

# Local Development Plan 2030

## PLAN STRATEGY

Sustainability Appraisal Post  
Adoption Statement: July 2025



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### List of Abbreviations

DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DPPN	Development Plan Practice Note
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
KSI	Key Sustainability Issue
LDP	Local Development Plan
NI	Northern Ireland
POP	Preferred Options Paper
SA	Sustainable Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy was formally adopted following resolution by the full Council. This forms the culmination of the first stage of the two-stage Local Development Plan (LDP) process for the Borough.
- 1.2 Section 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires that all Northern Ireland Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Section 5 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. In addition, Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the Planning Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for both the Plan Strategy (PS) and Local Policies Plan (LPP).
- 1.3 At various points during the preparation of the Plan Strategy (PS), the Council was required by legislation to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan as it developed from the Preferred Options Paper (POP) to the adopted PS. Both the SA and SEA requirements were included within a single integrated process, the SA requirements were carried out during each stage of the process by the Forward Planning Team, assisted by Shared Environmental Service and documented through a series of SA reports prepared by Shared Environmental Service.
- 1.4 The DPS was published in June 2019 for a period of public consultation, alongside a range of assessments, including the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) Report June 2019 (SA Report 2019). Approximately 120 representations were submitted to the Council during this period on a range of issues, as well as 26 representations made during the 'counter representation' period.
- 1.5 In March 2021 the DPS, its supporting assessments and evidence papers were submitted to Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to cause an Independent Examination (IE) to be carried out. In September 2021 DfI appointed the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) to conduct an IE into the DPS, which was held over two sessions, between May and June 2022. Following the IE, the PAC Report concluded, subject to recommended amendments and modifications, that the DPS met the tests of soundness as required. The PAC Report was then forwarded to DfI in October 2023 and following consideration of the findings, DfI issued a binding Departmental Direction to the Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, which directed the Council to undertake a number of modifications required to make the DPS 'sound'.
- 1.6 Ahead of the formal adoption of the PS, the Council carried out a further SA in light of those directed modifications required to make the PS sound and

subsequently published an 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report' April 2025 from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025 for a two-week period of public comment. The conclusions of this Addendum were that the majority of the required modifications would not "materially" change what the SA initially assessed, or what it assumed about how the LDP would be implemented. All the modifications can be made without impacting or changing how the plan as a whole would perform against the Sustainability Objectives. Consequently, the assessment and conclusions of the original SA Report 2019 remain unchanged.

1.7 As outlined above the evolution of the SA for the PS has been documented in a number of outputs, which are available on the Council website and are as follows:

- January 2017 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment for Preferred Options Paper (POP 008);
- January 2017 Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for Preferred Options Paper (POP 009);
- June 2019 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Report (DPS-002);
- June 2019 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Non-Technical Summary (DPS-003);
- June 2019 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Scoping Report (DPS-004); and
- April 2025 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report'.

1.8 Development Plan Practice Note 04 (DPPN 4) published by DfI provides councils with guidance on the SA process, and the preparation and production of SA reports. Table 1 provides a summary of the specific SA procedural steps as set out in DPPN 4 and demonstrates where these are located within the various SA outputs published for the plan to date.

**Table 1: Sustainability Appraisal Stages and Location of Outputs**

Stage	Description	Location
<b>Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report</b>	1. Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives	January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP 008), see Chapter 5 and Appendix 4.  Updated via June 2019 SA Scoping Report (DPS 004), see Chapter 4 and Appendix 4.
	2. Collect baseline information	January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP 008), see Chapter 6.

		Updated via June 2019 SA Scoping Report (DPS 004), see Chapter 4 and 5.
	3. Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Prior to POP consulted DAERA 03/10/2016, response received 14/11/2016. For draft Plan Strategy update consulted NIEA 21/09/18, response received 12/10/18.
	4. Identify environmental issues and challenges	January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP 008), see Chapter 6. Updated via June 2019 SA Scoping Report (DPS 004), see Chapter 5.
	5. Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP 008), see Chapter 7. Updated via June 2019 SA Scoping Report (DPS 004), see Chapter 6.
	6. Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP 008) published for consultation with the public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders for a period of 12 weeks ending 12 April 2017.  All comments on the SA Scoping Report received during this consultation period were considered when appraising the draft Plan Strategy and, where applicable, incorporated into the June 2019 SA Scoping Report (DPS 004).
<b>Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report</b>	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper (POP).	January 2017 Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for Preferred Options Paper (POP 009), published for consultation with public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders for a period of 12 weeks ending 12 April 2017.
<b>Stage B</b>	Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal Framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	Carried out throughout the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy, building upon the Interim Appraisal (Stage A(2)) and taking account of comments received from the consultation process.
<b>Stage C</b>	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	June 2019 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Report (DPS-002).  April 2025 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report'

<b>Stage D</b>	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal report and draft plan.	<p>June 2019 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Report (DPS-002) published alongside Draft Plan Strategy for consultation with public, statutory authorities and other stakeholders for a period of 12 weeks ending 20 September 2019.</p> <p>April 2025 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report' referred to Consultation Body in April 2025 under EAPP (NI) Regulations 9(2)-9(5) and made available to the public on the Council's Local Development Plan 2030 website on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025.</p>
<b>Stage E</b>	Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/ consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.	This SA Adoption Statement Report (Sections 2-6 and Appendix A).
<b>Stage F</b>	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	<p>June 2019 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Report (DPS-002), Chapter 5.</p> <p>The SA Monitoring Framework is included in Appendix A of this report.</p>

### Requirement for the Adoption Statement

- 1.9 This 'SA Post Adoption Statement' is the final output of the SA process for the PS stage of the LDP process. Regulations dictate that as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the plan for which the SA/SEA has been carried out, the Council must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SA Statement'. The Council must also inform the public and consultation bodies about the availability of these documents.
- 1.10 This SA Post Adoption Statement meets the requirements for the adoption of plans and programmes within The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 ('the EAPP (NI) Regulations'). The statement describes the way in which the Council has taken environmental and sustainability considerations and any views of consultees into account in the adopted PS and in accordance with Regulation 15, this statement sets out the following:
- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
  - b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;



- c) how the opinions expressed in response to the invitations mentioned in Regulation 12 have been taken into account;
- d) how the results of any consultations entered into under Regulation 13(4) have been taken into account;
- e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

1.11 The following sections 2 to 6 of this Report demonstrate how each of these requirements has been met.

## 2 How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan Strategy

- 2.1 Environmental considerations have been integrated into the PS from the very outset of the LDP process. The SA process (incorporating SEA) began when the Council published the Statement of Community Involvement and LDP timetable in January 2016.
- 2.2 In compliance with the EAPP (NI) Regulations and to provide the context for the SA, a review of other relevant plans and programmes was carried out during the preparatory phase and an outline SA Framework was developed to enable the assessment of the developing policies. This process ran concurrently with the preparation of the LDP evidence papers, which were also informed by initial consultation with relevant statutory consultees.
- 2.3 In October 2016, the Council consulted Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) as the lead Consultation Body under Regulation 11 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations, to agree the scope and level of detail required for the information that must be included in the SA. NIEA comments were incorporated into the SA scoping and subsequently 14 Sustainability Objectives were developed and agreed. These objectives then formed the Sustainability Framework for the LDP. The 14 Sustainability Objectives and their relationship with the Issues listed in the EAPP (NI) Regulations are set out in Table 2.

**Table 2: The Sustainability Objectives and their Relationship with the Issues listed in Schedule 2 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations.**

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	Corresponding Issue in EAPP (NI) Schedule 2 (6)
1... improve health and well-being.	(ii) Population. (iii) Human Health.
2... strengthen society.	(xi) Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage. (ii) Population.
3. to provide good quality, sustainable housing.	(ii) Population.

	(iii) Human Health.
4. to enable access to high quality education.	(ii) Population.
5. to enable sustainable economic growth.	(ii) Population.
6. to manage material assets sustainably.	x) Material Assets
7. to protect physical resources and use sustainably.	(x) Material Assets (vi) Soil
8. to encourage active and sustainable travel.	(iii) Human Health (ii) Population (ix) Climatic Factors
9. to improve air quality	(viii) Air
10. to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	(ix) Climatic Factors
11. to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	(vii) Water
12. to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	(i) Biodiversity (v) Flora (iv) Fauna
13. to maintain and enhance landscape character.	(xii) Landscape
14. to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	(xi) Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

- 2.4 Baseline evidence was collected and arranged under the theme of each Sustainability Objective and the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its likely evolution without the LDP were described. These elements informed the identification of Key Sustainability Issues (KSIs) that are relevant to the Council area and to each of the Sustainability Objectives. Appraisal prompts were also developed to assist in identifying and evaluating the potential effects of Options and Alternatives on the achievement of each Sustainability Objective in a consistent way. This initial scoping exercise was set out in the 'SA Scoping Report' published in January 2017 alongside the Preferred Options Paper (POP).
- 2.5 The SA process was also used by the Council to determine the preferred options presented as part of the POP. SA allowed the appraisal of options and alternatives for the 14 identified planning issues, against the sustainability framework and enabled measures to avoid or minimise negative effects or to enhance potential positive effects, to be identified at an early stage. This output was presented as the 'Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for Preferred Options Paper' published in January 2017 alongside the POP.
- 2.6 Along with evidence and representations collected following consultation on the POP, these options were considered when developing and drafting the emerging policies of the DPS. Shared Environmental Service worked closely with the LDP officers and early draft sections of the DPS, including draft policies, were appraised collaboratively. The involvement of officers with a broad range of environmental as well as planning experience in the sustainability appraisal has helped to ensure that potential effects of the LDP were identified and



appraised from various perspectives, and relationships with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies were given due consideration.

- 2.7 This output was presented as the 'Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – SA Report' published alongside DPS for consultation in June 2019. At the same time the Council also took the opportunity to publish an updated 'SA Scoping Report'.
- 2.8 Furthermore prior to adoption of the PS, the Council in taking account of the DfI Departmental Direction, appraised those further modifications to the DPS required to make the PS 'sound'. This output was published for comment on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025 in the 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report'.

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

- 2.9 The PS was also required to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under Regulation 43 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The purpose of the HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European designated site for nature conservation and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.
- 2.10 A draft HRA was first undertaken in 2019 in support of the DPS and NIEA, as the 'Statutory Nature Conservation Body', was invited to comment on the draft HRA during the DPS consultation period, and again following the issue of the Departmental Direction, on an updated HRA ahead of PS adoption.
- 2.11 In the final HRA, a long list of 29 international sites that had the potential to be connected to the plan area were identified. On review of these 29 international sites, it was found that significant effects could not be entirely ruled out for 24 of the sites. These 24 sites were then subject to appropriate assessments, which concluded, subject to mitigation and recommendations, that the implementation of the PS would not likely adversely affect the integrity of the identified sites.

## **3 How the SA Report Has Been Taken into Account by the Council**

- 3.1 The SA process is an iterative one and as emerging policy options were developed, the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of each were considered and used to shape each of the policy outcomes. Each of these stages have been documented as the PS has progressed to adoption.
- 3.2 The POP was published in January 2017 and the Sustainability Framework was used to appraise the most sustainable option for the 14 key planning issues affecting the Council area.
- 3.3 This interim appraisal also identified potential measures to reduce negative effects or promote positive effects for consideration in subsequent phases of

the emerging LDP. There was not a legal requirement to implement these measures, however they were recorded so that, where appropriate, they could be incorporated to further the overall sustainability of the LDP.

- 3.4 The interim appraisal is documented in the January 2017 'Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment for Preferred Options Paper' (POP 009) and the Sustainability Framework and baseline considerations documented in the 'SA Scoping Report' (POP 008).
- 3.5 The Council identified reasonable alternatives to help identify the realistic options available for delivering the objectives of LDP. These options were consistent with other aspects of the LDP, as well as higher level plans and policies. Accordingly, the Strategic and Detailed Management Policy objectives of the DPS were screened in the context of the SA, and consideration was given to whether any reasonable alternatives were available to deliver the policy objective. Upon consideration it was determined that a limited number of 'reasonable' alternative options for delivering the policy aims/objectives were identified for any of the policies brought forward in the DPS. The reasons for this are explained in paragraph 2.4.4 of the SA Report (DPS-002).
- 3.6 A summary of the factors influencing the evolution of plan making and policy formation from POP stage to the DPS is included in Chapter 3.6 of the SA Report (DPS-002).
- 3.7 The SA of the DPS focused on the likely changes to the baseline conditions as a result of the LDP's implementation. These effects were described (where possible) in terms of their extent, the timescale over which they could occur, whether the effects would be positive or negative, short, medium and/or long-term. Identifying the effects of each option in the context of the sustainability objectives helped to ensure that each policy would successfully deliver its intended purpose in a sustainable way and would accord with (or not conflict with) the delivery of other relevant plans, programmes and strategies. In total, 45 appraisals were carried out to assess the DPS and these are presented in full in Appendix 4 of the SA Report 2019 (DPS-002).

## **4 How Opinions Expressed During Consultation Have Been Considered**

### **Preferred Options Paper: Consultation on the Interim SA and SA Scoping Report**

- 4.1 The POP was published in January 2017 for a 12-week public consultation period, ending on 12 April 2017, along with a number of supporting assessments including the January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP-008) and the January 2017 SA Interim Report (POP-009). This included consultation with the Consultation Body, which responded on 22/05/2017.

- 4.2 Comments received regarding the January 2017 SA Scoping Report (POP-008) and the January 2017 SA Interim Report (POP-009) were reviewed and considered ahead of commencing SA of the DPS. A summary of the representations received is provided in paragraph 4.47 of the POP Interim Consultation Report, August 2017.
- 4.3 The SA Scoping Report was updated to reflect relevant representations, including those from the Consultation Body. Appendix 6 of the June 2019 updated SA Scoping Report (DPS 004) illustrates how the responses were taken into account. Baseline evidence, the Key Sustainability Issues and the Plans, Programmes, Policies and Strategies were also reviewed to ensure they were up to date. The updated Sustainability Framework and Appraisal Guide were referred to throughout the appraisal of Options and Alternatives for the DPS. Representations concerning potential effects and scores identified in the Interim SA were also taken into consideration in appraising the DPS. The updated SA Scoping Report (DPS 004) was published alongside the DPS in June 2019.

#### **Draft Plan Strategy: Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal**

- 4.4 The June 2019 SA Report (DPS-002) and SA Scoping Report (DPS-003) were published for consultation alongside the DPS for a period of 8 weeks, ending on 20 September 2019. This included consultation with the Consultation Body, which responded on 20 September 2019.
- 4.5 A summary of the main issues raised in the representations received on the SA and how these were considered by the Council is provided in Chapter 3 of the Draft Plan Strategy Public Consultation Report March 2021 (DPS-S-001). The Council's response to each individual issue raised is also set out in the 'Representations by Issue Report' (DPS-S-002).
- 4.6 These are summarised as follows:
- Enhancement of text to including the consideration of the marine area and marine legislation/policy and SA Glossary.
  - Support for scoring of certain policies.
  - Suggestions and clarification on certain policies such as scoring and explanation for policies in the DPS including housing and WWTW capacity.
  - Housing - Reasonable alternatives should be reconsidered; sites have not been assessed; clarification needed as to why housing reduced in settlements.
  - Comments on policies in the DPS.
- 4.7 It was concluded that none of the representations on scoring or option selection had grounds to necessitate a change to the published 2019 SA Report (DPS-002). A small number of actions were noted to correct minor errors

or to make factual updates to the baseline evidence section of the SA Scoping Report before commencing the next stage of the LDP.

### **Consultation on the draft Plan Strategy**

- 4.8 Chapter 2 of the Draft Plan Strategy Public Consultation Report March 2021 (DPS-S-001) which was prepared in accordance with Regulation 20(2)(g) of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, provides a high-level summary of the main issues raised in the representations received during the DPS consultation stage.
- 4.9 After consideration of the representations received and to assist in the Independent Examination process, the Council recommended a number of suggested minor changes to the published DPS for the purposes of clarification, should the PAC Independent Examiner deem them beneficial. The suggested changes were set out in Chapter 7 of the Draft Plan Strategy Public Consultation Report March 2021 (DPS-S-001). Given the minor nature of the suggested changes the Council was content that the suggested changes, both individually and cumulatively, did not have any impact on the soundness of the DPS, nor any of the accompanying assessments, including the Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment.

### **Independent Examination and Recommendations**

- 4.10 In June 2021, DfI appointed the PAC to cause an Independent Examination of the DPS to be carried out, with the public hearing sessions taking place between May and June 2022.
- 4.11 Following consideration by the examiner, the PAC Report was forwarded to DfI on 4 October 2023 and concluded, subject to recommended amendments and modifications, that the DPS met the tests of soundness as required in legislation. The PAC Report confirmed that, in respect of SA, the requirements of Section 8 (6) of the Planning Act and Article 15 (a) (ii) of the Regulations have been satisfied. It also confirmed that, as the Council undertook a SA and prepared a report on its findings, the requirements of Regulation 6 Department for Infrastructure (December 2019) Development Plan Practice Note, Practice Note 10 'Submitting Development Plan' has been met.
- 4.12 On the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, DfI issued a direction to the Council to adopt the PS with modifications. The Departmental Direction included one Schedule, recommending 93 modifications that are required to make the plan sound:
- Amended proposed minor changes (taken from the DPS Public Consultation Report – Chapter 7 Schedule of suggested Minor Changes (March 2021)),
  - Schedule of Suggested Minor Changes of the DPS (updated as part of the IE (June 2022)),
  - New changes recommended following the conclusion of the IE process; and

- New modifications directed by the Department following consideration of the IE Report.
- 4.13 The Council then published and consulted upon an 'Addendum to Sustainability Appraisal Report April 2025' to document the assessment of whether any likely significant effects will arise from implementing the modifications in Schedule 1 and to identify if any amendments to the SA are required.
- 4.14 The Addendum concluded that all potential significant effects arising from the implementation of the modifications were already accounted for in the SA and would not change. There will be no 'likely significant effects' arising from their inclusion in the Plan Strategy. The Addendum was referred to the Consultation Body for consideration in April 2025, under Regulation 9 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations 2004.
- 4.15 DAERA responded on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2025, confirming it was broadly content with the SEA assessment and agreed with its conclusions. DAERA also confirmed it was broadly content with the draft HRA. One other comment was received in relation to modification 47 involving DM 18 Replacement Dwellings, however the Council is content that the modification is not sufficient to alter the original June 2019 SA scoring.

## **5 The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted**

- 5.1 Regulation 11 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations requires an environmental report to be prepared which "shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of (a) implementing the plan or programme; and (b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme."
- 5.2 The information to be provided includes "An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information".
- 5.3 UK Government guidance on SA and SEA identifies reasonable alternatives as "the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in the plan. They need to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made."
- 5.4 Part of the reason for studying options and alternatives is to identify ways of reducing or avoiding the significant adverse effects of a proposed plan or programme. The POP (POP-001) was the first stage of the LDP process, setting out the Plan's vision, its strategic objectives, and identified key planning issues with possible options arising within the plan area. The findings of the appraisal of the Preferred Options and reasonable alternatives were reported in the

January 2017 SA Interim Report (POP 009). Section 2 of the Interim SA Report includes a description of the limitations in undertaking the appraisal and any assumptions made. It acknowledged that further SA would be required at the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan stages of Plan development, with additional and updated information available at that time.

- 5.5 Sections 2.4.4 – 2.4.8 of the SA Report (DPS 002) set out the process of identifying and evaluating the reasonable alternatives for the DPS and the assumptions and limitations of the appraisal process. The options and alternatives that have led to the adopted PS have been described in Chapter 3 of the June 2017 SA Interim Report (POP 009) and in Chapter 3 and Appendix 4 of the SA Report (DPS 002). Chapter 4.1 of the SA Report (DPS 002) describes the 'total effects' of the DPS, while the cumulative effects (including secondary and synergistic effects) are described in Chapter 4.2.
- 5.6 Overall, the adopted PS reflects the preferred options selected following the consideration of reasonable alternatives during each stage of its preparation, taking into account the evidence base, engagement and assessment, including SA. The adopted PS also reflects the modifications recommended in the Departmental Direction which DfI directed as being necessary for the adoption of the PS. The modifications primarily comprise minor beneficial changes to policy wording and supporting text for the purposes of clarity, coherence and consistency. These are deemed to be necessary to ensure that the PS provides a sound and legally compliant plan for the Council area but as concluded in the Addendum Report to the SA, these modifications will not give rise to any likely significant effects not already identified in the 2019 SA.
- 5.7 The final HRA of the adopted Plan Strategy has also concluded that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any international sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

## **6 The measures taken to monitor the significant environmental effects**

- 6.1 Regulation 16 of the EAPP (NI) Regulations sets out the requirements for monitoring the implementation of the plan. DPPN 04 advises that "monitoring should help a council to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and implement the necessary remedial action. Monitoring should focus upon the likely significant effect identified by the SA and the mitigation measures proposed to offset or reduce significant adverse effects".
- 6.2 A preliminary framework for monitoring was developed from the Key Sustainability Issues and significant effects identified through the SA. This framework was published in Chapter 5 of the SA Report [DPS-106]. Council has considered the representations made on the SA Report and the recommended modifications brought forward through the IE and has reviewed

and updated the preliminary SA monitoring framework. A final monitoring framework is attached at Appendix A of this report.

- 6.3 Regulation 16 does not specify an interval for monitoring; however it states, "the responsible authority's monitoring arrangements may comprise or include arrangements established otherwise than for the express purpose of complying with paragraph (1)." Regulation 25 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 requires the Council to produce an annual monitoring report. Therefore, where annually published statistics and data are available for SA monitoring indicators, these will be collated as part of the annual LDP monitoring. Where data is not available on an annual basis, the most recent data will be collated and incorporated in Plan monitoring at each five-year Plan review period.
- 6.4 It should be noted that monitoring of some of the indicators may rely on adoption of the Local Policies Plan. The SA monitoring framework will be reviewed as the SA continues to the second stage of the LDP, where it may be subject to further development and refinement.
- 6.5 It is also recognised that the LDP alone may not enable the delivery of all the outcomes identified in the 'target' column of the monitoring framework. However, certain targets have been included as the LDP may influence their achievement through cumulative and synergistic effects in combination with other Plans and Programmes. These effects have been identified in Chapter 5 of the SA Report [DPS-106]. Delivery will also rest with the actions of other statutory bodies and service providers.



## Appendix A: SA Monitoring Framework

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Improve health and well-being</b>		
<b>1. The level of usage of the Borough's recreational facilities</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain/Increase in participation in physical activity
<b>2. Proportion of people who rank themselves as having high levels of wellbeing</b>	NISRA / ONS	Maintain/Increase in %
<b>3. % Persons meeting recommended physical activity levels of at least 150 minutes per week</b>	NISRA / Health Survey NI	Maintain/Increase in persons meeting recommended physical activity levels
<b>4. % persons spending leisure time outdoors once a week or more</b>	NISRA / The Continuous Household Survey	Maintain/Increase in % persons spending leisure time outdoors
<b>5. Number/area of Council areas of open space, sport and recreation</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain/Increase areas of open space and natural greenspace

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Strengthen society</b>		
<b>1. The number of planning applications permitted for the development of new community facilities.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain/Increase in number and usage of Council-run community facilities

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Provide good quality sustainable housing</b>		
<b>1. The number of new homes completed in the Borough by settlement and in the countryside.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain 5 year land supply based on projected housing growth and distribution
<b>2. The number of new homes completed in the Borough by tenure.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council NIHE and Housing Associations	Increase in affordable housing provision and assist in meeting identified needs
<b>3. The number of planning applications for 20 dwellings or more that include a proportion of the dwellings designed to 'Lifetime Homes' standard.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase overall % of homes built to lifetime home standard in Borough

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Enable access to high quality education</b>		
<b>1. % of working age population with no qualifications</b>	NISRA Labour Force Survey	Decrease in working age population with no qualifications
<b>2. Number of planning applications permitted for the development of new education facilities (including shared facilities).</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Meet identified needs for new education facilities

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Enable sustainable economic growth</b>		
<b>1. Economic Health Check considering a range of existing economic indicators for the Borough, including employment figures.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, NISRA	Increase numbers in employment / economic activity rate
<b>2. Town Centre Health Checks considering a range of indicators, such as vacancy rates and level of pedestrian footfall.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Decrease town centre vacancy rate Increase town centre footfall
<b>3. Tourism Health Check considering a range of existing tourism indicators, such as overall visitor numbers and overnight stays in the Borough.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase in average UK/ROI and overseas visitor numbers, overnight stays and tourism expenditure.
<b>4. % of premises in Borough with access to broadband in excess of 10 Mbit/s</b>	OFCOM Connected Nations	Increase in %
<b>5. % of premises in Borough with access to broadband in excess of 30 Mbit/s</b>	OFCOM Connected Nations	Increase in %
<b>% landmass in Borough with 3G / 4G mobile data availability</b>	OFCOM Connected Nations	Increase in availability
<b>6. The number of development proposals permitted for renewable energy technologies by type.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase in permissions for renewable energy
<b>7. The amount of energy (MW) by technology type produced from renewable sources</b>	DfE Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics	Increase in locally generated renewable energy
<b>8. The amount (tonnes) of waste recycled within the Borough.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase in quantities of waste recycled / decrease in waste landfilled

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Protect physical resources and use sustainably</b>		
<b>1. The level of growth and amount of physical development that occurs in the Places of the Borough</b>	(Corine / land use mapping)	Maintain/Increase % 'green urban' Reduce rate of increase of 'built on' land use types
<b>2. Value / tonnage of mineral production in the Borough</b>	DfE Annual minerals statement	Maintain or increase minerals production

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Encourage active and sustainable travel</b>		
<b>1. The number of planning applications permitted:</b> •for Park & Ride/Park & Share schemes; •incorporating cycling facilities •with Active Travel Plans.	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase opportunity for active and sustainable travel
<b>2. Access to sustainable and affordable transport</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council DfI Transport Division	To increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car
<b>3. Travel to work by sustainable modes of transport</b>	NISRA (Census)	To increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car

<b>4. The development of Greenways and new cycle paths (measured in metres / km).</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increased km, to encourage walking cycling
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Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Improve air quality</b>		
<b>1. Air Quality</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Achieving annual mean objectives / improvement in NO <sub>2</sub> air quality, revocation of AQMA

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change</b>		
<b>1. The number of development proposals permitted in identified Flood Risk Areas.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Minimise level of new development at flood risk from 1% AEP event.
<b>2. The number of development proposals permitted that incorporate SuDS</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increased proportion of new development with surface runoff attenuated to greenfield runoff rates.
<b>3. The amount of energy (MW) produced from renewable sources in the Borough</b>	DfE Electricity Consumption and Renewable Generation Statistics	Increase in locally generated renewable energy

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably</b>		
<b>1. % surface waterbodies in Borough achieving 'good' ecological status (or 'good' ecological potential) or better</b>	DAERA NI Environment Agency	Increase in surface water quality
<b>2. The number of development proposals permitted that incorporate SuDS, of types that do not qualify for adoption by NI Water under The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase in development using 'soft' SuDS
<b>3. Number and location of properties approved with septic tank</b>	DAERA/NI Water	Decrease number of potential diffuse pollution sources.

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity</b>		
<b>1. Changes to designation of natural heritage assets (surface area km<sup>2</sup>, number).</b>	DAERA NI Environment Agency	Maintaining / increasing areas designated for nature conservation value
<b>2. Condition of natural heritage assets within the Borough (DAERA condition assessments)</b>	DAERA NI Environment Agency	Maintaining / improving areas designated for their nature conservation value
<b>3. The number of development proposals permitted impacting on natural heritage assets contrary to advice received from DAERA Natural Environment Division</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintaining / improving areas designated for their nature conservation value

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Maintain and enhance landscape character</b>		
<b>1. Strategic and Local Landscape Policy Areas</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain/Improve landscape character and visual amenity

Indicator	Source	Target
<b>Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage</b>		
<b>1. Changes to designation of heritage assets (area (ha) and no. of scheduled zones, no. of monuments in state care, area of parks, gardens and demesnes, no. of listed buildings grade A and B).</b>	DfC Historic Environment Division	Maintain/Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value
<b>2. Change in number of heritage assets at risk in the Borough</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society	Maintain/Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value
<b>3. The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to advice received from DfC Historic Environment Division.</b>	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain/Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value



Mossley Mill  
Carnmoney Road North,  
Newtownabbey  
BT36 5QA

Antrim Civic Centre  
50 Stiles Way,  
Antrim,  
BT41 2UB

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