector.
- The agricultural sector is one of the top contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and where feasible within the Plan measures to reduce these should be applied.
- Only 19% of the residence in the council use gas but there may be opportunities to improve gas infrastructure and increase the number of users.
- There is a need to enable and support appropriate renewable energy projects and the necessary infrastructure across the Borough to increase the diversity of renewables.
- The Borough has a mix of renewable energy generating sites with wind and solar the most evident.
- The reusing/recycling/composting rate for the Borough Council is a top performing Borough and is higher than the NI average – positive trend.
- It is important to protect habitats, coastal areas, floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural adaptation measures for climate change, as well as providing habitat for local biodiversity.
- Ensuring buffer zones exist around designated sites and priority habitats to help enable movement of species due to a changing climate.
- Higher temperatures and the impact on people's health and well-being will need to be considered in the context of spatial planning and building design.

5.11 Water

5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This topic encompasses water as a resource for ecological services, water supply and treatment. It also considers the management of water storage and flow, flood risk and measures to avoid or manage flood risk.

European Directives and regional legislation, plans and strategies seek to protect the quality and supply of water to maintain natural resources and protect human health. The 'Water Framework Directive' (2000/60/EC) requires waterbodies to be protected from deterioration and, where necessary and practicable, to be restored to 'good' status. The 'Groundwater Daughter Directive' (2006/118/EC) includes criteria for the assessment of 'good' chemical status and for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution of groundwater. The Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) also require the implementation of standards for the control and prevention of pollution of water by nitrates from agricultural sources and phosphorus and other pollutants from agricultural, industrial and waste water sources.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) (91/271/EEC) is designed to reduce the pollution of freshwater, estuarine and coastal waters by domestic sewage and industrial wastewater (collectively known as urban waste water). The Directive sets minimum standards for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. Minimum standards for the provision of sewerage systems and treatment of sewage are set by the Directive according to the population served by sewage treatment works, and the sensitivity of receiving waters. The 'Floods Directive' (2007/60/EC) requires flood risk to be assessed and mapped and management plans to be developed for the most significant flood risk areas.

At the Northern Ireland (NI) level, each of these Directives has been transposed into local legislation in order to facilitate their implementation. These include regulations to prevent pollution, to control the use of water through either abstraction or impoundment and to protect water supplies. There are also a number of pieces of drainage legislation to control water levels and flows.

Three River Basin Districts (RBD) have been identified in NI under the Water Framework Directive (WFD): the North Eastern (NE), the Neagh – Bann (NB) and the North Western (NW) RBDs. River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the WFD, taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water. In 2013, separate EU Directives for the protection of waters supporting shellfish and freshwater fish and to control the discharge of certain polluting substances were subsumed into the WFD, to allow the legislation covering water quality to be streamlined.

Under the WFD, each member state must also create and maintain a register of protected areas. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);

- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

The Water Framework Directive includes coastal waters up to 1 nautical mile from the coastline. The Marine Strategy Framework Directive covers the wider marine area. Marine policies are also considered under the 'Natural Environment' topic (Section 5.12) in this scoping report.

Every six years, DAERA in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each RBD in NI. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 – 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of the water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to it over their six year period. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough extends across two RBDs. The majority of the Borough is in the Neagh-Bann (NB) RBD, but a portion of the south-east of the Borough (including most of the Newtownabbey Urban Area) is in the North Eastern (NE) RBD. The Borough is therefore covered by both the NB and NE RBMPs.

It is essential that RBMPs are integrated with a wide range of strategies and initiatives impacting on the water environment in NI. This exploits commonality across regional, national and European wide requirements and directives, ensuring efficient and cost effective delivery. Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy¹ has been developed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Northern Ireland Water (NI Water), DAERA and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The Strategy aims to encourage a sustainable and integrated approach to managing the different water needs within a catchment, while promoting regional development without compromising the environment or increasing flood risk.

DAERA is working with the agricultural sector to promote good practice in nutrient management and safer, more effective slurry spreading. The Nitrates Action Programme has been a key element in providing safeguards for the water environment since 2007 and farmers' cooperation has been a key factor in the success of this scheme. The Nitrates Directive has been applied across all of NI, using the total territory approach. This is the main tool for reducing diffuse pollution through the Nitrates Action Programme and Nutrient Management Plans. It has delivered significant improvements to water quality in the last 10-15 years, reducing water quality failures due to nutrients from around 60% to 40%. An equivalent reduction of a further 20% is required by 2021 to meet WFD requirements.

¹ DfI (2016) Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)

The 'Bathing Water Quality Directive' (2006/7/EC) complements the WFD by setting quality standards for a number of parameters to safeguard public health and protect the environment. The most important of these are the standards relating to the coliform and streptococcal groups of bacteria, which, in general, can be taken as an indication of the amount of sewage or other faecal contaminants present. In addition to monitoring the bathing waters, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division monitors rivers which run into the sea at beaches. Pollution problems at beaches often arise from within river catchments.

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) in 2009, led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI and the preparation of three Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and each FRMP corresponds to a RBD. The FRMPs highlight hazards and risks in the SFRAs from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. They also identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. Antrim and Newtownabbey is included under two FRMPs, the NB FRMP and the NE FRMP.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The RDS encourages the implementation of protective measures for water such as:

- Adopt grey water recycling;
- Minimise development in areas at risk from flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water run-off;
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management;
- Integrate water and land-use planning;
- Manage future water demand; and
- Encourage sustainable surface water management.

The SPPS states that planning authorities "*should encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution*". The NIEA has published 'A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland', which also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

The Corporate Values stated within the Corporate Plan include "*We strive for economic, social and environmental sustainability.*" The Corporate Plan also includes the commitment that "*We will continue to develop the Borough so that people will want to visit, live and work in it, where they feel safe and where their local environment is protected and enhanced*". The LDP can support the objectives above through siting and design to minimise pollution and disruption to water flow and flood capacity.

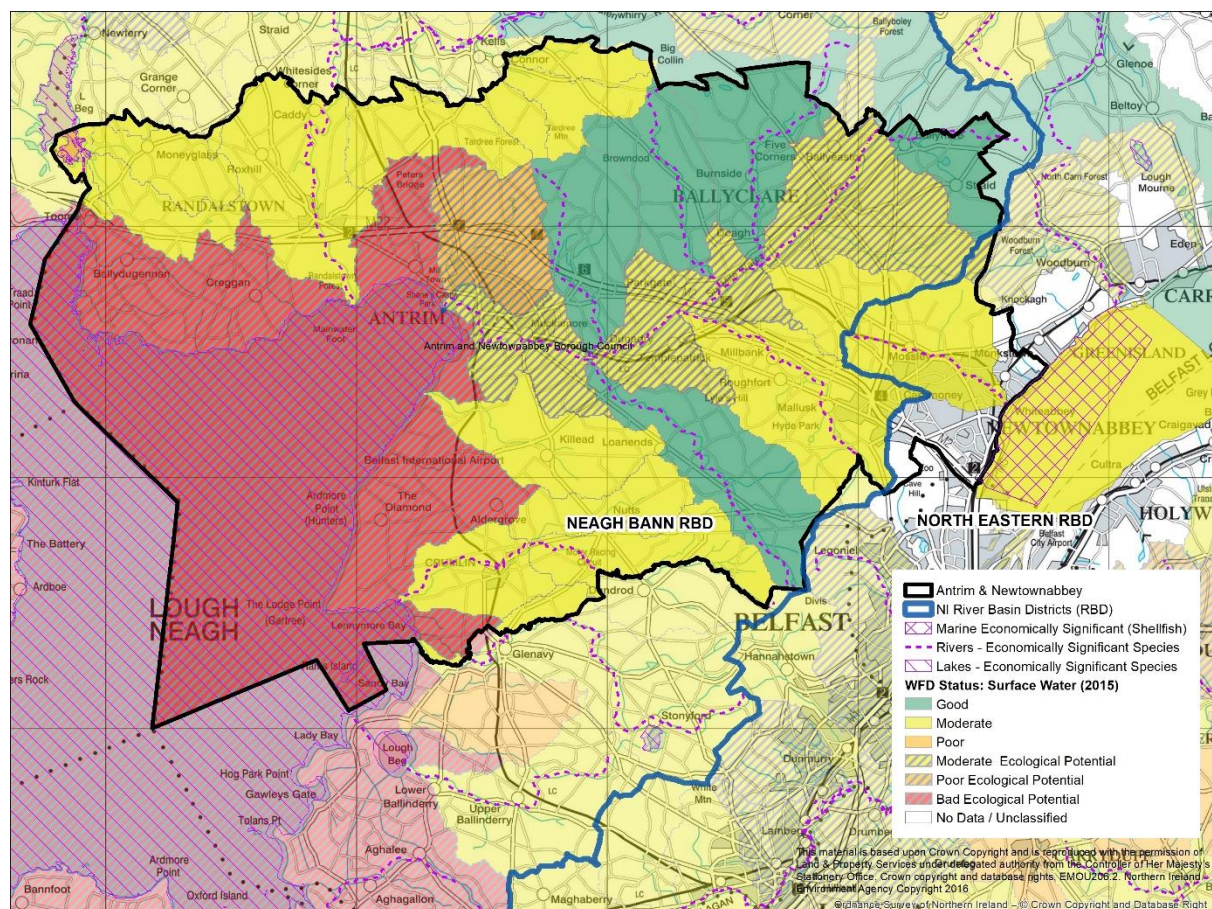
5.11.2 Baseline information

River Basin Management Plans

The WFD requires action to meet 'good' (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. 'Good' status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects and fish) and physical environment (such as river flows and habitat). Classification of water bodies assists in planning what measures might be required for improvements. The WFD also recognises that some water bodies have been changed to such a degree that they can no longer be restored to their original condition without compromising their current use. These are called heavily modified (HMWBs) or artificial water bodies (AWBs). HMWBs and AWBs are classified according to their ecological potential rather than status, with the objective to achieve 'good ecological potential' (GEP) by 2027. The water quality status figures published at the conclusion of the first cycle of RBMP in 2015 showed that 37% of NI's water bodies met 'good' status. Classification tools and standards, as well as water body boundaries have changed during the first River Basin Cycle, therefore it's not possible to make a direct comparison between 2009 and 2015 data.

Antrim and Newtownabbey is within both the NE and the NB RBDs. The boundary between the RBDs is shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1.

Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive Status - surface waterbodies, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads – Surface Water Bodies (published 06 June 2017)

The principal river systems in the Borough are:

- The Six Mile Water (with main tributaries the Ballymartin Water, Clady Water, Four Mile Burn, Doagh River and Rathmore Burn), the Crumlin River and the River Maine in the NB RBD
- The Three Mile Water in the NE RBD.

A small portion of the north west of the Borough drains into the Lower River Bann and Lough Beg. In total there are 26 river waterbodies and two lake waterbodies (including artificial and heavily modified waterbodies) in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the river and lake waterbodies within the Borough at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are also summarised in Table 5.11.1.

Table 5.11.1: Summary of 2015 overall classification of river and lake water bodies

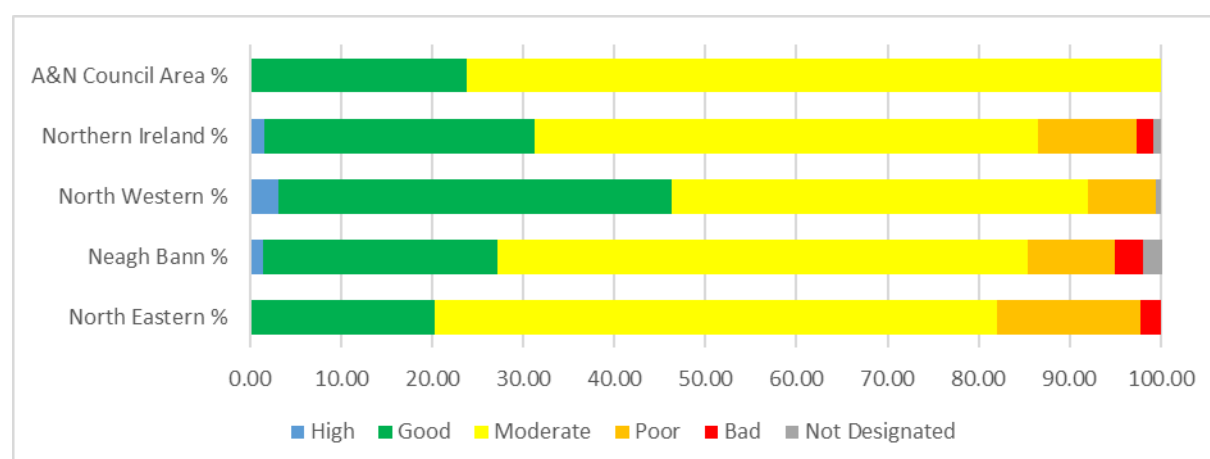
River Water Bodies		Lake Water Bodies		Heavily Modified Water Bodies*	
21	Total Number of RWB	1	Total Number of LWB	6	Total Number of HMWB
0	High Eco. Status	0	High Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Potential
5	Good Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Status	3	Moderate Eco. Potential
16	Moderate Eco. Status	0	Moderate Eco. Status	1	Poor Eco. Potential
0	Poor Eco. Status	1	Poor Eco. Status	2	Bad Eco. Potential
0	Bad Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Status		

*includes river and lake

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (published 06 June 2017)

Antrim and Newtownabbey had poorer river water quality in 2015 than the overall NI average (Figure 5.11.2). No river waterbodies in the Borough achieved 'high' status. 'Good' status was achieved in 24% of river waterbodies, compared to 31.22% for NI overall. The remaining 76% of river waterbodies in the Borough were classified as 'moderate'. Although no rivers were classified 'poor' or 'bad' status, at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle three quarters of the river waterbodies in the Borough have failed to meet the required standard.

Figure 5.11.2: Water Framework Directive overall classification (% River Waterbodies), 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Datasets and Northern Ireland Reported Water Body Status & Objective Figures 2015 (Published 07/11/2017)

There are six heavily modified river and lake waterbodies in the Borough - one lake, (Lough Neagh) and five rivers. None of these have achieved 'good' status and both

Lough Neagh and Lough Neagh Peripherals have a classification of 'bad' ecological potential, meaning that significant improvements are required.

Antrim and Newtownabbey also adjoins one coastal waterbodies, Belfast Lough Inner, which was classified as having 'moderate' ecological status in 2015. Belfast Lough Inner also has a Shellfish Water Protected Area.

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures (POMs)¹ has been established for each RBD to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The POMs aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment.

The NE and NB RBMPs indicate that the significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving 'good' status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development. Other pressures may include reductions in water quantity and flow, the physical condition of the water environment (in respect of man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters), the presence and spread of invasive alien species and any other factors that affect fish populations and habitat.

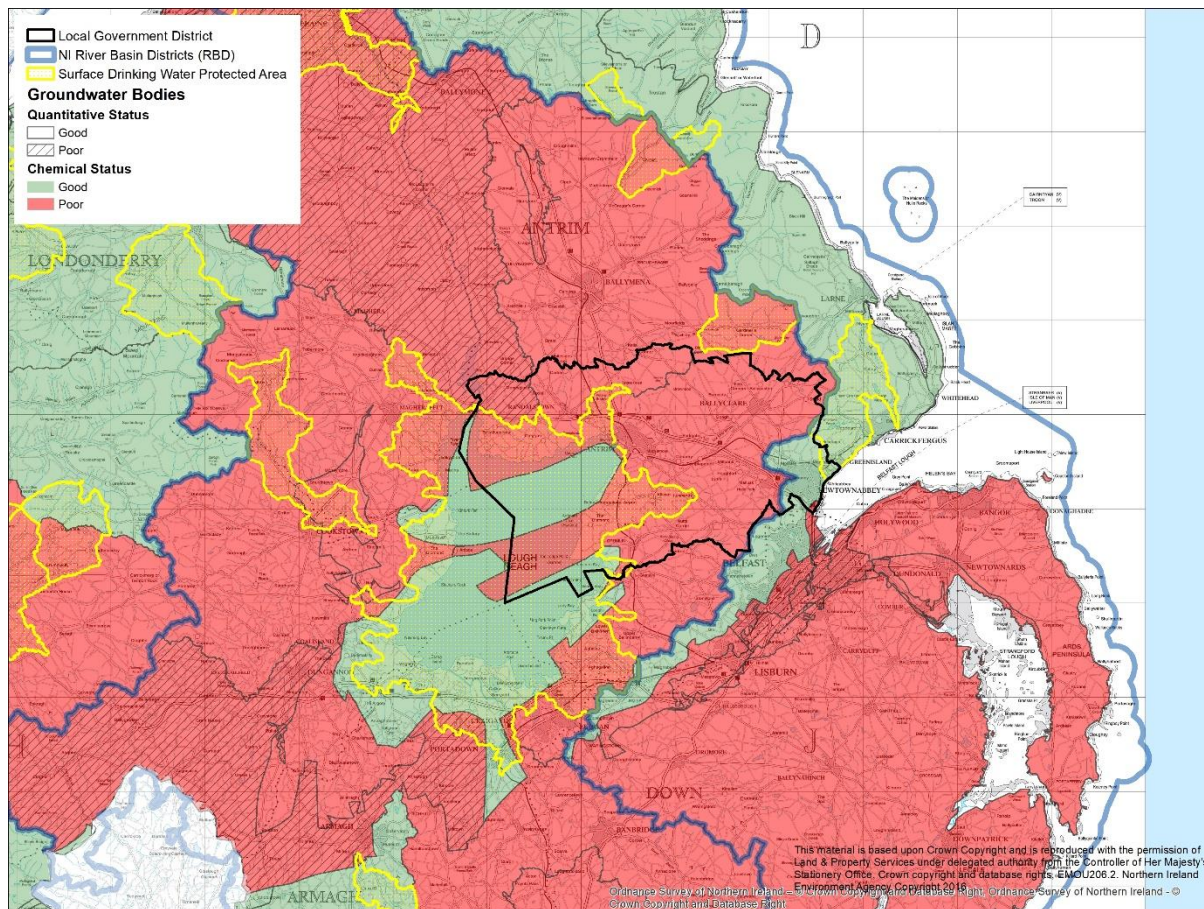
Nutrient enrichment has been identified in the NE and NB RBDs as a principal reason for failure in lake and coastal waterbodies. It is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination. DAERA has identified two significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status in the NE and NB RBDs. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from urban wastewater and development.

At the NI level there has been a gradual trend towards fewer and less severe pollution incidents and improved compliance for private and trade discharge consents since 2001.

Groundwater

There are seven groundwater bodies intersecting Antrim and Newtownabbey (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, two were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and five were classified as having 'poor' status.

¹ DAERA List of second cycle supporting documents for 2nd cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015. Date published: 03 August 2017. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/list-second-cycle-supporting-documents-2nd-cycle-river-basin-management-plans-2015>

Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (published 07 October 2015), Spatial NI

Drinking Water Protected Areas

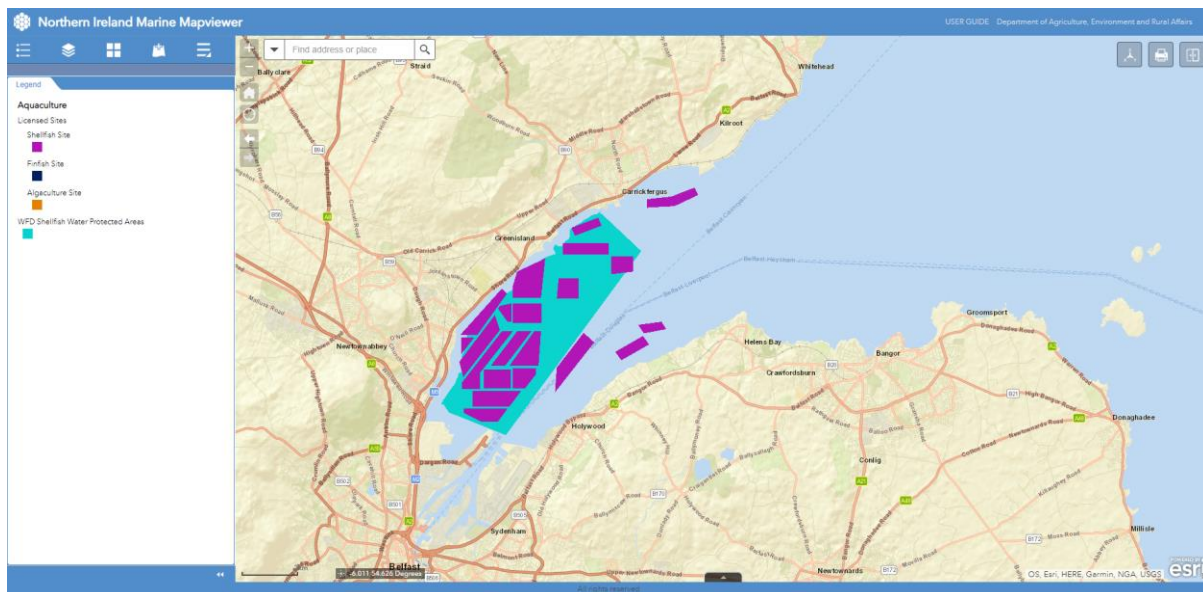
There are two river catchments that are drinking water protected areas for surface water. These are used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW) in Antrim and Newtownabbey:

- NE RBD – Dorisland
- NB RBD - Lough Neagh (Dunore, Castor Bay, Moyola)

All groundwater bodies in the Borough are also on the Register of Protected Areas.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Shellfish

There is one Shellfish Water Protected Area adjacent to the Council boundary, shown in Figure 5.11.4. There are 21 sites in Belfast Lough licensed for aquaculture, all which are for the harvesting of mussels. All but four of these sites are located within the Shellfish water.

Figure 5.11.4: Aquaculture & Shellfish

Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Mapviewer <https://apps.d.daera-ni.gov.uk/marinemapviewer/>

Shellfish Water Protected Areas have a guideline microbiological standard for shellfish flesh which is set in the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This guideline standard requires that 75% of samples contain ≤ 230 E. coli per 100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid. Monitoring for the microbiological shellfish classification is carried out by the Food Standards Agency in NI. Shellfish cultivated in Belfast Lough have not achieved compliance with Guideline E. Coli Standard in flesh in any of the years from 2008-2017¹ and must therefore be treated to remove contamination before consumption.

A Pollution Reduction Programme² for Belfast Lough was published in 2015. It identifies over forty potential point pollution sources around inner Belfast Lough. These include combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharge points, Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW) discharges and waste water pumping stations.

All the WwTWs discharging to Belfast Lough have been upgraded in the past 10 years to provide either secondary treatment and in some cases Nitrogen removal. No other improvements or upgrades have been identified for any of the WwTWs discharging to Belfast Lough in NI Water's PC15 funding programme which runs to 2021, however monitoring of all combined sewage overflows within 2km of Shellfish Water Protected Areas is to be introduced by NI Water by 2021.

Higher annual rainfall with more intense episodes may increase loads of diffuse pollutants from both urban and rural areas to the sea and increase the risk of the failure of microbiological standards in both shellfish and bathing waters. These weather patterns are likely to occur more frequently in the future, due to the effects of climate change (see section 5.10).

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Freshwater Fish

Antrim and Newtownabbey has approximately 130km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These include the Crumlin River, River Main and the Six Mile Water. There are also two lakes in the Borough that are on the protected

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2018 (Date published: 31 May 2018)

² DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015>

areas register (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg). Only 6 out of the 19 (32%) river waterbodies in the NE RBD that are monitored for fish population or habitat achieved 'good' or 'high' status for this element over the first WFD planning cycle. In the NBRBD the figure was 13 out of 37 (35%). Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures, such as from physical modifications or abstraction and flow regulation.

Nutrient Sensitive Areas

A total territory approach has been adopted in NI for the Nitrates Directives. There are four Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas in Antrim and Newtownabbey:

- NE RBD – Inner Belfast Lough and Catchment Area of Inner Belfast Lough; and
- NB RBD – Catchment of the Lower Bann; Catchment of Lough Neagh.

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in NI are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards. However, dissolved inorganic nitrogen loading remains an issue in Belfast Lough and is largely attributed to the discharges from WwTWs and combined sewer overflows from the sewerage infrastructure¹.

Bathing Waters

Antrim and Newtownabbey currently has no beaches designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive² and there are no other bathing waters designated elsewhere in inner Belfast Lough. Four beaches are designated in outer Belfast lough, the nearest of which is Helen's Bay, approximately 9km from the Borough at its nearest point.

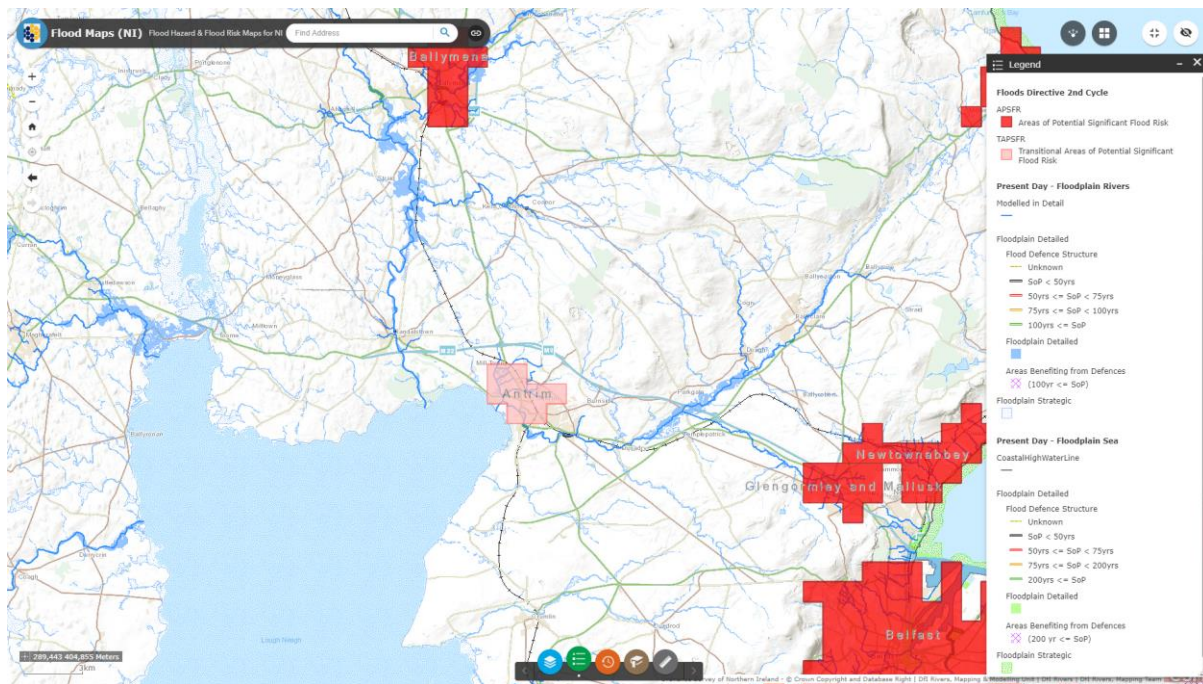
Flood Risk

The implementation of the EU "Floods Directive" (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps³ for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website by searching for "Flood Maps NI".

¹ Living with Water Programme (LWPP) 'Aims, Needs, Objectives and Constraints' (found at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/aims-needs-objectives-and-constraints> accessed 01/04/2019)

² DAERA 'About bathing water quality' <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/bathing-water-quality>

³ Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Figure 5.11.5: Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (2nd Cycle)

Source Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 01/04/2019)

Three settlements in Antrim and Newtownabbey were identified as SFRA for the first cycle FRMPs 2015-2021. They are Antrim and Glengormley & Mallusk in the NB RBD, and Newtownabbey in the NE RBD. Four settlements were identified as having a moderate risk of flooding and were classified as Areas for Further Study. These are: Ballyclare, Glenavy and Randalstown in the NB RBD and Whitehouse in the NE RBD.

Flood risk is further discussed in Evidence Paper 14. Flooding.

The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

- **Prevention:** avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- **Protection:** taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- **Preparedness:** informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood. The areas of Abbeyview and Alexandra Park, and Riverside & Masserene Street in Antrim and the Sandholme Park / Sandyknowes Park area of Glengormley & Mallusk have been identified by DfI Rivers as being suitable for inclusion in a programme of community engagement to deliver flood warning and informing initiatives to help increase Community Resilience against flooding.

The multi-layered strategic Flood Hazard and Risk Maps provide information on flood defences, historical flood events and predicted extreme flood events for river and coastal flooding as well as the potential for surface water flooding. Additional information is available in Flood Maps NI showing the areas within the 1 per cent AEP¹ floodplain, taking account of the impacts of climate change.

¹ AEP Annual Exceedance Probability – the 1% AEP floodplain outline for rivers has a 1 per cent (or greater) chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100 year flood event).

The second cycle of FRMPs will commence in 2021 and the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018¹ has identified 12 Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR) and a further nine 'Transitional Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk' (TAPSFR) in NI. In the 2nd Cycle FRMP, it is proposed that Newtownabbey and Glengormley & Mallusk will be identified as APSFR and Antrim will become a TAPSFR. Ballyclare, Glenavy and Randalstown are considered in the NIFRA 2018 to be beneath the threshold under which a flood risk area should be identified as 'significant' in the context of NI.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)² has noted that, based upon projected sea level rise, the frequency of coastal flooding events is expected to increase significantly. At Bangor, for example, a sea level with a current return period of 100 years (1% probability) will have a return period of less than 10 years if mean sea levels increase by 0.35m. This figure is within the range published in the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) for the decade beginning 2080, under the RCP4.5 (medium) climate change scenario³.

DfI Rivers has indicated that it is beginning a programme of modelling and updating the coastal flood risk mapping for NI to accommodate UKCP09 climate change sea level rise projections while noting that UKCP18 projections have also been published in November 2018. Further information on coastal erosion and associated issues due to rising sea levels and increased frequency of storm events is included in the Climate Change section of this report.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. The SPPS (para. 6.118) advocates SuDS as the preferred drainage solution for new development, noting that such systems *'have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits'*.

While planning policy encourages SuDS, it does not currently make it a requirement for new development and to date SuDS have rarely been used in NI⁴, although SuDS principles are included in the design of new road schemes. In January 2019 the Welsh Government made the inclusion of SuDS mandatory in new development. It has published information indicating that the capital costs of SuDS solutions on new developments are lower than the capital costs of comparable traditional piped drainage solutions. It also states that evidence shows that operational and maintenance costs also tend to be lower for SuDS⁵.

¹ DfI (Rivers) Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA) 2018 (Date published: 21 December 2018)

² DEFRA UK 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment - A climate change risk assessment for Northern Ireland

³ Met Office (2018) UKCP18 Marine report November 2018

⁴ NI Assembly Research and Information Service Paper 31st May 2016 (found at <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2016-2021/2016/infrastructure/3816.pdf>)

⁵ Welsh Government Written Statement - Implementing sustainable drainage systems on new developments (found at <https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2017/sustainable-drainage/?lang=en>) Last updated 16 November 2017

In consultation carried out for this Scoping Report, the NIEA has indicated that in the design of SuDS, surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control). The use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:

- Manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage by:
 - reducing runoff rates;
 - reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and
 - encouraging natural groundwater recharge.
- Minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by:
 - reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters;
 - preventing direct discharge of spillage; and
 - reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers.
- Maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity by:
 - contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; and
 - providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity.

Examples of localised source control measures include green roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, while larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

Water Supply

Information on water supply, quantity and quality is not reported at Council level and must be extracted from regional data sets or trends described at a NI level. Some of this has been presented in Evidence Paper 11. Public Utilities.

The provision of water supply in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of NI Water. There are eight water supply zones wholly or partially within Antrim and Newtownabbey:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • ZN0302 Dungonnell Glarryford | • ZS0109 Dorisland Whiteabbey |
| • ZN0401 Dunore Point Antrim | • ZS0111 Dunore Point Hyde Park |
| • ZN0402 Killylane Ballynure | • ZS0201 Dorisland Carrick |
| • ZS0106 Dunore Belfast North | • ZS0503 Forked Bridge Stoneyford |

Source : NI Water Annual Report on Water Quality. Appendix 3 Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council (2017)

One Water Treatment Works (WTW), Dunore Point, is located within the Borough however three other WTWs also supply water to the Borough. Evidence Paper 11 indicates that there were 18 registered private water supplies in the borough in 2017.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across NI with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.88% in 2017¹. The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report (2017) lists 21 Capital Works Programmes affecting Antrim and Newtownabbey. These include water mains rehabilitation and works to improve resilience to pressures on supply, such as drought and freeze-thaw events. Evidence Paper 11 reports that the existing installations are expected to be sufficient to supply the Borough throughout the LDP period and lack of water supply is not considered to be a likely constraint on development.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCaMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the

¹ NI Water Drinking Water Quality Annual Report 2017 (found at <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/> accessed 1 April 2019)

quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCaMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. There are no current SCaMP projects in Antrim and Newtownabbey, however a number of pilot projects under way elsewhere may be rolled out in future to help improve local water quality. The catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

Reservoirs

There are 12 impoundments and reservoirs in Antrim and Newtownabbey which have been identified as "controlled reservoirs" (i.e. an impoundment $\geq 10,000$ cubic metres). Flood risk mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning purposes has been carried out by DfI (Rivers) and has been published online via the DfI Rivers Mapping Portal¹.

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of WwTWs in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. In January 2019 NI Water provided the Council with information on the current capacity of WwTWs serving the Borough, as well as an estimate of future capacity. These capacities are reported in Figure 17 of Evidence Paper 11.

New development relying on non-mains sewerage may, individually or cumulatively, increase the risk of pollution. It is therefore important to protect water resources from the actual or potential polluting effects of onsite treatment plants.

Consideration will need to be given to the compatibility of new development in proximity to WwTW facilities. NI Water shall advise through planning consultation – both site assessments for the next phase of LDP and through day-to-day planning applications/Pre-Development Enquiries (PDEs) – whether a proposal lies within an Odour Consultation Zone. The purpose of this zone is to trigger a proportionate assessment of odour nuisance risk and may or may not involve dispersion modelling. NI Water will object to development proposals within Odour Consultation Zones unless an appropriate evidence based odour assessment determines low risk at critical receptors.

The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the location and capacity of planned and existing waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages.

5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water, therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans and the draft Marine Plan, to achieve good ecological status and good environmental status.

While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach may be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the

¹ Reservoir Flood Mapping for Emergency Planning on DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

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.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy will encourage that measures to minimise surface water runoff at source are considered early in the design stage of any new development.

5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- There were no water scarcity issues in Northern Ireland 2005 – 2015. Demand for fresh water reduced 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.
- Development has the potential to contribute to the spread of invasive aquatic or waterside species which have adverse effects on the water environment.
- Flood alleviation and defence measures to enable development should be avoided.
- A safety issue arises because legal requirements relating to impounded water have not been fully implemented in legislation. There are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- New development has the potential to impact water quality through the contamination of surface runoff or groundwater during construction or operation. New development can also facilitate improvement of water quality, where contaminated land is treated and reinstated.
- 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.
- New development can contribute to a change in the rate of surface water runoff or alteration of the capacity of a receiving watercourse. These which in turn have the potential to increase flood risk.
- Incorporation of measures to deal with surface water at source, or other SuDS that help to control runoff should be encouraged at the design stage. Maintenance of SuDS should also be a consideration.
- Development 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. It is necessary to ensure that capacity matches growth of development. Maintaining treatment capacity is a particular issue in urban areas where combined sewers for stormwater and foul waste are still in use.
- Developments without access to a WwTW can incorporate sewage treatment on site. However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.

- Other wastes may also cause water pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Surface water quality in Antrim and Newtownabbey is not achieving the standards set by the Water Framework Directive, with $\frac{3}{4}$ of waterbodies failing to meet 'good' ecological status.
- Water quality in Belfast Lough is also failing to meet 'good' ecological status and shellfish cultivated in the Lough are not meeting microbiological standards.
- Newtownabbey, Glengormley and Mallusk are identified as Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding, particularly coastal flooding, will be increased by climate change.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with current and planned Flood Risk Management Plans.

5.12 Natural Resources

5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Natural resources cover biodiversity, fauna, flora, green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) and ecosystem services. It includes intertidal and coastal zones as well as the wider marine environment. Natural resources are protected top down in our regional policy that aims to conserve, protect and enhance our natural environment using a spatial approach. It also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the Marine Act (NI) 2013 require planning authorities to consider the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and the Northern Ireland (NI) Marine Plan when preparing their Local Development Plans (LDPs). The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan for NI was consulted on during 2018.

One of the aims of the draft Programme for Government (dPfG) is for a society to live and work sustainably - whilst protecting the environment. Indicators to monitor success include increasing environmental sustainability, improving the country's attractiveness as a destination and improving air quality. Between the dPfG and Northern Ireland's Sustainable Development Strategy, the benefits of protecting the natural environment for goods and services, and an improved quality of life, are clear.

Regional strategies and policy highlight the diversity of Northern Ireland's natural environment. They provide protection of designated sites, species, habitats and other natural features as assets and directly link these to economic, social and environmental benefits. Local Biodiversity Action Plans aim to protect the natural environment and its biodiversity value but they can also ensure provision of a recreational value.

One mechanism to help achieve future protection of our natural resources is the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan can help to protect the natural heritage resource of the borough and promote ecological networks by integrating parks, street trees, canals, lakes and other green/blue infrastructure (G/BI), to help connect open/green space and natural features/habitats together. Together these measures can deliver regional policy and should help to protect the natural environment and ecosystem services, as well as support climate change adaptation.

In the Council's Corporate Plan, Our Borough Your Vision 2019-2030, 'responsibility' for the environment is one of the Council's corporate values, toward which the Council is committed to achieving 'environmental sustainability'. Place, People and Prosperity are at the core of the plan. As part of the Council's vision for 'place', measures to protect and enhance the natural environment, and to promote positive development and sustainable growth through the planning process, are committed to. The Council will continue to protect and enhance the local environment.

In the Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here', there are five outcomes aimed for up to 2030. These include enabling citizens enjoy good health and well-being, have access to clean and vibrant places and benefit from economic prosperity. Ensuring the natural environment is protected and accessible for citizens will be important for the success of the Community Plan as it can provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

The Council itself also has a statutory duty to 'further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any functions' under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011. Sustainable management of the natural environment will be fundamental to achieving compliance and the outcomes of the Council's Plans.

5.12.2 Baseline information

Relevant baseline information has been presented in the Evidence Paper 19. Coast. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water, Landscape and Historic Environment sections of this report.

Nature Conservation Sites

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council covers 274 square miles¹ and includes a variety of habitats and species – 'a rich and diverse natural heritage'². A significant area of the borough is made up of Lough Neagh³ - the largest freshwater lake in the UK and Ireland⁴. There is also a section of coastline along the north shore of Belfast Lough. This natural heritage is protected under International, European, regional and local level nature conservation designations. The Council recognises its natural heritage as an important resource for people's enjoyment and well-being, as well as contributing to sustainable economic activity⁵.

Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and Belfast Lough are particularly important for nature conservation. All are designated as Important Bird Areas and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - highlighting their importance for wetland birds and habitats. Lough Neagh and Lough Beg are also a Ramsar site and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) in their own right. Parts of the coast and shore around Belfast Lough are also Ramsar and ASSI protected, whilst a proposed marine SPA designation extends along the full extent of the borough's coastline. The importance of Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and Belfast Lough is evident through the number of designations that they have primarily for wetland birds and habitats. There is one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) located on the shore of Lough Neagh, in the Randalstown and Antrim locality. ASSIs are also found there and at Tardree, south of Doagh and south of Crumlin. Most of the ASSIs in the borough are relatively small. The Borough does not have an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but its loughs and designated sites can provide visual amenity. It is particularly important that all types of development are carefully considered against the need to protect the integrity of these sites. All designated sites are shown in Figure 5.12.1.

¹ <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/council/> - Profile and Population

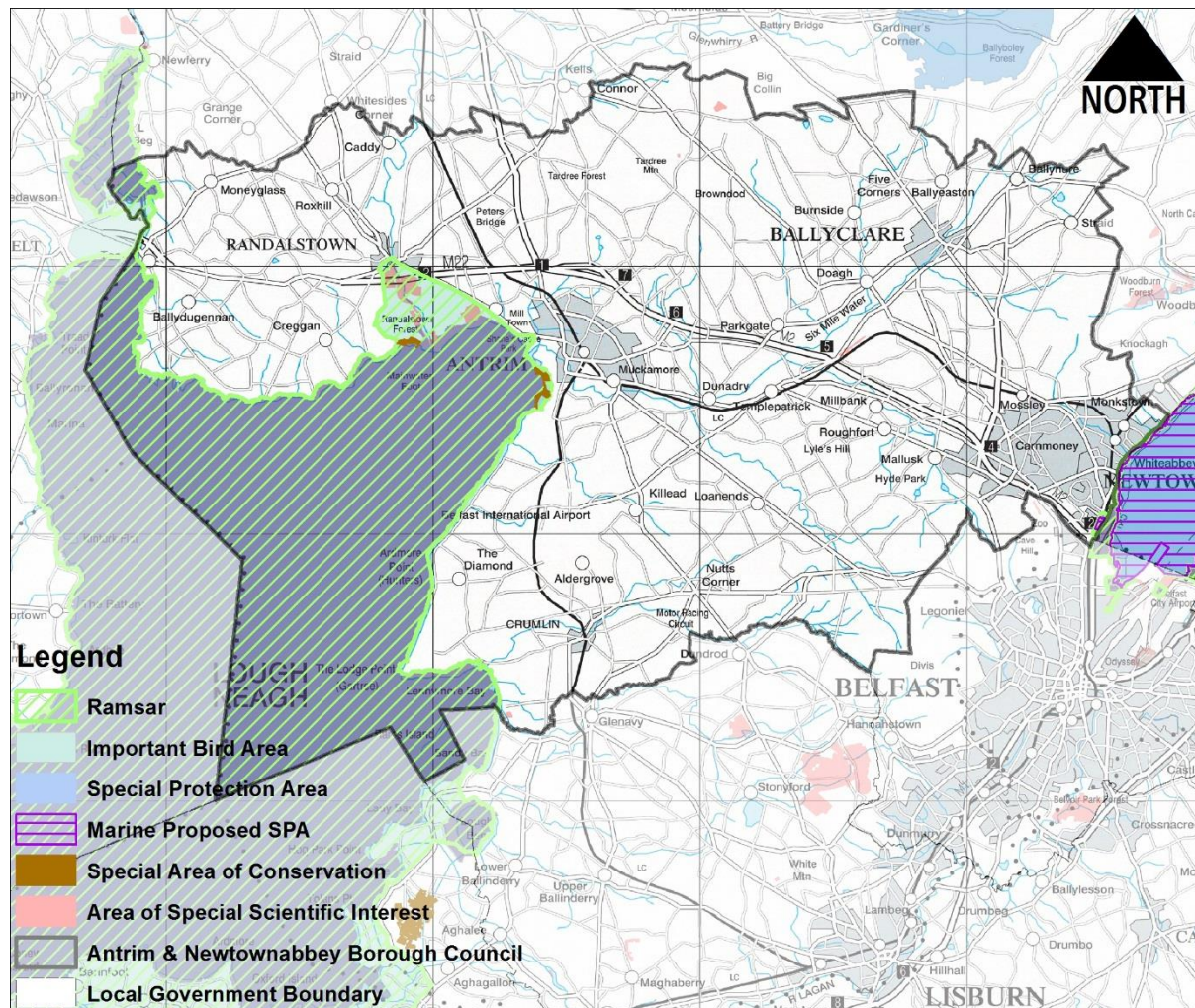
² Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Shaping Our Environment January 2017 – Nature Conservation

³ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Shaping our Environment January 2017

⁴ <https://www.discoverloughneagh.com/about-lough-neagh/> - Lough Neagh & its Waterways - About

⁵ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Shaping Our Environment January 2017 – Nature Conservation

Figure 5.12.1: Nature Conservation Designations of International, National and Regional Importance



Source: DAERA

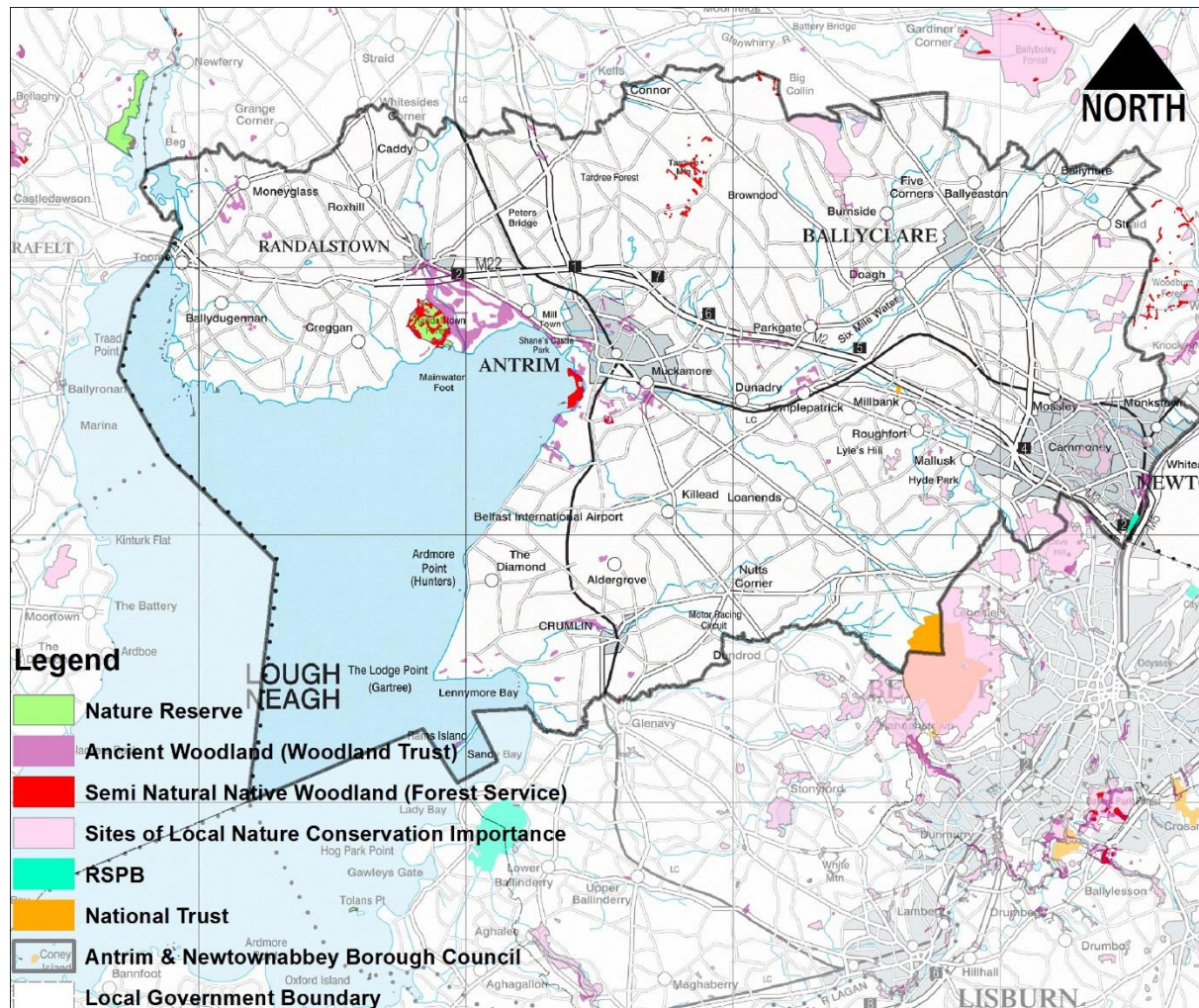
Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are located in the east of the borough but there are no designated SLNCIs within the rest of the borough¹. This does not mean there are no sites worthy of a SLNCI designation. The borough has two areas of National Trust (NT) managed land. One is a fairly large area in the south of the borough in the Belfast Hills while the second is a much smaller area, east of Templepatrick. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is also present on the north shore of Belfast Lough. There are four nature reserves mostly located in and around the shores of Lough Neagh in the Randalstown and Antrim areas with islands in Lough Neagh and south of Toome also covered. These reserves protect woodland, lake and fen habitat, including tracts of native woodland. Native woodland is also present around Tardree. Ancient woodland habitat is also present in the Randalstown Forest area and south from Antrim on the shore of Lough Neagh. Significant areas are present south of Moneyglass, Muckamore, and in and around the Crumlin, Templepatrick, Doagh and Whiteabbey areas. Ancient woodland is a unique habitat with a rich biodiversity formed over hundreds of years. It covers only 2% of land in the UK² and is a priority habitat. There is potential for a Country Park at

¹ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Shaping our Environment January 2017

² <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/ancient-woodland-restoration/ancient-woodland/what-is-ancient-woodland/>

Carrmonee Hill, which is a local nature reserve and a SLNCl¹. Local level nature conservation sites including nature reserves and ancient woodland records are shown in Figure 5.12.2.

Figure 5.12.2: Local Level Nature Conservation Sites and Ancient/Native Woodland



Source: DAERA, Forest Service, Woodland Trust National Trust, RSPB

Biodiversity

There is a rich diversity of species and habitats present in the borough, with records of Irish hare, red squirrel, bats, birds and moths. There is also a variety of habitats present including woodland and grassland, as well as a number of wetlands - lowland fens, reedbeds, ponds, rivers and floodplain grazing marsh. Currently a new Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is in progress, which will reflect the Council area and help guide its biodiversity conservation. Sites of interest have been publicised and include wet woodland habitat such as at Rea's Wood on the shore of Lough Neagh; the Sixmilewater Park in Ballyclare with grey heron, kingfisher, otter and brown trout; and Crumlin Glen with dipper and grey wagtail².

¹ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Shaping our Environment January 2017

² <http://biodiversitynj.com/gntrim-newtownabbey>

Previous LBAPs from the legacy councils of Antrim, and Newtownabbey, highlighted the main threats to local biodiversity as:

- Habitat loss/fragmentation;
- Invasive species;
- Climate change;
- Agricultural intensification, and
- Pollution.

There are other conservation plans directly linked to the biodiversity of Lough Neagh including the Lough Neagh Shoreline Management Plan¹. This plan and others such as those under Environmental Farming Schemes, target most of the privately owned land around the shores of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, with detailed measures to help improve the site features of the SPA/ASSI. The vision of the plan is to maintain and improve the high ecological status of Lough Neagh through partnership working².

In the last 20 years, species declines of diving ducks (tufted, pochard, goldeneye) and breeding waders (curlew, lapwing, redshank, snipe) have been particularly profound. Reasons for these declines include:

- Significant habitat loss, and
- Climatic factors.

Lough Neagh supports these species which are now mostly of a high conservation concern in Ireland³.

All Councils have a duty under The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act (2011)⁴ to help conserve biodiversity within their functions. LBAPs are appropriate measures to help achieve the duty and in addition, the SPPS encourages biodiversity to be considered as a feature of plans and designs⁵. They can provide an opportunity for sites important for local biodiversity to be recognised and considered and could include cemeteries/churchyards⁶.

Green/Blue Infrastructure

Green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) tends to be natural or semi-natural features, which can include ponds, rivers, gardens, woodlands and parks. G/BI can be used to connect habitats, natural features and open space together. The SPPS promotes 'the development of green infrastructure and also the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)', as a means to create a more resilient environment. The SPPS also refers to how the planning system should work 'with natural environmental processes', to help manage the impacts of climate change. GI can be used within planning as 'a nature based solution to climate change'⁷. The SPPS refers to how G/BI can help reduce flood risk and the effects of extreme heat. It is often multifunctional land that can enable active travel routes and help to reduce

¹ <https://kaneecology.co.uk/>

² Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017; Oxford Island Eco Systems Conference April 2019

³ Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BOCCI)

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ni/2011/15/contents>

⁵ DoE (September 2015); Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

⁶ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017 – 5

⁷ Lough Neagh Partnership: Oxford Island Eco Systems Conference April 2019 Climate change Adaptation presentation by Cathy Burns

greenhouse gas emissions¹. When adequately considered in planning, it can also help to maintain and enhance local biodiversity levels. The SPPS refers to how GI can 'provide important ecosystem services' (ES). More information on ES is below. And on active travel in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

Open Space

Public open space is 'all open space of public value' and can include parks and housing greens; land that can provide 'primarily for amenity and recreational' value². Some examples of open space can be considered G/BI but others, like synthetic outdoor sports facilities and children's play areas, are artificial. There are extensive areas of open space near to Belfast Lough at the Loughshore Park in Jordanstown and Hazelbank Park³. These provide open space for people to participate in recreation and leisure as well as providing amenity value.

Research by Sport Northern Ireland has shown a shortfall in sports pitch provision for the borough⁴. The Council has recently opened several new synthetic pitches but various estimations place the existing shortfall at between 55 and 93 pitches. Sport NI consider the value of a synthetic pitch to be four times that of a grass pitch but this type of artificial covering could place pressure on G/BI and local biodiversity levels.

There are currently 'a significant number of people'⁵ in the Borough waiting for an allotment space. Although there are nine areas where allotments are currently available, there remains a significant demand for this resource.

A previous Open Space strategy from a legacy Council (Belfast) referred to how community greenways should be facilitated as well as the provision of open space. Supporting policy also helped to prevent any impact from development on a designated community greenway, and to facilitate new open space. Carnmoney Hill is an area within the metropolitan Newtownabbey area and presents an opportunity to be a country park. This has been considered in BMAP as well as a number of community greenways, and Belfast Hills access points⁶.

Canoe NI

The Council is located between Lough Neagh and Belfast Lough with 'ease of access' to both⁷. People can participate in multiple water-based recreational sports and fishing. Canoeing is another popular sport available to residents and visitors in the borough. Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI and helps to ensure safe access to NI's canoe trails. The canoe trail network helps to highlight the need for partnership working between neighbouring Councils and other stakeholders. Numerous trails are located around the full length of the coast and the main loughs but for Antrim and Newtownabbey, the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann trails are the most accessible. These and access points are shown in Figure 5.12.3.

¹ DoE (September 2015): Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development

² Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017 - 5

³ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Shaping our Environment January 2017

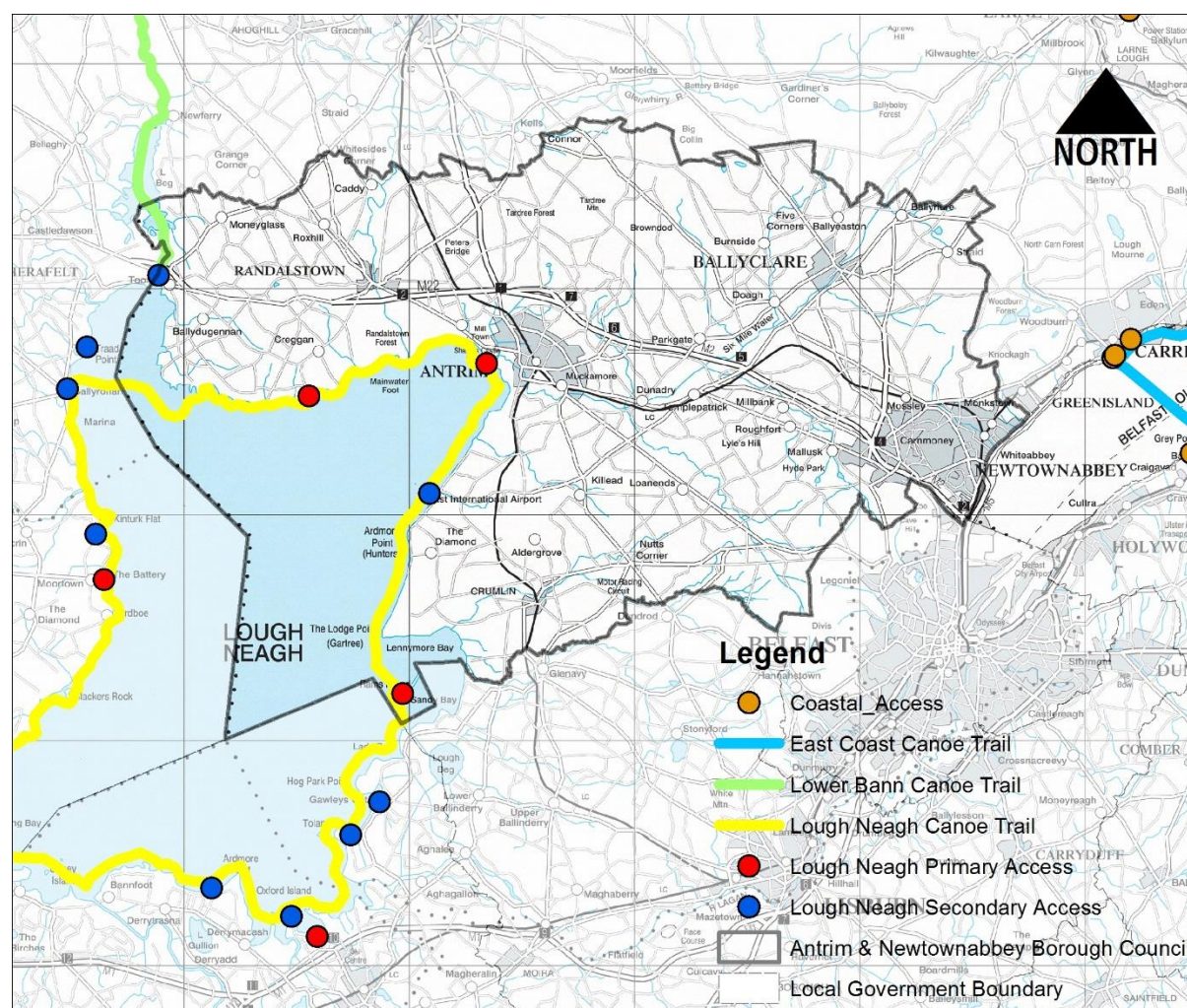
⁴ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017 - 5

⁵ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017 - 5

⁶ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017

⁷ Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper Meeting the Needs of Society January 2017 - 5

Figure 5.12.3: Accessible Canoe Trails near Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



Source: Canoe NI

Ecosystem Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides. The provision of these benefits is referred to in the SPPS as 'ecosystem services' (ES) and defined as 'the processes by which the environment produces resources used by people that are often taken for granted'. The SPPS recommends that ES are adequately considered in plan-making, as an integral part of sustainable development.

There are several ES projects across Northern Ireland. These focus on more sustainable approaches to managing land that provide positive benefits for stakeholders like reduced costs. Northern Ireland Water (NIW) are involved in several ES projects with economic benefits that have also delivered environmental gains including restored upland bog¹ and wildflower meadows². These projects highlight the multiple benefits from ES projects including reduced costs for landowners, job opportunities and mitigation to combat climate change. Lough Neagh is an example of ecosystem services. It provides food and pollinators, recycles nutrients,

¹ https://www.climateinthernireland.org.uk/cmsfiles/ClimateNI_RSPBFINAL.pdf

² <https://www.ulsterwildlife.org/news/2016/08/25/former-sewage-lagoons-be-transformed-wildlife-haven>

captures run-off and cleans water, has a climate cooling effect; and enables recreation, leisure and education.

5.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, it may become increasingly difficult to manage the impacts of development pressure on the natural heritage of the Borough. With a new plan, a consistent approach to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment across the new Borough would be more feasible.

5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There is a variety of natural heritage designations across the Borough – IBAs, SPAs, SAC, ASSIs, NRs, SLNCIs - with Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and Belfast Lough of particular importance for wetland birds and habitats.
- The Loughs are accessible environmental assets that also provide recreational and leisure pursuits, and an amenity value.
- It is important that all types of development be carefully considered against the need to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment.
- There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the borough.
- There are likely to be opportunities for new local level nature conservation sites to be identified, particularly in the west of the borough.
- Ancient woodland is a unique habitat and its presence across the borough is notable.
- Both the National Trust and the RSPB manage accessible land in the borough.
- Threats to local biodiversity have been highlighted as habitat loss/fragmentation, invasive species, climate change, agricultural intensification and pollution.
- Lough Neagh supports wetland birds that are of a high conservation concern in Ireland.
- Local biodiversity conservation is a duty of the Council under the WANE Act 2011.
- There are several nature conservation management plans linked to biodiversity conservation for the borough that require partnership working.
- There are areas of open space across the borough that enable people to take part in recreation and leisure as well as providing amenity value.
- Currently there are waiting lists for allotment plots across the Borough.
- Sport NI has indicated a shortfall of pitches in the borough but their promotion of synthetic pitches, could pose a risk to local biodiversity and G/BI.
- Development pressure can pose a risk of loss of local biodiversity and G/BI.
- G/BI is multifunctional land that can be integrated to plans and designs with economic, social and environmental benefits.
- G/BI is can make the local environment more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- There are opportunities for ES projects across the borough – including Lough Neagh, that can deliver multiple benefits including economic, social and environmental.
- Partnership working will be an important aspect of projects linked to conservation of the natural environment.

5.13 Landscape

5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets as well as landscape character.

The SPPS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several SPPS subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities. It also recognises the importance of the coastline in terms of landscape value. Almost half of the Planning Policy Statements, which provide more specific guidance for development, include specific requirements to conserve landscape. DAERA has also published supplementary planning guidance for 'Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes'. There is also 'Building on Tradition' – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside. Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation refers to a broad range of open spaces of public value that can be considered important aspects of local landscape character and people's well-being – forest parks, amenity green space, green corridors, natural and semi-natural green spaces and allotments.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. All of this is in keeping with the European Landscape Convention (ELC), also known as The Florence Convention. It aims to protect, manage and plan for all landscapes, including everyday or degraded ones. It aims for integration of landscape into planning policy and to help reconnect people with place¹.

In the Executive's draft Programme for Government 2016-2021, strategic outcomes include creating 'a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest' and for people to 'live and work sustainably - whilst protecting the environment'. One of the draft PfG indicators to measure success of its outcomes includes improving the attractiveness of the country as a destination. In turn, this is measured by total spend by external visitors which directly links to tourism. Protecting landscape by conserving it as an asset and supporting measures to maintain and enhance it will be fundamental to sustainably managing landscape as both an environmental and an economic resource. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism or as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location.

Through the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985 (NCALO) the finest landscape areas can be designated as either Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Parks with management measures required for conservation and recreation. However, there are no such designated areas in the Borough.

¹<https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy/13732-2/>

In the Council's Corporate Plan, 2019-2030, 'Place' is central to the vision of the Plan. 'Place' will be underpinned by protection and enhancement of 'the environment, natural habitats and built heritage'. Where people live should also be 'vibrant', including 'rural areas'. Protecting our landscape as a valuable resource will be fundamental to achieving the 'Place' aspect of the Council's vision.

In the Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here', five outcomes prescribe how the Borough will serve people up to 2030. Fundamental to delivering on these outcomes will be protection of the environment and landscape as an intrinsic part of it. In particular, appropriate consideration of landscape value will be key to enabling citizens 'enjoy good health and well-being', and even 'benefit from economic prosperity'. By considering landscape within the development of the LDP, 'positive development and sustainable growth' as referred to in the Corporate Plan, should be more achievable.

5.13.2 Baseline information

Detailed information on landscape has been provided in the Local Development Plan Evidence Paper 16. Landscape Character Assessment. This topic also overlaps with the Health & Well-being, Economy & Employment, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Natural Resources, Climate Change, and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) were designated under the NI Landscape Character Assessment (2000). There are 130 LCAs in Northern Ireland. These LCAs were based on local conditions including landform and use but also geology, and cultural and ecological features¹. The Council has updated its LCA information.

Sixteen LCAs are located either wholly or partially within the Borough and are listed in Table 3 and Appendix 1 of the Evidence Paper 16. They range in character from the shores of Lough Neagh, to the upland hills of Tardree and the ridges of Carrickfergus. These reflect 'complex landforms and features that have naturally evolved.' Each LCA has a report, which identifies pressures on landscape and guidelines for their sustainable management. Since 2000, the type of likely development pressure to be considered on landscape has evolved – for example, renewables.

The LCAs provide important information to guide landscape management and any new development in those areas. It is evident from these principles that the LCAs may be at risk if natural and characteristic features are not retained or adequately managed. Likewise, new development should be of a sensitive design and make use of local characteristics with use of natural screening and possibly visual analysis to aid integration.

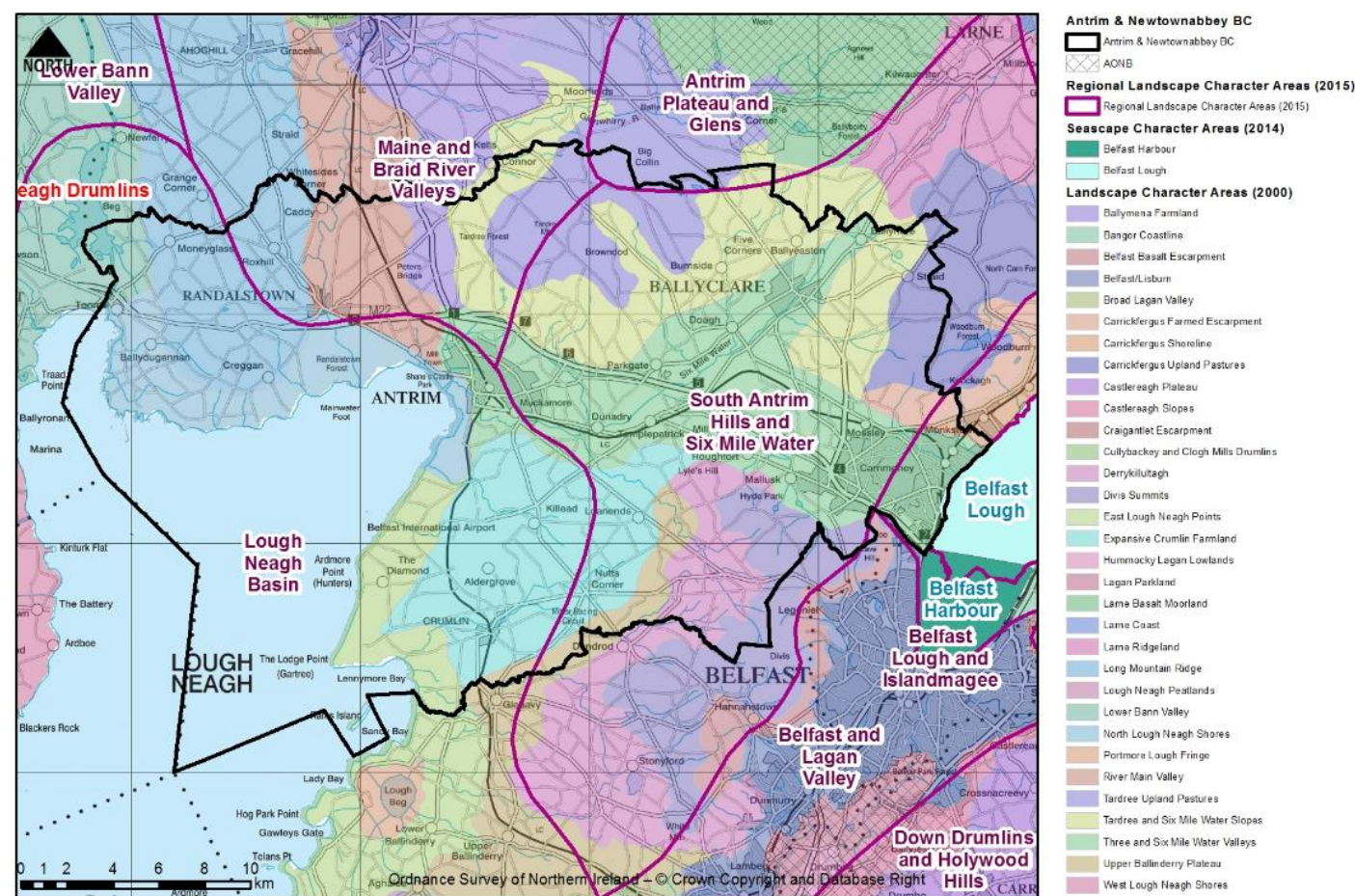
Areas of High Scenic Value

There are three Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) in the Borough. These are all from BMAP 2015 and are the Carrickfergus Escarpment, Carnmoney Hill and the Belfast Basalt Escarpment. All of these AoHSV provide areas of relatively unspoilt character and views that help to protect the setting of Belfast. No similar designations exist to the west of the Council area under the previous Antrim Area Plan (AAP) but during the LCA assessment in 2000, the Lough Neagh shore was

¹ www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland

identified as a potential candidate¹. There are no Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the Borough but the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB is located near to the north-east of the Council boundary.

Figure 5.13.1: Landscape Designations in Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



Source: DAERA

Regional Landscape Character Areas

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) 2015 divided the country into 26 distinct areas known as Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCAs). These provide a more strategic approach to landscape than the LCAs and are based upon information to do with people, place, nature, culture and perception². The LDP Evidence Paper 16 refers to five RLCAs: the Lough Neagh Basin, South Antrim Hills and Six Mile Water, Belfast Lough and Islandmagee, Antrim Plateau and Glens, Maine and Braid River Valleys. These range in character from an expansive body of freshwater, to the flanks of the Antrim Plateau and the developed coast. Descriptions for each include subjects like location, setting, key characteristics, forces/ indicators of change, and ecosystem services (ES)³. The inclusion of ES within a landscape related designation is important as it highlights the multiple benefits feasible from an area primarily conserved for its landscape value. More information on ES is in the Natural Resources section of this report.

¹ Antrim & Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030 Evidence Paper 16. Landscape Character Assessment 2019

² <https://daera-ni.maps.arcgis.com>

³ DAERA NIRLCA <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer>

The RLCAs recognise other 'forces for change'¹. The most common of these faced by all of the RLCAs in the Borough include climate change, tourism, farming, housing, transport, minerals, renewable energy, loss of field boundaries and peatlands, and plant disease. The RLCAs also highlighted the Antrim Plateau as a 'dark skies' area, and the Lough Neagh Basin as a 'tranquillity' area.

Regional Seascape Character Areas

In 2014, the Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment was published with 24 Seascape Character Areas (SCAs), to provide a strategic understanding of the different areas along the coast and how these relate to neighbouring terrestrial areas and the people that live there². It was published when decision makers and the public were becoming increasingly aware of marine spatial planning. The Borough Council has a relatively short length of coastline of approximately 4.5 miles from Hazelbank to Greenisland. There is only one RSCA within the Borough - Belfast Lough.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) protect landscape features within or near to settlements that are important for their local significance, amenity value or landscape quality. LLPAs can also include features important for their historical or cultural value, as well as the setting, which helps to protect the feature from visual intrusion. There are 38 LLPAs in the Borough and these are all from BMAP 2015. There are no LLPAs in the remaining Council area that was under the legacy AAP.

5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk overtime of losing or degrading landscape value because of over development or inappropriate development. The level of landscape protection for the Borough in the legacy AAP would be substantially less than that for areas included in BMAP. The level of recognition and protection of distinctive or characteristic landscape features could differ within the Borough and may lead to disproportionate pressures in the western part. It could become increasingly difficult to spatially manage development across the Borough and at the same time protect the landscape as an asset.

5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- There is a need to update landscape protection across the Borough so that areas previously under the legacy AAP are as equally protected as lands to the east that were under a different legacy Plan.
- Lough Neagh and its shores has the potential to be designated as an area of significant landscape value and may be at risk until such a designation is awarded.
- There are 16 LCAs, 3 AoHSV, 5 RLCAs, and 1 RSCA in the Borough; as well as 38 LLPAs.
- LCAs may be at risk if natural and characteristic features are not retained or adequately managed, or if new development is not of a sensitive or locally characteristic design to aid integration.

¹ <https://daera-ni.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=dee491ff43c0415fbb986f74c92f39a9>

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/land-report-ni-regional-seascape-character-assessment-part-1-2014.pdf>

- The most common threats to all of the RLCA's in the Borough are climate change, tourism, farming, housing, transport, minerals, renewable energy, loss of field boundaries, peat cutting, and plant disease.
- There is a relatively short section of coastline within the Borough but it provides important physical and visual access to coastal views of Belfast Lough.
- The Antrim Plateau RLCA has been highlighted as a 'dark skies' area, and the Lough Neagh Basin RLCA as a 'tranquillity' area - both requiring specific protection of their landscape to maintain these characteristics.
- ES is becoming an increasingly common consideration in areas primarily protected for, or being considered for protection of, their landscape value.
- Landscape management may require new working partnerships as many of the landscape related designations are shared with neighbouring Councils and Lough Neagh is evident across several Council jurisdictions.

5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the 'Valetta Convention' and the 'Granada Convention') place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. The Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (2005) place a requirement to enhance the value of cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation. It also requires member states to promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity.

In the regional context, PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas. The regional strategic objectives set out in the SPPS are to:

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

More specific policy is set out in items 6.28 and 6.29 of the SPPS. These link directly with the aims of the above-mentioned European Conventions.

The overarching policy of the SPPS recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. These elements contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in the Borough. They make places more attractive to either live in or visit.

They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. The historic environment has the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. Reuse of listed or locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy. The historic environment also includes 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 through which we can tell the story of our past, which many visitors to NI wish to share.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2030 includes the commitments *"to incorporate measures for the protection and enhancement of the natural and historic*

environment” and to “support communities and empower residents to take responsibility for their environment so that people will be united by a strong sense of pride in their place.”

The Corporate Plan will measure its success through (*inter alia*):

- Our environment, natural habitats and built heritage are protected and enhanced.
- We have vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods, and rural areas.
- We have an efficient planning process that promotes positive development and sustainable growth.
- The level of investment in regeneration projects for our towns, villages and neighbourhoods.
- The LDP enables economic growth and unlocks development opportunity to support tourism, entrepreneurship, innovation and employment.

The Corporate Plan also notes that the NIEA Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate is used as best practice guidance in the management of Council owned heritage assets.

5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP 2030 Evidence Paper 7. Historic Environment.

The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has published its digital datasets of the historic environment online¹ and has created a Historic Environment Web Map Viewer². It has also published Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment³ and Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment⁴. This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment, Natural Resources and Landscape topics.

Overview

Antrim and Newtownabbey has rich heritage which is to be valued and protected. The historic environment 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.

Listed Buildings

There are a total of approximately 303 Listed Buildings¹ in the Borough, 24 of which have been assigned Grade A status. These include the Railway Viaduct at Bleach Green Junction, Newtownabbey, Church of St. Patrick at Jordantown, Shane's Castle Camellia House and Ruins, Randalstown Presbyterian Church, Antrim Court House, Long Canals and Round Pond at Antrim Castle Gardens, several structures at Castle Upton and a Former Control Tower at Langford Lodge outside Crumlin, which is a WWII structure. These are documented in Evidence Paper 7. The other grades of listed building are B+, B1 and B2, which respectively number 24, 104 and 151

¹ DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Listed Buildings' (Date published: 22 February 2019)

² DfC Historic Environment MapViewer <http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

³ DfC Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Historic Environment (Date published: 03 July 2018)

⁴ DfC Historic Environment Division - Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment (Date published: 12 February 2018)

buildings in the Borough. A further 24 (approx.) buildings are listed, but are 'record only' or have not yet been allocated a grade¹. Buildings such as these or other vernacular buildings may be locally important and HED has indicated in consultation sought for this scoping report that the demolition of buildings prior to their listing is a concern. It should be noted that Listed Building Consent is required for material alterations to Listed Buildings and this permission is distinct and separate from Planning Permission.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Buildings at Risk in Northern Ireland (BARNI). The BARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which are may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. Within the Borough there are a total of seven 'buildings at risk'², of which five are listed. Examples of buildings at risk include: Monkstown Abbey, Church of the Sacred Heart, Toomebridge and an iron footbridge over the Six Mile Water at Muckamore. A full list is in LDP Evidence Paper 7.

Sites and Monuments Record

Antrim and Newtownabbey has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. Scheduled historic monuments are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 110¹ such Scheduled Areas in the Borough (Figure 5.14.1). The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the HED lists approximately 1,294 further unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the Borough³. Many of these are important sites, despite remaining unscheduled. The Record includes assets such as battle sites, crannogs (island forts), raths, megalithic tombs, ecclesiastical sites and more modern features such as World War II pillboxes. More sites may potentially be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity.

The Borough has seven Monuments in State Care, however two of these (Antrim Round Tower and Bullaun) are on the same site. State Care monuments are maintained for both public amenity and conservation and are listed below:

Name	Townland location
Antrim Round Tower Early Christian Monastic Site	Steeple
Bullaun: The Witch's Stone	Steeple
Ballywee Complex Early Christian Settlement	Ballywee
Castle Lug or Clogh-na-Larty Tower-House	West Division
Cranfield Church, Graveyard, Holy Well, Cross & Penal Site	Cranfield
Muckamore Augustinian Priory Site	Muckamore
Spring Farm Rath	Spring Farm

Source: NI Sites and Monuments Record DfC Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 22 February 2019)

¹ DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Listed Buildings' (Date published: 22 February 2019)

² Detail Data 'Built Heritage at Risk' August 2015 (found at <http://data.nicva.org/dataset/built-heritage-risk-northern-ireland>, accessed 02/04/2019)

³ DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Scheduled Areas' (Date published: 22 February 2019)

Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest

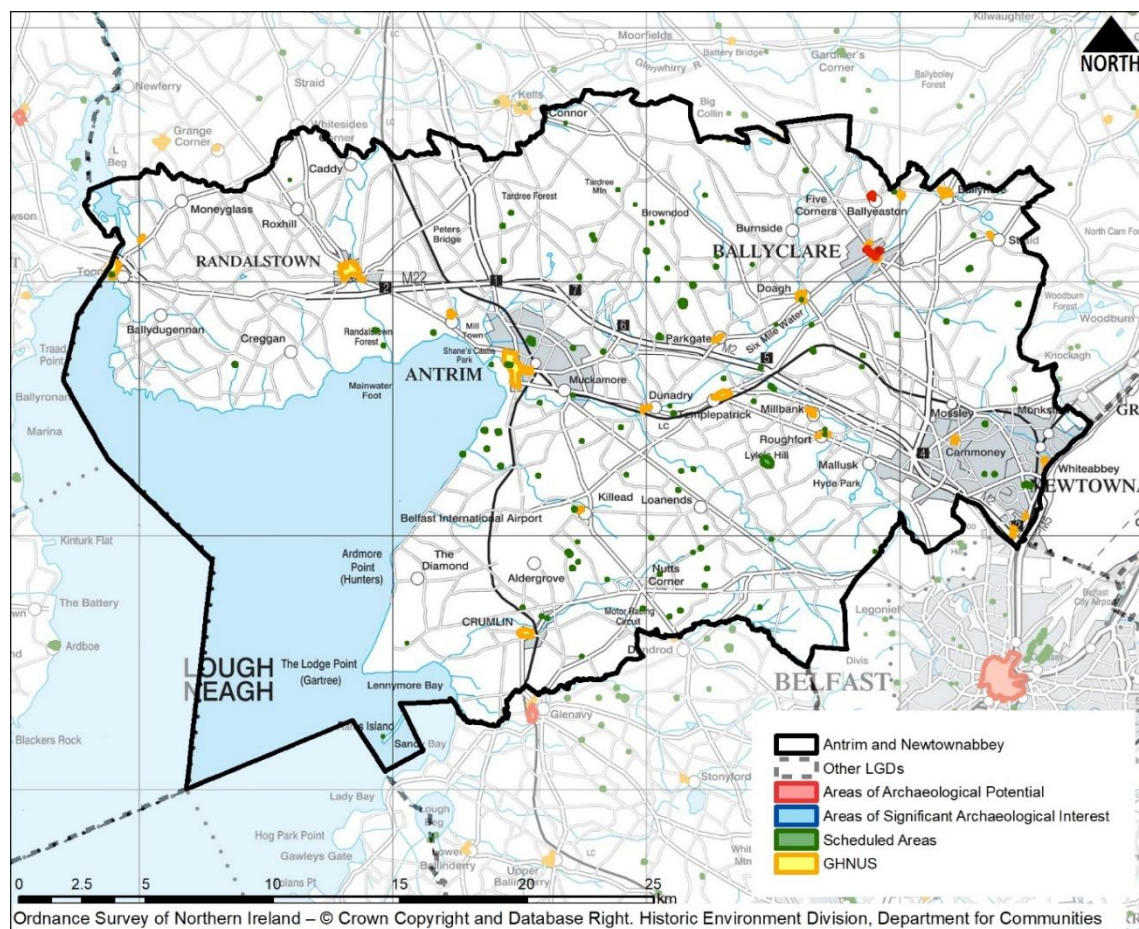
Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) seek to identify distinctive areas of the historic landscape in NI. The settings of these features within the landscape forms an important part of their character and heritage value. There are not currently any ASAs identified in the Borough in the extant Plans, however consideration will be given to designating ASAs in the new LDP, through consultation with the DfC.

Area of Archaeological Potential

There are two settlements with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) in the Borough, Ballyclare and Ballyeaston¹. These areas are identified in the BMAP 2015, which includes strategic policies and some more detailed policies in respect of archaeology and built heritage. The Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001 has less detail on archaeology and built heritage and does not identify any AAPs².

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The Gazetteer includes 22 entries within the Borough, of which two have an existing AAP associated. The new LDP will consider the identification of new AAPs through consultation with the DfC.

Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP, GHNUS and Scheduled Areas



Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 22 February 2019)

¹ DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets 'Areas of Archaeological Potential' (Date published: 22 February 2019)

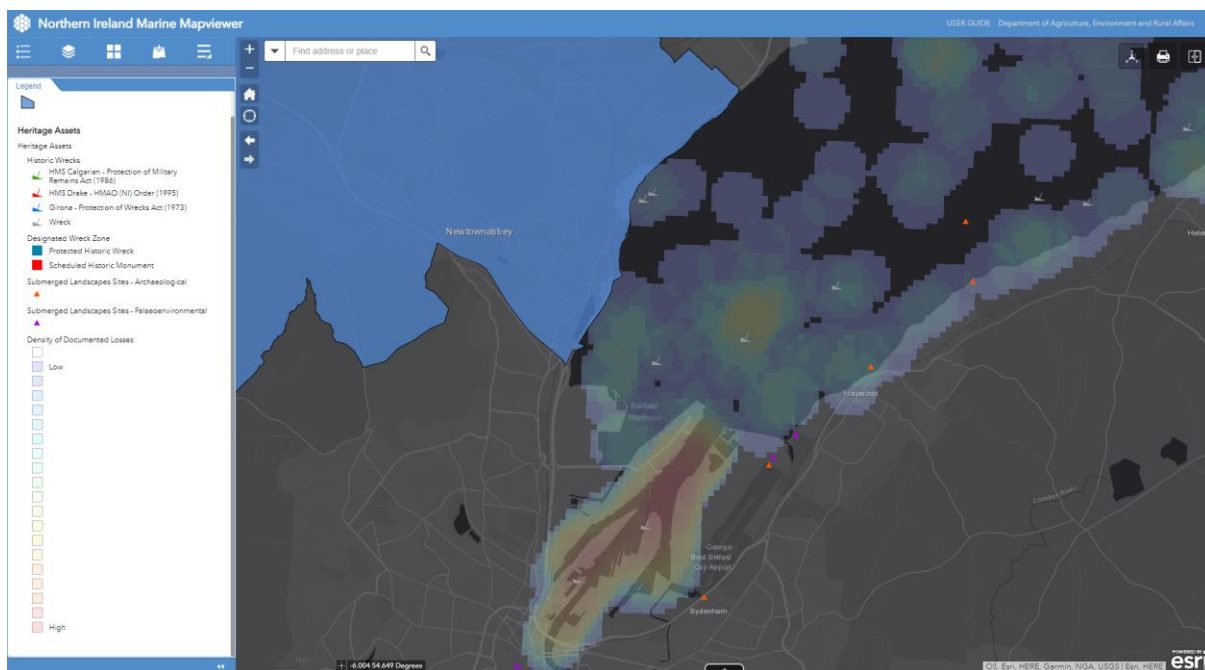
² Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council LDP Evidence Paper 'Shaping our Environment' January 2017

Marine Historic Environment

Antrim and Newtownabbey has a short section of coastline, at Belfast Lough. The nature of the coastline is such that relatively few documented marine losses have occurred in proximity to the Council area (see Figure 5.14.2), however three historic shipwrecks are known to be located within 2km of the Borough's coastline. There are around a hundred and twenty more documented shipwrecks in inner Belfast Lough which remain unlocated. Historic shipwrecks may receive protected status the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) while the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels may be protected via the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986). Wrecks may also be designated as a Scheduled Historic Monument under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order (1995). As yet, none of the wrecks in Belfast Lough have received protected status.

DAERA also maintains a record of Submerged Landscape Sites and Submerged Archaeological Finds. While a number of such sites have been recorded on the County Down coastline, as shown on Figure 5.14.2, none have been identified at Antrim and Newtownabbey. Intertidal or offshore development, such as undersea cables, offshore wind farms or tidal/wave energy arrays, has the potential to discover new evidence of the marine historic environment.

Figure 5.14.2: Shipwrecks and Submerged Archaeology



Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Map Viewer (accessed 02/04/2019)

It should also be noted that in addition to marine submerged archaeology, there also exists the potential for submerged archaeology at Lough Neagh.

Industrial Heritage

The Borough also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be not only found in the main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the former flax and linen industries, corn mills, quarries and lime kilns, quays, a gasworks and several gasometers. The Borough benefits from a rich industrial heritage associated with the various waterways in the area.

There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the former Belfast and Northern Counties, Great Northern and Midland Railways which crossed the Borough and the Ballymena - Larne Harbour Narrow Gauge Railway for which some features are identified within the Borough at Ballynashee.

Some of the most important industrial heritage sites have been identified for special protection as scheduled monuments or listed buildings, for example, Patterson's Spade Mill and Mossley Mill, however there are many others, which do not have any special designation and therefore currently have no protection.

Defence Heritage

The Borough is rich in defence heritage, mainly associated with WWII airfields including Aldergrove, Langford Lodge and Nutts Corner. Langford Lodge is particularly well preserved, with its control tower, hangers, runways and remnants of air force camps nearby. Nutts Corner and Belfast International Airport (which includes the Aldergrove airfield) encompass an area of landscape that may also contain more ancient archaeological sites.

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. Antrim and Newtownabbey has a total of four Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within NI. These include 872 hectares (ha) at Shane's Castle. A further six supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes in particular, significantly contribute to the quality of the local landscape and those that are open to the public provide an important outdoor recreational resource for physical activity and may be candidates for 'Quiet Areas' (see Section 5.1.1, Noise). Clotworthy House and Antrim Castle Gardens are an important asset for the Borough and attracted 444,000 visitors in 2017¹. Shane's Castle has been used as a filming location for the TV series 'Game of Thrones'. The use of heritage assets in the Borough as filming locations can bring benefits, not only in terms of the local investment made by production companies during filming, but also through attracting tourism.

Register	Supplementary
Antrim Castle Gardens (Antrim)	Castle Upton (Templepatrick)
Drumnadarragh House (Burnside)	Fisherwick House, Doagh
Ram's Island (Lough Neagh)	Glendaragh (Crumlin)
Shane's Castle (Antrim/Randalstown)	Holestone House (Doagh)
	Loughanmore (Parkgate)
	The Steeple (Antrim)
	Greenmount (Antrim)*

*Identified in the original Inventory of Historic Parks and Gardens as a supplementary site but not currently included on the DfC Digital Datasets

Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 22 February 2019)

¹ NISRA – People and Places: Northern Ireland Visitor Attraction Survey 2017, published 07 June 2018.

Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. There are presently three Conservation Areas in the Council area, at Antrim, Randalstown and Merville Garden Village.

Areas of Townscape Character

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are areas which exhibit a distinct character and intrinsic qualities. They are designated by the Council through the LDP, along with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently ten Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) and three designated Areas of Village Character (AVC) within the Borough, identified through the BMAP. The Antrim Area Plan does not include any ATCs or AVCs. As part of the LDP preparation process, existing ATC and AVCs will be reviewed and consideration given to the identification of new ATCs or AVCs.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

The features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) are specific to individual settlements and differ from place to place. 38 LLPAs have been identified within the Borough through the BMAP, however the Antrim Area Plan does not include any LLPAs. Evidence Paper 16 notes that that the potential may exist for the designation of a significant number of new LLPAs through the new LDP.

5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a LDP, HED would continue to enhance the monuments and buildings record to include new sites and information, and to recognise new assets or changes in the designated status of existing assets. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in future growth plans and place-shaping may be missed.

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

- Gaps in the identification of assets such as Historic Parks and Gardens, ATCs and AVCs and lack of designations in the Antrim Area Plan would not be addressed.
- The identification of new AAP and designation of suitable sites as ASAI would not be addressed.
- Opportunities to identify linkages between the town centre of Antrim and its historic Castle Gardens might be missed.

Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism industry, leading to reduced economic benefits for local communities. The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society, through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

There is also a risk of incremental erosion of landscape or townscape character or quality. Development might have a significant impact on the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- The Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place and character in settlements. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- The Borough has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments.
- The Historic Parks in the Borough are among its key assets.
- The Borough has a rich archaeological heritage. This could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The Borough has a strong industrial heritage, primarily associated with the various waterways in the area.
- The Borough has a number of examples of well-preserved defence heritage, mainly associated with the 3 former wartime airbases at Nutts Corner, Langford Lodge and Aldergrove.
- The Borough's cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting and could provide greater opportunity as a resource for tourism activity.
- Informed design based on historic environment evidence can help to develop or maintain a sense of place.
- Linkages between features, and their overall setting in townscapes should be considered.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- The new LDP may present opportunities to maintain or reflect historic route ways and townland boundaries.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment.
- Appreciation of the historic environment can help to encourage and nurture traditional skills.

6 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of international, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends.

The following Sustainability Objectives are informed by the topic review and key sustainability issues identified in Section 5. The rationale for selecting each is outlined. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in the Sustainability Appraisal Guide in Appendix 5.

6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

The objectives for sustainable development in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are to:

1... improve health and well-being.

Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimise the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.

2... strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.

The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.

4... enable access to high quality education.

Good education improves opportunities for employment and also contributes to avoidance of poverty and healthier lifestyles. The provision of suitable accommodation for educational establishments in appropriate, accessible locations should play a part in making schools more sustainable and reducing inequalities in education.

5... enable sustainable economic growth.

Regional policy seeks to develop a strong, competitive and regionally balanced economy. It is necessary to provide suitable locations for employment, with flexibility where necessary, to reflect current and future distribution of jobs across sectors, encourage new business start-ups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract

investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.

6... manage material assets sustainably.

Material assets such as infrastructure and sources of energy production are essential for society and the economy but need careful planning to ensure that they are designed for efficiency and to minimise adverse impacts. The concept of circular economy treats waste as resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.

7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.

Land, minerals, geothermal energy and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roads space, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

9... improve air quality

Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded, careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

International commitments require greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced to lessen their effects on climate. Measures that help reduce energy consumption and enable renewable energy helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

This objective encompasses reducing levels of water pollution, sustainable use of water resources, improving the physical state of the water environment and reducing the risk of flooding now and in the future. It meets the requirements of Northern Ireland legislation, strategies and plans in support of the Water Framework Directive and other Directives that relate to water and it takes account of the future impacts of climate change.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. 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.

13... Maintain and enhance landscape character.

International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.

14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.

6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives in Appendix 3 to identify any conflict between sustainability objectives. No sustainability appraisal objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. Some objectives were considered to have uncertain relationships with each other.

6.3 Compatibility of Objectives

The Vision and Objectives for the LDP will be compared with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives to assess how they are aligned. This will be presented in the SA Report (Appendix 2) and help establish whether the approach to the LDP is in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

Predicting effects always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. Considering the success of a policy when reliant on behavioural change is also difficult to objectively consider. As an iterative process, the SA may have different sources of available information than the Plan team, and vice versa. A record of the assumptions made and uncertainties encountered during the Sustainability Appraisal process are included in the reports.

Appendix 1: Compliance Checklist

Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 lists the following information required for environmental reports, according to Regulation 11(3), (4). The location 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 Section 3. Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report 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 Section 5, under topic sections. Each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP. Section 5 presents Key Sustainability Issues.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of the Borough are presented in Section 5, in baseline information and 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.	Section 5 identifies environmental problems. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Plan Strategy is published for consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy.
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.	Section 5 outlines the main policy themes in the introduction to each topic. Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
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;	Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of the SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.

Requirement	Location
<p>(ii) population;</p> <p>(iii) human health;</p> <p>(iv) fauna;</p> <p>(v) flora;</p> <p>(vi) soil;</p> <p>(vii) water;</p> <p>(viii) air;</p> <p>(ix) climatic factors;</p> <p>(x) material assets;</p> <p>(xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;</p> <p>(xii) landscape, and</p> <p>(xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).</p>	<p>Interrelationships are discussed in Section 2 and Appendix 3 of the SA Report.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Measures are reported in Section 3 of the SA Report and also in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of the SA Report.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Section 2 of the SA Report considers this in general. Section 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report provide more detail on the options appraised and assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.</p>
<p>9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.</p>	<p>A preliminary framework for potential monitoring has been included in Section 5 of the SA Report.</p>
<p>10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.</p>	<p>A non-technical summary is provided as a separate document to accompany the SA Scoping and the SA Report.</p>

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... strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage Population
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
4... enable access to high quality education.	Population
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6... manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climatic Factors
9... improve air quality	Air
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora, Fauna
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage Landscape

Appendix 3: Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

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

Compatible	✓	No relationship	0	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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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 be apply to two or more topics. Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the LDP. A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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 these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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 environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	The policy sets out principles for integrated sustainable urban development.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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 four key areas of work set out in the EAP.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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 Appraisals.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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 the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)	2008	Europe	EC	The aim of the MSFD is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. It is the first EU legislative instrument related to the protection of marine biodiversity, as it contains the explicit regulatory objective that "biodiversity is maintained by 2020", as the cornerstone for achieving GES.	The Directive establishes 11 GES Descriptors relating to biological diversity, non-indigenous species, commercially exploited fish and shellfish, food webs, eutrophication, sea floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, contaminants in fish, litter and noise. The LDP may have an influence on the marine area and consideration should be given to its effect on these descriptors.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning	2014	NI	Council of Europe	Competition for maritime space – for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other uses – has highlighted the need to manage our waters more coherently. Aims include: Reduce conflicts between sectors and create synergies between different activities. Encourage investment – by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules. Increase cross-border cooperation – between EU countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas. Protect the environment – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.	Identification of potential conflict areas and considering developments that have potential for connectivity with the marine area will contribute to this.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	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.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS facilitates and supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives. These are to: 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. Currently it is also the policy document to be used for decision making for any proposal which affects, or might affect, the NI marine area. It will be used in conjunction with the	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan (once the latter is adopted) in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets. Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 state that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". A public authority must have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents in taking any decision which relates to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the whole or any part of the UK marine area, but which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					Marine Plan for NI, once the Marine Plan is published and adopted in its final form.	
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	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.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	2009	UK	UK Gov.	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 provides the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise".
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013	2013	NI	UK Gov.	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The Marine Act applies to the Northern Ireland inshore region comprising of the territorial sea out to twelve nautical miles. This area includes all the tidal rivers and sea loughs (including Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough).	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise"
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING	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 ESDP.
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING	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 public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING	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 and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.

Title		Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING	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.
	Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland	2010	NI & RoI	DfI	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis, are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross-border locations.
	A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	DfI	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, transitional arrangements shall apply.
	Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2018	2018	DAERA	NI	Report on a range of environmental indicators and provide links to government strategies.	Regionally significant provides strategic clarity on climate change issues.
	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.
	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 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
	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,	The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					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.	upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	2015	Regional	District Councils	The aim of the Plan is to provide a planning framework which is in general conformity with the RDS in facilitating sustainable growth and a high quality of development in the Belfast Metropolitan Area throughout the Plan period, whilst protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the natural and man-made environment of the Plan Area.	The plan will supersede BMAP for the part of our plan area to which it applied. Its preparation involved recent consideration of a wide range of planning issues, preparation of policies and detailed spatial zoning all of which were subject to strategic environmental assessment and habitats regulations assessment. It is therefore an important evidence base.
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING	Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan	2014	Local	DOE	The plan sets out the Plan Framework comprising allocations, designations, policies and proposals relating to the Plan Area as a whole, intended to complement, and with reference to, the Regional Policy Context; and defines and translates broad policies and proposals into site specific designations, policies, proposals and zonings for the individual Council areas included in the Plan Area	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))	2002	Europe	Council of Europe	The END is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. It focuses on three action areas: (1) the determination of exposure to environmental noise (2) ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public (3) preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good	The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland	2014	NI	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision of "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport" is a key input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: 'Participation', 'Performance' and 'Places'. The successful delivery of the	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS, which must be taken into account in the LDP.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans.	
HEALTH & WELLBEING	The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2015	2015	NI	DfI	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments") and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	2011	NI	DfI	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include:	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	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. Incorporation of the policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	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 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	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. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	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 (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	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.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
HEALTH & WELLBEING	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.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Section 4.2 sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation. Main themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas are presented in section 4.4. At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of these local areas. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Identifies need for health infrastructure, including for community care.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	2014	NI	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs on a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity. Also relevant to the topic of sustainable economic growth.
HEALTH & WELLBEING	Northern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	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 infrastructure requirements.
COMMUNITY	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.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.
COMMUNITY	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.	The LDP can support the objective to provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live, by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
COMMUNITY	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 includes vibrant and strong rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of active and sustainable travel.
COMMUNITY	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.
COMMUNITY	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. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. LDP objectives may align with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP can indirectly support aims of the policy by, for example, accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of sustainable economic growth.
COMMUNITY	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.
COMMUNITY	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	The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It can help support objectives to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting 'shared spaces' to bring people together with equality and opportunity.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					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.	
COMMUNITY	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 and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.
COMMUNITY	Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report	2016	NI	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
COMMUNITY	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	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
COMMUNITY	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 programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of education and skills and sustainable economic growth.
COMMUNITY	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 however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.

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COMMUNITY	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. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.
	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 can help to promote and encourage mixed housing and shared spaces, to help bring people from different communities together.
HOUSING	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2015	NI	DfC	This is a midterm update on the progress in delivering the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy. The strategy is centred on a vision that everyone should have the opportunity to access good quality housing at a reasonable cost. This update shows that, despite a challenging economic environment, the majority of the actions are on track for delivery by 2017.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.
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.
HOUSING	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	NI	DfC	This Housing Strategy identifies four roles for government and five themes to help meet housing needs while supporting the most vulnerable. The themes are: 1. Ensuring access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes across all tenures; 2. Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable; 3. Housing and Welfare Reform; 4. Driving regeneration & sustaining communities through housing; and 5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	These themes align with a number of aspects of the LDP and sustainability appraisal, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may complement a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, such as the provision of new homes which meets the needs of various groups, such as families, the elderly, and disabled. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
HOUSING	Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan for the 'Facing the Future' Housing Strategy follows on from the consultation on the draft strategy in 2012. It identifies a new, fifth role for government and sets out the 33 actions that will work towards achievement of each theme. The plan aims help the department to work towards five high-level outcomes: 1. Better housing management, with a more efficient and targeted use of resources; 2. Better regulation, with an increased focus on the interests of tenants and citizens, and reduced red tape; 3. Greater flexibility and responsiveness, as circumstances and market conditions change; 4. Continued fairness for citizens, regardless of tenure and consistent with the need to support those who are most vulnerable; and 5. Implementing new structures that can support the above outcomes.	The LDP can help to support many of the actions identified in the action plan, such as: introducing developer contributions, developing work on energy efficiency, increasing the availability of smaller social housing units and other initiatives for encouraging town and city centre regeneration such as living over shops.

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HOUSING	Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	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. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of health and well-being and active and sustainable travel.
HOUSING	Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	NI	DfI	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	A series of 16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of strengthening society.
HOUSING	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.
HOUSING	Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	2008	NI	DfI	This document is a further Addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within that PPS. The Addendum provides an additional planning policy for the extension and/or alteration of a dwellinghouse or flat, including those in multiple occupancy. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the Quality Initiative. However, it should be noted that unlike the other policies of PPS 7, the policy contained in this Addendum will apply to all dwellinghouses or flats throughout the Region, including single dwellings in the countryside.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
HOUSING	Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	2005	NI	DfI	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	The LDP will take into consideration the policy provisions of those documents retained under the transitional arrangements. PPS policies that have not been consolidated into the SPPS will cease to be a material consideration in assessing planning applications for LGDs once each Council adopts their new LDP Plan Strategy. It is therefore necessary that any existing PPS policies the Council wish to continue to apply once the Plan Strategy is in place will need to be replaced through the inclusion of relevant, locally tailored policies within the new Plan Strategy.
HOUSING	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 sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
HOUSING	Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access	2000	NI	DfI	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
HOUSING	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.	This guidance will be taken into account in the preparation of the LDP.
HOUSING	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 assessment informs potential requirements for social housing which can in turn inform the LDP.
HOUSING	NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	2015	NI	NIHE	5. Getting the structures right. This strategy sets out how the government intends to fulfil the objectives over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.
HOUSING	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.
HOUSING	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	Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	This strategy includes the vision "to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live".	The LDP can support this strategy by providing an opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
HOUSING	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.
HOUSING	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 accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed, the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
COMMUNITY	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 harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social	The LDP can help to promote and encourage social inclusion.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
					inclusion; Community participation and development; and Migrant worker issues.	
HOUSING	The Belfast Metropolitan Housing Market Area: a local housing system analysis	2011	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 ITWAs. It now includes all of Larne local government district (LGD), and all but 1 ward of Antrim LGD
HOUSING	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	Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	Council	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	Movement patterns to work can help to inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.
EDUCATION & SKILLS	Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	This Plan contains a number of goals including 'Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People' – includes rights, play and participation, 'Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare, 'Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality' – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools, and 'Improving the learning environment'. The plan aims to make sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. The Plan supports a number of indicators in the draft PfG for education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. Regional education policies, programmes, strategies and action plans may be influenced and supported by spatial planning. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of community.
EDUCATION & SKILLS	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.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
EDUCATION & SKILLS	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 background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.
	Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	DfI	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
EDUCATION & SKILLS	Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020	2017	NI	Education Authority	The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
EDUCATION & SKILLS	Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2017-2018	2017	NI	Education Authority	The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2017 to March 2018 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.	The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	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 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.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	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.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	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, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.	This action plan committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. The 'Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter' loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]	2017	NI	DfE	This strategy sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	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 was due for consultation by the end of 2016, however the absence of Ministers has delayed public consultation on, and therefore finalisation of, the draft Strategy within the original timescale.	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2010	NI	DfE	Aims to provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.	The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	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.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	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.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT	Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future	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, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
	Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of education and skills.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.

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					land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
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.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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 source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	The LDP should take into account evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. The LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support employment and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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 and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.

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MATERIAL ASSETS	Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) for Ireland	2010	RoI	DCCAE	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 renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	This plan will not affect or be affected by the LDP directly. However, developments arising under the LDP could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS	DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	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 NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015; Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake "capacity studies" (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.

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MATERIAL ASSETS	DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	NI	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.) when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
MATERIAL ASSETS	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	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 each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape (therefore also relevant to the sustainability topic of landscape).
MATERIAL ASSETS	Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Anaerobic Digestion	2010	NI	DfI	The SPG provides additional advice and guidance specific to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) to complement the background information already set out in the Best Practice Guidance to PPS 18. AD proposals raise a number of planning issues including visual and landscape impacts arising from industrial scale plant/buildings; potential odour impacts, air emissions, noise impacts, and traffic impacts.	LDP policies in respect of development in the countryside, waste and landscape may influence the future development of these facilities. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of landscape.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS	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.
MATERIAL ASSETS	The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	1997	NI	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of physical resources.

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MATERIAL ASSETS	arc21 Waste Management Plan	2014	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.
PHYSICAL RESOURCES	The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	2006	Europe	Council of Europe	In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.	The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway" and commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives".
PHYSICAL RESOURCES	UK Geodiversity Action Plan	2011	UK	Natural England	The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It encompasses six themes: 1. Furthering our understanding of geodiversity, 2. Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design, 3. Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity, 4. Conserving and managing our geodiversity, 5. Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity, 6. Sustaining resources for our geodiversity.	Geodiversity can play a role in planning for and mitigating the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding. It can also help support Ecosystem Services such as soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment. The LDP should recognise that geodiversity is cross-cutting across several themes including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste. It should also recognise the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle). Geodiversity information can help to support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention).
PHYSICAL RESOURCES	Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland	2016	NI	independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity.
PHYSICAL RESOURCES	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter Action Plan	2017-2020	NI	Joint initiative	The Northern Ireland Geodiversity Charter recognises that geodiversity is an integral and vital part of our environment, economy, heritage and future sustainable development. It is necessary that our geodiversity is safeguarded and managed appropriately for current and future generations	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of natural resources and landscape.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
TRANSPORT	Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of health and well-being, transport, natural resources and landscape.
TRANSPORT	Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)	2016	NI	DfI	Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces	May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.
TRANSPORT	Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives. Also relevant to the sustainability topics of health and well-being, landscape character and natural resources.
TRANSPORT	Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.
TRANSPORT	Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	2015	NI	DfI	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
TRANSPORT	Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	NI	DfI	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: "to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone's quality of life." The new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	The SPSS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the 'High Level Transport Aims' and 'Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', so in meeting the requirements of the SPSS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
TRANSPORT	Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTTP)	2007	NI	DfI	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the SRTTP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
TRANSPORT	Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	NI	DfI	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
TRANSPORT	Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	NI	DfI	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
TRANSPORT	Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	2004	NI	DfI	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RSTN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
TRANSPORT	Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	2002	NI	DfI	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 for identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
TRANSPORT	Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	2016	NI	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.
TRANSPORT	Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)	2015	NI	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	Indicates potential future investment in railway infrastructure.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
TRANSPORT	Belfast Rapid Transit Programme		Regional	DfI	The first phase of the BRT network, which is currently being implemented, will link East Belfast, West Belfast and Titanic Quarter via the city centre	implications uncertain, programme document not available online and has been received for review
TRANSPORT	Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP)	2004	Regional		While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. A local transport plan for the Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA). The Plan takes forward the strategic initiatives of the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012. The Plan is divided into four themes: provision for walking and cycling, public transport measures, highway measures and management measures. The overall objective is to deliver an integrated transport network.	The BMTP is integrated with the 2015 Development Plan for the BMA (BMAP), with the plans being developed in parallel. The LDP will supersede BMAP for the part of our plan area to which it applied. Although expired, the BMTP may inform unmet infrastructure requirements in the former BMA Plan area.
AIR QUALITY	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.
AIR QUALITY	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 new development on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPPS.
AIR QUALITY	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 meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore, in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.

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CLIMATE CHANGE	The Paris Agreement	2015	International	UN	The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
CLIMATE CHANGE	The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	International	UN	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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. Also relevant to the topics of material assets and air quality.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.

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					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.	
CLIMATE CHANGE	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 of new and renovated buildings.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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 and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
CLIMATE CHANGE	The State of the UK Climate 2017	2017	UK	RMET	The report provides a 10-year "snapshot" of the most recent experience of the UK's climate and how that compares to historical records. This means differences between 2008–2017 and the baseline reference averages may reflect shorter-term decadal variations as well as long-term trends. These data are presented to show what has happened in recent years, not necessarily what is expected to happen in a changing climate.	Informative because of National Significance
CLIMATE CHANGE	Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020. It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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 for more strategic planning for	The SPSS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. The SPSS promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that Councils should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development Plans. The SPSS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to

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					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.	consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help to reduce fuel poverty can help address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment may be vulnerable to flooding and therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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 undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.
CLIMATE CHANGE	Planning in the Coastal Area: A developer's guide to planning considerations and environmental responsibilities	2017	NI	DAERA	This guidance document aims to explain how some onshore development may impact on the marine environment. It also describes the legislative and regulatory framework within which we manage our marine area. This document aims to outline how development along our coast can be managed in an integrated manner and how potential impacts of onshore development on the marine environment can be avoided or mitigated through early engagement and collaborative working.	This document has been produced to assist planning authorities, applicants and agents in their understanding of land and sea interactions. In addition, as planning legislation extends to the mean low water mark, there is an area of overlapping responsibilities in the intertidal area. The LDP should aim to align with legislation on the marine environment to achieve an integrated approach to the management of the intertidal area along the coastline.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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.
CLIMATE CHANGE	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. It may consider indirect measures to reduce flood risk such as the use of SuDS and protecting peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.

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CLIMATE CHANGE	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 of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
CLIMATE CHANGE	Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation 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 Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
CLIMATE CHANGE	National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland	2012	RoI	DCCAE	Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework sets out a pathway to achieving a more resilient economy and society which is capable of dealing with the enormous challenges climate change is likely to present. This Framework, and its constituent Sectoral Adaptation Plans, will inform the significant capital investment in flood adaptation measures to be made over the lifetime of the Ten-Year Capital Plan.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
CLIMATE CHANGE	The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	RoI	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 CHANGE	Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	RoI	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.
WATER	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.
WATER	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.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.

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WATER	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. These sites represent assets for health and well-being and tourism.
WATER	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 & sustainable water management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
WATER	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' (see below).
WATER	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. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
WATER	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' (see below).
WATER	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 Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.
WATER	Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	2014	NI	DfI	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
WATER	Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	NI	DfI	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.

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WATER	Flood Maps (NI)	2011	NI	DfI - 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,
WATER	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	NI	DfI - 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.
WATER	Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	NI	DfI, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and 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 construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
WATER	Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
WATER	Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015	2015	NI	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.
WATER	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.

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WATER	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 Drainage Systems (SuDS). Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
	NI 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 currently under way.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply.
	North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	Regional	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 principal river systems are the Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.	The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.

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WATER	Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021	2015	Regional	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 km². It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area County Fermanagh. The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough.	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
WATER	Pollution Reduction Programme - Belfast Lough	2015	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.
WATER	Pollution Reduction Programme - Larne Lough	2015	Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
WATER	Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District	2010	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. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of natural resources.
WATER	Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015	2015	Regional	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
WATER	North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	Regional	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aims to prevent future

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					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.	development that may be at risk of flooding or which may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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.	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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 the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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 must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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 seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the LDP to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.

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					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 RESOURCES	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.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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 prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
NATURAL RESOURCES	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.
NATURAL RESOURCES	All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020	2015	NI & RoI	National Biodiversity Data Centre	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.	Councils can play a leading role in implementing the Plan by making their land more pollinator friendly. This Plan contains guidance on what actions Councils can take, of which the most important is to identify and protect existing areas that are already good for pollinators.
NATURAL RESOURCES	(draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	2018	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for NI will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the NI marine area. The Plan contains a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will align with and contribute to policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK MPS and will support and complement existing plans and policies. These policies will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. The draft Marine Plan was published for consultation in April 2018.	Section 58 of the MCAA 2009 and section 8 of the Marine Act (NI) 2013 states that "a public authority must take any authorisation or enforcement decision in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise". Public authorities must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted marine plan or the MPS. The Marine Plan uses an ecosystem based approach that will assist public authorities in managing the competing demands on the marine area in a more sustainable manner. Achieving sustainable development is at the core of the Marine Plan.

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NATURAL RESOURCES	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 ancient woodland and encouraging peatland and wetland habitat restoration with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions where appropriate.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance ...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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 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.	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 example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
NATURAL RESOURCES	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.
NATURAL RESOURCES	Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape	2017	NI	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.
NATURAL RESOURCES	Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	NI	DfI	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

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NATURAL RESOURCES	Lough Neagh Fishery Management Plan	2015	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. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of economy and employment.
NATURAL RESOURCES	Lough Neagh Biodiversity Action plan	2008	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 Damsel; Irish Hare; Tree Sparrow; Whooper Swan. Plans have been prepared for the following habitats: Eutrophic Standing Water; Fen; Floodplain Grazing Marsh; Hedgerow; Lowland Meadow; Lowland Raised Bog; Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture; Reedbed; Rivers and Streams; Wet Woodland. The implementation of these plans will help towards ensuring the biodiversity of Lough Neagh is maintained and enhanced.	There is a need to protect habitats and species and to enhance important habitats where possible. Information on priority species and habitats, where available, needs to be part of evidence base for LDP. Need to sieve potential development sites for impact on protected species and habitats both direct and indirect and identify mitigation or potential measures at early stage.
NATURAL RESOURCES	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1985	NI	UK Gov.	Makes provision with respect to nature conservation, enjoyment and conservation of the countryside, and amenity lands. Places particular emphasis on the establishment of a network of Areas of Special Scientific Interest and Nature Reserves. Nature Reserves including (National, Marine and Local Nature Reserves) are declared under this legislation, as well as ASSIs and some AONBs.	The LDP must reflect the existing designations, and the need to protect and conserve them.
NATURAL RESOURCES	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	2002	NI	UK Gov.	Covers several environmental issues, including pollution prevention control, assessment and management of air quality, and designation of areas of special scientific interest (ASSIs).	The LDP must reflect the ASSI designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. It should also have regard for the need to regulate activities which are capable of causing any environmental pollution.
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, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.
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	The RLCA is not policy, but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP. It helps to indicate the linkages between the landscape and other assets, such as the historic environment and natural resources. Landscape character assessments and review of these is regarded as being important to inform the understanding of "place" and positive place making.

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					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.	
LANDSCAPE	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 of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
LANDSCAPE	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.	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.
LANDSCAPE	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. Also relevant to the sustainability topic of natural resources.
LANDSCAPE	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.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas	2005	Inter-national	ICMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	Inter-national	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.

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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Rules annexed to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	Inter-national	UNESCO	The Annex to the 2001 Convention contains detailed practical guidelines entitled 'Rules concerning activities directed at underwater cultural heritage. They are highly useful and widely recognised and applied by underwater archaeologists. The Rules contain regulations as to: how a project is to be designed; the competence and the qualifications required for persons undertaking interventions; planning the funding of excavation projects; documentation of archaeological excavations under water; and methodologies on conservation and site management.	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	1982	Inter-national	UNESCO	The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation.	The Convention sets the framework for protecting underwater cultural heritage at sea. Signatories 'have a duty to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and shall cooperate for this purpose'. The LDP should have regard for this principle.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	The Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage	1972	Inter-national	UNESCO	The most significant feature of the 1972 World Heritage Convention is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The Convention recognises the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common culture and heritage of humanity. To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.	This convention is the mechanism for the identification and establishment of World Heritage Sites. There is currently one WHS in NI. The LDP may recognise sites which are of sufficient national or global importance to merit their inclusion on the Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. The LDP may help support the actions required for sites to receive nomination to the Tentative List by preserving or enhancing their cultural heritage or natural heritage value.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1969 London Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. 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. Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of local development plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest; and highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	1985	Europe	COE	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of architectural resources. Article 5 includes an undertaking to prohibit the removal, in whole or in part, of any protected monument, except where the material safeguarding of such monuments makes removal imperative. Article 10 states the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective and ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work.

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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention, 2005)	2005	Europe	COE	The Faro Convention emphasizes the important aspects of heritage as they relate to human rights and democracy. It promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society. The Convention encourages us to recognise that objects and places are not, in themselves, what is important about cultural heritage. They are important because of the meanings and uses that people attach to them and the values they represent.	Member States agree to emphasise the value and potential of cultural heritage wisely used as a resource for sustainable development and quality of life in a constantly evolving society. Examples of specific implications with regard to LDP include Article 5b "enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation"; Article 5e "Promote cultural heritage protection as a central factor in the mutually supporting objectives of sustainable development, cultural diversity and contemporary creativity"; Article 8d "Promote the objective of quality in contemporary additions to the environment without endangering its cultural values"; and Article 9a "Promote respect for the integrity of the cultural heritage by ensuring that decisions about change include an understanding of the cultural values involved".
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	1986	UK	UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area and the larger freshwater lakes of NI.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Protection of Wrecks Act	1973	UK	DCMS/ DfC	The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (c.33) is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which provides protection for designated shipwrecks. Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.	Wrecks and wreckage assessed to be of historical, archaeological or artistic importance can be protected by way of site specific designation. It is an offence to carry out certain activities within a defined area surrounding a designated wreck, unless a licence for those activities has been obtained through DfC HED. Spatial scale: UK. Current lead: DCMS/DfC. The Local Plan should take into account any current or future designated historic shipwrecks.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection	2017	NI	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	2017	NI	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	2012	NI	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment	2012	NI	DfC	The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised.	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development	2014	NI	DfI	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	NI	DfI	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)	1999	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies. It should be noted that some of the policy text of PPS 6 has been superseded by policy in the SPPS, for example SPPS para. 6.11.
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT	Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1995	NI	NI Executive	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	There is a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for works within Scheduled Monument designated areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to scheduled areas.
NEIGHBOURING PLANS	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper	2018	Council	ACBCBC	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	A council may have regard to other plans and topic based strategies e.g. transport, recreation and economic development, as considered relevant and which may also have cross boundary implications for its neighbouring council. A council should therefore also ensure that its strategy is not in conflict with the DPDs of neighbouring councils by

	Title	Year	Spatial Scale	Current Lead	Objectives/Requirements	Implications for LDP
NEIGHBOURING PLANS	Belfast City Council Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy	2018	Council	BCC	The draft Plan Strategy sets out the overall aspirations for the future development of Belfast and policies to be used in assessing planning applications.	assessing any likely cross boundary implications of policies and proposals contained in its DPD to help ensure its compatibility with that of the neighbouring council and facilitate an integrated and coordinated approach to the implementation of higher level regional planning aims and objectives. The LDP should have regard for and should not conflict with the Development Plan Documents of neighbouring councils.
NEIGHBOURING PLANS	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper	2017	Council	LCCC	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	
NEIGHBOURING PLANS	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper	2017	Council	MEA BC	Consultation paper designed to stimulate debate and encourage feedback on key issues of strategic significance which are likely to influence the direction of the Council's new Local Development Plan. In so doing, it will help to inform the first stage of the Local Development Plan, the Plan Strategy.	
NEIGHBOURING PLANS	Mid Ulster District Council Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy	2019	Council	MU DC	The Plan Strategy is the first stage of a two stage LDP for the district. It sets out the strategic objectives of Mid Ulster District Council and informs all stakeholders of the policy framework against which all proposals will be assessed. The draft Plan Strategy will be subjected to public consultation and independent examination before adoption.	

Appendix 5: Sustainability Appraisal Guide for Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.1.4- Key Sustainability Issues for improving health and well- being.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve access to health care b) Reduce response times for the emergency services c) Provide opportunities for and encourage health lifestyles and physical activity for all ages d) Create open space with public access e) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion) f) Support those providing care g) Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability h) Maintain good air quality i) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health j) Improve ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel k) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) Reduce access to health care m) Increase response times for the emergency services n) Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity o) Reduce open space with public access p) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact q) Lack of support for carers r) Shortage of suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability s) Decrease in air quality t) Increase noise impacts that may affect health u) Make it harder to reach schools and workplaces via active travel v) Increase the risk of traffic accidents

2. 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.2.4- Key Sustainability Issues for strengthening society.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote inclusion of all groups b) Retain, create, or enhance shared space c) Increase accessibility to shared space d) Promote positive social interaction e) Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services f) Reduce the factors causing inequalities g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities h) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Inhibit inclusion of all groups j) Shared space reduced or deteriorates k) Decrease accessibility to shared space l) Decrease positive social interaction m) Rural communities less access to facilities and services n) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities o) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities p) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by rural communities

3. 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.3.4- Key Sustainability Issues for providing good quality, sustainable housing.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enable/encourage a variety of household types and size b) Enable/encourage affordable housing c) Encourage low carbon homes d) Encourage the building of life-time homes with potential for adaptability – wheelchair access e) Help to reduce homelessness f) Meet the needs of specific groups - single people, couples, retired people, disabled g) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs h) Reduce the number of unfit homes i) Help to fill any vacant dwellings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Inhibits a variety of housing types k) Does not promote affordable housing l) Does not promote low carbon homes or energy efficiency m) Does not encourage lifetime/adaptable homes n) May increase homelessness o) Does not meet the needs of specific groups - single people, couples, retired people, disabled p) A lack of housing provision that meets local needs q) Doesn't help to reduce number of unfit homes r) Doesn't help to reuse vacant dwellings

4. 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.4.4- Key Sustainability Issues for enabling access to high quality education.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve education level and employability of the population b) Promote access to education c) Promote access to skills training d) Helps improve access to education and skills training in rural communities e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population h) Decrease access to education and skills training i) Makes access to education and skills training in rural communities more difficult j) Under use of public facilities k) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities

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 startups, facilitate innovation, regenerate areas, attract investment and make employment as accessible as possible for all. This will reduce unemployment and poverty by helping more people to earn a living and increase their income.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.5.4- Key Sustainability Issues for enabling sustainable economic growth.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially in areas of deprivation d) Support enhancement of the skills base. e) Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest f) Make the best use of location g) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of town centres can be improved h) Increase the number of people coming to the borough to work i) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism j) Effects are spread throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy l) Restricts the supply of land in locations appropriate for economic growth m) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible especially in areas of deprivation n) Does not support enhancement of the skills base. o) Does not help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest p) Does not make the best use of location – transport corridors, rail links q) Vitality and vibrancy of town centres may deteriorate. r) Does not increase the number of people coming to the borough to work s) Does not enable use of tourism assets. t) Effects are seasonal /restricted to certain months

6. 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 a resource which should be managed sustainably to reduce production and increase recovery, recycling and composting rates; new or adapted facilities may be required.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.6.4- Key Sustainability Issues for managing material assets sustainably.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sufficient telecommunications can be provided or are feasible b) Electrical infrastructure is fit for purpose c) Enables renewable energy production/connections d) Supports development of renewables e) Increases reusing/recycling/composting rates f) Makes reusing/recycling/composting easier g) Reduces waste production per household h) Uses/encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets i) Reduces the amount of derelict/contaminated land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Existing telecommunications poor or unlikely to become available k) Adequate electrical infrastructure unavailable or unfeasible l) Infrastructure not fit for purpose m) Halts development of renewables n) Unlikely to improve recycling rates or make recycling easier o) Does not adopt the proximity principle for location of material assets p) Doesn't take advantage of derelict/contaminated land

7. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.	
Rationale	
Minerals, geothermal energy, land 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.7.4- Key Sustainability Issues for protecting physical resources and using them sustainably.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Earth science features can be protected b) Enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably c) Enables materials to be locally sourced d) Considers minerals across Council boundaries e) Enable future use/benefit of quarries f) Enables potential future use of geothermal energy g) Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites h) Retains semi natural land cover/biodiversity i) Avoids soil erosion/pollution j) Maintains or enhances soil quality k) Potential for sub-surface planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) Earth science features unlikely to be protected m) Reduces the ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably n) Considers minerals only within the Council area o) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of quarries p) Inhibits the future use of geothermal energy q) Increases loss of greenfield sites r) Reduces semi natural land cover/biodiversity s) Soil erosion/pollution likely t) Sub-surface planning unlikely due to geology

8. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.	
Rationale	
<p>There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing single occupancy car use and increasing other forms of transport, especially at peak times. The location of housing and key services can facilitate better access to public transport. Opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures to manage car demand, such as parking and re-allocation of roadspace, which encourage a shift from car to public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.</p>	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.8.4 - Key Sustainability Issues for to encourage active and sustainable travel.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will help reduce traffic congestion b) Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport c) Improve access to and efficiency of public transport d) Will benefit those without access to a vehicle e) Retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion g) Does not promote modal shift to active travel and/or public transport h) Unlikely to improve access to and efficiency of public transport i) Unlikely to benefit those without access to a vehicle j) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes

9. 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.9.4 - Key Sustainability Issues for to improve air quality.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will help achieve AQMA objectives (where applicable) b) Likely to improve air quality c) Able to reduce traffic congestion d) Will encourage other modes of transport to the car e) Promotes/supports/enables projects/behaviour that will improve air quality f) Able to avoid/reduce air pollution g) Will avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives i) Unlikely to improve air quality j) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion k) Maintains/increases car use l) Inhibits/stops projects/behaviour that will improve air quality m) Likely to increase air pollution n) Likely to increase ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)

10. 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 mitigate greenhouse gas emissions however adaption is also required to plan for the impacts of climate change.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.10.4- Key Sustainability Issues for reducing causes of and adapting to climate change.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions b) Likely to reduce energy consumption c) Likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle d) Increases/supports/promotes/enables renewable energy e) Enables/promotes public transport, walking/cycling. f) Helps reduce consumption/waste production and increases recycling g) Protects designated sites, locally important habitats and/or wildlife corridors h) Protects floodplains i) Protects peatlands j) Incorporates measures to adapt to climate change k) Reduces the risk of damage to built environment from storm events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions m) Unlikely to reduce energy consumption n) Unlikely to reduce vehicle use o) Restricts/inhibits/detracts from renewable energy p) Maintains reliance on vehicles and discourages public transport, walking/cycling. q) Encourages consumption and increases waste levels r) Damages designated sites, habitats and/or wildlife corridors s) Removes/damages/reduces the extent or holding capacity of floodplains t) Removes/damages/reduces the peatlands u) Does not consider adaptation for climate change v) Does not help to reduce risk of damage to built environment from storm events.

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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.11.4- Key Sustainability Issues for protecting, manage and use water resources sustainably.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives (including coastal waters) b) Lead to more efficient use of water c) Minimise risks from flooding d) Avoid the need for flood defence e) Protect or enhance floodplains f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality g) Protect aquatic food resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Reduce quality of surface and ground water (including coastal waters) i) Fail to meet water quality objectives j) Lead to waste of water k) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future) l) Risk creating a need for flood defence m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains n) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality. o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources

12. 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.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.12.4- Key Sustainability Issues for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protects and/or enhances designated sites and their buffers b) Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity c) Protects/enhances/incorporates green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) d) Supports/provides ecosystem services e) Provides positive environmental benefits.	f) Unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites or their buffers g) Unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity h) Removes/damages/excludes green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) i) Negatively impacts on ecosystem services j) Enables negative environmental impacts.

13. 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 to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.13.4- Key Sustainability Issues for maintaining and enhancing landscape character.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue to protect areas designated for landscape b) Minimise any visual intrusion c) Protect and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors d) Avoid major impacts on coastal views e) Sensitively integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness f) Able to appropriately consider any impacts on neighbouring landscape designations including AONBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Negatively impact on areas designated for landscape h) Increase any visual intrusion i) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors j) Negatively impact on coastal views k) Enables new development without considering local distinctiveness l) Unable to consider relevant landscape related management plans or landscape designations

14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	
Rationale	
The historic environment and cultural heritage are resources that inform our history and bring character and sense of place. They also attract visitors and contribute to the economy and bring vibrancy to the places where we live, work and relax. This can be achieved by protecting and enhancing Conservation Areas, townscapes and other sites of historic and cultural value including their setting.	
Key Sustainability Issues	
Refer to 5.14.4- Key Sustainability Issues for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage.	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage b) Enhance built and cultural heritage c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings d) Protect and enhance local distinctiveness e) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved f) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets g) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment h) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements i) Provide opportunities for cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Loss of built and cultural heritage k) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings l) Reduce local distinctiveness m) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved n) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets o) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment p) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood q) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities

Appendix 6: Consultation Body Comments on the SA Scoping Report

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
Air Quality	DAERA: NIEA 12/10/2018	DAERA has published a report on its website addressing the issue of Ammonia within Northern Ireland which may be of use [urls provided in original letter]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Making Ammonia Visible Document: ▪ DAERA Position on the recommendations of the Expert Working Group in "Making Ammonia Visible" May 2018: 	Ammonia referred to in air quality section and referred to in KSIs.
Natural Resources		<u>Section 6.9.3 page 70 - Designated Sites and Undesignated Sites.</u> There are currently 394 ASSIs designated within Northern Ireland.	ASSIs for the Borough visually presented in Figure in the Natural Resources section.
		Biodiversity Page 73 — include the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).	The Conservation Regulations are referred to in the PPP section (Appendix 4).
Water Resources		In relation to Section 6.10.4 page 81 - Key Sustainability Issues for water. More emphasis should be given to the impact of agricultural derived nutrients. NIEA have provided some text that SES may find useful to incorporate into the report below. <i>"Utilisation of manure is a critical environmental aspect of the operation of agricultural developments involving livestock, particularly since the cumulative impact of manure generated by a number of developments in a catchment may be significant. The impact of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen entering the water environment can have a detrimental impact upon a waterway. Both as a short term pollution incident and also a longer term impact upon water quality. Therefore for all developments proposed within the LDP area, a sustainable outlet is required for all wastes generated as a result of the livestock related to that development"</i>	Where feasible the recommended text from NIEA has been integrated to the SA Scoping Report.
General / Cross Cutting		<u>General Comments on Marine</u> Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents, when taking any decision which relates to any function capable of affecting (or might affect) the marine area, which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision. This means that in the preparation of your Local Development Plan and all of its associated documents, including the Sustainability Assessments, you are legislatively required to have regard to both the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (when adopted). Please see the 'Standard Advice for District Councils' [attached to original letter]. The UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) has a statutory basis and is material to all decisions which affect or might affect the marine area. In addition, the same will also apply to the use of Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, when it is adopted. Both the UK MPS and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland are cross cutting policy documents and are equivalent in standing to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS). Therefore, they must be used in the same way and at the same time to inform your plan preparations. It is not correct to limit consideration of the marine to 'environment' or 'Natural Resources' or 'Natural environment' topic areas, there must also be a wider consideration of the potential impact both on and from the marine, in relation to social and economic topic areas. The marine policy documents (currently UK MPS) contribute to sustainable development and are cross-cutting across most sectors or topic areas. Therefore, you must consider (have regard to) the marine policy documents across most topic areas in the preparation of this scoping Report and other Sustainability Assessments, for example, in the Review of plans programmes and Strategies, for each topic. It is also important to note that once you have prepared the LDP (and	Reference to Marine legislation updated in Section 4 and Appendix 4. Any changes to such legislation will be updated including the draft NI Marine Plan. Cross over between SA topics is stated at the beginning of each topic - Natural Resources is linked to other including historic environment, landscape, climate change, air quality, water, transport, and health and well-being.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		SA), any authorisation or enforcement decisions subsequently made using the LDP which affect or might affect the marine area, must be in accordance with the marine policy documents. Therefore, careful attention must be paid to the marine policy documents from the point of view of future use of the LDP in decision making. Consideration of the marine aspect within each of the SA Topics and as part of the evidence gathering (Scoping), should ensure that the integration of marine and terrestrial planning is not restricted by an artificial boundary, as set out in Section 1.3 of the UK MPS. Adopting this approach will also help to ensure consistency between the terrestrial and marine planning systems.	
Comments on Scoping Report - Plans, Policies, Programmes & Strategies		Comments on Scoping Report: The text you are using in relation to the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland and the Marine Policy statement is either not correct and/or outdated and should be amended as follows; Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, Pg. 144: The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area 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 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 was published in April 2018	Updated in Section 4 and Appendix 4.
		Marine Policy Statement, Pg. 148: The MPS will facilitates and supports the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives 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. Currently, it is also the policy document to be used for decision making for any proposal which affects or might affect the Northern Ireland marine area. It will be used in conjunction with the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, once the marine plan is published in final form.	Updated.
		Appendix 4 Review of Plans, Policies and Strategies Under 9 Natural Resources include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 The marine policy documents (currently UK MPS) contribute to sustainable development and are cross-cutting across most sectors or topic areas, see above. They are not 'environmental' plans. The UK MPS and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland should be listed under most topic areas of the table and in particular under Sustainable Development at the top of the table.	Updated.
Transportation	DfI Transport Planning & Modelling Unit 15/10/2018	<u>Observations on the Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan:</u> "Without steps to direct development into locations close to key services or public transport routes, car dependence and the associated negative impacts will only increase."	Likely evolution section has been updated to reflect more accurately the importance of a critical mass approach.
		<u>Comments on the Key Sustainability Issues:</u> The integration of land use planning and transport planning should be initiated by identifying locations which are accessible by modes other than private car and seeking to focus development there.	Some of the KSIs have focused on sustainable patterns of development and the importance of promoting other modes of transport/travel to the car

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
			including walking and cycling.
		<u>Additional Sources of Information</u> Transport Accessibility maps provided to Council	Noted. Plan teams can provide a variety of maps as part of their evidence baseline. These will be requested for future updates of the baseline for the Transport section.
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	DfC Historic Environment Division 15/10/2018	Historic Environment Division recommends that Objective 13 reads "protect, conserve and enhance"in line with the RDS. We advise the amendment of this objective in future documents' It is important to articulate that the corpus of historic environment assets also includes designed planted landscapes (and associated planting) and encompasses previously unrecorded below ground archaeological remains (around which there can be issues in terms of setting). For this reason, we recommend the use of the term "Historic Environment" and would request that the term is utilised in the LDP documentation. Currently the term Cultural Heritage Assets is stated to be included in this topic, however from reviewing the associated text in Chapter 6, HED considers that it is appropriate that all sub-topics discussed fall under the blanket term - "Historic Environment." The Draft programme for Government has 42 indicators.	The objective has been updated. The topic title has been updated. Term has been updated. Corrected.
Health & Well-being		6.1.4 Point 2 – HED considers the term 'Historic Environment' should be added to this sentence, as it not referred to elsewhere under the Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being.	KSI has been amended (note: KSIs now 5.1.4).
		HED would highlight the important role which the historic environment, its individual assets and spaces, has in promoting health and wellbeing.	Topics updated to highlight interactions.
Housing		We would highlight that the re-use of historic building stock should be considered as a sustainability issue in relation to Housing. These properties have embodied energy in their structure and have a low carbon footprint.	KSI added to topic.
Education & Skills		The National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) 'Traditional Building Craft Skills – Skills Needs Analysis of the Built Heritage Sector,' report for Northern Ireland 2009 highlights a shortage of people with Traditional Craft skills, such as thatchers, stone masons and ironmongers. We advocate encouraging traditional skills and using the historic environment as an educational resource and recommend that the nurturing of and training in traditional skills should be considered a sustainability issue.	KSI added to topic.
Community		HED would highlight the opportunity to foster community pride and identity through conservation or regeneration of local heritage assets and would welcome the inclusion of this as a sustainability issue.	KSI added to topic.
Economy & Employment		HED advocates encouraging and nurturing traditional skills and using the historic environment as a sustainable resource to create new employment opportunities. HED would highlight the important role that the historic environment plays in the economic life of the area. We suggest in future highlighting the importance of assets in this area for the film industry.	The emerging use of historic assets in the borough for film & tv production has been referenced.
		<u>Place Making</u> Further to earlier comments, HED would advise that utilisation of vacant and underused listed and non-listed buildings in settlement centres could help assist vitality and footfall. This would support the	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		local economy and assist bringing life and vibrancy to the area, particularly after 5pm. The reuse of vacant buildings may be preferable to new build, due to the embodied energy in the structure and the potential to reduce costs.	sustainable economic growth.
Transport & Accessibility		<u>Transport and Accessibility</u> Further to our comments on Health and Wellbeing, HED comments that where greenways are associated with heritage features it is important that plans and proposed works are sympathetic to these and utilise their value to enhance the route.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment.
Material Assets		HED advises that renewable energy structures including solar and wind farms or single turbines can have a significant effect on the setting and physical remains of heritage assets due to inappropriate location and the cumulative impact of tall structures. We would highlight that the re-use of existing historic architecture and infrastructure could be considered a sustainability issue.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment. The HED comments have been referred to during the appraisals.
Physical Resources		Mineral developments have the potential to impact on historic environment assets, particularly previously unrecorded archaeological remains. Conversely certain quarries may be important resources of natural stone used in historic buildings, which may be utilised when carrying out repair works. The historic environment is an existing and finite physical resource, with a low carbon footprint, natural materials and embodied energy in its structure. ...we consider there is an opportunity to utilise the existing historic building stock, instead of resorting to new-build development as a first option.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment. The HED comments have been referred to during the appraisals.
		<u>Land - Agriculture and Forestry</u> Listed Building Consent is required for the alteration, extension or demolition of a listed building. With regard to rural development and 'non-listed' vernacular buildings, HED would advocate retention and sympathetic conservation of such assets, where this would secure their upkeep and retention. We comment that Permitted Development on farms can be problematic with respect to the erection of agricultural sheds and additional farm dwellings, which may have a negative impact on the setting of nearby historic environment assets.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment.
		<u>Land-cover</u> Single rural dwellings in the landscape can also be problematic with respect to the setting of historic environment assets (see also our comments in relation to Landscape).	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment.
		<u>Soil</u> As well as having important ecological value, peat soils are also important for the archaeological remains and paleo-environmental evidence that they contain.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment.
Natural Heritage		The historic environment shares common pressures with Natural Heritage, with regard to the desire for development in the countryside and that there may be an overlap between the habitat of protected species and the historic environment.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment. The HED comments have been referred to during the appraisals.
Water		As well as the impact on wildlife and environmental ecology, removal of water from rivers and lakes can impact adversely on certain archaeological sites such as crannogs and trackways.	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment. The HED comments have been referred to during the appraisals.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
Climate Chnage		We comment that the historic environment is an existing and finite physical resource, with a low carbon footprint, natural materials and embodied energy in its structure. Subject to Listed Building consent being sought (where necessary), we consider there is an opportunity to utilise the existing historic building stock, instead of resorting to new-build development as the first option (See also Physical Resources). (See also comments re Renewables and Landscape).	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment.
Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage		<u>Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes</u> We advise that the review of policies plans and programmes is insufficient and should be more comprehensive than presently outlined. For example, there should be some discussion of the legislative protection for historic environment assets in Northern Ireland – e.g. The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and The Planning Act (NI) 2011. These legislative protections have specific implications with regard to the listing and protection of historic structures and buildings, zoning of lands and future development. It would be appropriate to consider the Policy objectives in SPPS within this section.	The review of policies, plans, programmes and strategies section has been revised.
		HED suggests using the term 'Parks, Gardens and Demesnes,' instead of Parks and demesnes, to reflect the name of the associated register.	Noted and amended.
		It would be clearer to say that the 'protected assets play a role in providing places through which we can tell the story of our past.	Noted and amended.
		The relevance of some of the objectives which are listed from the Corporate Plan to the historic environment is vague, and should be more clearly demonstrated.	New draft of the Corporate Plan has been published in 2019 and this section is updated accordingly.
		<u>Baseline information</u> We would highlight the importance of continual review of our datasets throughout the LDP process as they are subject to change as new sites are designated or recognised. There are some discrepancies with the most up to date data. It will be important that you continue to use up to date information from these going forward. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets	Noted. The most recent version of the HED digital datasets was used at the time of writing and is referenced.
		<u>Listed Buildings</u> In order not to confuse the two, or to place greater emphasis on Buildings at Risk it is important to separate information relating to Listed Buildings from information regarding the Buildings at Risk Register. We therefore suggest giving the two subjects separate headings. The number of Listed Buildings protected under Article 80 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011 within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area should be stated. Our datasets should be consulted for up to date information. We suggest that the numbers of Listed Buildings in the area are also identified according to their sub-classifications as follows; Grade A, Grade B+, Grade B1, Grade B2. HED considers that examples of Grade A Listed Buildings in A&NBC should be referred to [names given on original letter]. Listed Building Consent is required for material alterations to Listed Buildings. Permission is distinct and separate from Planning Permission.	Noted and the topic has been amended accordingly.
		<u>Buildings at Risk</u> It would be prudent to clarify with UAHS prior to publication if the buildings at risk that you wish to refer to in the plan are still on the BARNI register. It would be positive to highlight buildings in the area that are now 'saved.' Note that it would be prudent to attain permission of any building owners prior to publication. Please note there may be other historic environment structures that are at 'risk' within A&NBC, which do not appear on the BARNI register.	The most recent BARNI data was researched. Identification and highlighting of 'saved' buildings would be disproportionate for a strategic-level scoping report. Other structures at risk have been recognised elsewhere.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p><u>State Care and Scheduled Monuments</u></p> <p>Scheduled Historic Monuments merit specific consideration and discussion. The statutory protected zones associated with these regionally important sites can be extensive. It would be worth referring to standing advice in relation to scheduled monument consent and articulating that this permission is legislatively distinct and separate from planning permission and is determined by DfC Historic Environment Division.</p>	This section of the scoping report has had more information added.
		<p>The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements for your area is viewable as polygon data via this link http://arcg.is/2dakBSp. This is the result of a piece of work undertaken by HED to identify historic settlement centres and then from these areas of archaeological potential, identifying new ones and potentially modifying others.</p>	Information and GIS data on GHNUS has been added to the scoping report.
		<p>We would highlight the corpus of excavations which have occurred in your council area. Further information on previous excavations can be accessed through visiting via appointment the publicly accessible NIMBR</p> <p>We would also highlight the many other sites of heritage interest in your district which are not/are not yet listed in our records. These include historic boundaries such as townland and parish boundaries and some later historic cemeteries.</p>	<i>This detail would be disproportionate for a strategic-level scoping report. The need to access more detailed and spatially specific information to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Local Policies Plan.</i>
		<p><u>Area of Architectural Potential</u></p> <p>While the new LDP can consider designation of new ASAs, the AAPs are identified within the plan on the basis of HED records (not designated as such).</p>	Wording has been amended in the scoping report.
		<p><u>Industrial Heritage</u></p> <p>It would be more accurate to say that "Some of the most important industrial heritage sites have been identified for protection as scheduled monuments or listed buildings..."</p>	Wording has been amended in the scoping report.
		<p><u>Baseline trends</u></p> <p>First bullet – AAP's and Historic Gardens are not designated through the plan, but are identified within it.</p> <p>Second bullet should read – New ASAI's (not ASAPs!) would not be designated.</p>	Wording has been amended in the scoping report.
		<p><u>Sustainability Issues</u></p> <p>While the statements listed in this section are true statements in themselves they do not demonstrate a complete grasp of the issues that may (or may not) affect the historic environment through the LDP. We also comment that there is no direct reference to Listed Buildings and non-listed vernacular buildings, which are significant components of the historic environment.</p> <p>Relevant issues to consider for the historic environment in your area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage assets at risk from neglect or decay or development pressure. Areas where there is a risk of significant loss or erosion of landscape or townscape character or quality, or where development might have a significant impact on the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it. Traffic pollution. Conserving and enhancing designated and non-designated assets and their settings. Lack of awareness. Heritage Crime. Inappropriate development/enhancement/design which does not demonstrate an informed understanding of heritage assets and their settings (e.g. through having conducted adequate assessments or compiling conservation management plans). Permitted Development. 	Key Sustainability Issues have been updated in the scoping report. <i>Not all of the issues have been included as KSIs, however the issues and opportunities have been taken on board during the appraisals.</i>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition or loss of heritage assets, prior to them being protected. <p>Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage led development, and supporting vitality of historic town centres. Developing or maintaining a sense of place by informing design based on historic environment evidence. Promoting innovative use of existing historic listed and non-listed building stock. Heritage based tourism. Promoting awareness involvement and understanding of the historic environment. Encouraging and nurturing traditional skills and using the historic environment as an educational resource (See previous comments Training and Employment). Removal of buildings from the Buildings at Risk (BARNI) register. The creation of more Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character and Areas of Village Character. 	
Landscape		<p><u>Landscape</u></p> <p>HED welcomes the protection of existing Landscapes, which in many cases forms the wider rural setting of the historic environment, including scenic villages. Landscapes associated with demesnes or estates on the Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Register significantly contribute to the quality of the local landscape and those that are open provide an important recreational resource. (See also Health and Wellbeing).</p> <p>HED confirms that the historic environment shares common pressures with Landscape, with regard to the desire for single rural dwelling (over-development in the countryside) and wind turbines/farms (inappropriate siting of tall structures) (See also Renewables and Climatic Factors).</p>	All policy options were appraised against the sustainability objective for historic environment. Comments referred to during the appraisals.
General Comments		<p><u>Objectives</u></p> <p>"The objective for sustainable development is to conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage " - HED considers that the word 'protect' should be added to this objective and into Appraisal prompt 1</p>	'protect' has been added.
		<p><u>Glossary</u></p> <p>HED (Historic Environment Division) and NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency should be added to the Glossary.</p>	Updated
		<p><u>Appendix 3: Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives</u></p> <p>HED recommend that this table should be revised on review of our comments on Chapter 6 -The Evidence Base above. (E.g. The historic environment may be compatible with Education and incompatible with Material Assets or the objective of providing good quality sustainable housing has potential for adverse impact on previously unidentified below ground archaeological remains, the settings of heritage assets and historic landscapes and the potential for re-using historic buildings). Where impacts on heritage assets are uncertain or potentially negative it is more appropriate to score them as such rather than neutral or compatible.</p> <p>Similarly HED would highlight that the Appraisal of Preferred Options should be reviewed taking our comments above into account.</p>	Table has been revised based on HED comments.
		<p><u>Appendix 4: Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies</u></p> <p>HED would advise that the Plans and Programmes listed on page 165/166 are not sufficient for scoping the historic environment evidence and do not demonstrate a full awareness of these. We recommend that they should also include:</p> <p>International level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe(Granada Convention) The X'ian Declaration 	The review of PPP&S has been updated based on HED comments.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European Landscape Convention (this applies to the historic as well as the natural environment) <p>Regional/Northern Ireland wide level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 Class Consents Order (NI) 2001 –Supplementary to above The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 The Planning Act (NI) 2011 The Planning (Listed Buildings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 Regional Development Strategy 2035 Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) Planning Policy Statement 6 Planning Archaeology and The Built Heritage (and addendum and annex documents) Planning Policy Statement 9 The Enforcement of Planning Control Planning Policy Statement 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside (Page 125) Planning Policy Statement 23 Enabling development for the Conservation of Significant Places The Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017 A Study of the Economic Value of Northern Ireland's Historic Environment Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (Page 126) Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017 A Design Guide for Rural Northern Ireland British Standard BS 7913:2013 Guide to the conservation of historic buildings <p>At a local level they should include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMAP Building on Tradition – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside Creating Places – Achieving quality in residential developments' Any existing Conservation Management Plans for assets in the area e.g. does a management plan exist for Antrim Castle Gardens? Conservation Area Character Appraisals. Design Guides for Areas of Townscape Character 	
General Comments	DfC Historic Environment Division 15/10/2018	<p><u>Table 5.1 – Scope of Sustainability Topics:</u></p> <p>HED welcome the proposed 'Topic' title change from 'Historic and Cultural Resources' to 'Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage' (as per your email of 21.09.2018). Under the 'Includes' column of table 5.1 we suggest the following amendments to the description – Historic environment, including for example, heritage assets such as archaeology, State Care and scheduled monuments, listed buildings, industrial and marine heritage (including shipwrecks), historic boundaries, designated landscapes, townscapes, and assets of cultural heritage.</p>	Table has been updated.
		<p><u>Section 6.13.1 – Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes:</u></p> <p>What is the 'overarching policy' referred to in the opening sentence? Clarity is required.</p> <p>We would expect to see the stronger relationship between European Conventions/ International Policies and regional legislation more clearly demonstrated within this section as is expressed elsewhere in other topic areas in the SA, e.g. as in items 6.11.1 and 6.12.1. The SA should make reference to the international Granada Convention (1985) and Valletta Convention (1992) treaties and how they relate to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), with regard to local development planning. Please note, there are key differences in the treaties which must be clarified in Appendix 4 along with a more comprehensive and relevant explanation of their implications in relation to the LDP:</p>	This section of the topic chapter has been revised in light of HED comments to provide more clarity.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Granada Convention (1985), Article 10 states the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective and ensure that this requirement is taken into account at all stages, both in the drawing up of development plans and in the procedures for authorising work. The Valletta Convention (1992), Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of local development plans and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest; and highlights the need of devising plans to avoid adverse impact. <p>These two treaties have a direct link to both the RDS and the SPPS, notably items 6.28 and 6.29. Presently these issues are not clearly expressed in the SA. Note, while there may be shared interest, generally the Granada Convention relates to protection and conservation of architectural heritage, whereas the Valletta Convention relates to protection of archaeological heritage.</p>	
		The term 'Historic and Cultural resources' should be removed and replaced with 'historic environment'.	The term has been revised throughout the SA.
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage		<p><u>Section 6.13.2 – Baseline information:</u></p> <p>We consider an opportunity has been missed in using the evidence to provide some characterisation to the district and emphasising the districts specific historic environment. The articulation that a district area has tombs, forts, castles and churches, townhouse, farmhouse etc. does not create a sense of the areas distinctive character, a requirement of the LDP process, nor aid to inform broader heritage designations.</p>	This section of the topic chapter has been revised in light of HED comments.
General Comment		<p><u>Appendix 4 – 180904 Antrim & Newtownabbey BC PPP</u></p> <p>Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies: We welcome the inclusion of the column titled 'Theme' within the document. However, for continuity and clarity the theme 'Cultural Heritage' should be titled 'Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage' as per the proposed change to the SA table 5.1 Topic 13 heading (as per your email of 21.09.2018).</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of additional relevant publications (Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies) into the document, however, we comment on the following:</p> <p>The Granada Convention (1985) and the Valletta Convention (1992) are referred to in the context of the LDP as to ensure consideration is given to the conservation of archaeological heritage and resources – please refer to comments above stating their direct implications for the LDP process and clarifying the differences between these treaties. We are concerned that the SPPS is not mentioned more strongly as a cross cutting document within the context of the Historic Environment and its implications for the LDP process, notably in terms of its aim to safeguard our heritage assets from inappropriate development and in policy objectives, SPPS items 6.28 and 6.29.</p> <p>There is a lack of cross cutting linkage between the natural landscape and historic environment, e.g. the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment. It is important to recognise that the historic environment is intertwined with the interests of the natural environment, landscape character and natural biodiversity as all these characterise the interaction between people and place over millennia, each exerting influence over the other. We generally note that the multiple relevance of policies may be articulated across some topics and would highlight that with regard to the Historic Environment, the implications of the SPPS for the LDP with relevance to the historic environment needs to be articulated, as does the implications and relevance of the European Landscape Convention. The definition of landscape protection as outlined in Article 1 is particularly pertinent with regard to recognising the intertwined relationships between the natural and historic environments. We highlight the need to reference the Faro</p>	<p>Theme title has been amended.</p> <p>This section of the topic chapter has been revised in light of HED comments.</p> <p>The European Landscape Convention is referred to in the Review section of the Landscape topic. More information has been added to explain LCAs but the bulk of that information should be provided by the Plan team in their Landscape Character Assessment Evidence Paper (now published at dPS stage).</p> <p>Faro Convention has been referenced.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		Convention (2005- Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society). Examples of specific implications with regard to LDP work can be found in Articles 5 b and 5e, and 8d, 9a.	
		The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is only relevant here as setting the overall framework for protecting underwater cultural heritage at sea. Article 303 (para 1) of UNCLOS states that signatories 'have a duty to protect objects of an archaeological and historical nature found at sea and shall cooperate for this purpose'. UK ratified in 1997. United Nations the lead not UNESCO. Consider removing reference to, as confused in this context.	This convention is retained in the Appendix, however the description has been amended.
		Include reference to the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. Wrecks and wreckage assessed to be of historical, archaeological or artistic importance can be protected by way of site specific designation. It is an offence to carry out certain activities within a defined area surrounding a designated wreck, unless a licence for those activities has been obtained through DfC HED. Spatial scale: UK. Current lead: DCMS/DfC (NB. although this legislation is not full devolved in NI we have been administering it since c. 1993). The Local Plan should take into account any current or future designated historic shipwrecks.	This legislation has been updated in the Appendix.
		The Marine Policy Statement is also relevant here (and not just for Natural Resources). Reference to the 'Marine Environment' should not be confused with simply the natural environment. It also includes the historic environment and marine heritage assets, such as, historic shipwrecks. Please replicate the UK MPS statement listed above under 'Natural Resources' but add the following to 'Implications for LDP': Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan once the latter is adopted, in order to protect the marine environment, inclusive of the historic environment and heritage assets.	Reference to the MPS has been updated in the Appendix and in the introductory chapters of the scoping report.
		A specific implication of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 for development planning would relate to the requirements for scheduled monument consent for works within scheduled monument designated areas. This would be a consideration in zoning ground including or immediate to scheduled areas.	This is noted and will be considered at Local Policies Plan.
Minerals	GSNI 30/10/2018	<u>Minerals</u> The link to the Mineral Resource Map for County Antrim is valid and accurate. However, the appraisal document refers to the mineral prospecting licence areas indicated on the resource map marginalia. This information represents the licensing situation that was current when the map was produced. It is now out of date. An accurate Mineral Prospecting Licence map for Northern Ireland (which is updated as and when necessary) can be found on the Department for the Economy web site here.	Will be included in further updates as part of the iterative process
Housing	NIHE 11/10/2018	We note that some of the household information can be updated using 2017 NISRA population statistics. These provide new projections based on 2016 figures and can be accessed at: https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/population/national-population-projections	Will be included in further update as part of the iterative process
		The Existing Housing Stock figures can be updated using updated information from LPS (June 2018), available at: https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-housing-stock-statistics	Will be included in further update as part of the iterative process
		The Landlord registration scheme at March 2018 had 2,882 no. landlords and 4,592 private tenancies registered. However, as the renewal of landlord registrations was underway at March 2018 and is still ongoing, these figures may be under reported and should be used with caution. The Housing Executive remains responsible for HMO registration and there were 217 registered in Antrim and Newtownabbey at March 2018. At March 2018, private tenants in receipt of housing benefit numbered 3,697.	Noted and relevant section updated.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		As per the Housing Investment Plan Update 2018 the requirement for new social housing in the borough has continued to increase since 2012. The five-year assessment for 2017-22 shows a need for 912 units. Need is greatest in Antrim town (136), Central Glengormley (123) and Crumlin (101). At 31 March 2018 there were 2562 general social housing waiting list applications at March 2018. 66% of these applications are in housing stress. Single, older persons and small family households comprise 88% of the housing stress waiting list in the Council area. There were 1,299 homeless presenters, and 904 homeless acceptances at end March 2018.	Transferred information to topic and as KSI to housing topic.
		For Affordable Housing, whilst house prices had dropped between 2010 and 2013. Our thoughts would be that house prices are now increasing and tighter lending criteria means that difficulty in accessing owner occupation remains a significant issue in the Antrim & Newtownabbey housing market. The housing market can be seen to be recovering steadily with house prices at Quarter 4 2017, now 24.9% higher than 2013. While the housing market has improved over the last number of years, structural issues remain that could adversely affect the economy and household finances in the near future. There also remain high levels of negative equity. While rising house prices mean interest rates could lead to higher housing costs.	Transferred information to topic and as KSI to housing topic.
		We would like to see further evidence to support the statement that developer contributions for affordable housing would not be viable in Antrim and Newtownabbey. Different models can be used other than that suggested in draft PPS 22 of nil grant, in addition, the DOE/DSD research report 'Developer Contributions for Affordable Housing in Northern Ireland' (published December 2015) is now out of date. However, it did suggest that not including a developer contribution policy in new development plans would be a missed opportunity. We believe further research and different models must be investigated, to be able to conclude whether developer contributions for affordable housing are viable.	The Plan team have appraised the subject within their appraisals for Sustainable Development.
		The House Condition Survey 2016 reports that 14% of households in Antrim and Newtownabbey were in fuel poverty. It should be noted that while this is a decrease from 25% in 2006, at the time of the 2016 survey, oil prices had significantly decreased and were at a low level. As energy prices have since increased, we now believe the fuel poverty measure may be higher. The 2016 House Condition Survey reports that 8% of dwellings (61,000 dwellings) failed the Decent Homes Standard across Northern Ireland.	Transferred information to topic and as KSI to housing topic.
		Appendix 4: Under Housing the reference to the Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus, should be changed to the Commissioning Prospectus 2018/19-20/21. The Commissioning Prospectus is an annual document, which has replaced the Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/services_commissioning_prospectus.htm The social housing development programme can be updated to the 2018/19-2020/21 programme: http://shdp.nihe.gov.uk/ The reference to the Housing Investment Plan 2015-19, could also refer to the annual updates. This year's HIP Update for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is to be presented to council on 29th October and will be available on NIHE website after that. Consideration could be given to include additional Housing Executive strategies: Health and Wellbeing: Community Safety https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/community_safety_initiatives.htm Housing and Health https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/housing_and_health.htm Supporting People	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/supporting_people_strategy.htm Older People Strategy https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/older_people_strategy.htm Community Community cohesion https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/community_cohesion.htm Housing Travellers Strategy https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/travellers.htm Rural Strategy https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/rural_strategy.htm Housing Market Geographies https://www.nihe.gov.uk/mapping_northern_irelands_housing_market_areas.pdf Economy and Employment Social Enterprise https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/social_housing_enterprise_programme.htm Material Assets Energy https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/energy.htm	
	Northern Regional College 10/12/2018	One comment for you to note is that there does not appear to be mention of DfE's Further Education sector policy document Further Education Means Success - Further Education Strategy. This is a key strategy document that all Colleges work towards and is therefore important in your consideration of education and skills in the Borough.	Updated in Education topic.



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