

Local Development Plan | 2030

Draft Plan Strategy

Equality (Section 75) Screening and
Rural Needs Impact Assessment 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.

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Executive Summary

- This document sets out the Section 75 Screening Assessment and the Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Local Development Plan 2030 draft Plan Strategy.
- The Council has combined both assessments into one document due to the common steps that have been undertaken to engage with both Section 75 groups and the rural community.
- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires all public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, sex, race/ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status and dependency, and to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial grouping.
- The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 requires districts councils and other public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services.
- At this stage of the development of the Plan, no adverse impacts have been identified in relation to Section 75 groups, and in certain circumstances it is anticipated that there will be positive impacts on Section 75 groups in relation to housing, transport and the environment, as well as access to services and facilities for a number of categories including age, religious belief, political opinion, race, disability and dependants. Therefore at this time, a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the draft Plan Strategy. This screening will be kept under review and further screening and assessment will be undertaken at the next stage of the Local Development Plan known as the Local Polices Plan.
- A Rural Needs Impact Assessment cannot be screened in or out. This document highlights how the rural needs of our Borough were identified and considered in the development of our LDP.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the Section 75 Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) of the draft Plan Strategy stage of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan (LDP). The draft Plan Strategy is the first stage of the new two stage plan process introduced by the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
- 1.2 This document will be subject to a period of non-statutory public consultation (as this is considered good practice by the Council) and should be read in tandem with the draft Plan Strategy (which is also subject to public consultation), the range of other assessments undertaken in the plan preparation and the published evidence base which informed the Strategy.
- 1.3 This document has been prepared in the context of the requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which places a duty on public authorities in carrying out their functions to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; (b) between man and women generally (c) between persons with a disability and persons without: and (d) between persons with dependants and persons without.
- 1.4 Section 75 also requires public authorities to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
- 1.5 This document is also prepared in the context of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹ which requires public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services.
- 1.6 This document has also been prepared mindful of the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 which introduced new duties requiring all public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and encourage participation by disabled people in public life.
- 1.7 Antrim and Newtownabbey Council is committed to ensuring that the needs of Section 75 groups and the rural needs of our Borough are considered, and will

¹ The Act came into operation for district councils on the 1 June 2017

keep this document under review. A further Section 75 screening and RNIA of the Local Development Plan will also take place at the next stage of the process known as the Local Policies Plan.

- 1.8 This document has taken account of published guidance in relation to Section 75 as published by the Equality Commission Northern Ireland² and published guidance in relation to the Rural Needs Act published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)³.
- 1.9 For the purposes of the assessment, Section 75 groups are those as listed in the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Rural Needs groups are those identified using DAERA's guidance as populations under 5,000. For the purposes of this assessment, Rural Needs therefore applies to all villages, hamlets and countryside in the Borough⁴.
- 1.10 The Council has combined both assessments into one document for ease of reference and also due to the common steps that have been undertaken to engage with both Section 75 groups and Rural Needs Groups in the preparation of the LDP. In addition, Section 75 and Rural Needs considerations can overlap. For example, those classed as 'rural' under this assessment can indirectly include identities attached to Section 75 groups such as age, dependency and disability. The impact of the draft Plan Strategy on Section 75 Groups and Rural Needs groups is clarified in **Table 2** of this document.
- 1.11 Finally the plan has also been prepared in the context of a robust evidence base which has informed key decisions to date. It has also been prepared in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015, as well as key documents produced by the Council including our Community Plan Love Living Here 2017 and has involved wide spread engagement with statutory consultees including our neighbouring Councils. It has also been informed by the responses received to our Preferred Options Paper (POP) published in 2017.

² <https://www.equalityni.org/S75duties>

³ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/guide-rural-needs-act-northern-ireland-2016-public-authorities-revised>

⁴ For the purposes of this assessment countryside is defined as people living outside of settlement limits identified in the legacy plans that apply to the Borough.

2 Engagement with Section 75 and Rural Needs Groups

- 2.1 The Council is committed to engaging with Section 75 and Rural Needs groups throughout the plan-making process and to ensure that the impact of the Plan on Section 75 and Rural Needs groups is a key consideration.
- 2.2 Extensive consultation and engagement has been undertaken in the lead up to the publication of the current stage of the Plan, the draft Plan Strategy and this section gives an overview of the steps taken by the Council in order to engage in the preparation of our LDP.
- 2.3 As already stated the LDP takes account of a range of information, guidance and evidence to inform the content of the Plan, as well as statutory and public engagement. Further clarification on some of these key matters is also set out below.
- 2.4 It is important to note that the LDP is required to take account of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 which sets out the needs for all of Northern Ireland in terms of growth. The strategy aims to have regard to the economic ambitions and needs of the Region and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the Region to be met. The RDS aims to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. In doing so it recognises the important role of Belfast in generating regional prosperity and that Londonderry is the focus for economic growth in the North West. To ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, the RDS reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. It also complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and informs the spatial aspects of the strategies of all Government Departments. The RDS has a statutory basis and is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. Local Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their Development Plans.
- 2.5 At the heart of the RDS is the need to further promote sustainable development. The RDS has also published Housing Growth Indicators which provide an estimate of future housing need in Northern Ireland. The indicators are used as a guide to designate housing land as part of the local development planning process.

- 2.6 The RDS in its preparation has been subject to public consultation as well as Section 75 screening. An Integrated Impact Assessment was also undertaken for the RDS. This exercise was carried out as part of the 10 year review of the RDS 2025 and serves as the rural proofing for the RDS 2035.
- 2.7 The SPPS involved a period of extensive engagement with key planning stakeholders and sets out the Department's regional planning policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland under the reformed two-tier planning system. 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. The SPPS was subject to Section 75 Screening.
- 2.8 Both the RDS and SPPS have involved engagement which has considered the social, economic and environmental needs of Northern Ireland and have set out the direction of travel in terms of a number of key planning areas, such as housing and employment, which impact on everyone. Therefore it is important to recognise that the local level of plan preparation has been informed by guidance at the strategic level which has considered the economic, social and environmental needs of society.
- 2.9 The following paragraphs of this section set out, at the local level, the steps the Council has undertaken to engage with our communities in the preparation of the LDP.

Pre-Preferred Options Paper consultation

- 2.10 Although not a statutory requirement the Council undertook an extensive round of engagement prior to the publication of our Preferred Options Paper. The Council took the view that early engagement with communities throughout the development of the Plan was very important and therefore sought to proactively engage and provide opportunities for needs to be identified as well as highlighting the new Plan process and how to get involved.
- 2.11 In 2016 the Council launched a document entitled "Towards Preferred Options" to coincide with the start of the plan making process. This document explained the new system, was widely circulated and advised communities that the Council wanted to hear their views on the key priorities that needed to be addressed in the LDP.

- 2.12 This document was also published alongside the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and LDP Timetable regarding publication.
- 2.13 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's engagement strategy in relation to the planning process. It was published in draft for a period of public consultation before being formally published to establish if any further engagement was required by the Council. A total of 10 responses were received relating to the draft SCI but only one response in relation to the LDP process made specific reference to a Section 75 issue; this highlighted the need to provide greater clarity on the identification of Section 75 groups within the Borough. The Council currently has its own Section 75 database which is updated and reviewed on a regular basis.
- 2.14 In addition, during 2016 the Council also held a series of workshops facilitated by Planning Landscape Architecture Community Environment Ltd (Place) in each of the Borough's District Electoral Areas. A public questionnaire was also launched to ascertain what were the key planning issues were to be addressed in the Borough. Feedback identified issues such as housing, transport and employment but in the main did not identify significant Section 75 concerns other than the need for positive action measures relating to age and disability (see below).
- 2.15 A summary of the needs identified during this process is set out in the following paragraphs.
- *Vibrant Town and Villages* including local shops for local people, vibrant and integrated towns, more leisure activities, incentives for businesses, protected character, living towns, creative regeneration and use of derelict space.
 - *Meeting the Needs of Communities* including the needs of a growing elderly population, including the provision of retirement villages, more local facilities for young people and addressing social isolation.
 - *Improved Connectivity* including greenways, walking and cycling opportunities and an improved integrated transport network and improved transport links to Belfast International Airport.
 - *Quality Living Accommodation* including the creation of places where people want to live, development located within existing urban areas and well-designed housing including more affordable social housing.

- *Sustained Employment* with high-quality jobs.
- *Improved Supporting Services* such as health facilities, local police stations, recreation hubs, community-based resource centres, schools etc.
- *Strong leisure and tourism facilities* including the development and promotion of leisure assets, enhancement of the historical assets of the borough and promotion of Lough Neagh.
- *Better Use of Green and Open Spaces* including integrated open space in developments
- *Established Joined Up Thinking and Community Engagement* by addressing community divisions, more joined up thinking at all levels and more community engagement.
- *Forward Thinking* such as addressing climate change and implement sustainable and affordable energy sources.

GROW South Antrim Interim Strategy

2.16 In 2015 GROW South Antrim prepared an interim strategy in association with the delivery of the Rural Development Programme. This involved extensive engagement with the rural community, a detailed socio-economic profile of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and identified key priorities for rural people. The Strategy identified that there were 30,984 people living in rural areas out of a total population of 139,966 persons (see Table 1). Overall, the statistical breakdown of the Borough was as follows in terms of its rural population.

Table 1

Demography			
Comparisons⁵	Rural areas of Antrim & Newtownabbey	All of Antrim & Newtownabbey	Northern Ireland
Resident population	30,984	139,966	1,840,498
% of persons under 16 years old	22.44	21.03	20.85
% of persons aged 60 and over	18.89	19.66	19.45
% of male	49.65	48.5	49.05
% of female	50.35	51.5	50.95
% of Catholic Community Background	33.04	29.45	44.41
% of Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) Community Background	59.79	60.48	47.58
% of Ethnic Minority Background	0.69	2.09	1.76
Average age of population	37	37	37
Population density (persons per hectare)	1.96	1.94	1.31
% of persons 16 and over single (never married)	22.60	25.85	28.11
Births (2014)	349	1,774	24,394
% of births to unmarried mothers (2004)	24	41.49	43.12

⁵ Datasets used: [Usually Resident Population by broad age bands and sex 2014](#) (NISRA Census Office), [Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI 2011](#) (NISRA Census Office), [Marital and Civil Partnership Status: KS103NI 2014](#) (NISRA Census Office), [Total Period Fertility Rates \(administrative geographies\) 2014](#) (NISRA Census Office), [Births \(administrative geographies\) 2014](#) (NISRA Census Office) and [Deaths \(administrative geographies\) 2014](#) (NISRA Census Office).

Total Period Fertility Rate (2012-2014)	-	1.90	1.98
Life expectancy males	-	78.2	77.7
Life expectancy females	-	81.9	82.1
Deaths in 2014	234	1,129	14,678
Deaths registered for persons under 75	87	399	5,321

2.17 As part of the needs assessment, the paper presented its findings across each of the target groups as identified by former Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) - namely, Children, Young People, Women, Older Citizens and Ethnic Minority Groups. The following bullet points set out a summary of the needs identified:

- *Children* – access to facilities including health/education and the issue of isolation.
- *Young People* – access to facilities including health and education; well-being; access to employment
- *Women* – access to facilities including child care, health and education; access to suitable employment; the issue of isolation and access to employment.
- *Adults and Older Citizens* – the issue of isolation, lack of services eg post office, police station and local shops; lack of outreach care services and transport issues.
- *Ethnic and Minority Groups* – isolation, access to services due to communication skills and perceived racism.

2.18 In summary, the common themes are access to facilities and services, transport, isolation, employment, the decline in local centres and perceived racism.

Village and Hamlet Plans

2.19 A number of village and hamlet plans were prepared in the period 2010 to 2016/2017. These were prepared under the Rural Development Programme and they set out the aspirations of people living in the rural area as well as Section 75 groups living in these locations. The key findings were mainly to seek

better places to live in and make improvements to the area including upgrading derelict buildings and lands, upgrading existing facilities such as community facilities and providing new infrastructure such as bus shelters, outdoor gym equipment etc.

Community Plan Love Living Here 2017

- 2.20 There is a statutory duty on the Council to take account of its published Community Plan. The Council's Community Plan was prepared in tandem to the Council's Preferred Options Paper (POP) and was published for consultation on the 18th January 2017 for a period of 12 weeks ending on 12th April 2017, before being published in its final form in June 2017. The LDP supports and seeks to spatially represent our Community Plan and our vision and objectives have been aligned in our draft Plan Strategy.
- 2.21 The Community Plan was prepared in the context of widespread engagement with citizens from communities across the Borough and was informed by an extensive analysis of their social, economic and environmental needs.
- 2.22 As such the engagement in the preparation of the Community Plan, the findings of the public consultation and the outcomes as published provide a further local source of data regarding Section 75 groups, helping to identify the main issues impacting upon them.
- 2.23 Planning officers also attended events associated with the Council's emerging Community Plan and continue to engage with the Community Plan Team as the Plan continues is delivered.
- 2.24 The Community Plan sets out a shared vision for 2030 – *'Antrim and Newtownabbey is a resilient, socially responsible community where citizens enjoy a high quality of life'*.
- 2.25 The Community Plan Identifies four key outcomes and one widely important goal as set out below:-
- **Outcome 1:** *Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing*
 - **Outcome 2:** *Our citizens achieve their full potential*
 - **Outcome 3:** *Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity*
 - **Outcome 4:** *Our citizens live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places*
 - **Wildly Important Goal:** *Our vulnerable people are supported*
- 2.26 These objectives of the LDP have been aligned with the Community Plan's outcomes and goals.

Preferred Options Paper 2017

- 2.27 The Council published its POP in 2017. The POP set out a number of options for the strategic planning issues in the Borough such as housing, employment and retail and asked a number of questions regarding planning policy and planning issues including development in the countryside.
- 2.28 The POP took account of the RDS 2035 and the SPPS. It also concluded that the majority of planning policy set out in Departmental Planning Policy Statements were broadly acceptable and their broad thrust and direction would be taken forward in the LDP. This included planning policy in relation to the rural area.
- 2.29 The POP was informed by a wide evidence base that considered the social, environmental and economic needs of the Borough. These papers and the POP were informed by direct engagement with key stakeholders and Elected Members along with desk research. These documents are available on our website at: www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk, by telephoning 028 9034 0000 or emailing planning@antirmandewtownabbey.gov.uk.
- 2.30 Key stakeholders play an important role in informing the Council at the strategic level of planning those issues that are connected to the LDP, such as housing need (as identified by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive). In addition, our Elected Members represent all parts of the Borough and hence are conversant with the social and economic needs of our local communities, thus providing an important contribution to shaping our LDP.
- 2.31 The POP was published for a 12 week period of consultation. It was widely advertised and was supported by a number of information sessions in each of the District Electoral Areas in the Borough. It was also subject to a number of assessments including an Interim Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment, an Equality Screening Assessment Interim Progress Report and a Habitats Regulation Screening. These documents were also subject to public consultation. In addition to seeking comments by letter and email, an online survey tool (called Citizen Space) was used to encourage responses from all communities, including those people who were unable to attend the public engagement events held during the public consultation period.
- 2.32 As previously stated, the Council published a Section 75 screening of the Interim Progress Report for public consultation alongside the POP. Although the

Council was not obliged under Section 75 to issue this document for public consultation, in line with best practice it was published to facilitate meaningful engagement with all communities.

- 2.33 The purpose of the report was to give an early indication of any potential Section 75 issues linked to the key planning topics to come forward in the LDP and to consider if the POP options would have any implications. No adverse Section 75 issues were identified and no responses were received in response to the publication.
- 2.34 The POP was also subject to an Interim Sustainability Appraisal incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The purpose of this was to test the emerging plan against social, economic and environmental objectives so that sustainability could be built into the LDP making process. This allowed further opportunity to consider the impact of the social and economic needs of the Borough in the Plan.
- 2.35 The Council is required to publish a Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report. This provides a summary of the main issues raised following the public consultation period and how the Council took them into account.
- 2.36 The Council received a total of 149 public and stakeholder comments and these were then taken on board in formulating the draft Plan Strategy and, will be considered in the development of the Local Policies Plan. The Council published its final report, entitled "Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report 2019" alongside the draft Plan Strategy, to show how the responses were afforded due consideration in the preparation of our new Local Development Plan. This document included responses to a number of issues in relation to Section 75 groups, such as age and disability, as well as rural issues. This document is available on our website at: www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk or by telephoning 028 9034 0000 or emailing planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk.

Draft Plan Strategy Preparation

- 2.37 The draft Plan Strategy has been informed by regional policy and guidance, extensive engagement with Elected Members and key stakeholders including statutory consultees as listed in our revised Equality Scheme. It has also been published and informed by a number of background papers and studies. These studies have assessed need in relation to our growing and changing

population, housing, employment and retail, as well as other key planning issues including landscape and environment. These documents are available on our website at: www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk or by telephoning 028 9034 0000 or emailing planning@antirmandewtownabbey.gov.uk.

Section 75 and Rural Needs

2.38 Throughout the development of the Plan to date, the Council has notified all those listed on its Section 75 database of key events and the stages of the plan preparation, in order to allow all Section 75 groups the opportunity to fully engage in the plan-making process. The Council's Section 75 database also contains a significant number of organisations based in the rural area, therefore allowing the opportunity for any specific rural needs issues to be raised.

Summary

2.39 In summary, in the preparation of the LDP the Council has taken extensive steps to engage with the rural community and Section 75 groups. The Council has also prepared a robust evidence base that has identified the social, economic and environmental needs of the Borough and has taken these into account in the strategic direction of the Local Development Plan.

3 The Local Development Plan (LDP)

- 3.1 The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 Act (the 2011 Act) transferred responsibility for the preparation of LDPs from the Department of Environment (DOE) (now known as Department for Infrastructure (DfI)) to Councils and established a plan-led system which gives priority to the LDPs in the determination of planning applications.
- 3.2 The LDP is a spatial land use plan which primarily is about the management of '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 aims to ensure that good development occurs in the right place at the right time. It is therefore a powerful tool for place-shaping.
- 3.3 The purpose of the Local Development Plan will be to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of how the Borough should develop in the years ahead. The LDP will be used to determine 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.
- 3.4 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, as shown in Figure 1. 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.
- 3.5 The 2011 Act introduced a new two-stage process in the preparation of the Local Development Plan. It will comprise of two documents, a Plan Strategy and a Local Policies Plan, which will be prepared in sequence.
 - **Plan Strategy** – this sets out our Spatial Planning Vision and Strategic Objectives for the development of the Borough. It also sets out a Spatial Growth Strategy showing where growth will be distributed across the Borough. It will contain a range of Strategic Policies to implement the LDP, as well as a number of Detailed Management Policies to facilitate and manage development. It will be subject to public consultation and an Independent Examination before it is adopted.

- **Local Policies Plan** – this will be brought forward after the Plan Strategy. It will include site-specific proposals and local policy designations required to deliver the Spatial Vision, Strategic Objectives and Spatial Growth Strategy. It will also set out development limits for all our settlements. It will also be subject to public consultation and an Independent Examination before it is adopted.
- 3.6 In addition to these key documents, the Council will bring forward a range of supplementary guidance to implement and support the LDP as well as advice notes and information to assist applicants in the planning process.
- 3.7 Both the Plan Strategy and the Local Policies Plan will be subject to public consultation. Each stage of the plan requires the Council to submit its development plan document to the DfI for Independent Examination and the Department may appoint the Planning Appeals Commission to conduct the Examination. Anyone who makes representations seeking to change a development plan document is entitled, on request, to be given an opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Commission or other appointed body.
- 3.8 The purpose of the Independent Examination is to determine whether the Council has prepared the LPD in accordance with the requirements of the legislation and to decide whether the Plan is sound⁶. The Commission reports to the Department with recommendations. The Department must consider the Commission's report and recommendations before directing the Council to adopt, modify or withdraw the development plan document.
- 3.9 The Plan will be tested during Independent Examination on legal compliance and soundness. Further information on this is set out in the Department for Infrastructure Development Plan Practice Note 6 Soundness. Information is also set out in the Council's published Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement which can be accessed at:
www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk or upon request by telephoning 028 9043 0000 or emailing planning@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk.

⁶ Further information on soundness is available on DfI's website www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

4 Draft Plan Strategy

4.1 Currently, the LDP is at the Plan Strategy Stage. A summary of the key sections of the draft Plan Strategy is outlined below.

Vision

4.2 Our new Local Development Plan requires a clear vision as to what Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough should look like in 2030. Based on our engagement with the public, stakeholders and our Elected Members, and taking into account the objectives of our Corporate Plan, our Community Plan and the key priorities for our Borough, it is proposed that our Strategic Plan Vision is as follows:

In 2030 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council 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 its 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 Borough will be:

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

4.3 The Vision is also a positive statement as to what the Council would like the Council Area to be by 2030, i.e. is to increase the quality of life and to develop the well-being of everyone who resides there.

Strategic Objectives

4.4 To help support the delivery of the Borough's vision by 2030, a series of strategic objectives have been identified in the draft Plan Strategy. These strategic objectives are designed to take full account of the regional direction set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and other government strategies such as the Sustainable Development Strategy. They are also designed to take full account of any

local direction set out in the Council's Community Plan and other local government strategies. The Plan contains one overarching strategic objective (SO1 1) along with a number of other strategic objectives grouped under the following sustainable development themes; A Place of Economic Opportunity; A Liveable and Vibrant Place; and A Place with a Sustainable Future.

Strategic Objective 1 (SO1):

- 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

Strategic Objective 2 (SO2):

- Establish Antrim and Newtownabbey as a premier business location where both existing and new, innovative, cultural and creative enterprise can prosper.

Strategic Objective 3 (SO3):

- Provide a range and quality of land and premises to facilitate business growth, promote economic diversification and protect our strategically important employment locations.

Strategic Objective 4 (SO4):

- Promote development and regeneration of our town centres and commercial areas.

Strategic Objective 5 (SO5):

- Support the development of sustainable tourism and enhanced tourism infrastructure.

Strategic Objective 6 (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

Strategic Objective 7 (SO 7):

- Promote positive placemaking and ensure that high quality new development respects, enhances and integrates with our historic environment and natural heritage.

Strategic Objective 8 (SO 8):

- Ensure a sufficient supply of land for new homes, provide for a diverse choice of housing and strengthen community cohesion.

Strategic Objective 9 (SO 9):

- Accommodate and promote well-designed and accessible community, education and health facilities.

Strategic Objective 10 (SO 10):

- Promote the protection and accessibility of our open spaces.

A Place with a Sustainable FutureStrategic Objective 11 (SO 11):

- Promote biodiversity and conserve the natural assets of our countryside, coast and loughs.

Strategic Objective 12 (SO 12):

- Ensure the responsible use of land and natural resources and promote sustainable energy production to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Strategic Objective 13 (SO 13)

- Tackle flood risk by making space for water and promote sustainable drainage systems.

Strategic Objective 14 (SO 14)

- Ensure the responsible management of waste and support measures to increase recycling.

Strategic Policies and Detailed Management Policies

4.5 To help support the delivery of the Borough's strategic objectives the Council has developed a series of Strategic Policies which set out the higher level strategic approach to a number of planning topics. These Strategic Policies are supported by a range of Detailed Management Policies which will manage and guide development up to the year 2030. A summary of each to the Strategic Policies and the Detailed Management Policies is set out below in

Table 2 of this document and these have formed the basis of the screening of the draft Plan Strategy.

Monitoring

- 4.6 The draft Plan Strategy also sets out how the plan will be monitored to ensure it is delivering its strategic vision.

5 Section 75 Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

- 5.1 In line with our statutory obligations related to Section 75 and Rural Needs, the Council is carrying out screening of all its policies linked to the draft Plan Strategy for the LDP 2030. The policies of the Plan Strategy consist of two types: (i) Strategic Policies, which set out the strategic approach for the planning topic area; and (ii) Detailed Management Policies, which support the Strategic Policies and which guide and manage development at the local level.
- 5.2 For ease of reference and presentation purposes, the draft Plan Strategy Strategic and Detailed Management Policies have been set out in **Table 2**, including a summary assessment as to whether the policy in question may have a potential impact on Section 75 groups and Rural Needs groups. Strategic Policies and Detailed Management Policies have been grouped along with their overarching purpose.
- 5.3 Full details of the policies are available in the published draft Plan Strategy document.
- 5.4 The Council is committed to keeping these screenings under review and will carry out further screenings at the second stage of the plan, as and when appropriate.
- 5.5 A copy of the Council's overall Section 75 Policy Screening form for the draft Plan Strategy is set out in **Annex 1** and Rural Needs Form is contained within **Annex 2** of this document. Please note, the attached Section 75 screening form is for the draft Plan Strategy as a whole. This screening has been informed by a succession of individual screening exercises relevant to each element of the plan, at both a strategic and detailed policy level. These screening forms are also available on request from the Council.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 In conclusion, at this stage of the process and further to initial screening of Strategic and Detailed Management Policies as set out in the draft Plan Strategy, it is anticipated that the draft Plan Strategy is not likely to have an adverse impact with regards to Section 75 groups and instead is likely to have a number of positive impacts with regard to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations. Indeed, the draft Plan Strategy is likely to benefit all groups by providing a good, high quality environment in which to live and work, as well as to enjoy. This will include promoting opportunities for improved access to housing, employment, transport, facilities and services including health and education, which will contribute to the overall wellbeing of our communities across the Borough and in particular the following Section 75 grounds - age, religious belief, political opinion, race, disability and dependency.
- 6.2 It is therefore the view of the Council that, at this stage, the draft Plan Strategy does not require a full Equality Impact Assessment. The Council is committed to continuing to scrutinise all emerging policy areas under Section 75, in order to identify any potential adverse impacts.
- 6.3 Rural Needs cannot be screened in or out. A full assessment must be undertaken. It is the view of the Council that it has undertaken the required Rural Needs Impact Assessment and has taken the identified needs of rural people into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy.
- 6.4 The Council is committed to continuing to consider rural needs in the development of emerging policy areas.

Annex 1 - Section 75 Policy Screening Form

SECTION 75 POLICY SCREENING FORM

This form should be used for all new or amended policies. It has five parts.

Part 1 – Policy scoping – provide details about the policy being screened and the available evidence to help assess the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

Part 2 – Screening questions – look at the extent of the likely impact of the policy on each of the Section 75 categories.

Part 3 – Screening decision – the information provided in the previous sections is used to decide whether there is a need to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

Part 4 – Monitoring – sets how the effects of the policy will be monitored. Table 5 details how each step in the preparation of the LDP is monitored to determine any future potential equality impacts.

Part 5 – Authorisation and approval – the completed screening form must be signed by the officer who carries out the screening and the relevant Director/Section Head. The file reference and details of the approval by Committee and ratification by Council must also be included.

PART 1 – POLICY SCOPING

Set out the background, context, aims and objectives for the policy being screened. This will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and to work through the screening process on a step-by-step basis.

NB Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the Council), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, serviced by the Council).

<p>Policy name</p> <p>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan 2030 - draft Plan Strategy</p>
<p>Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?</p> <p>New policy</p>
<p>What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)</p> <p>The LDP provides a planning framework for the Borough that will guide future development and the use of land in our towns, villages and rural areas; it seeks to</p>

address the spatial implications of the social and economic needs of the Borough whilst balancing the protection of the environment in order to deliver sustainable development (in line with regional guidance).

The first stage of the LDP, the draft Plan Strategy, sets out the Plan Vision for the Borough up to 2030 and our objectives to deliver that Vision. It is supported by Strategic Policies that set out the strategies for the approach to sustainable development including employment, tourism, retail, housing, community facilities including open space, transport and communications, environmental resources such as waste, renewables and minerals, environmental protection including flooding, natural environment and place making/design. It is supported by Detailed Management Policies that will guide and manage development in the Borough through the development management decision making process.

The second stage of the LDP, the Local Policies Plan, will contain the zonings and designations to support the delivery of the overall Plan Vision.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.

In general, all Section 75 groups have the potential to benefit from this policy as it is the spatial land use response to the identified needs of communities within our Borough.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The policy is owned by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) and implemented by ANBC and other decision makers, such as Planning Appeals Commission, Department of Infrastructure etc.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they (please tick box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legislative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other, please specify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departmental planning decisions; • PAC decisions;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial Reviews; • Statutory consultees; • Developers; • Objectors; • Government Departments; • Government Finance; • Unauthorised Development; and • Review of Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) by Central Government.
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Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? (Please tick box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	service users – all those who live in , work in, invest in, own land/property in or visit the Borough
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other public sector organisations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	voluntary/community/trade unions
	other, please specify

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What they are

- Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016 – 2021 (NI Executive);
- Everyone’s Involved Sustainable Development Strategy (NI Executive);
- The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Regional Development (DRD) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- The Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA);
- Extant Planning Policy Statements, Supplementary Planning Guidance, Design Guides & Development Control Advice Notes (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland 1993 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy ‘Delivering Resource Efficiency 2013 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now

encompassed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA));

- Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for NI 2015 – 2040 (Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- The Regional Transportation Strategy 2002 – 2012. A review of this Strategy led to the publication of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future – A new approach to Regional Transportation (Department for Regional Development (DRD) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015 (Department for Regional Development (DRD) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Sub Regional Transport Plan 2015 (Department for Regional Development (DRD) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan 2004 (Department for Regional Development (DRD) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Northern Ireland Changing Gear – a Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015 (Department for Regional Development (DRD) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways 2016 (Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050 (Department of Economy);
- Sustainable Energy Action Plan (Department of Economy);
- Newtownabbey Rural Area Planning Statement 1980 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Antrim Area Plan 1984 – 2001 (and its alterations) (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI))⁷;
- Draft Newtownabbey Area Plan 2005 (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (2004) (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));
- Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (version as published 2014) (Department of the Environment (DOE) now encompassed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI));

⁷ In so far as it relates to that part of Greenisland that was transferred to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough in 2015

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019: Our Borough Your Vision 2019 – 2030 (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council);
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Corporate Improvement Plan 2018 – 19 (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council);
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Love Living Here Community Plan 2030 (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council);
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2020 (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council);
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Economic Strategy (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council);
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Leisure Strategy 2017 (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council); and
- Neighbouring Council plans and strategies.

Available evidence - *What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.* The Plan is published alongside an extensive evidence base which is available to view on line or by request. This includes Population Paper 1 which sets out details of Section 75 groups and is summarised below.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	29.74% belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 61.10% belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion.
Political opinion	In the local government elections held in 2014, unionist parties gathered more first preference votes than nationalist parties. The total was made up of 63% Unionist, 21% Nationalist and 16% other.
Racial group	2.10% were from an ethnic minority population and the remaining 97.90% were white (including Irish Traveller).
Age	21.14% were aged under 16 years and 16.4% were aged 65+. The average median age is 37 years.
Marital status	33.1% were single and 54.71% were married or in a same sex civil partnership and 6.63% were widowed or surviving partner of a same sex civil partnership. 5.55% were separated/divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership now dissolved.
Sexual orientation	There is limited local data for this category. In 2015/16, the Continuous Household Survey undertaken by NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency) found that 97.9% of adult respondents identified themselves as heterosexual/straight; with the remaining adults identifying as gay/lesbian, bisexual, don't know or not providing an answer.
Men and women generally	48.61% of the resident population were male and 51.39% were female.
Disability	19.04% of the resident population had a long term health problem or disability that limits day to day activity.
Dependants	The proportion of households with dependent children has significantly decreased since 1981 dropping from 50.8% of households in 1981 to 34.7% in 2011 (Census 1981, 2011). This decline in the number of households with dependent children is reflected in the decline in the size of the average household

	with 1 or 2 person households accounting for 59% of households.
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Needs, experiences and priorities - What are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	<p>Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities.</p> <p>Quality places to live and places to connect.</p> <p>Improved health and well-being.</p> <p>Shared and safe spaces.</p>
Political opinion	<p>Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities.</p> <p>Quality places to live and places to connect.</p> <p>Improved health and well-being.</p> <p>Shared and safe spaces.</p>
Racial group	<p>Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities.</p> <p>Quality places to live and places to connect.</p> <p>Improved health and well-being.</p> <p>Shared and safe spaces.</p>
Age	<p>It is expected that there will be a significant rise in the number of people aged over 65 and over 85. This will have implications for housing, care and related services.</p> <p>Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities.</p> <p>Quality places to live and places to connect.</p> <p>Improved health and well-being.</p> <p>Shared and safe spaces.</p>
Marital status	<p>Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities.</p> <p>Quality places to live and places to connect.</p>

	Improved health and well-being.
Sexual orientation	Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities. Quality places to live and places to connect. Improved health and well-being. Shared and safe spaces.
Men and women generally	Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities. Quality places to live and places to connect. Improved health and well-being. Shared and safe spaces.
Disability	Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities. Quality places to live and places to connect. Improved health and well-being. Shared and safe spaces.
Dependants	Access to housing, transport, employment, services, leisure, retail and facilities. Quality places to live and places to connect. Improved health and well-being. Shared and safe spaces.

PART 2 - SCREENING QUESTIONS

Taking into account the evidence from Part 1, consider and comment on the likely impact of the policy on equality of opportunity and good relations for each of the equality and good relations categories. Use the screening questions given below and indicate the level of impact on each category, i.e. minor, major or none.

Consideration of level of impact

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;

- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalized or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations;
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious Belief	See Table 2 Where a policy has spatial implications by virtue of where people live, there may be potential for an indirect differential impact on grounds of religious belief/political opinion. However, due to	None

	the widespread location of these designations and the limited land mass impacted upon, it is considered there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular religious groups.	
Political opinion	See Table 2 Where a policy has spatial implications by virtue of where people live, there may be potential for an indirect differential impact on grounds of religious belief/political opinion. However, due to the widespread location of these designations and the limited land mass impacted upon, it is considered there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular political groups.	None
Racial Group	See Table 2	Minor positive
Age	See Table 2	Minor positive
Marital Status	See Table 2	Minor positive
Sexual orientation	See Table 2	Minor positive
Men and women generally	See Table 2	Minor positive
Disability	See Table 2	Minor positive
Dependants	See Table 2	Minor positive

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	If YES, provide details	If NO, provide reasons
Religious Belief	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres; - Employment opportunities; - Housing opportunities. 	

Political opinion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres; - Employment opportunities; - Housing opportunities 	
Racial Group	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres; - Employment opportunities; - Housing opportunities. 	
Age	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres; - Range of employment choices; - Appropriate housing options available for elderly people. 	
Marital Status		None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.
Sexual orientation	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres; - Range of employment choices. 	
Men and women generally		None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.
Disability	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessible 'town' centres; - Range of employment choices; - Appropriate housing options available for people with a disability; - Access to open space and facilities 	

Dependants	Yes - Range of employment; Appropriate housing options.	
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**3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?
Minor/Major/None**

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious Belief	Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres	Minor positive
Political opinion	Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres	Minor positive
Racial Group	Safe, shared spaces in 'town' centres	Minor positive

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Section 75 category	If YES, provide details	If NO, provide reasons
Religious Belief		None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.
Political Opinion		None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.
Racial Group		None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

People can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example – disabled minority)

None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

None identified ahead of public consultation. Any Section 75 issues raised during consultation will be considered as part of the Local Development Plan preparation process.

Disability

Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), the Council is required when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Will the policy encourage disabled people to participate in public life or promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Comments

It is anticipated that the Local Development Plan will improve access for all thereby enabling disabled people to participate in public life through access to facilities and spaces.

In addition, by concentrating development in areas where access to public transport links are the greatest and where there is a concentration of services, this in turn will enable disabled people to enjoy better participation.

Finally greater job creation and variety of jobs coupled with a choice of housing will prove beneficial to those with disabilities.

PART 3 - SCREENING DECISION

The responses to the screening questions in Part 2 should be considered in order to decide whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment.

If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the recommendation may be to screen the

policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, details should be given of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

(See section on mitigation which follows.)

Is an EQIA recommended?

No

If the recommendation **is not** to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

The draft Plan Strategy is a strategic document that is underpinned by a wide array of policies which will apply across the whole of the Borough (see Table 2). These policies are based on a robust evidence base and take account of regional guidance which has itself been subject to public consultation, engagement and Section 75 screening etc. Of particular relevance is the RDS 2035, which seeks to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. The Plan has also been prepared taking into account the Council's Community Plan and extensive early engagement and public consultation on our Preferred Options Paper. This has included engagement with statutory consultees as listed in the Council's Equality Scheme.

As such, at this time there is no evidence of likely negative or adverse impacts on any Section 75 groups. Instead, the policies overall are likely to have either a positive or neutral effect.

Where a policy has spatial implications (e.g. protection of sites of nature conservation or landscape or countryside designations) there may be potential for differential impact on grounds of religious belief/political opinion due to where these sites are located and their immediate population base. However, due to the widespread location of these designations and the limited land mass impacted upon, it is considered that there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon a particular religious/political group.

Overall, in combination, the various strands that are contained within the Plan aspire to enhance the built and natural environment within the Borough to the

benefit of all residents and visitors, and there is no evidence to suggest adverse impacts attaching to these proposals at this time.

The preparation of the Local Development Plan 2030 has already been subject to an extensive period of public consultation and engagement. There will be further opportunities for public consultation in the future and any additional impacts identified will be given further consideration as part of the ongoing local development plan-making process.

If the decision **is** to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

N/A

Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in the Equality Commission publication "Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment".

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? **No**

If yes, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

N/A

Timetabling and prioritising of policies screened in for an EQIA

If the policy has been 'screened in' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine the priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1 – 3, with 1 being the lowest and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority Criterion	Rating (1 – 3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	n/a
Social need	n/a

Effect on people's daily lives	n/a
Relevance to a public authority's functions	n/a

NOTE: The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This will assist in timetabling. Details of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the Quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?
No

If yes, please provide details.

N/A

PART 4 – MONITORING

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the Council to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development. The key stages of the Plan for monitoring purposes are identified within Table 5 of this report.

The Equality Commission recommends that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, public authorities should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (see the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities, July 2007, Page 9 – 10, paragraphs 2.13 – 2.20).

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the Council to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development. The key stages of the draft Plan for monitoring purposes are identified within Table 5 of this report.

What data is required in future to ensure effective monitoring?

The LDP will be subject to further Section 75 screening during the preparation of the draft Local Policies Plan which will be prepared after the adoption of the draft Plan Strategy.

In addition, the draft Plan Strategy includes a Monitoring Framework and the LDP will be subject to review at least every five years. This will allow continued monitoring of the policies in the LDP and their effectiveness and potential impacts and there is an opportunity for any Section 75/Rural Needs impacts that relate to the Local Development Plan to be considered through this mechanism.

In addition, the Council undertakes a yearly monitoring report of its performance of Council Services and there is an opportunity for any Section 75/Rural Needs

impacts that relate to the Local Development Plan to be considered through this mechanism.

Finally, the Council's Community Plan is required to publish a monitoring statement highlighting progress on outcomes achieved and actions taken once every two years. Again the findings from this process provide an opportunity for any Section 75/Rural Needs impacts that relate to the Local Development Plan to be considered through this mechanism.

PART 5 - AUTHORISATION AND APPROVAL

Screened by:

Name Sharon Mossman

Job Title Principal Planning Officer

Date 26 April 2019

Signature of Director/Head of Service:

Name Majella McAllister

Job Title Director of Economic Development and Planning

Date 26 April 2019

Approving Committee ANBC Council

(Name and date):

Date of Council 29 April 2019
ratification

File ref: P/FP/LDP/001

NOTE: A copy of the completed screening form should accompany each new or amended policy being submitted for Committee/Council approval. Information on the file reference, approving Committee and the date of Council ratification should be completed and copies of each form and the related policy should be forwarded by e mail to the Equality, Diversity and Policy Section as soon as the policy has been ratified by Council. Quarterly reports will be published on policies screened and will include links to the completed screening forms on the Council website.

Annex 2 – Rural Needs Impact Assessment

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities (Revised) April 2018

Section 1 – Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Publication of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development 2030 (LDP) – draft Plan Strategy.

1C Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above related to.

Strategy

1D Please provide the official title if any) of the Policy, Strategy , Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1c above.

Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030 draft Plan Strategy.

1E Please provide the details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

Please refer to Chapter 4 of the main report for details of the aims and objectives of the Local Development Plan.

1F What definition of “rural” is the Public Authority using in response of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

The default definition of rural used in Northern Ireland is that developed by the Interdepartmental Urban-Rural Definition Group. Initially proposed in 2005, and amended in the Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (NISRA 2015). This definition classifies those settlements with populations of less than 5,000 together with the open countryside as rural. For clarity, therefore,

this assessment is based on the following areas taking into account the population figures of settlements published in the 2011 Northern Ireland Census⁸.

Villages

Ballynure; Ballyrobert; Burnside (Cogry/Kilbride); Doagh; Dunadry; Parkgate; Straid; Templepatrick; Toome.

Hamlets

Aldergrove; Ballycor; Ballycraigy; Ballyeaston; Bruslee; Caddy; Cargin; Craigarogan; Creavery; Creggan/Cranfield; Donegore, Gortgill; Groggan; Hillhead; Killead ; Kingsmoss; Loanends; Lowtown; Magherareagh; Millbank; Milltown; Moneyglass; Moneynick; Newmill; Rathmore; Roughfort; Tildarg; Tavanaghmore; The Diamond. ⁹

Countryside¹⁰

Defined as land lying outside of settlement limits identified in Local Development Plans (in line with the SPPS).

⁸ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census>

⁹ A number of new hamlets are proposed whose boundaries will be defined at the Local Policy Plan Stage.

¹⁰ For the purposes of this stage of LPD, the Local Development Plans are those legacy plans that apply within the Borough as set out in the draft Plan Strategy.

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Section 2 – Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes.

2B Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas?

The overall aim of the LDP is to further sustainable development for our Borough, and to achieve this, the draft Plan Strategy has a number of high level Strategic Policies that set the direction and approach to key planning matters and a range of Detailed Management Policies that form the basis for the management of planning decisions. **Table 2** summarises the impact of the policies on people in rural areas.

2C If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

Table 2 sets out a summary of how the policies will impact on people in rural areas compared to people in urban areas. The policies in the Plan have taken account of the policy provisions of the RDS 2035 and SPPS. These policies seek to ensure appropriate sustainable development opportunities across our Borough, including urban and rural areas. Similarly, the LDP seeks to support and sustain all our communities, both urban and rural. Whilst the policies may make distinctions between the application of policy between settlements and the countryside, ultimately the policy aim is to deliver the overarching aim of sustainable development.

Therefore it is considered that the policies do not seek to impact on urban and rural people differently, but to deliver the common aims of housing, employment, health facilities, education connectivity etc. in a sustainable way and to the benefit of everyone.

It is important to realise that the relationship between urban and rural areas is interdependent. Larger settlements often provide support for the wider rural hinterland in terms of services, facilities, entertainment and employment. Therefore it is important to understand that the needs of people in rural areas can be met both in urban and rural settings.

2D Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on.

Given the breadth of coverage of the draft Plan Strategy it is likely to impact on all of the following rural policies to varying degrees:

- Rural Businesses;
- Rural Tourism;
- Rural Housing;
- Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas;
- Education or Training in Rural Areas;
- Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas;
- Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas;
- Poverty in Rural Areas;
- Deprivation in Rural Areas;
- Rural Crime or Community Safety;
- Rural Development; and
- Agri-Environment.

**Please note that a number of the above impacts may be secondary impacts of the DPS, such as transport/infrastructure, poverty, deprivation and crime.*

2E Please explain why Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

N/A

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Section 3 – Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on.

Yes

3B Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

- Consultation with Rural Stakeholders;
- Consultation with Other Organisations;
- Published Statistics;
- Evidence Topic Papers; and
- Other Publications.

3C Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Please refer to Section 2 "Engagement with Section 75 and Rural Needs" in this document for further information.

3D Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

At the strategic level, the Regional Development Strategy 2035 sets out the approach to the delivery of growth across all of Northern Ireland, including the rural area. In addition, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement sets out the planning requirements for all of Northern Ireland, including rural issues, to deliver sustainable development – this includes a range of planning topics including employment and housing opportunities. The Council is required to take account of these key documents, along with other regional guidance to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of the Borough in the context of sustainable development.

The RDS seeks to sustain rural communities living in the smaller settlements and the open countryside and to improve accessibility for rural communities (SFG13 and SFG 14).

In summary, this includes:-

- **Establish the role of multi-functional town centres.**

These should be the prime locations for business, housing, administration, leisure and cultural facilities both for urban and rural communities.
- **Connect rural and urban areas.**

This is necessary to widen the economic base of town, village and countryside. Provide support and networking opportunities to encourage the formation of local alliances to exploit complementary resources and facilities.
- **Revitalise small towns and villages.**

This is particularly relevant to those towns and villages which have been static or declining and contain areas of social need. Deprivation happens in different ways in different places. An integrated approach between government departments, agencies and communities will ensure that regeneration plans reflect the specific needs of each community.
- **Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations.**

Farming plays a major part in sustaining rural community networks, as employers, consumers and producers. Forestry and fishing also contribute to communities, in employment and commercial terms, as well as in terms of recreation opportunities. Other industries such as tourism and renewable energy can provide further jobs and opportunities in rural areas as long as they are integrated appropriately within the settlement or rural landscape.
- **Encourage sustainable and sensitive development.**

The expansion of rural tourism and development which is both sustainable and sensitive to the environment should be encouraged. This includes the ability of settlements and landscapes to absorb development.
- **Improve the overall connectivity of rural communities to services and other parts of the Region by exploring innovative ways of bringing these services to the communities.**

Using the community hall, local school or church hall for visiting service providers will help people living in rural areas to remain connected. Different service delivery approaches could include outreach and mobile services or increased use of Information Communication Technology.

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- **Integrate local transport.**

Promoting integrated rural transport initiatives which meet the needs of those living in isolated areas and in particular elderly and disabled people.

The aim of the SPPS is to allow sustainable growth in smaller settlements and in the countryside, to manage development in a manner which strikes a balance between protection of the environment from inappropriate development, while supporting and sustaining rural communities consistent with the RDS.

At the local level following engagement with stakeholders, Elected Members, the public including rural dwellers and the production of the evidence base for the LDP, the following list of rural needs are identified:-

- Meeting rural housing needs including specific groups such as the elderly and social and affordable housing.
- Enabling people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible in terms of health care.
- Creating employment opportunities.
- Access to services and community facilities such as health, education etc. to address social isolation.
- Improved health and well-being opportunities for everyone.
- Provision of accessible recreational and leisure opportunities, including walking and cycling.
- Places to connect.
- Quality and safe places to live in.
- Protection of our natural and historic assets for all to enjoy.
- Vibrant "Town" Centres.
- Accessibility – transport links including public transport.
- Broadband connectivity.

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

N/A

Section 4 –Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas.

4A Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

Population

The population of the Borough continues to grow and it is expected that there will be a significant rise in the over 65s and over 85s within the plan period. This will have implications for housing, care and the provision of related services. Whilst the number of households continues to rise, it is expected that there will be a significant increase in 1 and 2 person households. This will impact on the types of houses needed for future growth.

Housing

There is a need for sustainable housing in rural areas whilst ensuring that a diverse choice and tenure of development opportunities are available for specific groups such as travellers, those on the social housing waiting lists and businesses such as our farming community.

Employment

There is a need to sustain people in the rural areas through opportunities for employment. This ranges from supporting existing businesses in the rural area and also allowing new employment opportunities to emerge.

Community Facilities

There is a need to ensure that community facilities such as health and education facilities can be accommodated to ensure that rural people have access to these facilities.

Vibrant centres

The centres in our settlements such as our town and village centres provide retail and leisure services, as well as places for entertainment and connectivity. It has been raised by rural dwellers that steps should be taken to ensure that our centres remain vibrant, are supported and provide necessary services in order to ensure their viability and vitality.

Connectivity

Transport is an ongoing issue in the rural area. This includes the provision of public transport and is particularly important for people who don't have access to a car. There is also a digital connectivity issue through the lack of provision of broadband services. In some rural areas particularly along Lough Neagh.

Isolation

People in rural areas can often feel isolated and cut off, therefore it is important that they have access to community facilities and have places to work and have their day to day needs met and providing an opportunity to connect with other people.

Well-being and health

There is a need for people to improve their wellbeing and health. It is not just a rural issue. Opportunities for people to connect with other people, places to enjoy and visit, and opportunities for physical health and access to health are a consideration. It is also important that those with disabilities are able to have easy access to the services/places that they need/desire to visit.

Placemaking

A common theme is that our communities should have quality environments to live in, work in, relax in and enjoy,

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Section 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The draft Plan Strategy seeks to address the issue of the rural needs identified by bringing forward a vision that applies to all of the Borough, as well as objectives that identify the needs of the rural community. In addition, the Strategy sets out a Spatial Growth approach for all of the Borough including our smaller settlements, such as villages and hamlets, as well as the countryside itself. Our Strategy also seeks to ensure that all our communities have better access to employment, housing, transport, services and facilities and that our built and natural heritage is safeguarded.

In relation to our growing and changing population the draft Plan Strategy sets out policies to ensure a range of tenures, that places are accessible and that there is a supply of housing within the Borough. It contains policy to assist in the delivery of social and affordable housing and specific housing needs in the rural area.

In terms of employment, the draft Plan Strategy sets out the strategic approach to employment within the Borough including the identification of Strategic Employment Locations in our larger settlements and the strategic sites of Belfast International Airport and Nutts Corner, based in the rural area. It is recognised that many rural dwellers travel and work in our settlements and therefore employment opportunities will be increased overall in our Borough, particularly as these lands will be safeguarded for employment uses.

In addition, the draft Plan Strategy seeks to ensure that smaller employment lands are also supported and that the planning policy is flexible enough to allow rural businesses to grow sustainably and create further employment and training opportunities. In addition, the draft Plan Strategy brings forward policies to support

and protect our natural and build environment, as well as the promotion of tourism opportunities, further contributing to the rural economy.

The need for improved connectivity especially in terms of transport links and public transport is a major priority for the Council, who continue to liaise with key stakeholders regarding improved services and transport networks. The Draft Plan Strategy contains a range of measures to promote and support the integration of land use planning and transport although it is recognised that this is difficult in the countryside areas.

The draft Plan Strategy will also contain policy to support the provision of community facilities, digital infrastructure and public utilities. Again it is recognised that this may be more difficult in the countryside but the Council will seek to ensure that these can be promoted where feasible.

The draft Plan Strategy brings forward policy to support our centres. As well as our larger town centres which serve our rural hinterland, our villages also contain retail and other services that need support. We have identified five of our larger villages as important local centres to be protected by planning policy in order to ensure their vitality and viability. Small scale shops will also be supported in our remaining villages. This will help sustain our rural areas and enable people in the immediate area to meet their daily shopping needs as well as preventing social isolation by creating an environment for social interaction.

The draft Plan Strategy also sets out a range of policies to improve where all our residents live, including design, amenity impact, protection of our environment, recreation etc. which all serve to contribute to good place-making and environment.

5C. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The role of the Local Development Plan is to enable and facilitate development, as opposed to direct provision. There are issues relating to the rural area that depend on key stakeholders such as Government agencies who are responsible for improvements to the road network, provision of public transport as well as education, health facilities etc. The Council recognises the importance of these issues to all our communities and will continue to lobby and liaise with key stakeholders for their delivery.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Sharon Mossman
Position/Grade:	Principle Planning Officer
Division/Branch	Planning - Forward Planning Team
Date:	26 April 2019
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Majella McAlister
Position/Grade:	Director of Economic Development and Planning
Division/Branch:	Planning
Date:	26 April 2019

Table 2

Strategic Policy	Detailed Policies	Purpose of the Policy	Comments on likely Section 75 impacts	Rural Needs 2A Will it impact on people in rural areas 2B How it is likely to impact on people in rural areas 2C How it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas
<p>Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>The purpose of the policy is to set out the fundamental approach and mechanisms to deliver sustainable development in the Borough and this overarching strategic policy underpins the whole of the LDP. This includes the Spatial Growth Strategy for the Borough designed to deliver the Plan Vision and Objectives. It has been informed by the Places of the Borough.</p>	<p>The plan has been prepared in the context of meeting the social, economic and environmental needs of the Borough and takes account of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement. It has been informed by an evidence base published alongside our LDP and also seeks to support the Council's Community Plan.</p> <p>The growth strategy may have the potential to impact on religious belief and political opinion groups due to the spatial distribution of these groups in the Borough. However, given the geographical spread of settlements across the Borough and opportunities for growth, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on these Section 75 grounds and it is considered that there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular religious/political groups.</p> <p>Overall the Strategic Policy approach to sustainable development is a positive policy that is likely to benefit all Section 75 groups and provides a range of sustainable growth opportunities across the Borough. The growth strategy focuses core growth to our largest settlements of Newtownabbey and Antrim. Growth is</p>	<p>2A yes 2B It will impact positively on people in rural areas by ensuring the principle of sustainable development is taken forward in the planning process thereby contributing to the social and economic needs of all residents as well as improving the environment where our residents live. It will seek to allocate growth for homes and employment across the Borough focusing core growth on our larger settlements taking account of the Regional Development Strategy 2035, and providing sustainable growth to sustain our rural communities including villages, hamlets and the countryside, again in line with the RDS 2035. 2C The policy provides sustainable growth across the Borough taking account of the RDS 2035 and as such, it seeks to accommodate the social and economic needs of both urban and rural dwellers. As such there is no strategic differential impact between urban and rural dwellers.</p>

			<p>also consolidated and maintained in our towns, and our rural communities are sustained with appropriate growth in our villages, hamlets and countryside.</p> <p>This strategy should encourage more sustainable transport modes and access to health, education, employment, and housing and other services and facilities, which in particular will benefit those falling into the disability, dependants and, age categories and all those who may currently be marginalised including minority ethnic communities.</p>	
<p>Strategic Policy 2: Employment</p>	<p>Detailed Management Policies</p> <p>DM1 Economic Development – Zoned Sites and Settlements DM2 Economic Development - Countryside DM3 Economic Development – Incompatible Uses DM4 Agricultural Development DM5 Farm Diversification DM6 Development within Centres DM7 Development outside Centres DM8 Development at The Junction, Antrim DM9 Tourism Development</p>	<p>These policies seek to promote sustainable employment opportunities across the Borough and ensure that there is sufficient land available over the plan period to support the growth of industry and business. The policies also seek to promote sustainable tourism opportunities across the Borough and to protect important tourism assets which contribute to the quality of where we live as well as to our tourism economy. They seek to promote our centres as the locations for retailing and other "town" centre uses so as to</p>	<p>These policies seek to encourage the growth of employment opportunities in our Borough for the benefit of all our residents and employers. They will also seek to protect our employment lands for future employment use and a presumption to support employment proposals is in place if they accord with the LDP. It is considered that this policy will have a positive impact generally on all Section 75 groups but in particular upon religious belief, political opinion, age, race, disability and dependants.</p> <p>In relation to tourism, these policies seek to allow sustainable tourism opportunities throughout the Borough and as such it is considered that this policy will have a positive impact generally on all Section 75 groups but in particular age, race, disability and dependants.</p> <p>In relation to retail, these policies seek to protect our centres which offer a choice for shopping, social activity</p>	<p>2A yes 2B The policies will contribute to the overall employment opportunities for everyone in the Borough, including people in rural areas. It will also ensure that there are sustainable tourism opportunities and that important tourism assets are protected for everyone to enjoy, to improve the quality of where we live and to contribute to the tourism economy. 2C These policies support sustainable tourism and employment opportunities for everyone. Geographically there will be a range of opportunities across the Borough. Whilst the strategy sets out particular policies in relation to the countryside area, the overall aim of the policy is the same for everyone and therefore the policy does not differentiate at the strategic level between those living in urban and rural areas. In addition, these policies seek to sustain and maintain our centres as places for retail and other "town" centre uses. This applies across the Borough and benefits both urban and rural dwellers. In general, these policies do not differentiate between those living in urban and rural areas.</p>

		<p>protect their viability and vitality.</p>	<p>and recreation and as such are important safe and shared spaces in our Borough for everyone. They will also contribute to enhanced opportunities for all Section 75 groups but in particular on grounds of religious belief, political opinion, age, race, disability and dependants. It is also likely to promote good relations within the Borough generally by providing opportunities for social interaction.</p> <p>The geographical location of Strategic Employment Locations (SELs) may have the potential to impact on religious belief and political opinion due to the spatial distribution of these groups in the Borough. However, given the geographical spread of SELs across the Borough and opportunities for employment through planning policy, it is anticipated that there will be no negative impacts on these Section 75 groups and it is considered that there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particularly religious belief/political opinion groups.</p> <p>In conclusion, therefore, the Council is of the opinion at this stage of the plan-making process that collectively these policies will not have any negative adverse impacts in terms of equality of opportunity, and indeed may serve to better promote good relations through the provision of sustainable economic development opportunities across the Borough and safe and shared gathering places for all to enjoy.</p> <p>Overall these policies will help contribute to equality of access to employment opportunities for all</p>	
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			sections of the community across the Borough.	
Strategic Policy 3: Transportation & Infrastructure	Detailed Management Policies DM10 Access and Parking DM11 Access to Protected Routes DM12 Active Travel (Walking and Cycling) DM13 Belfast International Airport - Operations DM14 Public Utilities & Infrastructure DM15 Development relying on Non-Mains Sewerage DM16 Telecommunication Facilities and Digital Services	The aim of these policies is to ensure that transport (car, public transport – including the operational requirements of Belfast International Airport, walking and cycling), public utilities and digital infrastructure are sustainably accommodated and sustainable choices are promoted.	These policies aim to benefit all Section 75 groups and in particular, marginalised communities, by seeking to promote opportunities for sustainable transport and digital infrastructure. This will contribute to better connectivity across the Borough as well as improving the physical and digital environment, promoting safety and improve the health and well-being of our population. No adverse Section 75 impact is anticipated at this stage. The policy is expected to positively contribute to various groups including religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, disability and dependency. It is also likely to promote good relations within the Borough generally. Overall these policies will help support equality of opportunity for all sections of the community through the provision of improved accessibility across the Borough.	2A yes. 2B This will impact positively on people in rural areas by promoting opportunities for better connectivity, both physical and digital. 2C The policies seek to promote connectivity across the Borough. As such, there is no differential impact between urban and rural dwellers.
Strategic Policy 4: Homes	Detailed Management Policies DM17 Homes in Settlements DM18 Homes in the Countryside DM19 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes DM20 Traveller Accommodation	The aim of these policies is to ensure that housing is sustainably allocated and managed in our Borough to meet the evolving needs of our residents. This will strengthen the role of our larger settlements, consolidate the role of our towns and sustain our rural communities.	These policies seek to ensure that there is an adequate supply of appropriate housing choices across the Borough, taking into account the RDS 2035, the SPPS and demographic changes over time (e.g. an ageing population). This includes the provision of social and affordable housing including for specific minority ethnic groups such as the travelling community. It also includes the provision of housing for older people and in the countryside for rural dwellers.	2A yes 2B The policy sets out the allocation of housing growth to villages, hamlets and the countryside. It also contains planning policy in relation to residential development in settlements, the countryside and for specific users such as those on the social housing list and the travelling community. 2C The overall purpose is to provide sustainable housing growth across the Borough in line with regional guidance. At the strategic level, this policy seeks to accommodate housing for both urban and rural dwellers in a sustainable way and therefore the policy aim of providing sustainable

	<p>DM21 Specialist Residential Accommodation DM22 Residential Extensions and Alterations</p>		<p>This may have the potential to impact differentially on grounds of religious belief and political opinion due to the spatial distribution of communities across the Borough. However, given the geographical spread of settlements across the Borough and taking into account the need to deliver sustainable development as set out in the RDS 2035 and SPPS, the quantum of housing land and opportunities will cater adequately for all Section 75 groups and it is considered that there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular religious beliefs/political opinion groups.</p> <p>At this time it is not anticipated that there will be an adverse impact on any Section 75 group. Instead, it is anticipated that the policy has the potential to contribute positively on grounds of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, disability and dependency. It is also likely to promote good relations within the Borough generally.</p> <p>Overall these policies will help contribute to equality of access for all sections of the community to safe and affordable housing opportunities.</p>	<p>housing does not differentiate between urban and rural dwellers.</p>
<p>Strategic Policy 5: Community Infrastructure</p>	<p>Detailed Management Policies DM23 Protection of Open Space</p>	<p>The aim of these policies is to support the planned provision of accessible community facilities including educational, health and recreational facilities,</p>	<p>These policies aim to support the provision of necessary community facilities in the Borough and to ensure that existing facilities are protected from redevelopment where feasible. In addition, the policy seeks to protect open spaces for the benefit of all our communities.</p>	<p>2A Yes 2B The policies will impact positively on people in rural areas by ensuring that community facilities can be accommodated in the planning process and existing facilities can be protected from alternative development. It will also ensure that open spaces will be protected for the benefit of all.</p>

	DM24 Community Facilities	parks and open spaces, and ensure that all communities in our Borough have access to a range of facilities that meet the needs of the communities they serve, and thus to help the Borough become healthier and assist residents to achieve their full potential.	<p>The provision of good quality community infrastructure is an important part of fostering sustainable communities and delivering successful places, and this policy will promote access to education and health services. It will also promote access to open space which will contribute to health and well-being.</p> <p>At this time there is no evidence that the policy is likely to have an adverse impact on any Section 75 group and instead, the policy is likely to have a positive impact on grounds of religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, gender, disability and dependency. It is also likely to promote good relations within the Borough generally.</p>	2C The policies overall seek to promote community infrastructure and the protection of open spaces for the benefit of everyone and therefore there is no differential impact for urban and rural dwellers.
Strategic Policy 6: Placemaking and Good Design	<p>Detailed Management Policies</p> <p>DM25 Urban Design DM26 Shopfront Design DM27 Rural Design and Character DM28 Amenity Impact DM29 Advertisements</p>	These policies aim to encourage good design and better places for our population to live and work in. They also seek to ensure that the amenity impact of development on our communities is fully considered.	<p>These policies are likely to benefit all Section 75 groups as they seek to improve the quality of the physical environment in which our residents live and also to ensure the impact of a development is fully considered in terms of amenity.</p> <p>At this stage, no adverse impact has been identified on Section 75 groups.</p>	<p>2A yes</p> <p>2B these policies seek to ensure design is a key consideration in new developments and to improve our environment.</p> <p>2C the policies will apply the principles of good design in both urban and rural areas so there is no differential impact.</p>
Strategic Policy 7: The Historic Environment	<p>Detailed Management Policies</p> <p>DM30 Archaeology DM31 Historic Parks, Gardens & Demesnes DM32 Listed Buildings DM33 Conservation Areas DM34 Areas of Townscape Character</p>	These policies are aimed at protecting and enhancing our historic environment, and contributing to the quality of the environment of the Borough.	<p>These policies may have a differential impact on grounds of religious belief and political opinion because of the physical location of some of the designations and the make-up of the communities in the immediate area.</p> <p>However, given the geographical spread of designations across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on these</p>	<p>2A Yes</p> <p>2B The policies will impact positively on people in rural areas by ensuring that the historic environment of the Borough is protected, thereby contributing to the quality of where we live and protecting our important assets.</p> <p>2C The policies overall seek to ensure that the historic environment throughout the Borough is protected and therefore will not impact on people in rural areas differently from people in</p>

	<p>DM35 Enabling Development DM36 Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings</p>		<p>Section 75 grounds and it is considered that there will be a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular religious belief/political opinion groups.</p> <p>Overall through the successful implementation of the policies, it is hoped that all Section 75 categories will benefit from a historical environment across the Borough that is respectful of all traditions and identities.</p>	<p>urban areas.</p>
<p>Strategic Policy 8: Natural Heritage</p>	<p>Detailed Management Policies DM37 Designated Sites of Nature Conservation DM38 Protected Species DM39 Habitats, Species and Features of Natural Heritage Importance DM40 Landscape Protection DM41 Coastal Protection DM42 Trees and Development</p>	<p>The aim of these policies is to conserve, enhance and restore our natural heritage.</p>	<p>These policies may have a differential impact on grounds of religious belief and political opinion because of the physical location of some of the designations.</p> <p>However, given the geographical spread of designations across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on these Section 75 grounds and it is considered that there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular religious/political groups.</p> <p>In addition, the policies seek to benefit all Section 75 groups as they seek to protect our natural heritage for everyone to enjoy, contribute to a better environment and improve health and wellbeing opportunities and promote biodiversity opportunities.</p> <p>Overall, this policy will benefit all Section 75 groups as it seeks to support the well-being and safety of people and improve our environment</p>	<p>2A yes 2B This will impact on people in rural areas due to the physical location of sites and designations in the Borough. 2C The policies apply across the Borough and therefore there is no differential impact on those living in urban or rural areas.</p>

<p>Strategic Policy 9: Natural Resources</p>	<p>Detailed Management Policies</p> <p>DM43 Minerals Development DM44 Mineral Reserve Policy Areas DM45 Renewable Energy Development</p>	<p>The aim of these policies is to ensure the sustainable development of minerals and renewables whilst balancing the impact on the environment, as well as promoting health and safety.</p>	<p>The plan policies will identify those areas of where there will be a presumption against mineral development, such as our special landscapes. It will also identify areas of reserve which will be protected for future use. This includes the lignite reserve at Crumlin which cannot be extracted until such times as the full environmental impact is known.</p> <p>There could be differential indirect impacts on grounds of religious belief/political opinion due to the spatial location of these areas. However, on balance, the areas that are restricted are proportionate and limited in terms of land mass and distribution and the policies that apply are only apportioned to these limited areas, as will be identified in the Plan. In addition, the restrictive policy could provide positive benefits for those residing in these areas, in respect of both environmental and amenity impacts.</p>	<p>2A yes 2B This will impact on people in rural areas due to the physical location of mineral resources predominantly in the rural area as well as opportunities for larger scale renewable development which is likely to involve a countryside location. 2C The Council has identified the strategic reserve of lignite at Crumlin at this stage so it may be perceived that this policy impacts on people in rural areas differently due to the geographical location and make-up of the immediate population, however, this is not a matter which the Council can control. The same safeguarding policy would apply regardless of whether the reserve was in a settlement or countryside.</p>
<p>Strategic Policy 10: Environmental Resilience and Protection</p>	<p>Detailed Management Policies</p> <p>DM46 The Control of Development in Flood Plains</p>	<p>These policies aim to minimise flood risk to people, property and the environment and ensure that our environment is protected regarding waste proposals.</p>	<p>The policy may have a differential impact on grounds of religious belief and political opinion because of the spatial distribution of rivers, and areas of flood risk and the make-up of the communities in the immediate area.</p>	<p>2A yes 2B This will impact on people in rural areas due to the physical location of areas of flooding in the Borough. Waste facilities are likely to be located in larger settlements. 2C Areas of flooding are also located across the Borough, including in larger settlement so the policy does not differentiate between those living</p>

	<p>DM47 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems DM48 Reservoir Flood Risk DM49 Artificial Modification of Watercourses DM50 Pollution DM51 Major Hazards DM52 Contaminated Land DM53 Waste Management and Disposal Facilities DM54 Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities</p>		<p>However, given the geographical spread of flooding areas across the Borough, it is not anticipated that there will be any negative impacts on Section 75 grounds and it is considered that there is a significant and justifiable balance in terms of any perceived impact upon particular religious belief/political opinion groups.</p> <p>In terms of waste, the policy applies across the Borough and no sites are identified at this time. Therefore there is no perceived Section 75 impact.</p> <p>Overall, this policy will benefit all Section 75 groups as it seeks to support the well-being and safety of people and to improve our environment.</p> <p>Therefore at this stage of the plan, it is not anticipated that there will be any adverse impact on Section 75 groups.</p>	<p>in urban and rural areas. The waste policy applies across the Borough.</p>
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