

Local Development Plan | 2030

Draft Plan Strategy

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

SA 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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List of Abbreviations

AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
ANBC	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
BIA	Belfast International Airport
BMAP	Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan
BRCD	Belfast Region City Deal
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DCAN 12	Development Control Advice Note 12
DfC	Department for Communities
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DM	Detailed Management [Policy]
DOE	Department of the Environment
dPS	Draft Plan Strategy
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle(s)
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
KSR	Key Site Requirement(s)
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPP	Local Policies Plan
MCAA	Marine and Coastal Access Act
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NI	Northern Ireland
NIE	Northern Ireland Electricity
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
PfG	Programme for Government
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSRNI	Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland
RA	Reasonable Alternative(s)
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
ROMP	Review of Old Minerals Permissions
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SDG	Supplementary Design Guidance.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEL	Strategic Employment Location(s)
SLPA	Strategic Landscape Policy Area
SO	Strategic Objective(s)
SP	Strategic Policy
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
UK	United Kingdom
WFD	Water Framework Directive

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Report

This Sustainability Appraisal Report is part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It documents the appraisal of Options and alternatives against a sustainability framework consisting of fourteen objectives. These objectives relate to social, economic and environmental themes, and have helped to determine our preferred Options. The process identifies where a preferred Option may have significant effects of and, where these are negative effects, identifies how these could be addressed.

The SA Scoping Report which has been published alongside this SA Report documents the first stage undertaking SA / SEA. It sets out the evidence base and framework of sustainability objectives against which the social, economic and environmental effects of implementing the draft Plan Strategy have been appraised.

1.2 The Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Development Plan

This section is also covered in more detail in Section 3 of the SA Scoping Report and in depth in Sections 1 to 3 of the draft Plan Strategy.

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

The new LDP will be prepared within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and will take account of the Council's Community Plan, 'Love Living Here', to enable us to plan positively for the future of the Borough. It will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Borough for future generations.

The draft Plan Strategy for Antrim and Newtownabbey LDP sets out how the area will change and grow over the period up to 2030. It:

- Sets out the strategic objectives of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in relation to accommodating growth in the form of new homes and economic development activities to improve the quality of life and meet the needs of our growing population, whilst also protecting the environment;
- Informs the general public, statutory authorities and developers of the policy framework against which all proposals will be assessed;
- Provides certainty for developers by indicating what sort of development will (and will not) conform with the Plan; and

- Provides information on how the Council will monitor the Plan objectives to ensure that they are being achieved.

The LDP for Antrim and Newtownabbey supports and spatially represents our Community Plan vision: *"Antrim and Newtownabbey is a resilient, socially responsible community where citizens enjoy a high quality of life"*.

This will be achieved by delivering against the following outcomes:

- Our citizens enjoy good health and wellbeing;
- Our citizens live in connected, safe, clean and vibrant places;
- Our citizens benefit from economic prosperity;
- Our citizens achieve their full potential; and
- Our vulnerable people are supported

The Plan Strategy is the first stage of a two stage LDP for the Borough. The LDP will also consist of the Local Policies Plan (LPP), which is the second stage of the plan making process. The Local Policies Plan will provide site specific policies and proposals, including settlement limits, land use zonings and environmental designations.

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs). The new LDP will replace the following Plans, which were prepared prior to April 2015:

- Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001 and its alterations (AAP);
- Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 (BUAP);
- Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 (CAP);
- Draft Newtownabbey Area Plan 2005 (dNAP); and
- Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (dBMAP).

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

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

The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 includes duties to protect and enhance the marine area. This includes provisions to prepare and adopt a Marine Plan for the Northern Ireland inshore region; and provision to improve marine conservation and protection. The draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland was consulted on for an eight

week period beginning 18 April 2018. Once adopted, it will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of the marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements.

Section 58 of the MCAA and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents. This means that Councils are legislatively required to have regard to the UK MPS and, when published, the Marine Plan for NI in the preparation of the LDP and all associated documents.

1.2.1. Preparation - the process and progress

The Plan Strategy is underpinned by an extensive evidence base combined with community engagement undertaken as part of the Preferred Options Paper (POP) consultation process. The LDP Preferred Options Paper was published in January 2017 and was subject to 12 weeks of public consultation. Consideration and analysis of the representations received to the POP are set out in the Preferred Options Paper – Public Consultation Report, 2019. In light of the consultation process, revisions have been made to the approach to some of the preferred options contained in the POP. In addition, further studies to inform the Plan Strategy have provided further supporting evidence and, where appropriate, evidence papers have been updated.

The LDP is informed by an iterative SA which runs parallel to the preparation of the Preferred Options Paper, Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which examines the environmental effects of the LDP proposals is an integral part of SA.

1.2.2. Spatial Scope and Profile of the Plan Area

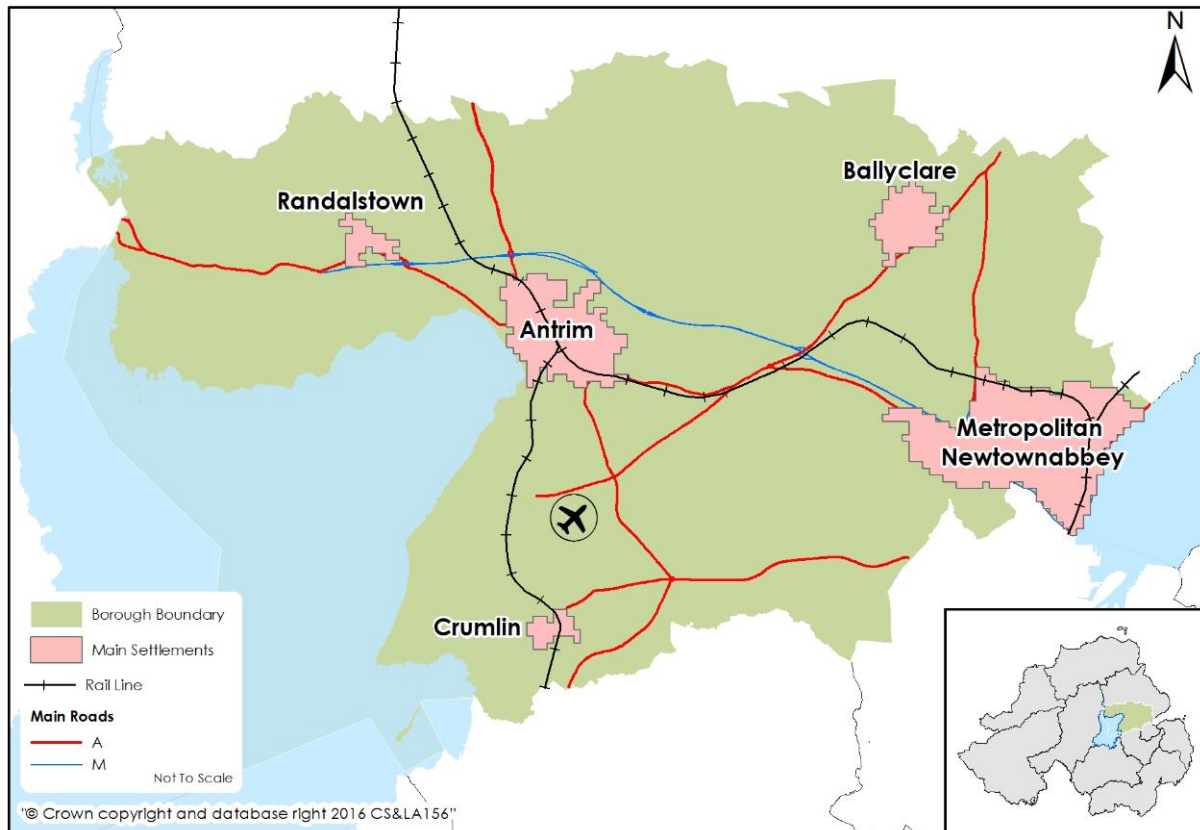
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council covers 728 square kilometres stretching from the shores of Lough Neagh in the west to Belfast Lough in the east (Figure 1). This is an area with an attractive and varied landscape, centred on the South Antrim hills and the Six Mile Water valley which is also endowed with a rich historic and archaeological heritage.

Our Borough is set to grow over the Plan period. An estimated 141,697 people currently live in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough with an expected population increase to 146,003 people by 2030. The LDP will need to respond to this population increase and ensure that there is an adequate supply of housing, employment and services.

The population of our Borough is ageing with the number of people aged 65 and over expected to rise significantly. It is also predicted that there will be a marked rise of people with a life expectancy over the age of 85. These trends are likely to place additional demands on housing, health, community services and transport. The Council recognises that the Department for Health and other strategic partners are responding to these changing demographics through policy approaches, including Transforming Your Care. Maintaining people within their own homes and

communities and providing health services through multi-disciplinary hubs are amongst the challenges for the future. The LDP must be responsive to these changes and also ensure that any new developments are easily accessible by an ageing population.

Figure 1: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council LDP Area



The working age population (16-64) is estimated to decline over the Plan period, with the number of young people (0-15) expected to decrease as well, which will have an impact on the economy and may have implications for school provision in the Borough.

There were 54,035 households in our Borough in 2011 and it is projected that by 2030 there will be 59,814 households. The average household size in our Borough is 2.51 persons and it is projected that by 2030 this will reduce to 2.41 persons. Whilst average household size will reduce, it is projected that by 2030 the greatest housing growth will be for 'one person' households, followed closely by 'two person' households. These changes highlight the need to not only ensure an adequate supply of land for housing, but also to help meet a range of housing types to address the different/diverse needs of the population.

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal Context

1.3.1. Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

1.3.2. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

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

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

The approach in this report is informed by Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (DOE, 2015)¹. SA therefore refers to an integrated approach which fully incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment and fulfils the requirements for both SA and SEA.

1.3.3. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment is a provision of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The regulations require assessment of possible adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) as a result of plans and policies in the LDP. An assessment is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance identified under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention).

A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy.

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

Findings of draft HRA for draft Plan Strategy

The draft HRA records the assessment of the proposals made in the draft Plan Strategy and its potential impacts on international sites. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites.

All the potential impacts of the draft Plan Strategy proposals were considered. It was found that the draft Plan Strategy could have the potential to affect international sites through one or more of the following impacts:

- Habitat loss;
- Direct and indirect disturbance;
- Introduced species;
- Aerial emissions;
- Water pollution; and
- Hydrological change.

A total of 28 international sites that have the potential to be connected to the plan area have been reviewed. These include sites within the Council area, with an ecological connection to it and those within 15km of the plan area. On review of these international sites, it was found that significant effects could not be entirely ruled out for 20 international sites, therefore potential impacts on the following sites were further assessed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Antrim Hills SPA | • Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA |
| • Belfast Lough Open Water SPA | • Montiagh Moss SAC |
| • Belfast Lough Ramsar | • North Channel SAC |
| • Belfast Lough SPA | • Outer Ards Ramsar |
| • Curran Bog SAC | • Outer Ards SPA |
| • Copeland Islands SPA | • Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay SAC |
| • East Coast (NI) Marine proposed SPA | • Skerries and Causeway SAC |
| • Larne Lough Ramsar | • Strangford Lough Ramsar |
| • Larne Lough SPA | • Strangford Lough SPA |
| • Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar | • The Maidens SAC |

Many measures to protect international sites are already incorporated in the draft Plan Strategy. Where appropriate, recommendations are made for additional measures to be incorporated in the Local Policies Plan or through Development Management. The appropriate assessments concluded that, subject to included mitigation and the recommendations, the implementation of the draft Plan Strategy will not adversely affect the integrity of the sites listed above. The HRA will be updated and finalised following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy, and published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy.

1.3.4. Rural Needs Assessment

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which applies to NI Government Departments and Councils and came into operation on 1 June 2017, states that '*A public authority must have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans.*' Public authorities must report annually on how they have implemented this requirement. Further information on rural needs is contained within the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs document entitled, '*A Guide to Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities (Revised).*'

The approach to considering rural needs is called 'rural proofing' and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has provided advice on carrying it out in '*Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing*'. Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas and, where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances. The Council has reported on rural proofing in their 'Equality (Section 75) Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment Report', which has been published alongside the draft Plan Strategy.

The SA Scoping Report considers rural populations and how the LDP could affect them in the evidence base for the community topic. Data on rural populations, where available, is also included under other topics, for example health, education and infrastructure. Key sustainability issues for the Borough include some that are specific to rural communities and the appraisal prompts include questions about how a proposal will meet the needs of rural populations or potentially have a disproportionate impact.

1.3.5. Sustainability Appraisal Report Structure

Section 2 of this report presents our approach to carrying out and documenting the SA of the draft Plan Strategy, including how we assessed the significance of effects and any limitations and difficulties that were encountered. Section 3 summarises the appraisal findings and Section 4 describes the cumulative impact of the preferred Options and summarises the outcome and the next steps for the appraisal process for the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the detailed record of the SA.

2 Sustainability Appraisal: The Approach

2.1 Introduction

This Section describes the approach taken to carry out SA for the Preferred Options Paper. The Strategic Context for SA and the preparation of LDPs is discussed in Section 2 of the accompanying SA Scoping Report.

2.2 Strategic Context

The following regional or local strategies and plans are overarching and form a backdrop to the Local Development Plan. These were also considered in preparation of the SA Framework.

2.2.1. Draft Programme for Government (PfG)

The draft Programme for Government Framework (PfG Framework) 2016-2021 is a new approach, which focuses on the major societal outcomes that the NI Executive wants to achieve. It provides a basis for all sectors to contribute to the development of plans and actions. The draft PfG Framework has 14 strategic outcomes, which are supported by 42 indicators. The outcomes show the direction of travel for what the Executive understands are the needs of our society. The indicators show the change that is needed to bring about these outcomes. The delivery of many of the outcomes and indicators will be the responsibility of Central Government; however, the Local Development Plan (LDP) may have a supporting role in this process. Any specific responsibilities for the LDP will be borne out of discussions with Central Government Departments.

2.2.2. Sustainable Development Strategy

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy - 'Everyone's Involved', published in May 2010, stated that sustainability policy *"is driven by intergenerational equity; to secure a quality of life for present and future generations that is positive and rewarding."*

The Strategy is designed to provide a framework that can support and inform the decisions and actions taken by individuals, groups and organisations in progressing the sustainability agenda in Northern Ireland. It aims to put in place measures to ensure that the Council can continue to grow our Borough's economy, improve our Borough's society and communities and utilise our Borough's natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. Delivery of the SDS is based upon the following seven guiding principles:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Using sound science responsibly;
- Promoting opportunity and innovation; and
- Promoting good governance.

2.2.3. Regional Development Strategy

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 'Building a Better Future' provides a strategic and long term perspective on the future development of Northern Ireland up to 2035 to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government.

The RDS vision is for *"An outward- looking, dynamic and liveable Region with a strong sense of its place in the wider world; a Region of opportunity where people enjoy living and working in a healthy environment which enhances the quality of their lives and where diversity is a source of strength rather than division."*

The RDS contains eight aims:

- Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland;
- Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West;
- Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential;
- Promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities;
- Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places;
- Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake;
- Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change; and
- Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world.

It contains regional guidance to provide policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and sets the context for policy and development decisions to achieve sustainable development throughout the region.

The RDS contains regional guidance which provides policy direction in relation to the economy, society and environment as well as spatial framework guidance tailored to each component of the spatial planning framework it identifies. It seeks to influence the future distribution of development throughout the Region and sets out a Housing Growth Indicator for each Council area as a guide for those preparing LDPs. It also provides the context in which to make policy and development decisions aimed at achieving sustainable development throughout Northern Ireland.

The RDS has a statutory basis, is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals, and Councils must take account of the RDS when drawing up their Local Development Plans.

2.2.4. Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future

Regional transportation is addressed through Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future – 'A New Approach to Regional Transportation' (2011). This strategy complements the RDS and contains high level aims and strategic objectives to support the growth

of the economy, enhance the quality of life for all and reduce the environmental impact of transport. It sets out the approach to regional transportation and is used to guide strategic investment decisions beyond 2015.

2.2.5. Transport Plans

The Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (2004), Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (2005) and Sub Regional Transport Plan (2007) currently apply to our Borough.

The Department for Infrastructure is currently preparing new Transport Plans which will cover our Borough including a new Regional Strategic Transport Network Plan and a Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan. The Council is represented on the Project Boards for both plans and is working to ensure that the transport needs of our Borough are addressed through both and that the Council's LDP and emerging transport plans are aligned.

2.2.6. Sustainable Water – A Long- Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2040

Sustainable Water – A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016) sets out a range of initiatives to deliver the Executive's long-term goal of a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. The Strategy recognises how planning can impact on flood risk and water quality and aims to ensure that existing water and sewerage infrastructure and investment proposals inform future planning decisions and the preparation of LDPs. The Strategy sets out a number of matters that the LDP will need to take into account which are summarised below:

- Consideration of flood risk using up to date information on the risk from all significant sources of flooding;
- Prevention of inappropriate development in high flood risk areas and prevent future development from increasing flood risk;
- Exceptional development within high flood risk areas must make provision for adequate mitigation measures;
- Ensure surface water drainage is adequately addressed; and
- Planning policy should promote sustainable water and sewerage services by making appropriate space for water and sewerage infrastructure including sustainable drainage systems.

2.2.7. Delivering Resource Efficiency – NI Waste Management Strategy 2015

Everything we do has an impact on our environment and ultimately on the quality of life of future generations. This is particularly true of the way we deal with our waste. It is widely accepted that waste should be treated as a resource with a value. This Strategy aims to set a direction towards using that resource more efficiently, to make it a key element in developing and promoting a low carbon, circular economy and to ensure that we adhere to the principles of the Waste Hierarchy, prioritising waste

prevention, including re-use, above all else to reduce our reliance on finite resources.

2.2.8. Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for NI 2010

This Strategy is a commitment by Government to tackle poverty issues in Northern Ireland. Lifetime Opportunities is structured around a number of general challenges which become the priorities for future policy and action including eliminating poverty, social exclusion, tackling area based deprivation, eliminating poverty from rural areas, shared futures, inequality in the labour market, health inequalities and cycles of deprivation.

2.2.9. Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for NI 2020

This Strategy sets out the role of the work that businesses, local government and the voluntary sector do to achieve the overarching aim of halting biodiversity loss. Halting such loss will allow us to continue to benefit from all that nature has to offer, particularly at a time when the planet's climate is changing, with all the challenges that such change brings. This document sets out the role of the LDP in this process and the principle of taking forward biodiversity issues in the LDP preparation.

2.2.10. Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018 (draft)

The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area. It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region. The LDP will seek to complement the Marine Plan where relevant.

2.2.11. Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is one of the most significant documents in terms of policy context for our new LDP. The SPPS both outlines and provides strategic direction on the new planning system introduced in April 2015. Critically, it defines regional strategic policy objectives for a range of topics, including housing, economic development, transportation and town centres, that will inform the LDP and in particular the development of new operational planning policies for our Borough.

The SPPS sets out five key core planning principles that underpin the planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development which are:

- Improving Health and Wellbeing;
- Creating and Enhancing Shared Space;
- Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth;
- Supporting Good Design and Positive Place Making; and
- Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment.

The SPPS also sets out a range of supplementary planning guidance which supports the regional policies and as indicated in the SPPS, will be retained as material planning considerations.

2.2.12. Planning Policy Statements

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) address particular aspects of land use planning and provide policies that apply across Northern Ireland. As indicated in the SPPS the existing suite of retained PPSs will cease to have effect in our Borough when the Council's Plan Strategy is adopted.

2.2.13. A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (The Rural Strategy)

A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland provided a compendium of planning policies that have gradually been replaced by PPSs and the subsequent SPPS. However, a small number of its provisions, such as planning policy for overhead cables, are still in operation. As with PPSs these remnant policy provisions will cease to have effect when the Council's Plan Strategy is adopted.

2.2.14. Supplementary Planning Guidance

Central government also prepares planning guidance to supplement, clarify or illustrate by example its policy statements and plans. This can take the form of design guides such as the 'Creating Places' guide for residential development or guides prepared for Conservation Areas. It also includes a set of eight Development Control Advice Notes that explain the criteria and technical standards to be considered when dealing with specific categories of, or particular aspects, of development.

These guidance documents will be retained as material considerations during the transitional period as set out in the SPPS.

2.2.15. Belfast Region City Deal 2018

The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) signals a new approach to collaborative working. Six Councils are part of the BRCD: Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The BRCD Councils will work in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Further Education colleges across the Belfast Region, the Northern Ireland Departments and the private sector.

The BRCD Councils have agreed an integrated set of projects to transform the Region's economy. The agreed programme seeks to address a number of key barriers to growth by taking measures to improve productivity, invest in innovation, tackle economic inactivity and deprivation, address skills gaps and inequalities, invest in additional world-class visitor experiences and develop the physical and digital infrastructure. At the heart of the City Deal vision is a drive to deliver inclusive growth and to focus efforts on areas in which our Borough can become genuinely world-class; namely digital / ICT, life and health sciences, creative industries, advanced manufacturing and tourism.

2.2.16. Corporate Plan - Our Borough Your Vision 2019-2030

The Corporate Plan sets out a number of objectives in relation to Place, People and Prosperity. The LDP has a key role to play under the objective of 'Place'. The Corporate Plan states that:

"As civic leaders, the community planning process and the development of a Local Development Plan will enable us to plan positively for the future of our Borough. We will ensure that lands are appropriately zoned and that infrastructure is enhanced to develop the Borough for future generations. The Local Development Plan will provide a framework for foreign direct investment, indigenous investment and future employment trends and incorporate measures for the protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment. It will contribute to the creation of a safe and sustainable, community with good access to jobs and key services".

2.2.17. Community Plan to 2030 – 'Love Living Here'

The new duty of Community Planning came into operation on 1st April 2015 and requires Councils to act as the lead for community planning in their areas, in partnership with the community and service providers. The Community Plan, 'Love Living Here' has identified five priority areas, described as Outcomes, through which the Council and its strategic partners will focus the delivery of services through to 2030. The successful implementation of 'Love Living Here' will be marked by a demonstrable improvement in how services are delivered across our Borough and the quality of life our citizens experience.

The Community Plan does not operate in isolation, it links to and reflects other key strategies and plans which will be delivered over the years to 2030, including the new LDP. The Council's Community Plan and LDP have developed in tandem through a joint approach to engagement and sharing key research and evidence. The LDP will consider any land use planning aspects such as housing, open spaces and employment which emerge through the Community Plan. The LDP has aligned its Strategic Objectives to the Community Plan's Outcomes and will seek to deliver upon the spatial aspects of the Community Plan.

2.3 Other Local Development Plans

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

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

2.4 Sustainability Appraisal and the LDP

The SEA Directive requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan, and 'Reasonable Alternatives'. Developing Options and Alternatives is an important part of both the plan-making and SA process. For the draft Plan Strategy, the Reasonable Alternatives are the different options put forward during the preparation of the Strategic and Detailed Management Policies. The process for identifying these is discussed further in 2.3.4.

2.4.1. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The purpose of the SA Framework is to provide a means of ensuring that the social, environmental and economic needs of the area are considered in plan preparation. It enables the effects of plan proposals to be described, analysed and compared. It also helps identify measures to minimise negative effects and enhance positive effects.

The SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives with prompts which are used to assess plan proposals against the baseline. It is presented in Section 6 and Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report. All stages of plan-making will be assessed using the Framework, which may be reviewed and updated at each stage as further information becomes available.

2.4.2. The Sustainability Objectives

A total of fourteen social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives have been identified in the SA Scoping Report. These have been informed by the strategic and policy context, a review of baseline information for the Council and any evidence of trends and issues. The objectives for sustainable development for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council are to:

1...improve health and well-being.

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

2...strengthen society.

Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.

3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.

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

4...enable access to high quality education.

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

5...enable sustainable economic growth.

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

6...manage material assets sustainably.

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

7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.

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

8...encourage active and sustainable travel.

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

9...improve air quality

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

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

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

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

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

12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

International obligations which are adopted in Northern Ireland legislation and policies require the protection of biodiversity including flora, fauna and habitats. This is for their intrinsic value and for the wider services that they provide to people, the economy and the environment for example as carbon stores which lessen the effects of climate change. This objective includes protecting and enhancing biodiversity as well as protection of green and blue infrastructure to enhance the services that natural resources provide.

13...maintain and enhance landscape character.

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

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

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

The Key Sustainability Issues relating to each sustainability objective, along with prompts to guide the SA are found in the SA Guide in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.

2.4.3. Assessment Method

The Options for each LDP issue were assessed using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 2.1 and scoring in Table 2.2. The matrix includes:

- The plan topic and delivery Options to be assessed.
- A score indicating the nature of the effect for each Option and alternative in the short, medium and long term for each sustainability objective with an explanation of why the score was given.
- A summary comparing the Options and their alternatives in relation to the sustainability objectives.
- Identification of any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures where appropriate to enhance positive effects.

Table 2.1: Outline Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

ISSUE												
OPTIONS	Option 1:				Option 2:				Option 3:			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1. Sustainability Objective												
2. Sustainability Objective												
3. Sustainability Objective, etc.												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and comparison of alternative Options against the sustainability objectives. • Identification of the most sustainable Option. • Identification of the preferred Option. • Summary of what, if any, significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option. • Summary of mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects of the preferred Option. • Summary of measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects. 												

Table 2.2: Scoring and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

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

Key:	++ Significant positive effect	+ Minor positive effect	0 No overall effect	- Minor negative effect	-- Significant negative effect	? Score uncertain
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2.4.4. Identifying Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable Alternatives (RAs) are the different realistic options available to a Council for delivering the objectives of its Local Development Plan. They should also be consistent with other aspects of the plan as well higher level plans and policies and, in the case of the Local Policies Plan, the Plan Strategy.

The POP identified a number of key strategic planning issues arising in the plan area. Fourteen strategic planning issues were appraised in the Interim SA Report and underwent public consultation, which helped to shape the more specific policies brought forward in the draft Plan Strategy.

All of the strategic and DM policy objectives were examined and consideration was given to whether any reasonable alternatives to deliver the policy objective were available. Guidance used to evaluate RAs included Development Plan Practice Note 04², the RTPI Practice Advice on SEA³, and 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment'⁴. Out of the 64 Strategic and Detailed Policies comprising the dPS, RAs were identified for eight of these. Reasons why RAs were scoped out include (one or more may apply):

- Option required to uphold the aims of current legislation, regulations, or directives.
- Option required to uphold the aims or policy approach of RDS, SPPS or other regional or local plans or strategies.
- POP identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the only realistic option.
- POP identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the preferred option.
- dPS identified inclusion of specific policy in LDP as the only realistic option.
- No reasonable alternatives were identified on the basis of scoping evidence or other evidence-based assessment.
- Only one realistic option identified for high-level criteria based policy.
- No other option could achieve objective/s.
- No realistic and deliverable objective.
- No sufficiently distinct objective.

An explanation of whether a RA is identified or has been scoped out is included for each policy in Section 3.

2.4.5. The Appraisal Meeting and Write-Up

Appraisal of the various Options for the draft Plan Strategy was carried out on the 2nd, 9th, 14th, 21st, 23rd and 28th May 2019. The appraisal panel comprised of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Forward Planning team.

Appraisals were carried out using the agreed SA Framework, and scores with explanations were recorded in the appraisal matrices, presented in Appendix 4. For each issue all Options were appraised in terms of how the Option would either support or conflict with the Sustainability Objectives. Following this the matrices were written up, reviewed with planning officers and finalised. A summary of the findings of the appraisal is presented in Section 3.

2.4.6. Assessing the Significance of Effects

The SA assessed the significant effects of Options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect, therefore assessment is a matter of judgement taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

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

³ RTPI, Levett-Therivel Practice Advice on Strategic Environmental Assessment Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SEA/SA for land use plans (Published January 2018)

⁴ EPA Research Report No. 157 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment (2013-SL-DS-1)

Sustainable development is an underlying principle of plan preparation, therefore for the majority of issues the positive effects of all Options already outweigh the negative effects. Few Options were put forward which were considered to have a significant negative effect on any of the sustainability objectives and none that were considered to be the Preferred Option. While appraising the Options, some ways in which negative effects could be reduced or offset and positive effects could be enhanced were identified. These have been included in Section 3 and Appendix 4 where applicable.

2.4.7. Consideration of Potential Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires consideration of 'measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant negative effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme'. These are referred to as mitigation measures, and can include recommendations for improving beneficial effects.

2.4.8. Appraisal Limitations and Assumptions

The assessment reflects baseline information from the Local Development Plan Evidence Papers, information provided by consultees and the experience and judgement of the panel carrying out the appraisal meeting. In some cases, there is uncertainty about how a given approach or proposal would be implemented, due to insufficient detail about the type or location of development that could come forward. These effects may remain uncertain until detailed supplementary planning guidance and/or specific site proposals are known. This is a consequence of this strategic stage of plan preparation. Where necessary 'uncertain' was recorded and a note made of further information that could inform future appraisal. For some options, the approach may have an uncertain relationship with the sustainability objective if it could have both positive and negative effects. In these situations, 'uncertain' was also recorded and potential impacts noted in the explanation. On occasion the same score has been recorded for the effects of different Options, however more subtle differences may be described in the explanation.

During the appraisal of each Option, where possible, effects were predicted. In some cases, it was found that the effect will depend upon the type and scale of development and its location. Many of the proposals affect multiple locations, or locations for which boundaries have not been defined. This can make it difficult to determine at this stage whether overall effects are likely to be negative or positive. Some approaches represent a continuation of a previous policy; however, each Option was considered on its own merits in line with the characteristics of the baseline for the relevant sustainability objective.

Consideration has been given to the timescale in which an effect may be seen. It is hard to predict in many cases when an effect is likely to be apparent at this stage of plan development. Therefore, the score is often the same for short, medium and long term. If appropriate, short, medium and long term scores will be differentiated in the SA at Local Policies Plan, which will take account of all additional and updated information available at that time.

2.4.9. Cumulative Effects

Consideration is given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. Section 4 describes the total and cumulative effects of the preferred options for the draft Plan Strategy on the sustainability objectives.

2.4.10. Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's LDP Strategic Objectives.

Section 2 of the draft Plan Strategy explores the link between the LDP and the Council's Corporate and Community Plans. The vision for the LDP is: *"In 2030 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough will have a reputation as an excellent, attractive and diverse place in which to live and work. It will be a place that all citizens can take pride in and that is appealing to new residents, investors and visitors alike, with improved job opportunities, housing availability and connectivity that meets the needs of the community. Development will be sustainable and of high quality and will address the ongoing challenges of climate change. Our built and natural environment will continue to be high quality and well looked after and will support prosperity and economic development and provide for a wide range of recreational and leisure activities."*

Fourteen interlinked Strategic Objectives (SOs) have been developed to help deliver the Plan Vision. These SOs have been aligned to complement the Community Plan's five Strategic Outcomes. The SOs form the link between the Plan Vision and the Strategic and Detailed Policies that will be used in decision-making and they will also inform the detailed zonings and designations to be brought forward in the Local Policies Plan.

The LDP vision and the SOs have been reviewed in the context of the sustainability objectives individually and cumulatively to examine their compatibility with the sustainability objectives and identify any potential conflicts. This comparison is presented in Appendix 2.

None of the strategic objectives were considered to be incompatible with the SA Framework. Some of the LDP objectives could potentially conflict with sustainability objectives, if implemented in isolation and without the balance of other LDP objectives and policies. These may be shown in Appendix 2 as having an uncertain relationship with one or more sustainability objectives. This reflects uncertainties about, for example, economic objectives for job creation and facilitating economic growth which, without mitigation or protective policies, could potentially have adverse effects on natural heritage or water resources. The draft Plan Strategy includes specific policies to ensure a balanced approach and therefore should be read as a whole, as it will be applied in its entirety to all development proposals.

3 Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Findings

3.1 Introduction

The LDP's fourteen Strategic Objectives for the Borough are grouped under the following themes:

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

The Strategic Policies (SPs) of the draft Plan Strategy are also arranged under the three themes outlined above, with an overarching theme of 'Sustainable Development' (SP 1). The Strategic Policies include the spatial growth strategy and the settlement hierarchy for the Borough. The Strategic Policies are supplemented by a range of Detailed Management Policies which start with the prefix 'DM'.

The draft Plan Strategy has ten Strategic Policies and 54 Detailed Management Policies.

Prior to commencing the appraisal of policies, members of the appraisal panel met to review the draft policies, discuss the RAs and verify the options being put forward. The review of policies and options identified that several policies act together to achieve the same aim. Therefore, to avoid duplication and repetition in the SA it was agreed that it would be appropriate to appraise certain policies with a high degree of similarity together as a group.

It was also determined that in many cases the Strategic Policies overlapped with their underpinning DM policies. Therefore, to avoid repetition, the Strategic Policies were only appraised for those aspects not covered by a related DM policy. All policy elements of SPs 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 are encompassed within their underpinning DM policies and therefore these SPs did not undergo a separate appraisal.

SP 1 does not have any DMs and due to its wide ranging policy elements it was appraised in three parts, Development Impact Assessments (SP 1.1 – SP 1.5), Spatial Growth Strategy (SP 1.6 - SP 1.12) and Developer Contributions (SP 1.13 – SP 1.17).

SP 4.2 – SP 4.3 (Housing Growth) and SP 4.4 – SP 4.5 (Housing Allocation) are not encompassed by any underpinning DMs and therefore these policy aspects of SP 4 underwent appraisal. The remainder of SP 4 was appraised via the underpinning DMs, DM 17 – DM 22.

SP 9.2(b), 9.2(c) and SP9.3 are not encompassed by any underpinning DMs and underwent appraisal. The remainder of SP 9 was appraised via the underpinning DMs, DM 43 – DM 45.

A table linking each SP and DM with their respective appraisal is included at the beginning of Appendix 4. In total, 45 appraisals were carried out to assess the draft Plan Strategy and these are presented in full in Appendix 4.

Up to three options were identified for each policy. For many policies, there were no reasonable alternatives and only one option was put forward. All options were appraised for their likely significant effects against the 14 sustainability objectives.

In this Section, for each policy appraised, the preferred option is presented first, followed by all alternatives that were considered. These are followed by a figure which summarises the long term effects (the full tables in Appendix 4 also include short and medium term effects). The key for scoring can be found in Table 2.2 on page 18.

A summary and comparison of the Options against the sustainability objectives is presented after which significant effects, positive or negative, are reported. Where a preferred Option is to be taken forward that has a significant negative effect then it is necessary to identify mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset those significant negative effects of the preferred Option.

During the appraisal ideas were also discussed for measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects and these are reported. There is not a legal requirement to implement these, however they are recorded so that, where appropriate, they can be incorporated to further the overall sustainability of the LDP.

3.2 Sustainable Development

Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development (Development Impact Assessments SP 1.1 – SP 1.5)

Overarching policy for sustainable development. The LDP is based on a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision making. SP1 is the overarching policy for all development with regards to the principle of development. This policy refers to the most commonly required assessments in planning. Supports the Community and Corporate Plans. The policy underpins all decision-making on development proposals by recognising the need to provide balance between the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development and ensuring that no one pillar is given more prominence than any other. This policy approach will also be the basis for the allocation of land for development at the local policies plan stage of the LDP. The LDP seeks to further sustainable development through its policies and designations which balance the social and economic priorities of our Borough alongside the careful management of our historic environment and natural heritage.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the principle of sustainable development, and Developer Impact Assessments based on current legislative requirements and planning policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of RDS, SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance, including legislative requirements under the NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 and the Planning (NI) Act 2011.

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

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to score positively against all 14 sustainability objectives covering all three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental. Significant positive outcomes were predicted as most likely for delivery of the social sustainability objectives - health and well-being, strengthening society and sustainable housing; as well as the economic sustainability objective - enabling sustainable economic growth; and the environmental sustainability objective – maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Significant positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being, strengthening society, sustainable housing, enabling sustainable economic growth; and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

The various impact assessments referred to in the policy. To assist the delivery of sustainable development the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments (as per SP 1.4) in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed.

Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development (Spatial Growth Strategy and the Places of our Borough SP 1.6 – SP 1.12)

Policy focuses on core growth in existing settlements where facilities and services are already located. It also seeks to sustain sustainable rural growth. Sustainable development is promoted by the LDP's overarching Spatial Growth Strategy, which sets out the Council's approach to growth across our Borough. The Spatial Growth Strategy has been informed by and is consistent with the RDS including its Spatial Framework Guidance. Furthermore, the RDS directs that settlements should be the primary location for accommodating future development needs and that the scope and type of development should generally relate to the size and function of each settlement. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Preferred Option:

Take forward a Spatial Growth Strategy based upon the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and existing committed development allocations.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS, SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance, including legislative requirements under the NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 and the Planning (NI) Act 2011. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	?	?	?	0	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy scored positive against the social and economic sustainability objectives with significant positives recorded for enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. Predicted outcomes were less certain for some of the environmental objectives – improving air quality, climate change, and managing water resources sustainably. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for two of the environmental sustainability objectives - maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for two of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth and material assets. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Key site requirements for zoned land.

Strategic Policy 1: Sustainable Development (Developer Contributions SP 13 – SP1.17)

The proper planning and sustainable development of our Borough also entails that adequate physical and community infrastructure should accompany growth and new development. As a consequence, developers will normally be expected to bear the cost of works required to facilitate their development proposals and to manage or mitigate adverse impacts arising through the provision of developer

contributions. Such contributions may require the completion of a planning agreement under Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the principle of developer contributions based on the SPPS and legislative provisions.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of RDS, SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance, including legislative requirements under The NI Miscellaneous Provisions (Act) 2006 and the Planning (NI) Act 2011. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy scored minor positive against most of the 14 sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental, with a significant positive score against the sustainable housing objective. There were only negligible effects recorded for one of the social sustainability objectives – access to education; and one of the environmental sustainability objectives – improving air quality. Some uncertainties were recorded in the short term for climate change and water resources but the development of supplementary guidance should help reduce or remove these uncertainties. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for both objectives in the long term.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for one of the economic sustainability objectives – good, quality sustainable housing. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Supplementary guidance will be brought forward for Section 76 agreements – streamlined system. Key Site Requirements – services provision, historic led initiatives.

3.3 A Place of Economic Opportunity

Policy DM 1: Economic Development – Zoned Sites and Settlements

The aim of this policy is to promote core economic development schemes on zoned employment sites and to facilitate sustainable employment opportunities elsewhere in settlements that are appropriate to their location. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Option 2: Bring forward existing employment lands of around 10 ha as SELs and identify new sites where required.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

There are two Options. The Council's commissioned employment study identified that future forecasts predict that there is not a need for substantial new employment lands. However, some larger settlements have a shortfall in remaining employment lands (Antrim and Ballyclare). Therefore Option 1 is to bring forward existing lands (including legacy zoned lands and lands granted planning permission). This includes land in Newtownabbey, Antrim, Ballyclare as well as Nutts Corner and BIA.

Option 2 is to bring forward the same plus additional lands in Antrim and Ballyclare where the employment study identified a shortfall, with sites to be confirmed at Local Policies Plan.

These alternatives have been developed taking account of Issues 8-10 of the Preferred Options Paper, which were appraised in the SA Interim Report.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	+	0	+	++	++	-	+	?	?	0	?	0	-
Option 2	+	+	0	+	++	++	-	+	?	?	0	?	-	-

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 has a mostly negligible effect on the social sustainability objectives, however a minor positive impact was identified for the objective to strengthen society. It has a strongly positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts identified for the objectives relating to economic growth and material assets. A minor positive impact is also identified in respect of education, as economic development may enhance local opportunities for skills and vocational training. A mixture of impacts is identified for the environmental sustainability objectives; impacts are uncertain for the objectives

relating to air quality and climate change as they dependent on the type of development brought forward. Impacts on natural resources are also uncertain. Minor negative impacts are identified for physical resources and the historic environment as development of SELs will result in permanent land use change. However, the impact on these objectives could be reduced through the application of Key Site Requirements to reduce the scale of the effect.

Option 2 has a mostly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, with minor positive impact identified for the objectives to improve health and to strengthen society. The option has a strongly positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts identified for the objectives relating to economic growth and material assets. The additional opportunities brought by this option also enable it to deliver more benefits than Option 1 for these objectives. A minor positive impact is also identified in respect of education, as economic development may enhance local opportunities for skills and vocational training. A mixture of impacts is identified for the environmental sustainability objectives; impacts are uncertain for the objectives relating to air quality and climate change as they dependent on the type of development brought forward. Impacts on natural resources are also uncertain. Minor negative impacts are identified for physical resources, landscape and the historic environment, as development of SELs will result in permanent land use change. However, the impact on these objectives could be reduced through the application of Key Site Requirements to reduce the scale of the effect. While Option 2 has an additional minor negative score over Option 1 for the environmental objectives, it scores more positively than Option 1 for the social and economic sustainability objectives and these benefits are considered outweigh the disadvantages. The negative effects may be reduced through application of Key Site Requirements.

[What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?](#)

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen enable sustainable economic growth' and 'to manage material assets sustainably'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

[Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.](#)

Review of existing SELs Key Site Requirements. New sites will be subject to SA at the Local Policies Plan stage to ensure that the most sustainable sites are selected. All boundaries of sites will also be confirmed at Local Policies Plan stage. Key Site Requirements which seek to identify and preserve key heritage assets at existing or proposed new SELs. SuDS designed in conjunction with landscaping / shared space could help achieve cross-cutting benefits. Ecological surveys would also help to inform Key Site Requirements. EIA screening and archaeological assessment of major sites / major developments.

[Policy DM 2: Economic Development – Countryside, Policy DM 4: Agricultural Development and Policy DM 5: Farm Diversification](#)

Policies DM 2, DM 4 and DM 5 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the support of economic growth in rural parts of the Borough, where the nature and scale of the proposal is appropriate to its surroundings.

The aim of policy DM 2 'Economic Development – Countryside' is to ensure that appropriate sustainable economic development opportunities are available in the countryside to support rural communities and help sustain the rural economy, whilst protecting the countryside from unsuitable uses in terms of amenity or environmental impact. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. It is acknowledged that exceptionally a large scale industrial or economic development project, because of its size or specific site requirements, may necessitate a countryside location.

The aim of policy DM 4 'Agricultural Development' is to ensure that the operational development needs of farm businesses are managed in an appropriate way that responds to the needs of the business and results in a sustainable form of development in the countryside. The aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of Policy DM 5 'Farm Diversification' is to facilitate sustainable diversification schemes that will allow farmers to supplement the income they receive from farming. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

These policies are strongly influenced by Strategic Policy 7, The Historic Environment and Strategic Policy 8 Natural Heritage, along with their associated DMs. There is also cross-over with DM 18 'Residential Development in the Countryside'.

The appraisal has taken a strategic approach in the assessment of DM 2; it is recognised that DM 2.5 in particular could facilitate a wide range of development types, but the specific effects are difficult to predict as they are dependent on what is brought forward, when, and how it is implemented. It is anticipated that policy DM 2.5 would only be applied on a very small number of occasions over the plan lifetime and therefore specific project-level impacts are not included under the assessment.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	+	0	0	++	?	-	-	?	?	?	?	-	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a mainly negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives although a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to strengthen society, as these policies provide rural communities with opportunities to develop and access local services. A significant positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Uncertain impacts are identified on material assets, as rural areas may not have the same type or amount of infrastructure provisions as urban areas. The impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mostly uncertain, however minor negative impacts are identified for the objectives relating to physical resources, active and sustainable travel and landscape. The LDP contains a number of policies that will ensure that the impact of a proposal is fully assessed and any necessary mitigation clearly identified before the granting of planning permission, which will help to reduce the risk of adverse impacts.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Development Impact Assessments including those listed in SP 1.4 may be necessary to identify impacts and design effective mitigation for certain development types.

Policy DM 3: Economic Development – Incompatible Uses

The aim of this policy is to prevent new development from jeopardising the operation of, and employment associated with, an already existing or approved enterprise that contributes to the local economy. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

This policy aims to buffer sites so that they may expand in the future. It is a protective policy for economic uses, which aims to manage adjacent land uses and avoid incompatible land uses.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 4.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives. Policy is the only realistic option to meet the needs of the RDS, SPPS and current policy framework.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The option scored positive for health and wellbeing, sustainable economic growth, material assets and physical resources with an uncertain score against the air quality objective. The option scored negligible against all other sustainability objectives.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No measures identified.

Policy DM 6: Development within Centres, Policy DM 7: Development outside Centres and Policy DM 8: Development at The Junction, Antrim

The aim of policy DM 6 'Development within Centres' is to recognise and promote the positive role of our Borough's town, district and local centres as the most appropriate locations for retail development and other employment, leisure and cultural uses which meet the needs of our Borough's residents. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 7 'Development outside Centres' is to protect the role, viability and vitality of existing town centres from the adverse impacts that can arise from competing development proposals for retail and other town centre uses in other locations. A sequential test must therefore be undertaken for relevant proposals on sites located outside our Borough's centres and, where appropriate, a retail impact assessment must also be undertaken. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 8 'Development at The Junction, Antrim' is to ensure that the core role and function of The Junction as an outlet and retail warehouse park remains distinguishable from Antrim Town Centre and that Antrim Town Centre is recognised as the first choice destination in Antrim for town centre uses. This aim has

taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS in terms of town centre first approach.

Additional detail relevant to these DMs is presented in Strategic Policy 2. Table 4 of SP 2.12 will be assessed under these DMs. SP 2.13 will be further considered at the local policies plan stage.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and tailored policies identified by the Council's Retail and Commercial Leisure Study 2018.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives to these policies were identified through the policy development process or through consultation.

For policies DM 6 and DM 7 this policy framework continues that established mainly by PPS5 and the 'town centre first' approach from the SPPS. A new Retail Study which was undertaken to inform the draft Plan Strategy and it has confirmed the approach to be taken by the Council in order to support retail and other town centre uses. Therefore no other reasonable alternatives have been found. The Retail Study also identified that specific policy was required for The Junction to prevent it from impact adversely on the continued vitality and viability of Antrim Town Centre and therefore there are no feasible RAs for DM 8.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	+	0	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, rising to significant positive for the objective to strengthen society by helping to deliver attractive and vibrant focal points for communities. They also have a positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth. The impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly negligible, reflecting the fact that the centres are mostly already built up areas in settlements. However, minor positive impacts are identified for the objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage, as the policies can promote renovation /restoration of older buildings in town centres and would support active and sustainable transport links.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen society' and 'to enable sustainable economic growth'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Policy DM 32 and Policy DM 36 will protect against adverse impacts on listed or locally important buildings.

Policy DM 9: Tourism Development

The aim of this policy is to facilitate the growth of sustainable tourism by supporting the development of a range of high quality attractions, facilities and accommodation across our Borough at accessible locations and in a manner that will not damage our key tourism assets. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 16.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy framework continues that established mainly by PPS16 and the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	++	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The option has a generally positive relationship with the social sustainability objectives, though the effect on housing is negligible. The impact on enabling sustainable economic growth is strong positive and it was also noted that tourism facilities can also have indirect beneficial effects on education. Uncertain effects are reported for material assets, as rural areas may not always have satisfactory infrastructure to accommodate tourism development. The effects on the environmental sustainability objectives are mostly negligible, however a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage, recognising that tourism may be heritage-led and can encourage cultural activities.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to enable sustainable economic growth'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No measures identified.

Policy DM 10: Access and Parking

The aim of this policy is to promote road safety, ensure that there is a safe and efficient movement of traffic, particularly on our local roads and that proposals make appropriate provision for parking. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 3.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS, the SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance and as the existing policy framework was considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	+	+	0	-	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option scored well against all the social sustainability objectives – health and well-being, strengthening society and sustainable housing. The option scored well against one of the economic objectives - sustainable economic growth; two of the environmental objectives - active and sustainable travel, and improving air quality. The option scored negligibly against most of the remaining environmental objectives but there were minor negative scores against physical resources and water resources.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Alignment of the LDP with Transport Plans from DfI. SuDS policy. Application of relevant cross over policy throughout the plan.

Policy DM 11: Access to Protected Routes

The aim of this policy is to promote road safety, ensure that there is a safe and efficient movement of traffic, particularly on our local roads and that proposals make appropriate provision for parking. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Preferred Option:

Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

The designation of protected routes is carried forward from PPS3 and the SPPS. Given that there is no evidence of changes to the strategic network, this remains appropriate and no reasonable alternatives were considered necessary at this time.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option had a negligible effect on most sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment. Minor positive scores were predicted against one social sustainability objective - improving health and well-being; and one environmental sustainability objective – encouraging active and sustainable travel. Significant positive outcomes were predicted against one economic sustainability objective for enabling sustainable economic growth.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positives were predicted for enabling sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Consistent approach to site selection through consultation with TNI and other statutory consultees.

Policy DM 12: Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)

The aim of this policy is to promote measures in the design and layout of developments that will support increased walking and cycling as these are important sustainable modes of transport which can improve the health and wellbeing of citizens. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Supports the Community and the Corporate Plan.

Preferred Option:

New bespoke policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS, the SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option scored significantly positive against two of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. It also scored minor positive for one of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. Minor positives were also recorded against three of the environmental sustainability objectives – improving air quality, reducing and adapting to climate change; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive effects were predicted for two of the social sustainability objectives - health and well-being, and strengthening society. Significant positive effects were also predicted for the environmental sustainability objective to deliver active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Master planning for key sites and alignment of LDP with emerging transport plans from DfI. Cross-over with other relevant policy – DM25.

Policy DM 13: Belfast International Airport - Operations

The aim of this policy is to meet the ongoing operational needs of Belfast International Airport (BIA) and the potential for future growth in view of its critical importance to the economy of our Borough and the Region. In addition, the policy aims to ensure that development proposals within the vicinity of BIA do not adversely affect public safety and the safety of aircraft operating to and from the airport. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy from PSU 3 of PSRNI and within Antrim Area Plan.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives considered necessary as the existing policy from PSU 3 of PSRNI and policy within Antrim Area Plan is considered fit for purpose. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	0	0	++	0	?	-	?	?	?	?	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option scored significant positive for one of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, and for one of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. It was predicted that the option would have negligible effects against most of the remaining objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development but a number of uncertain outcomes were predicted for several of the environmental sustainability objectives – physical resources, air quality, climate change, water resources and natural resources. If expansion at the airport were to occur then the uncertain scores against the environmental sustainability objectives would most likely become negative scores. Minor negative outcomes were predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

The policy option scored significant positive for one of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being; and for one of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments (air/noise) to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed. Airport Master Plans. The full extent of the BIA area will be defined within the Council's Local Policies Plan stage guidance on the BIA area. Cross-referencing with other policies. Integration of SuDS.

Policy DM 14: Public Utilities and Infrastructure

The aim of this policy is to ensure the Plan facilitates the delivery of necessary public utilities. These have an important role to play in delivering key infrastructure to support the economic and social development of the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

This policy framework, in terms of PU01 and PU02 continues that established mainly by PPS10 and PSRNI policy PSU11 and therefore represents a 'business as usual' approach. No reasonable alternatives were considered given the specific requirements of the SPPS in relation to these policy areas and as the existing policy framework was considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	-	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option scored significant positive against at least one sustainability objective across all three pillars of sustainable development. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the social sustainability objective - improving health and well-being; for the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably; and for the environmental objective – protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. The option had a predicted negligible effect on the majority of the sustainability objectives but there a minor negative outcome was predicted against the maintaining and enhancing landscape character objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for one of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and for two of the economic sustainability objectives – sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments. Cross over with other policies – DM14.

Policy DM 15: Development Relying on Non-Mains Sewerage

The policy follows on from existing policy and represents a 'business as usual' approach. The aim of this policy is to protect the Borough's water resources from the actual or potential polluting effects of on-site treatment plants. The Council recognises recent technological advances in non-mains sewerage systems aimed at mitigating potential pollution problems. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the board thrust and direction of policy including PPS 21.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No Reasonable Alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM15 is taking forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy CTY 16 of PPS21 which is considered fit for purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Overall, the policy would have a negligible effect on most of the 14 sustainability objectives covering all the three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for one of the

environmental sustainability objectives - protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Overall, mainly positive/neutral effects with no significant negative effects foreseen. As such, there is no requirement to modify the policy direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies.

Policy DM 16: Telecommunication Facilities and Digital Services

The policy follows on from existing policy and represents a 'business as usual' approach. The aim of this policy has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS as well as bringing forward the current provisions of the PPS10 (TEL 1). The aim of this policy is to promote enhanced digital connectivity across our Borough and to enable the telecommunications industry to operate in a way that meets the demands of modern technical connectivity, whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact of telecommunications equipment to a minimum.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 10.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given the specific requirements of the SPPS in relation to this policy area and as the existing policy framework was considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy was predicted to have positive effects on the majority of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and access to education. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for two economic sustainability objectives - enabling sustainable economic growth and

managing material assets. Negligible effects were predicted for the majority of remaining environmental objectives but minor positive outcomes were predicted for maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for two economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth, and managing material assets sustainably. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Overall, mainly positive/neutral effects with no significant negative effects foreseen. As such, there is no requirement to modify the policies direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies.

3.4 A Vibrant and Liveable Place

Strategic Policy 4: Homes (Housing Growth)

RDS regional guidance indicates that planning should manage housing growth to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development, support urban and rural renaissance and help to strengthen community cohesion. The varied housing needs of the whole community need to be met, which includes the availability of affordable and specialist residential accommodation. Housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. In order to provide for a sustainable level of housing growth and an adequate choice of housing across the Borough, the Council will facilitate the delivery of a sufficient quantity of new homes for the Plan period 2015 to 2030.

Preferred Option:

Option 2 9,750 new dwellings based on pre-crash build rate (748 dwellings per annum) and average Housing Growth Indicator growth rate (554 dwellings per annum) giving 650 dwellings per annum

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Option 1: Total of 8,310 dwellings (average of 554 per annum) – RDS Housing Growth Indicator (HGI) rate.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	++	?	+	?	-	?	-	-	-	0	?	?
Option 2	+	+	++	?	+	?	-	?	-	-	-	0	?	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 has a positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. Impacts on the economic sustainability objectives tend towards uncertainty as the policy identifies the number of new houses that will be facilitated, but it is not specific about their location. The impact on sustainable economic growth is minor positive; recognising that construction is an important contributor to the economy. Impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly minor negative or uncertain, this reflects that significant numbers of new housing may place pressure on environmental resources, but the magnitude of impact can vary depending on distribution and location.

Option 2 has a positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. Although the impacts are minor, this option delivers more benefits for the social sustainability objectives than Option 1, as the larger allocation would permit slightly more housing in rural settlements which would benefit rural communities. Impacts on the economic sustainability objectives tend towards uncertainty as the policy identifies the number of new houses that will be facilitated, but it is not specific about their location. The impact on sustainable economic growth is minor positive; recognising that construction is an important contributor to the economy. Impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly minor negative or uncertain, this reflects that significant numbers of new housing may place pressure on environmental resources, but the magnitude of impact can vary depending on distribution and location. As this policy delivers a greater quantity of housing, the minor negative impacts on the environmental objectives are slightly greater than Option 1. However, it is considered that the enhanced benefits delivered on the social sustainability objectives outweigh these disadvantages and it may be possible to reduce the scale of the negative effects through, for example, KSRs.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to provide good quality, sustainable housing'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

When defining new zonings, landscape, biodiversity and infrastructure should be key considerations. Specific sites will be subject to further consideration at the Local Policies Plan Stage. Key Site Requirements including archaeology / historic environment, infrastructure including links to public transport and walking and cycling.

Strategic Policy 4: Homes (Housing Allocation)

The provision of new homes requires the consideration of a number of issues, including the level and location of future housing growth, the type of homes required and how dwellings should be designed to meet the needs of residents. In order to provide for a sustainable level of housing growth and an adequate choice of housing across the Borough, the Council will facilitate the delivery of at least 9,750 new homes for the Plan period 2015 to 2030. This policy concerns the allocation of housing growth to each settlement and the countryside. Three options have been appraised.

Preferred Option:

Option 3 Reduce the proportion of growth to all settlements whilst allocating a higher proportion to Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements with the remaining allocation reflecting the current size and role of the other towns, villages and smaller settlements

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Option 1 Proportionate Reduction of the Preferred POP option (25%).

Option 2 Retain the level of growth allocated in the Preferred POP option for Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements of the Borough, resulting in a higher proportionate reduction in the allocation to other towns, villages and smaller settlements

Option 3 Reduce the proportion of growth to all settlements whilst allocating a higher proportion to Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements with the remaining allocation reflecting the current size and role of the other towns, villages and smaller settlements

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	++	+	+	+	-	++	?	-	-	-	-	?
Option 2	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	?	-	-	-	0	?
Option 3	+	++	++	+	+	+	-	++	?	-	-	-	-	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 has a positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, with a significant positive impact on the objective to deliver sustainable housing. It also has minor positive impacts on all of the economic sustainability objectives. In respect of the environmental sustainability objectives the appraisal recognises that new housing consumes resources and generates emissions and this particular option may result in less efficiency than Options 2 and 3. The impacts are mainly minor negative or uncertain, although positive impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Option 2 has a positive impact on health and well-being, but the very limited growth allocated to lower tier settlements would result in negative impacts on the other social sustainability objectives. A mixture of impacts is also identified for the economic sustainability objectives, with the limited growth in smaller settlements negatively impacting the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. In respect of the environmental sustainability objectives the appraisal recognises that new housing consumes resources and generates emissions but this particular option may result in more efficiency than Options 2 and 3. The impacts are mainly minor negative or uncertain, although significant negative impacts are identified on water resources, as the growth allocated for the two largest settlements could exceed the capacity of the waste water infrastructure and the receiving waterbodies are already failing to meet water quality objectives.

Option 3 has a similar pattern of scores as Option 1. It has a positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to deliver sustainable housing and also for strengthening society in the long term timescale. It has minor positive impacts on all of the economic sustainability objectives but perhaps delivers slightly more benefit for these than Option 1. In respect of the environmental sustainability objectives, the appraisal recognises that new housing consumes resources and generates emissions. This option may result in slightly better efficiency than Option 1, benefitting these objectives, but not quite as much as Option 2. The impacts are mainly minor negative or uncertain, although positive impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen society' and 'to encourage active and sustainable travel in the long term'. Significant positive effects are also identified for the objective 'to provide good quality, sustainable housing' throughout all timescales. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Key Site Requirements to help deal with surface water at source. These could include requirements for SuDS, slowing the flow, permeable paving. Key Site Requirements to protect natural resources. Specific sites will be further considered at

the Local Policies Plan stage. Criteria to select the most sustainable new sites where required. DM 27 helps to reduce the magnitude of negative effects on landscape and natural resources.

Policy DM 17: Homes in Settlements

The aim of this policy is to promote the development of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, which meet the present and future needs of all sections of the population within the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS and existing operational policy. The policy also contains measures for lifetime homes and affordable housing.

Preferred Option:

Option 3 Combine options 1 and 2 – Zone, Key Site Requirements and DMP for affordable housing.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Reasonable alternatives were based on the aspect of affordable housing with Option 1 considering zoning sites/Key Site Requirements, Option 2 - Development Management Policy, and Option 3 - combining options 1 and 2. The SPPS refers to zoning and Key Site Requirements but the Northern Ireland Housing Executive recommends policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	++	?	-	0	?	+	?
Option 2	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	++	?	-	0	?	+	?
Option 3	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	++	?	-	0	?	+	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

All three options delivered similar outcomes against each sustainability objective however, option 3 was predicted to maximise benefits particularly for social sustainability objectives. All three options were predicted to deliver significant positive outcomes against health and well-being, strengthening society, sustainable housing and the environmental objective – active and sustainable travel. Negligible outcomes were predicted for several objectives covering all three pillars of sustainable development including education, material assets, physical resources and water resources. Positive outcomes were predicted for sustainable economic growth and landscape character but uncertain outcomes were predicted for air quality, natural resources and the historic environment. A minor negative score was awarded against the climate change objective for all three options.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and providing sustainable housing. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for the environmental objective to deliver active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Design Concept Plan. Cross-over with other policies – SP4, SP6, DM25 - waste, housing, historic environment. Key Site Requirements and supplementary planning guidance. Reference to existing guidance – Creating Places – until new Council guidance is provided.

Policy DM 18: Homes in the Countryside

The aim of this policy is to facilitate sustainable forms of residential development in the countryside of the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Option 2 - Amalgamate the broad thrust and direction of existing policy contained within PPS 21 and SPPS, with amendments.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Option 1 is to adopt existing policy contained within PPS 21 and the SPPS. Option 2 is an amalgamation of existing policy contained within PPS 21 and the SPPS with amendments to improve the overall sustainability of the policy. Amendments focus on the following aspects of the policy: farm dwelling - farm business must be established and active for a continuous period of 6 years, off-site clustering; replacement dwellings - change in the wall stead provision; dwellings within a built up frontage, change in the definition of a built up frontage - 5 dwellings instead of 3; dwelling within an existing cluster - cluster 5 instead of 4.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	-	-	0	?	0	-	?
Option 2	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	-	-	0	?	0	+	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Both of the options were predicted to deliver equal outcomes for the majority of the sustainability objectives but option 2 was predicted to deliver more positively for

landscape character and likely to be more flexible for the historic environment. Positive outcomes were predicted for health and well-being, and sustainable economic growth, and for option 2 against landscape character. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted across both options for strengthening society and sustainable housing. Negligible outcomes were predicted for both options across several objectives – education, material assets, physical resources, climate change and natural resources. Both options scored less favourably against some of the majority of the environmental objectives with negative scores against active and sustainable travel, air quality; and uncertain scores for both options against water resources and historic environment although option 2 is likely to deliver more for the historic environment. Option 1 also scored minor negative against the landscape character objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for some of the social sustainability objectives – strengthening society and sustainable housing. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Supplementary guidance and application of appropriate conditions. Monitoring to identify unknown impacts. Guidance for implementing policy. Cross-over with other policy – DM27. Monitoring through reviews.

Policy DM 19: Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes

The aim of this policy is to facilitate those circumstances where a caravan or mobile home may be a sensible temporary solution to provide residential accommodation, particularly in the countryside. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Adopt existing policy (Policy CTY 9 in PPS 21 and the SPPS).

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM 19 is taking forward existing policy of CTY 9 of PPS21 and the SPPS, which is considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option was predicted to have little effect on most of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives but it was predicted to deliver positive outcomes against some of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. The policy option scored minor negative against one of the environmental sustainability objectives for maintaining and enhancing landscape character. This highlights the importance of measures like effective monitoring to help avoid any long-term adverse impacts on landscape character.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Effective monitoring of time limited planning permissions to ensure that there is no long-term visual impact on landscape. Cross over with other policies – DM 25 (urban) and DM 27 (rural).

Policy DM 20: Traveller Accommodation

The aim of this policy is to meet the accommodation needs of travellers within the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Adopt existing policy detailed in HS3 (amended) PPS12 and the SPPS.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM 20 is taking forward existing policy detailed in HS 3 (amended) of PPS 12 and the SPPS, which is considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

It was predicted that the policy option would have a negligible effect across the majority of economic and environmental sustainability objectives but would deliver positive outcomes for most of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and provision of sustainable housing. Positive outcomes were also predicted for one of the economic objectives - managing material assets sustainably. However, a minor negative score was predicted for delivery of the landscape character objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No specific sites have been identified within the Borough so this will be kept under review and further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage.

Policy DM 21: Specialist Residential Accommodation

The aim of this policy is to help meet the accommodation needs of those individuals whose needs cannot be readily met through the provision of general housing. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Option 2 - Bespoke policy for specialist residential accommodation.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Option 1 - Maintain status quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 9.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
Option 2	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Both options scored similarly across all three pillars of sustainable development and all of the sustainability objectives. Negligible outcomes were predicted for most of the environmental sustainability objectives and all of the economic objectives. The policy options both scored significantly positive against the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, strengthening society and provision of good quality, sustainable housing. They both scored significant positive for delivery of active and sustainable travel.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive effects were predicted for delivery of the health and well-being, strengthening society, sustainable housing, and active and sustainable travel. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross-over with other relevant policies – SP 4, DM 25, DM 28.

Policy DM 22: Residential Extensions and Alterations

The aim of the policy is to promote high quality, sympathetically designed, residential extensions and alterations, which respect the character of the area where they are situated and safeguard neighbouring residential amenity. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Adopt existing policy contained in the Addendum to PPS 7 Residential Extensions and Alterations.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM 22 is taking forward existing policy detailed in the Addendum to PPS 7 and the SPPS, which is considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a mainly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, significantly so in the context of providing areas for recreation and physical activity which in turn benefits health and well-being and social interaction. It also has a minor positive impact on sustainable economic growth, by making the Borough more attractive. The policy has a positive impact on all of the environmental sustainability objectives except improving air quality (on which the effect is negligible). It delivers significant positive impacts for the objectives of protecting natural resources, protecting and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the sustainable housing objective. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Supplementary guidance and application of appropriate conditions. Cross over with other policy – SP7, DM30-36 – for listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character.

Policy DM 23: Protection of Open Space

The aim of this policy is to protect against the loss of existing open space to other competing uses. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS which acknowledges that open space, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban and rural life. This policy is a continuation of existing operational policy, with small amendments. It has cross over with housing policy DM17.

Preferred Option:

Adopt existing policy contained in the Addendum to PPS 7 Residential Extensions and Alterations.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a mainly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, significantly so in the context of providing areas for recreation and physical activity which in turn benefits health and well-being and social interaction. It also has a minor positive impact on sustainable economic growth, by making the Borough more attractive. The policy has a positive impact on all of the environmental sustainability objectives except improving air quality (on which the effect is negligible). It delivers significant positive impacts for the objectives of protecting natural resources, protecting and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to improve health and well-being', 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity', 'to maintain and enhance landscape character' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.' No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Developers may leave areas of open space unmaintained / low quality, this practice should be discouraged and could be supported through SP 1.14 (Developer Contributions). Consider encouraging 'meanwhile uses'. Key Site Requirements will be further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage, and consideration of management plans and monitoring framework for open space.

Policy DM 24: Community Facilities

The aim of this policy is to safeguard and enhance existing community services and facilities that serve the needs of our Borough's residents and to support the appropriate provision of new or enhanced facilities. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. This policy is a continuation of existing operational policy.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a mainly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives through its ability to support the provision new facilities for health and community benefit, although it was recognised that the delivery of new facilities is dependent on third party service providers. No link was identified with the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. The policy also indirectly supports the economic sustainability objectives, by supporting development types which may also provide additional points of access to learning and skills, especially for rural communities. The policy has a negligible effect on the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, though it was recognised that the policy's focus in developing sites in existing settlements at locations that are accessible supports the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects have been identified. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Review and examination of existing and planned future development of facilities will be further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage.

Policy DM 25: Urban Design

The aim of this policy is to promote high quality design which is responsive to the local character and distinctiveness of the urban places of our Borough and which is based on the principles of positive placemaking. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. This policy is a consolidation and continuation of policy elements on design that were previously included in several of the PPSs. The policy has a strong relationship with SP 1.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	++	0	0	++	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a positive effect on the social sustainability objectives through its promotion of high quality environments that encourage well-being, safety and movement.

No direct link was identified with the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing, however it is acknowledged that the aims would contribute to better quality living environments with a focus on accessibility, which may indirectly support objectives for lifetime homes and homes for those with specific needs. In terms of economic objectives this policy delivers significant positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth by making the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest and also has a minor positive effect on material through the inclusion of digital infrastructure provision. Positive impacts are also delivered for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage by focusing on placemaking and good design which integrates local cultural heritage and/or landscape and strengthens sense of place by developing places with character, identity and local distinctiveness.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen society, 'to enable sustainable economic growth, and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.' No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Supplementary Design Guides (SDGs) on a range of topic areas may assist with ensuring consistency of approach in terms of design. Consideration to be given to preparing potential new SDGs.

Policy DM 26: Shopfront Design and Policy DM 29: Advertisements

Policies DM 26 and DM 29 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. avoiding visual impacts and maintaining character. Both policies bring forward the broad thrust of design guidance principles of the original PPSs and SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 26 is to promote the high quality design of shopfronts within the Borough.

The aim of policy DM 29 is to ensure that advertisements are designed and displayed in a manner that respects the character of the area where they are proposed and that they will not harm local amenity or prejudice public safety. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy also forms a continuation of existing operational policy (PPS 17).

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS17.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; policy DM 26 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan. Policy DM 29 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a limited impact overall on the social sustainability objectives, however minor positive impacts are identified in respect of the objective to strengthen society by promoting shopfront design that complements safety with visual amenity and which enhances vibrancy and attractiveness. It also recognises that advertising plays a role in establishing and sustaining neutral / shared spaces. The consideration of good design in shopfronts and advertising supports the economic objective of sustainable economic growth by establishing/sustaining

attractive and vibrant town centres and making the Borough an attractive place to live, work and visit. Both policies have a negligible impact on the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. The policies deliver significant positive impacts to these sustainability objectives, through ensuring that visual amenity and setting are considered, the design of new shopfronts / advertising is sympathetic and that heritage assets are protected against inappropriate signage.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to maintain and enhance landscape character, and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.' No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Supplementary Design Guides (SDGs) may assist with ensuring consistency of approach in terms of design and preventing inappropriate precedents from being established inadvertently. Consideration to be given to preparing potential new SDGs.

Policy DM 27: Rural Design and Character

The aim of this policy is to promote high quality forms of development which are designed to sympathetically integrate into their surroundings and to protect the amenity and character of our countryside. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy has links with DM 25 'Urban Design'.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives. It also has a largely negligible impact on the economic sustainability objectives, however a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth by protecting rural character which makes the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit. The policy has a negligible impact on the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. The policies deliver minor positive impacts to natural resources and significant positive impacts on the landscape and historic environment objectives. These impacts are primarily achieved by ensuring landscape character remains protected through promoting sympathetic building design, a strong emphasis on maintaining natural vegetation where possible and augmenting these through additional landscaping and planting in association with new development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to maintain and enhance landscape character', and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Application of suitable planning conditions and use of Supplementary Design Guides (SDGs) may assist with ensuring consistency of approach.

Policy DM 28: Amenity Impact

The aim of this policy is to ensure that new development is compatible with its surroundings and that it will not have a negative impact on the amenity of those living, working or visiting nearby. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. This policy is a consolidation and continuation of policy elements on amenity that were previously included in several of the PPSs. The policy has links with DM 50 'Pollution' and DM 27 'Rural Design and Character'.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy does not have a perceptible impact on the majority of the sustainability objectives. The policy aim of preventing potential nuisance impacts from occurring where new development is proposed in the vicinity of existing development delivers significant positive impacts in respect of health and well-being. By protecting amenity, it also delivers minor positive impacts on the objective for sustainable economic growth. The policy's focus on reducing nuisance from odour, fumes and other forms of pollution also delivers indirectly for the objective to improve air quality.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to improve health and well-being'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

The measures indicated under SP 1.4 will support the evidence base: noise, air quality and odour assessments carried out upfront will help inform on magnitude of predicted impacts and whether mitigation measures are necessary. EIA would be required for larger developments. DM 28.3 places a requirement for mitigation measures which are deliverable, which should help to ensure compliance with planning conditions.

Policy DM 30: Archaeology, Policy DM 31: Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, Policy DM 32: Listed Buildings, Policy DM 33: Conservation Areas and Policy DM 34: Areas of Townscape Character

Policies DM 30, DM 31, DM 32, DM 33 and DM 34 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. avoiding adversely impacting the identified assets and/or undiscovered archaeological assets that form part of our historic environment and cultural heritage.

The aim of policy DM30 is to protect our Borough's archaeological remains from development that would have an adverse impact on their integrity and setting. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy is an evolution of previous PPS, taking account of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM31 is to protect our Borough's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes from development that would have an adverse impact on the overall character and integrity of these distinct areas. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy is an evolution of previous PPS, taking account of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 32 is to protect, conserve and where possible enhance the Listed Buildings located within our Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 33 is to support development which preserves or where possible, enhances the character and appearance of our Borough's Conservation Areas and their settings. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 34 is to ensure that development proposals respect the appearance and qualities of our Borough's townscape areas and maintain or enhance their distinctive character. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

These policies also have a relationship with DM 36, 'Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings'.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS6.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were identified through either the policy development or consultation; these policies are the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a beneficial relationship with the majority of the social sustainability objectives, as conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides quality spaces for recreation and socialising, as well as creating a more pleasant surrounding. This in turn delivers minor positive impacts on well-being and strengthening society. The policies also have a beneficial relationship with the majority of the economic sustainability objectives, by enabling skills to be maintained/providing learning opportunities and making the Borough an attractive

place to live, work, visit and invest. The policies have a positive influence on the environmental sustainability objectives, though the relationship is not strong enough to have a perceptible impact on all of them. These policies all have the ultimate aim of protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage and consequently have a significant positive impact on this sustainability objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Encouraging and supporting training in skills that support the restoration of historic environment assets may help to reduce costs and constraints on obtaining contractors with the required specialist knowledge/skills. Funding / grants may help to offset costs of permissions, constraints and taxation; provision of specialist knowledge and advice from central government may help developers to access funding more readily. Supplementary Planning Guides (SPGs) may also provide clarity to developers on what is expected for an area/ listed building.

Policy DM 35: Enabling Development

The aim of this policy is to secure the future of an important heritage asset, through restoration, conservation or repair, by means of cross financing Enabling Development. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. The policy is an evolution of the previous draft PPS 23, taking account of the SPPS 6.25. The policy enables an alternative source of funding (developer) to allow buildings or other assets to be upgraded or brought back into use where it may not otherwise occur. However it still has to be good quality, sustainable development. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 7 (SP 7.2 – SP 7.5).

This policy would only result in development in exceptional cases (i.e. over the lifetime of the plan there may be no/very few examples where it is applied).

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 23.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

There are no reasonable alternatives; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The specific scope, scale and opportunity afforded by this policy means that its impact on the sustainability objectives is limited. Its influence on the social sustainability objectives is beneficial, however no perceptible impacts are identified. For the majority of the economic sustainability objectives there is no link, but a positive influence on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth is identified, again not sufficient to raise an overall impact. The policy delivers minor positive impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage as it promotes high quality design and respecting the setting of the asset forms an integral part of the policy. These positive impacts may be locally very significant, however the scope and scale of the policy is such that the overall impact is minor.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects have been identified. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Overall, mainly neutral effects with no significant negative effects foreseen. As such there is no requirement to modify the policy direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies. Consideration of supplementary planning guidance including capacity building by central and local government.

Policy DM 36: Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings

The aim of this policy is to support the active re-use of Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings by their sympathetic renovation or conversion. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the RDS and SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

There is no reasonable alternative. The policy takes forward the provisions of the RDS and SPPS as well as current operational planning policy and will also support the Corporate Plan and Community Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option scored negligible across the majority of the sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development although minor positive outcomes were recorded for one of economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. Positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental sustainability objective to maintain and enhance landscape character; and significant positive outcomes were predicted for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment objective.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for one of the environmental sustainability objectives for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Review opportunities for identification of key buildings at the Local Policies Plan Stage and future reviews of the plan. Supplementary guidance. Key Site Requirements. Cross-over with Strategic Policy 6.

3.5 A Place with a Sustainable Future

Policy DM 37: Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, Policy DM 38: Protected Species, Policy DM 39: Habitats, Species and Features of Natural Heritage Importance and Policy DM 42: Trees and Development

(DM 37) The aim of this policy is to protect designated sites of nature conservation importance from the potentially damaging impact of inappropriate development taking account of international, national and local obligations. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

(DM 38) The aim of this policy is to protect all legally protected species and habitats from the damaging impact of development with the potential to harm them. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

(DM 39) The aim of this policy is to ensure adequate protection is afforded to those features of natural heritage or biodiversity value which fall beyond designated sites. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

(DM 42) The aim of this policy is to protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows which are considered to be of amenity value, promote well considered landscape schemes in new development and enhance tree cover. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. There is also a statutory duty on the Council under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to ensure adequate provision is made for the protection of existing or planting of new trees in assessing development proposals.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPS2.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

None - Legislative requirement and current policy direction have directed policies, which are the only realistic options to deliver and meet the aims of the RDS and the SPPS and other current operational planning policy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	-	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies all scored positive for two of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. Positive outcomes were also predicted for two of the economic sustainability objectives – sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources. A negative score was recorded for material assets as constraints could occur for renewables in some areas. Positive outcomes were also predicted for the majority of environmental sustainability objectives including improving air quality, reducing and adapting to climate change, and protecting and managing water resources. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective, as well as maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for two of the environmental sustainability objectives - protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Local Landscape Policy Areas. Key Site Requirements. Cross-over with other policies - renewables, minerals, air quality.

Policy DM 40: Landscape Protection

The aim of this policy is to ensure that the visual amenity, local character and distinctiveness afforded by our Borough's landscape resource and its associated features are properly considered in assessing development proposals. It also aims to protect those distinctive landscapes within our Borough, which are particularly sensitive to change due to their quality, features and low capacity to absorb new development. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 8 (SP 8.4 - 8.8). This DM also cross-references with DMs in Strategic Policy 9.

Preferred Option:

Option 2 – Bring forward legacy plan designations (BMAP) and identify landscape policy areas in legacy Antrim area.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

The principle of spatially defining areas that should be afforded specific protection for their landscape quality has been established through legacy BMAP (none are identified in legacy Antrim Plan). Some of the previously-designated areas cross into other Council areas. Removing the existing spatial designations for landscape character is therefore not considered to be a reasonable alternative.

Option 1 adopts the principle of retaining the existing strategic landscape designations, which are only found in the BMAP area.

Option 2 considers the inclusion of strategic landscape designations for the parts of the Borough that are under the Antrim Area Plan area. The Antrim Area Plan (as amended by PPS 21) does not include a strategic-scale spatial designation for landscape character. ANBC has carried out a Landscape Character Study which has identified new sites which have a landscape quality that would benefit from strategic protection.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
Option 2	+	0	0	0	++	-	?	0	0	+	+	+	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 has a positive influence on the social sustainability objectives, however perceptible (minor) impacts are only identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. The Option has a minor positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth as it helps to make the Borough an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest and permits tourism development where its scale is appropriate to the surroundings. A minor negative impact was identified in respect of material assets; the policy will constrain potential for renewable energy generation and it encompasses upland areas that may be particularly suitable for wind. However, the other wider benefits brought about by the policy are considered to outweigh this negative consequence. The policy has an uncertain relationship with physical resources, as it would impose constraints on minerals development, however the exception afforded through DM 40.4 would allow flexibility in the event that a regionally significant need is demonstrated. No or negligible impacts are identified for many of the environmental objectives but the policy has a positive impact on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity increasing to significant positive for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Option 2 has a positive influence on the social sustainability objectives, however perceptible (minor) impacts are only identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. This option has identified additional areas that are of sufficient landscape quality that they merit protection through strategic policy. The evidence-based approach has also identified certain sites that will benefit from more specific policy to protect their landscape character. This approach is considered to deliver

more for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and would bring significant positive impacts by making the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It may particularly help to support the Council's aims for sustainable tourism development. A minor negative impact was identified in respect of material assets; the policy will constrain potential for renewable energy generation across a greater area than Option 1. However, the other wider benefits brought about by the policy are considered to outweigh this negative consequence. The policy has an uncertain relationship with physical resources, as it would impose constraints on minerals development, however the exception afforded through DM 40.4 would allow flexibility in the event that a regionally significant need is demonstrated. No or negligible impacts are identified for many of the environmental objectives, but the policy has a positive impact on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, increasing to significant positive for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. By providing strategic policy protection across a greater area, this Option can deliver more for these objectives than Option 1.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were identified for the objectives 'to enable sustainable economic growth', 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Consideration to be given to take account of historic assets (such as Shane's Castle) and other sites when defining boundaries.

Policy DM 41: Coastal Protection

The aim of this policy is to protect, and where possible, enhance the coastal area of our Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS and legacy plan designations.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and the SPPS. Retaining BMAP policy to protect this coastal strip.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option scored minor positive or significant positive against most of the sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development. The option scored minor positive against two of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. It also scored minor positive against the sustainable economic growth objective and against the physical resources objective. The majority of positive scores were predicted against the environmental objectives - active and sustainable travel, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change; and protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably; with significant positive outcomes predicted for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for two of the environmental sustainability objectives - protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Cross-over with other relevant policy – Strategic Policy 8, Strategic Policy 9.
Consideration of future coastal studies from key statutory consultees.

Strategic Policy 9: Natural Resources (SP 9.2(b), 9.2(c) and SP9.3)

The SP9 directs local development plans to bring forward policies to balance the need for these valuable resources against the need to protect and conserve the environment. It is also important to protect amenity and the safety of the public from the impact of such developments. The Council will operate a presumption against minerals development that would affect Strategic Landscape Policy Areas, Registered Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (International, National and Local sites) unless it can be demonstrated, that there is a regional need for the proposed mineral that outweighs the importance of the site.

The Council supports the regional policy position that there shall be no unconventional hydro-carbon extraction (otherwise known as fracking) until such

times as the full environmental impacts of such development is known. Supports the Community and Corporate Plan.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland with identification of environmental sensitive sites and designations.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and the SPPS. It supports the position of the Department for the Economy on the protection of this lignite reserve.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	?	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	?	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy had several uncertain outcomes predicted against most of the environmental sustainability objectives – climate change, water resources, natural resources/biodiversity, landscape, and the historic environment. Negligible outcomes were predicted for most of the social sustainability objectives and some of the economic and environmental objectives. There was an uncertain outcome predicted against the social sustainability objective for health and well-being but minor positive outcomes were predicted for two of the economic objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Environmental Impact Assessment; Transport Assessment; Flood Risk Assessment and/or Drainage Assessment; Contaminated Lands Assessment; Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; Noise Impact Assessment; Air Quality Impact Assessment; Ecological Assessment; shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment; Archaeological Impact Assessment & Evaluation. Restoration Plans. Developer Contributions to safeguard reinstatement/restoration.

Policy DM 43: Minerals Development

The aim of this policy is to promote the sustainable use of our valuable minerals by balancing the need for exploitation of a particular reserve where it exists against the potential adverse environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts that may arise as a consequence. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS. It supports the Community and Corporate Plan. No other reasonable alternatives have been identified through either the policy development or consultation.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	?	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy option had negligible effects against most of the sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the economic sustainability objective - enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources. Minor negative scores were predicted in the short and medium term for the protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective but uncertain outcomes were predicted in the long term because it is difficult to predict with certainty how effective restoration plans will be for natural resources and local biodiversity.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for two sustainability objectives - enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Hydrological and hydrogeological assessments are required which can help to protect local water environment. Phased restoration plans as condition of any

approval – high standards. Section 76s (Strategic Policy 1). Restoration plans also linked to landscape. Bonds – financial guarantee, linked to restoration of mineral sites. Cross over with landscape policies (DM 40.2).

Policy DM 44: Mineral Reserve Policy Areas

The aim of this policy is to ensure that the future exploitation of identified mineral reserves in the Borough is not prejudiced by inappropriate surface development and that development proposed in the vicinity of the reserve is carefully considered to ensure that it would not be prejudiced by future extraction of the mineral. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The detailed boundaries of Mineral Reserve Policy Areas will be identified in the Local Policies Plan.

This policy is a continuation of existing operational policy; current boundaries will apply until new boundaries come into effect at local policies plan. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 9 (SP 9.3). It has cross-over with DM 43 and DM 40.

Additional note: Since 23 September 2004 it has been Department for the Economy policy not to grant Mineral Prospecting Licences for Lignite exploration. The Department does not envisage any circumstances in the foreseeable future whereby the development or extraction of lignite would be permitted within Northern Ireland, although it still considers the lignite deposits to be of strategic importance and that they might be utilised in the more distant future with the deployment of Carbon Capture & Storage or other, as yet undeveloped, technologies.

Preferred Option:

Adopt existing policy (MIN 5 of PSRNI) and zoning in the Antrim Area Plan (with any new zonings to be identified at local policies plan stage, including existing boundaries).

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary; this Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS and is in line with the current position from the Department for the Economy.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	?	?	?	?	?	?

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This option has no / negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives. Some influences are identified for the economic sustainability objectives, however, the effects are localised and are not considered to have a perceptible impact overall. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, as the main aim of the Mineral Reserve Policy Area is to protect physical resources from development that would preclude their future extraction. The effect on the environmental sustainability objectives is generally negligible or minor positive in the short to medium term, as the policy prevents other types of development from occurring and it may take several years for any policy areas to be developed for minerals. However, in the long term, the impacts are uncertain on many of these objectives. The appraisal recognises that development of the existing Reserve Area for minerals extraction could potentially lead to significant negative impacts for the environmental sustainability objectives in respect of natural resources, landscape and historic environment. It may be possible to mitigate negative impacts through development impact assessment.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to protect physical resources and use sustainably'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

The definition of new boundaries for the existing Mineral Reserve Policy Area should take account of nature conservation and local biodiversity. If defining additional Mineral Reserve Policy Areas, a precautionary approach should be taken in accordance with SP 7 and SP 8.

Consider retaining a protective buffer zone to the Lough and watercourses (which would benefit the natural resources, water resources and active/sustainable travel objectives). In the event of a change in policy which permits lignite extraction, Development Impact Assessments including those listed in SP 1.4 would be necessary to identify and mitigate impacts.

Policy DM 45: Renewable Energy Development

The aim of this policy is to facilitate the development of renewable energy generation facilities in appropriate locations and to ensure full consideration is given to the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impact of such schemes. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Greater use of renewable energy in our Borough will create a more dependable energy mix and reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels. It will encourage a low-carbon society and help improve air quality. The policy takes forward the broad thrust and direction of existing operational policy and the aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Option 2. Maintain current policy and introduce a spatial framework for wind energy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Option 1 applies the current policy on renewables development throughout the Borough, but does not provide any spatial guidance. This option would be a continuation of existing policy approach and would be fully applied at adoption of the Plan Strategy.

Option 2 applies the current policy on renewables development throughout the Borough, but would introduce a spatial framework for wind energy development, which identifies areas of the Borough where wind turbines would not be acceptable (Group 1), areas of protection where proposals would be critically assessed (Group 2), and areas where there is potential for wind farm development (Group 3). The policy aspect of this Option would be fully applied at adoption of the Plan Strategy, however spatial boundaries which would inform aspects of each Group (most notably the boundaries of SLPAs) will not be applied until Local Policies Plan.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	+	++	?	0	+	+	0	+	+	+
Option 2	0	0	0	0	?	+	?	0	+	+	0	+	++	++

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 has some identified effects on the social sustainability objectives, however the overall impact is negligible. By avoiding the implementation of spatial constraints on renewables development, this option delivers significant positive impacts on the objective for material assets. Minor positive impacts are also identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. An uncertain effect is identified for physical resources, as different types of renewable have different land use requirements. As the policy is a protective one, the effect on the other environmental sustainability objectives is mainly positive for this Option, though impacts are mostly minor.

Option 2 has some identified effects on the social sustainability objectives, however the overall impact is negligible. This policy could have a range of effects on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth – the introduction of spatial constraints delivers more for tourism and provides more certainty on where investment in renewables is acceptable, however the areas where development may be constrained could reduce opportunities for diversification and offsetting

energy costs for industry. The spatial element also reduces the strength of the positive impact for material assets to minor. An uncertain effect is identified for physical resources, as different types of renewable have different land use requirements. As the policy is a protective one, the effect on the other environmental sustainability objectives is mainly positive for this Option. The additional protection brought through the spatial designations means that this Option delivers significant positive impacts on the objectives for landscape and historic environment. While this Option delivers less for sustainable economic growth and material assets than Option 1, it is considered that the positive impacts on the environmental objectives (especially over the medium-long term) outweigh the disadvantages on the economic sustainability objectives. The aim of this policy is to facilitate the development of renewable energy generation facilities in appropriate locations and to ensure full consideration is given to the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impact of such schemes. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Greater use of renewable energy in our Borough will create a more dependable energy mix and reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels. It will encourage a low-carbon society and help improve air quality. The policy takes forward the broad thrust and direction of existing operational policy and the aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

[What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?](#)

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to maintain and enhance landscape character' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

[Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.](#)

Consider the inclusion of exceptions that would enable a certain degree of flexibility where overriding benefits could occur (in appropriate locations). Surveys, including ecological surveys, may help to inform boundaries at Local Policies Plan. As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed. Supplementary Planning Guidance and appropriate application of planning conditions may also reduce negative effects.

[Policy DM 46: The Control of Development in Flood Plains, Policy DM 48: Reservoir Flood Risk and Policy DM 49: Artificial Modification of Watercourses](#)

The aim of policy DM 46 'the Control of Development in Flood Plains' is to minimise the flood risk arising for new and existing development posed by the natural function of fluvial and coastal flood plains. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 48 'Reservoir Flood Risk' is to minimise potential flood risk for developments in close proximity to controlled reservoirs. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 49 'Artificial Modification of Watercourses' is to minimise the potential flood risk impact and adverse consequences for the environment associated with the modification of watercourses. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

These policies are a continuation of existing operational policy (PPS 15 revised) taking account of updates in the SPPS and guidance published by DfI.

Preferred Option:

Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives to these policies were identified through the policy development process or through consultation.

Policy DM 46 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS and is in line with the current position from the Department for Infrastructure. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan and 'Sustainable Water – A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2040'.

Policy DM 48 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan and Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI. A change in legislation would be necessary before any reasonable alternatives could be evaluated.

Policy DM 49 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policies have a positive influence on the social sustainability objectives, but only the objective to improve health and well-being has perceptible impacts (minor positive) identified. Links to the economic sustainability objectives are limited, however a minor negative impact is identified for enabling sustainable economic growth, as some economic and industry zonings are in areas potentially affected by flooding, including reservoir flooding. The policies have a negligible impact on many of the environmental sustainability objectives however minor positive impacts are identified for the objectives relating to climate change and natural resources.

Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective relating to water, as these policies will help to protect and retain natural flood plains and will ensure that the management and discharge of surface water from new development is given due consideration for new development.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.' No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Review zonings and Key Site Requirements (Key Site Requirements) for existing zoned sites in context of current evidence base. Supplementary Guidance may be beneficial for developers in respect of flood risk assessments and drainage assessments.

Policy DM 47: Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The aim of this policy is to reduce flood risk for new developments from surface water (pluvial) sources. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The Council recognises the potential harmful impacts of surface water flooding and will seek to promote a more sustainable approach to drainage and flood risk management. The policy brings forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy to promote the use of SuDS as part of the wider strategy to address climate change. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 10 (SP 10.3 (d) and (e)).

Preferred Option:

Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary. The policy being brought forward recognises the importance of SuDS as a recommended measure for water drainage and as a key mechanism in Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

Option 1 has a negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives and economic sustainability objectives, although some positive effects are recognised. No impacts are identified for the environmental sustainability objectives relating to physical resources, active and sustainable travel, air quality and landscape, although some indirect benefits are recognised. The requirement to carry out Drainage Assessment is considered to bring a minor positive impact on the objectives relating to climate change, water, natural resources and biodiversity, and the historic environment. Impacts from SuDS are difficult to quantify as the policy merely encourages SuDS but does not give certainty on their delivery. If used, 'soft' SuDS can potentially deliver greater benefits to the environmental sustainability objectives.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Consider further the possibility of zoning areas in terms of SuDS at local policies plan. Supplementary Design Guidance (SDG) may aid developers in designing SuDS that are appropriate to the characteristics of the site. Key Site Requirements which provide for the retention of trees and hedgerows and the use of SuDS in order to lessen the potential impact on flooding.

Policy DM 50: Pollution

The aim of this policy is to ensure that development proposals do not result in environmental pollution which could adversely affect the environment or local amenity. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy is a consolidation and continuation of policy elements that were previously included in several of the PPSs. The policy has links with DM 28 (28.2).

Preferred Option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPSs.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary; this Policy meets the aims of the SPPS and legislative requirements. No other reasonable alternatives were identified through either the policy development or through consultation.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	++	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The policy has a significant positive impact on the health and well-being objective and a minor positive impact on the housing objective by safeguarding against harmful impacts when new development is proposed. No other impacts are identified for the social sustainability objectives. The policy has a minor positive impact on enabling sustainable economic growth by making the Borough a more attractive place. Impacts on many of the environmental sustainability issues are negligible, however significant positive impacts are identified for the objectives relating to air quality, water, and natural resources due to the sensitivity of these objectives to polluting emissions.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to improve health and well-being', 'to improve air quality', 'to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably' and 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Guidance may help to raise awareness with developers as to what types of development typically require studies/evidence to demonstrate no significant effects.

Policy DM 51: Major Hazards

The aim of this policy is to minimise health and safety risk by restricting development proposed in close proximity to major hazard sites and facilities. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The Borough has limited infrastructure to which this policy applies and the appraisal has been conducted in the context of what is currently present.

Preferred Option:

Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 12.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary; this Policy meets the aims of the SPPS and legislative requirements.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

The nature of this policy and the limited range of infrastructure development to which it applies means that this policy has very little influence on the sustainability objectives. The policy has a minor positive impact on health and well-being by maintaining a safe distance between development and major hazard sites or pipelines to protect both infrastructure and people against accidents. As the policy is protective of important infrastructure, it also has a minor positive impact on managing material assets sustainably. Minor positive impacts were also identified for the objective relating to physical resources as the policy allows quarries to carry out their operations more efficiently.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

No additional measures are identified.

Policy DM 52: Contaminated Land

The Council recognises that the redevelopment of brownfield land for new uses can help create more sustainable patterns of development. However, on occasion the recycling of land can result in problems where the land has been subject to uses and practices in the past which may have caused ground contamination. The aim of this policy is to ensure that the potential need for contaminated land remediation is taken into account when redevelopment proposals are being considered. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy has a link with Strategic Policy 1 (SP 1.11) and DM 50.

Preferred Option:

Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. No other reasonable alternatives were identified through either the policy development or through consultation.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy has minor positive impacts on most of the social sustainability objectives, however a negligible impact is identified for housing. Minor positive impacts are also recorded for most of the economic sustainability objectives, by encouraging vacant or underused land to return to productive use, but no link is identified with the objective to enable access to high quality education. The policy has a negligible impact on the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, however minor positive impacts are identified for the objectives relating to physical resources, water and natural resources.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option. No mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

Supplementary guidance and appropriate application of planning conditions to ensure contaminated land can be remediated.

Policy DM 53: Waste Management and Disposal Facilities and Policy DM 54: Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities

Policies DM 53 and DM 54 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the provision and protection of waste management/disposal facilities. These policies cross over with SP 10.7 – 10.9, DM 3 'Economic Development – Incompatible Uses, DM 25 'Urban Design', DM 28 'Amenity Impact' and DM 50 'Pollution'.

The aim of Policy DM 53 'Waste Management and Disposal Facilities' is to support the development of sustainable waste management, recycling and disposal facilities in appropriate locations to ensure that we continue to reduce, recycle and reuse our waste. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of Policy DM 54 'Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities' is to protect existing waste management facilities within the Borough so that we can continue to process and dispose of the waste we produce. In addition, the policy seeks to ensure that existing waste management infrastructure is not prejudiced by

new developments of a sensitive nature, such as new residential development, and equally that where development is proposed in the vicinity of existing sites that this will not be adversely affected by any aspect of the existing waste management operations and processes undertaken. These aims have taken account of and are consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Preferred Option:

Adopt existing policy approach as contained within PPS 11 Waste Management to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

What reasonable alternatives have been considered?

Policy DM 53 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. No reasonable alternatives have been identified through either the policy development or consultation.

Policy DM 54 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. No reasonable alternatives have been identified through either the policy development or consultation. The policy as drafted is the current position as set out in existing Departmental planning policy. There is no official evidence base to identify and justify an area as having reached a threshold in terms of waste facilities. Under the planning policy, each application will therefore be assessed on its own merits and this will include an assessment of cumulative impact.

	1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
Option 1	++	0	+	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	0

Summary and comparison of Options against the sustainability objectives

This policy has mainly positive impacts on the social sustainability objectives; a significant positive impact is identified for health and well-being, as waste services are vitally important for public health and the policies are protective against nuisance impacts. Minor positive impacts are also identified for the objective to provide good quality sustainable housing. The policies have a positive impact on the majority of the economic sustainability objectives; minor positive on sustainable economic growth, but significant in respect of material assets. The policy has a negligible impact on the majority environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive impacts are recorded for physical resources as the policy aims to make efficient use of land. An uncertain impact is identified for natural resources; post-use restoration could potentially lead to improvements however the net effect is dependent on what the land use was prior to the site being established as a waste facility.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred Option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to improve health and well-being' and 'to manage material assets sustainably'. No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects.

As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed. Supplementary Guidance and appropriate application of planning conditions.

3.6 How has the SA influenced Plan Making

The entire plan-making process is one of decisions, change and fine-tuning in response to many factors, including the SA. Identifying and clarifying these changes is therefore a key element of the SA process as it shows how the plan-making process has been influenced, in particular how the plan has changed and what mitigation measures have been incorporated into the plan. The following sections set out the influencing factors for the development of the draft Plan Strategy following publication of the Council's Preferred Options Paper and how the draft Plan Strategy was influenced by the SA/SEA process.

In summary, the Council's draft Plan Strategy has been influenced by policy word changes to deal with policy gaps or to provide points of clarification identified from a social, economic or environmental perspective.

3.6.1. Strategic Policy 1 - Sustainable Development

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

- Issue 1 Hierarchy of Settlements
- Issue 2 Potential for New Villages – Mallusk
- Issue 3 Potential for New Hamlet Designation

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 18 – 37 and 92 – 100;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 1 Population and Evidence Paper 2 Settlement Evaluation;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

The changes to the policy included amendments to SP 1.4 Development Impact Assessments to include additional assessments for shadow habitats regulation assessment and archaeological assessment.

3.6.2. Strategic Policy 2 - Employment

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

- Issue 4 Classification of Centres
- Issue 5 New Centres Mossley West
- Issue 6A New Local Centres Mallusk
- Issue 6B New Village Centres
- Issue 7 New Neighbourhood Centres
- Issue 8 Strategic Employment Locations
- Issue 9 Belfast International Airport
- Issue 10 Rural Strategic Employment Locations

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 38 – 62 and 100 – 106;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 3 Economic Growth; Evidence Paper 4 Retail and Commercial Leisure Study & Evidence Paper 5 Tourism;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

Policy DM 4 Agricultural development amended under DM 4.4 to clarify that adverse health impact is a consideration.

3.6.3. Strategic Policy 3 -Transportation & Infrastructure

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 118 – 123 and 127 – 131;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 10 Transportation and Evidence Paper 11 Public Utilities;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

Policy DM 12 Active Travel (Walking and Cycling) amplification was amended to clarify that the policy was linked to DM 25 Urban Design (Paragraph 6.2)

Policy DM 14 Public Utilities and Infrastructure justification was amended to provide clarification as to what public utilities are. (Paragraph 6.32)

3.6.4. Strategic Policy 4 - Homes

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

- Issue 11 Determining the Amount of Housing Growth
- Issue 12 Housing Growth Allocation
- Issue 13 Existing Housing Commitments
- Issue 14 Retention of Existing Housing Commitments

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 77 – 92;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 6 Housing and Evidence Paper 18 Rural Pressure Analysis;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

Policy DM 17 Homes in Settlements was amended under DM 17.6 (d) to clarify that the 400m distance for a children's play area refers to walking distance.

Clarification was provided in relation to what environmental amenity meant and a number of policies were updated to reflect the distinction between amenity and environment.

Supporting policy text was amended to clarify whether policies apply to the countryside, the urban area or a mixture of both.

3.6.5. Strategic Policy 5 - Community Infrastructure

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 123 – 131;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 8 Community Facilities and Evidence Paper 9 Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and

- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

No amendments required.

3.6.6. Strategic Policy 6 - Placemaking and Good Design

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Page 149 – 153;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 21 Placemaking and Good Design;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders; and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

No amendments required.

3.6.7. Strategic Policy 7 - Historic Environment

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Page 139 – 144;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 7 Historic Environment;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

No amendments required.

3.6.8. Strategic Policy 8 - Natural Heritage

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 132 – 138;
- Regional and Local Policy;

- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 16 Landscape Character Assessment, Evidence Paper 17 Natural Heritage, Evidence Paper 18 Rural Pressure Analysis, Evidence Paper 19 Coast and Evidence Paper 20 Loughs;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

The amplification of DM 37 Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance was updated to clarify that proposals do not have to be located within or adjacent to a designated site to lead to a loss of or damage to features of interest or otherwise to adversely affect the integrity of the site. For example, many development sites may be hydrologically linked to an international site or provide supporting habitat for site selection features. It is therefore important to assess the direct and indirect impacts of development.

3.6.9. Strategic Policy 9 - Natural Resources

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 106 – 111;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 12 Minerals, Evidence Paper 13 Renewables, Evidence Paper 16 Landscape Character Assessment, Evidence Paper 17 Natural Heritage, Evidence Paper 19 Coast and Evidence Paper 20 Loughs;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

SP 9 Natural Resources was updated under SP 9.2 (c) to include Coastal Policy Area.

Policy DM 45 was amended to allow some additional flexibility for wind turbines in the areas of protection identified in the Spatial Framework for wind energy development.

3.6.10. Strategic Policy 10 - Environmental Resilience and Protection

Preferred Options Paper Appraisal

N/A

Relevant Evidence that influenced the draft Plan Strategy

- Comments from Preferred Options Paper – Preferred Options Paper Consultation Report Pages 106 – 111 and 144 – 149;
- Regional and Local Policy;
- Updated Evidence Base - Evidence Paper 14 Flooding and Evidence Paper 15 Waste;
- Engagement with Members and relevant stakeholders and
- Assessments including Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Screening, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Rural Needs Assessment.

What changes to policy (SPs/DMs) have been made as a result of the SEA/SA?

DM 50 Pollution was amended to move amplification text into the policy text.

DM 50 amplification was also amended to ensure that developers should also take account of any published guidance in relation to pollution matters, including DAERA.

DM 52 Contaminated Land amplification was amended to included reference to emerging guidance published by the Environment Agency, entitled “Land contamination: risk management” which updates the previous CLR 11 guidance.

4 The Cumulative Impact of the Preferred Options

This Section considers how the preferred options, grouped by draft Plan Strategy theme, cumulatively relate to the fourteen sustainability objectives. Tables A3.1 – A3.4 in Appendix 3 illustrate the total effects of each of the preferred options in the draft Plan Strategy on each sustainability objective over the long term.

4.1 Total Effects of the draft Plan Strategy

4.1.1. Improve health and well-being

Sustainable Development: The principle of sustainable development, such as focusing on good design, connectivity and active travel supports the objective and the requirement for developer impact assessments can deliver significant benefits to health and well-being.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: The promotion of measures in the design and layout of developments that will support increased walking and cycling with the aim of inducing behavioural change towards active travel will have a significant positive impact on this objective. Improving utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure whilst protecting the natural environment and human environment will also have positive effects on quality of life across the Borough. Supporting tourism and economic development through the 'town centre first' approach also provides indirect benefits for this objective.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: The protection of open space provides opportunities for and encourages leisure, recreation and physical activity which strongly benefits health and well-being and promotes social interaction. The provision of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, accommodation and facilities which meet the specific needs of the population also has a positive effect on this objective. The avoidance of nuisance impact by ensuring that development is compatible with its surroundings is of significant benefit to this objective. Policies which promote good design and the protection of historic environment assets also support good well-being and mental health by providing a more pleasant environment.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: The provision and protection of waste services and prevention of pollution plays an important role in public health. Protecting landscape, natural heritage and local biodiversity facilitates a local natural environment from which people can benefit both physically and mentally. Directing minerals and renewables development towards appropriate locations where potential conflicts are minimised helps to avoid negative impacts.

4.1.2. Strengthen society

Sustainable Development: The plan-led system aims to deliver sustainable development, including development of community facilities, with positives for social cohesion, sense of place/belonging and identity for communities and individuals. Developer contributions could be an aspect which may help to achieve delivery toward community needs.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Enabling opportunities for job creation across the whole Borough can contribute towards reducing inequalities. Identifying centres which form a focal point provides neutral shared spaces, helps sustain rural retail and makes a place for social contact.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Growth which is focused on main towns aims to maximise positive outcomes for society but by sustaining population in smaller settlements local services are supported and vitality is maintained in villages and rural areas. The protection and enhancement of open space and shared space, consideration of urban design and recognition of the role heritage plays in creating attractive shared space delivers positively for the objective.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: The majority of the policies under this theme have a neutral effect on the objective. However, protecting and enhancing landscape, natural heritage and local biodiversity assets and our coastline indirectly helps to deliver quality shared space and has a positive impact.

4.1.3. Provide good quality sustainable housing

Sustainable Development: Strategic Policy facilitates delivery of sustainable and appropriate housing in terms of location, quality, need, affordability and type which strongly supports this objective.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: In general, the policies under this theme have negligible or no impact on this objective. However, policies which promote living in town centres have a minor positive impact.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: The policies on homes and accommodation enable opportunities for a variety of household types and sizes, including affordable housing. The provision of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, accommodation and facilities including lifetime homes which meet the specific and locally identified needs of the population has a strong positive impact on this objective. It is recognised that the provision of housing has the possibility to conflict with the protection, conservation or enhancement of our heritage assets, however the policies remain protective towards the historic environment and support the reuse of historic buildings as new housing stock.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: The policies which protect and enhance the natural environment and landscape have limited impact on this objective, however policies on minerals can support the objective indirectly by helping materials to be locally sourced. Policy that protects against environmental impact from pollution also supports the objective.

4.1.4. Enable access to high quality education

Sustainable Development: Strategic Policy supports the objective by focusing core growth where services/facilities are already located and helping maintain the numbers of pupils/students needed to sustain local educational facilities. The critical mass approach is also more likely to align to where facilities with higher level skills provision are located.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: The majority of the policies have a negligible impact on this objective, although positive influences can come from economic development through training and apprenticeships. Strategic Policy is positive for this objective in that it requires major planning applications to provide for employment and skills training. Enhanced digital connectivity across the Borough can help to support knowledge and skills learning, especially within rural areas.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: The majority of the policies have a negligible impact on this objective. Housing growth has the potential to conflict with the objective if consideration is not given to the location and capacity of education facilities. The preferred option for housing allocation reflects this and aims to maintain sustainable populations for schools in both urban and rural settlements. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment can provide enrichment in education and skills provision.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: None of the policies under this theme have a perceptible impact on this objective.

4.1.5. Enable sustainable economic growth

Sustainable Development: Sustainable growth in both urban and rural areas helps to support the provision of a wide range of facilities/services and employment roles across the Borough and strongly supports this objective.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Almost all of the policies in this theme act positively on the objective. Providing the conditions for the creation of a range of job types that are accessible across the Borough, and especially to areas of deprivation, has significant positive impacts. The 'town centre first' approach also seeks to promote and sustain vitality and vibrancy of town centres which has a positive impact. Directing certain types of development to strategic employment locations which are attractively located in areas with favourable infrastructure and rapid access to the strategic transport network helps to attract investment, and stimulates innovation and competitiveness, again strongly benefitting the objective.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Most of the policies under this theme have a minor positive impact on the objective. The provision of new homes directly helps to support the objective through the construction industry and supply chain and also indirectly through enabling people to live near where they work. Enabling other types of accommodation has a negligible impact, however it can indirectly support the objective. Promoting good design and protecting / enhancing open space and heritage assets has a positive effect on the objective, and strongly positive in urban areas, by making the Borough a nicer place to work, visit and invest in.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: Most of the policies under this theme have a minor positive impact on the objective. Sustaining a local minerals industry brings strong positive impacts and protecting assets for future use or expansion and enabling waste to be processed locally maintains competitiveness within the market and supports associated businesses and industries. Protecting natural heritage and the coastline supports the objective by making the Borough a more attractive place to

work, visit and invest. Protecting landscape is considered to deliver significant positive impacts in respect of attracting tourism. Applying areas of constraint on renewables may have positive and negative impacts on the objective - while it may reduce the extent of opportunities for reducing energy costs it could help to increase the attractiveness of the Borough, supporting tourism.

4.1.6. Manage material assets sustainably

Sustainable Development: Sustainable growth has significant positive impacts through facilitating the location and provision of material assets (waste, energy, telecommunications, electric vehicle charging points, etc.). It encourages the reuse of vacant/derelict land and supports the proximity principle bringing minor positive impacts.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Facilitating necessary infrastructure development and upgrades and directing economic development towards zoned sites and settlements where infrastructure is provided brings significant positive impacts. Economic development in the countryside and tourism have a more uncertain relationship, as adequate infrastructure may not be present to enable development and may pose constraints. Transport policies have a negligible impact.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Many of the policies under this theme have a negligible impact on the objective. Housing growth has an uncertain effect as it may have a range of impacts on the objective; negative impacts may occur if infrastructure improvements do not keep pace with growth. Positive impacts may occur through growth providing the economy of scale to enable infrastructure upgrades. Negative impacts can be reduced through housing allocation and collaboration with service providers. High quality urban design can have a minor positive impact through promoting resilience and digital infrastructure.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: Policies which protect landscapes and natural heritage resources have a minor negative impact on this objective by constraining the provision of new assets in designated areas. Policies which support storage or processing of waste have a significant positive impact and enabling renewables also has a positive impact, although the impact significance is reduced to minor due to the constraining effect of the strategic policy. Minerals and flood/water policies have a negligible impact.

4.1.7. Protect physical resources and use sustainably

Sustainable Development: Growth will lead to an inevitable consumption of land, however strategically focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located enables a more efficient use of land and more sustainable patterns of development resulting in minor positive impacts identified.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: The conversion of zoned land from greenfield/semi natural to economic development or parking areas will have a minor negative impact on the objective, however the magnitude of the impact may be reduced through consideration of zonings and KSRs at LPP. Preventing

inappropriate adjacent land uses helps to safeguard mineral extraction and has a minor positive impact. Other development, transport and water policies have negligible impacts.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Many of the policies under this theme have a negligible impact on the objective. Housing growth will result in permanent changes in land use which will have a negative impact on the objective. The strategic policy on housing allocation will help to deliver more efficient use of land and facilitating home extensions has a minor positive impact reflecting this, but minor negative impacts will occur over the medium and long term. Protecting open space and heritage assets has a minor positive impact on the objective but otherwise the policies under this theme have a limited impact.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: Facilitating sustainable minerals development and allowing potential for future extraction of regionally significant mineral deposits has a significant positive impact on physical resources. Policies which are protective of natural heritage will also benefit earth science and retain natural land cover. Protection of landscapes could constrain minerals development, but the impact is uncertain as there is insufficient evidence base on the location of economically significant minerals. The water policies have a negligible impact.

4.1.8. Encourage active and sustainable travel

Sustainable Development: Strategic policy supports and facilitates the delivery of active travel and public transport related measures, which cumulatively support the delivery of the objective. However, delivery is also partly dependent on external service providers, which are beyond the influence of the plan.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Infrastructure policies have a negligible impact on this objective. Economic development in the countryside and at BIA have a minor negative impact, as active travel is less feasible, although adverse impacts at BIA could be reduced if additional sustainable travel options are made available. Focusing economic development in settlements and centres and protecting strategic routes has a minor positive impact as it helps to build the critical mass to support sustainable public transport and develop active travel options. The consideration of active and sustainable travel in the design and layout of all new development has a significant positive impact on the objective as it will provide opportunities for more people to travel by sustainable travel methods. However, behavioural change is also required to initiate a step change towards choosing active and sustainable travel as the preferred method of transport.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Housing growth of 650 new houses per annum over the plan lifetime is likely to lead to greater need for public transport services and connectivity is a key consideration. However, the provision of active and sustainable transport routes and their use is outside the scope of the LDP and the impact is uncertain. Focusing housing growth and community facilities in main towns and settlements where sustainable transport hubs and routes already exist, and ensuring that new housing and urban design enables people to be connected to existing

routes where possible, facilitates choice and opportunity for citizens to use active and sustainable transport for commuting or other journeys, delivering significant positive effects. Housing in the countryside is not compatible with this objective, as many rural minor roads have no footpaths or cycleways and many rural areas do not have sufficient population to sustain a public transport service. Residents of specialist accommodation may not be able to use a car independently and therefore policy which enables such accommodation to have convenient access to local services and public transport delivers significant positive effects. Policies which relate to building design, temporary accommodation and the historic environment do not perceptibly influence this objective.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: The protection and enhancement of the borough's coastal area provides indirect minor positive benefits as a national cycle route runs along the shore. Otherwise, the policies under this theme mostly have no link with this objective.

4.1.9. Improve air quality

Sustainable Development: While the principles of sustainable development encourage a move towards cleaner air benefitting the objective, spatial and population growth is likely to give rise to increased emissions from transport, energy/heating and industry. Focusing the majority of growth in areas which have options for active and sustainable transport and access to the gas distribution network could help to reduce the scale of some of the negative effects, but the overall impact is uncertain.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Employment areas and economic development, including economic development in the countryside and at BIA are also likely to give rise to emissions from transport and economic/industrial/agricultural activities that may negatively impact air quality. The overall impact from these activities is uncertain; they are dependent on the type and scale of development and measures such as developer impact assessment may enable impacts to be mitigated to insignificant levels. Promoting active travel and discouraging car use in town centres benefits the objective. Development of infrastructure, utilities and tourism has no effect on air quality.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: The majority of the policies under this theme mostly have no or negligible link with this objective although policies such as urban design and community facilities which encourage active travel do have some positive influences. Housing growth of 9,750 new dwellings to 2030 will give rise to increased emissions from transport and central heating, negatively impacting the objective. Allocating the majority of housing growth to main towns may reduce the scale of the effect by providing more options for active and sustainable travel and electric or gas central heating in areas of greater housing density. The overall effects are uncertain. Housing in the countryside will be more dependent on cars for transport and more likely to rely on oil or solid fuel for heat with minor negative outcomes on the objective. Protecting amenity may have indirect benefits on the objective by

requiring mitigation against fumes from development which may not otherwise have occurred.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: The majority of the policies under this theme have no or negligible relationship with this objective. Protecting natural heritage benefits the objective through the buffering / absorption actions of vegetation. The requirement for new development to mitigate polluting emissions to insignificant levels has significant positive effects. Enabling renewables also contributes positively. The policy on mineral reserve areas has an uncertain impact as the effects would be dependent on whether the resource is ever brought into use and what technologies to mitigate impacts are available at the time.

4.1.10. Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change

Sustainable Development: Strategic policy aims to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation to the effects of climate change which has a positive impact on the objective. However, the plan also encourages and facilitates development – housing, roads, facilities/services and industry/business - which can increase greenhouse gas emissions and may have negative impacts. The overall impacts are uncertain as many positive effects are reliant on behavioural change. Developer contributions could help to deliver measures with wider benefit.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: The majority of the policies under this theme have a negligible impact or neutral relationship with this objective. Directing economic development towards centres and placing a focus on connectivity by public transport and active travel helps to reduce negative impacts, but behavioural change is also necessary to generate positive effects. SELs and BIA have a more uncertain relationship with the objective, as the overall impacts are dependent on what types of new economic development come forward and whether investors are proactive in including measures to enhance efficiency and resilience in their development. Agricultural development also has an uncertain relationship with climate change as some types of diversification could benefit the objective, while others may increase greenhouse gas emissions.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Housing growth of 9,750 new dwellings to 2030 will give rise to increased emissions from transport and central heating, negatively impacting the objective. Focusing the majority of housing growth in the top tier settlements and encouraging the reuse of old buildings and incorporation of energy efficiency / renewable measures in new development helps to reduce the scale of impact. It produces more compact and efficient development and in conjunction with urban design policies increases opportunities for accessing employment and services by active or sustainable travel and reducing reliance on the car. Whilst policy helps to create the conditions for transitioning to lower carbon lifestyles, unless it is accompanied by behavioural change, it is unlikely that positive effects will be seen over the lifetime of the plan. Zoned open space along the coastline and rivers supports the objective by creating a buffer between the natural and built environment which offers resilience against storm events.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: Protecting and enhancing natural heritage and landscapes, encouraging biodiversity and avoiding development on the coast supports this objective directly by maintaining carbon sinks. It also has indirect positive effects by protecting features such as forests, hedgerows, peatland and flood or coastal plains which increase resilience and protect the built environment from extreme weather conditions. Strategic policy also strongly encourages the adoption of measures which encourage a transition away from dependence on fossil fuels towards low carbon lifestyles. Policy measures such as encouraging sustainable design and promoting greater accessibility by sustainable transport modes benefit the objective, but the future use of the strategic lignite reserve would not be consistent with objectives. However, at present this scenario appears highly unlikely. Renewable energy is supported in appropriate locations; however landscape policy will restrict the opportunities available which may reduce the magnitude of positive impacts from low carbon energy generation.

4.1.11. Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably

Sustainable Development: Spatial growth creates additional demand on water and waste water infrastructure. Development of land increases the rate of surface water runoff and alters natural flow rates in watercourses. While sustainable development and measures such as SuDS can be introduced to reduce the scale of negative impact (and developer contributions could provide a positive impact in delivering these), many aspects of drainage and waste water are delivered by external service providers and consequently there is uncertainty. Development impact assessments have a positive impact, by providing certainty that negative impacts are mitigated for larger developments.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Water supply to meet growth is not an issue as infrastructure is capable of meeting increased demand and the Borough also benefits from a good groundwater resource. Ensuring that development takes place in association with adequate wastewater treatment greatly benefits the objective. However, economic development can place pressure on water quality and impermeable surfaces such as roofs and car parks will increase peak flow rates in watercourses. Development impact assessments have a positive impact, by providing certainty that effects are mitigated for larger developments, however uncertainty remains for development in rural areas including agricultural development where diffuse pollution is a key sustainability issue.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Housing and housing growth place pressures on water quality. Impermeable surfaces such as roofs, driveways and patios parks will increase peak flow rates in watercourses. Waste water requires treatment prior to discharge. Development impact assessments have a positive effect, by providing certainty that effects are mitigated for larger new developments, however the plan does not have control over home owners making incremental changes such as replacing permeable surfaces. While housing development would only be enabled in association with adequate wastewater treatment, treatment (and, in the case of septic tanks, regulation) is carried out by external service providers. The impact of

storm water on sewage treatment is a key sustainability issue in the Borough. Measures such as SuDS can help to manage storm water, however the plan does not provide certainty that these will be adopted in all new development and therefore impacts remain minor negative. Open space and urban design support the objective by providing resilience. The other policies under this theme have negligible or no relationship with the objective.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: The overarching strategic policies to protect natural resources, landscapes and coastlines and provide environmental resilience provide overwhelmingly positive effects. Significant positive impacts are delivered through the detailed policies which prevent pollution and maintain natural flood plains and surface water flows.

4.1.12. Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity

Sustainable Development: Development can place pressure on the natural environment. Overarching strategies for sustainable development and growth and detailed policies that protect important assets and seek to enhance biodiversity in urban areas help to safeguard against negative impacts.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Directing economic development towards settlements and centres helps to deliver more efficient land use, reducing the scale of negative effects. However, some economic zonings and development in the countryside could adversely impact biodiversity. Key Site Requirements to maintain and enhance biodiversity around the margins of zoned sites will help to reduce net loss and maintain a higher quality natural environment. Development impact assessments will also help to avoid or mitigate significant effects. Detailed policies on transportation and infrastructure are protective and thus are predicted to have a neutral impact on natural resources and biodiversity.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Housing growth in general doesn't provide positive environmental benefits for natural heritage, however locally important biodiversity and designated sites would be protected against significant negative impacts. The strategic approach to housing distribution may help to achieve more efficient use of land and limits development in the countryside which may reduce the magnitude of net loss, however the overall impact remains minor negative. Protecting and enhancing open space, parks, gardens and demesnes retains green spaces and indirectly protects designated sites by creating buffer areas, delivering significant positive impacts. Policies which support placemaking and good design include for landscaping and biodiversity, recognising the benefits that green spaces bring in creating quality environments.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: Strategic policy which protects natural resources and encourage environmental resilience deliver strongly for this objective, with significant positive impacts from detailed policies on habitat and species conservation, protection of the coastal zone and pollution prevention. Protection of landscape also helps to safeguard natural heritage; however, it is recognised that mineral extraction can pose a conflict with natural resources objectives. Developer

impact assessments should help to avoid significant adverse impacts, but should any regionally significant projects come forward there remains some uncertainty over the scale and magnitude of any adverse impacts.

4.1.13. Maintain and enhance landscape character

Sustainable Development: Development places pressure on landscape, however consideration of our sensitive and unique landscapes forms a large element of strategic policy in the plan. The focus of strategic growth is directed away from areas of high landscape quality and positive impacts on the objective are anticipated.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Directing the majority of economic development towards settlements, centres and SELs helps to protect landscape character and generally neutral or negligible impacts are anticipated. Telecommunications, agricultural and economic development in the countryside can potentially have a minor negative impact on landscape character, however developer impact assessment will help identify measures such as site selection, screening and building details to reduce the scale of visual impact.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Projected housing growth will include a proportion of housing going in the countryside which may place pressure on rural landscape character with uncertain impacts due to lack of detail on location. The strategic housing allocation directs the majority of housing growth to top tier settlements which will help to reduce the magnitude of adverse impacts. Detailed policies which promote good design and integration with surroundings deliver significant positive impacts on the objective. Protecting historic environment assets and promoting the reuse or restoration of existing buildings also supports the objective, as historic assets are often sited in prominent locations within their surrounding landscape and the preservation of setting within the context of the natural environment is an integral part of landscape character.

A Place with a Sustainable Future: Strategic policy to protect natural heritage and the coastline delivers strong positive impacts on the objective as natural heritage and seascape are an important component of landscape character. Protecting the most sensitive landscapes from development, including minerals and renewables development, also has major positive impacts on this objective, although these benefits are balanced against potentially reduced benefits for other objectives. Policy exceptions to extract regionally significant minerals may have an adverse impact but the overall effect is uncertain as the potential likelihood of such a project occurring in the borough is unknown.

4.1.14. Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage

Sustainable Development: Strategic policy facilitates economic delivery that can appropriately reuse features of historic importance, or incorporate them into projects/proposals. Detailed policies can cumulatively encourage integration of

historic features for tourism or education related ventures (which may also be supported by developer contributions) and allow for the identification and designation of new heritage assets. Developer impact assessments can enable the discovery and interpretation of unrecorded artefacts, all of which acts positively on the objective.

A Place of Economic Opportunity: Economic development within settlements or zoned sites and in the countryside has the potential to conflict with the historic environment. Negative impacts can be reduced through developer impact assessments and also for zoned sites through the development of KSRs that highlight and protect industrial, defence and archaeological heritage. Policies on tourism and settlement centres can help to highlight assets and enable their restoration and/or enhancement. The repurposing of former industrial heritage routes for active travel can also help with access to and interpretation of the historic environment.

A Vibrant and Liveable Place: Strategic policy on historic environment aims to protect conserve and enhance our heritage and has a significant positive impact. Housing development and the projected development of 9,750 new homes has the potential to conflict with the historic environment. Excavation works and site clearance for housing may impact previously unrecorded archaeological remains. New housing can also adversely impact the setting of heritage assets. Avoidance measures such as retaining old boundaries and buffering of locally important or designated sites along with mitigation through developer impact assessments may reduce or eliminate negative effects. They could even act positively by enabling unrecorded archaeological features to be discovered assessed, recorded and preserved. Strategic and detailed policies on community infrastructure, placemaking and good design and historic environment also strongly support the objective, reflecting the importance that the historic environment has in establishing sense of place and local distinctiveness.

A Place with a Sustainable Future:

Strategic and detailed policies that are protective of landscape character have significant positive impact on this objective, recognising that the historic environment is intertwined with landscape and forms a significant component of landscape character. Exemptions allowing regionally significant mineral developments may adversely impact on this objective, giving rise to uncertain effects on strategic and detailed policies linked with these aspects however developer impact assessments may reduce the scale of adverse impacts. The consideration of drainage impact benefits the objective as changes in frequency or duration of periods of immersion and/or drying out can impact on the historic environment.

4.1.15. Summary of Total Effects

Overall, the total effect of all the preferred Options of the draft Plan Strategy was found to make a positive contribution to delivery of the majority of the sustainability objectives.

Significant long-term positive effects on sustainability are predicted to occur in relation to improvement of health and well-being, strengthening society, and sustainable economic growth.

However, mixed effects including minor negative impacts are also predicted for some sustainability objectives, especially in relation to managing material assets, protecting physical resources, encouraging active and sustainable travel, water resources, protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The total effect on air quality and reducing the causes of and adapting to climate change tends toward uncertain. This reflects that a plan for growth is unlikely to improve air quality or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, however it can aim to provide conditions and support wider initiatives to encourage the behavioural changes required for this to happen.

Many of these impacts have been minimised through the cross-referencing of policies within draft Plan Strategy, which should be read as a whole, as it will be applied in its entirety to all development proposals, or are capable of being mitigated at Local Policies Plan stage.

4.2 Cumulative Impacts

Schedule 2(6) of EAPP (NI) Regulations requires the appraisal consider secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. Secondary effects are effects that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur as a result of an original or direct effect. Cumulative effects can arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect or where several individual effects of the plan (e.g. noise, dust and visual) have a combined effect. Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

Table 4.1: Cumulative Impacts of the Plan

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
Improve health and well-being	The provision of quality housing supported by increased employment opportunities, and urban design which adopts principles of positive placemaking and enhanced connectivity should help to provide high quality living environments that benefit health and well-being for the whole Borough.	The cumulative effect of the relevant policies working together, along with the Community Plan is to further strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.
Strengthen society	Growth focused on main towns aims to maximise positive outcomes for society, but by sustaining population in smaller settlements, local services are supported and vitality is maintained in villages and rural areas. This acts positively in terms of social cohesion, sense of place/belonging	Housing policies SP 4.8 and DM 17 make provision for affordable homes which will encourage people from different community and income backgrounds to live together and

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	<p>and identity for communities and individuals.</p> <p>The policies under Strategic Policy 6 which encourage high quality new development contribute towards perceived safety and community cohesion.</p>	<p>should help to support sustainable communities.</p> <p>The cumulative effect of all of the relevant policies working together, along with the Community Plan is to strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.</p>
Provide good quality sustainable housing	<p>Strategic Policy 4 alongside DM 17 to DM 19 and DM 21 - DM 22 make a significant positive contribution to the delivery of housing in the Borough. Strategic Policy 6, Placemaking and Good Design helps to enhance the impacts by integrating housing with its surroundings and encouraging design that is led by people, not vehicle movement, as the primary focus - enabling linkages to nearby places, paths, streets and open spaces. This facilitates access to local facilities and services for people with impaired mobility and strongly helps to support the principle of 'lifetime homes'.</p>	<p>These policies have a synergistic effect on health and well-being and strengthen the effect of the positive impact.</p> <p>The principles of placemaking and good design help to enhance the quality of housing on a wider basis, by making the Borough a more attractive place to live. This will strengthen the positive effect to significant positive.</p>
Enable access to high quality education	<p>Strategic Policy 4 Housing Allocation aims to maintain sustainable populations for schools in both urban and rural settlements. Positive influences can come from economic development through training and apprenticeships. Strategic Policy 2 enhances the opportunity to deliver for this objective, in that it encourages major planning applications to provide for employment and skills training.</p>	<p>There are synergies between sustainable economic growth, health and a stronger society. These cumulative effects work together to raise the effect on the objective from negligible to minor positive.</p>
Enable sustainable economic growth	<p>Providing the conditions for the creation of a range of job types that are accessible across the Borough, and especially to areas of deprivation, has significant positive impacts. The 'town centre first' approach also seeks to promote and sustain vitality and vibrancy of town centres which has a positive impact. Promoting good design and protecting / enhancing open space, natural and built heritage has a positive impact in respect of making the Borough a more attractive place and should help to support tourism ambition.</p>	<p>The establishment of a LDP which establishes areas for economic development which are accessible to strategic transport routes is a key aspect of delivering the RDS.</p> <p>All policies in the draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively strengthen the effect of the significant positive impact.</p>

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
Manage material assets sustainably	Sustainable economic and housing growth has significant positive impacts through facilitating the location and provision of material assets (e.g. waste management, energy generation, telecommunications, electric vehicle charging points, etc.). However, the scale of positive impacts in respect of renewable energy may be constrained by landscape designations.	The establishment of a LDP which will identify the areas where growth is projected and which manages spatial growth sustainably will help to coordinate the provision of new infrastructure. Forward planning and coordination between service providers can help to reduce costs. This would help to strengthen some of the positive effects.
Protect physical resources and use sustainably	Spatial growth will lead to an inevitable consumption of land which has a negative impact on the objective. Mineral extraction is supported in appropriate areas, or where regionally significant positive economic impacts would occur, which benefits the objective. Encouraging sustainable drainage systems under DM 47 and remediation of contaminated land under DM 52 can help to improve soil quality.	Strategically focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located enables a more efficient use of land in terms of housing and economic development and promotes more sustainable patterns of development, reducing the scale of the negative impacts. Policies which support sustainable minerals extraction can have an indirect positive impact on jobs and economic growth, including through the supply chain and equipment sectors. The cumulative impact of the policies is minor positive.
Encourage active and sustainable travel	Strategic policy supports and facilitates the delivery of active travel and public transport related measures, which cumulatively support the delivery of the objective. Strategic Policy 6, Placemaking and Good Design helps to enhance the impacts by encouraging design that is led by people, not vehicle movement, as the primary focus - enabling linkages from new housing and economic development to nearby places, paths, streets and open spaces.	The establishment of a LDP which will identify the areas where housing and employment growth is projected helps to inform future local and regional Transport Plans and enables service providers to plan for the future more effectively. This, alongside a holistic approach to ensuring that new development is accessible by active travel, could help to stimulate behavioural change to reduce reliance on cars as the preferred mode of transport and enhance the impacts from mainly negligible to positive over time.
Improve air quality	Spatial and population growth is likely to give rise to increased emissions from transport, energy/heating and industry. Allocating the majority of housing growth to main towns may reduce the scale of negative impacts by providing a wider range of options for active and sustainable travel or lower emission forms of central heating in areas of greater	All policies in draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively reduce the scale of negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. This may lead to positive secondary effects on health and well-being, biodiversity and climate change. While the LDP may help to create conditions which could deliver

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
	housing density. Similar effects may occur through directing economic development to defined areas where opportunities exist to reduce impacts. Policies DM 50 and DM 28 will help to prevent negative effects. The total impact is uncertain.	improvements to air quality, significant effects are reliant on behavioural change, and consequently the long term impact remains uncertain.
Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change	Strategic policy seeks to enable sustainable growth that is mainly focused on settlements and centres and encouraging more sustainable modes of travel, which has a positive impact on the objective. However, the plan also encourages and facilitates development – housing, roads, facilities/services and industry/business - which can increase greenhouse gas emissions and may have negative impacts. DM 25 promotes the incorporation of energy efficiency and climate change resilience measures in new urban development which strongly supports the objective. DM 47 has the potential to deliver significantly for this objective through SuDS, however there is no certainty that the additional benefits of integrating 'soft' SuDS in preference to those that qualify for adoption by NI Water would be delivered. The total impact is mixed / uncertain, as many positive effects are reliant on behavioural change.	All policies in draft Plan Strategy work together to cumulatively reduce the scale of negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. The holistic approach taken by the draft Plan Strategy in ensuring that new development is accessible by active travel, could help to stimulate behavioural change to reduce reliance on cars as the preferred mode of transport. However, significant effects are reliant on developers being proactive and behavioural change, and consequently the long term impact remains uncertain.
Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably	Spatial growth and the construction of new houses and economic / industrial development places pressure on surface water quality and quantity.	The establishment of a LDP which will identify the areas where growth is projected and which manages spatial growth sustainably will help to enable the co-ordination of waste water infrastructure upgrades (where necessary) and aid in the delivery of Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI (and potentially also the Living with Water Programme). Together these may help to address some of the water quality issues in the receiving waters of Lough Neagh and Belfast Lough. These cumulative effects may reduce the scale of minor negative impacts and remove some of the uncertainty.
Protect natural	Spatial and population growth can place pressure on the natural environment.	The policies to protect the landscape, provide open space and safeguard

SA Objective	Effect of draft plan preferred options (total effects)	Potential Secondary, Synergistic or Cumulative Effects
resources and enhance biodiversity	Natural heritage policies DM 37 – 39 have been developed in accordance with regional planning policy and statutory legislative requirements. Directing housing and economic development towards settlements and centres helps to deliver more efficient land use. For rural development, Policy DM 27 seeks to avoid the loss of mature native vegetation with the aim of reducing loss of biodiversity. Strategic Policy 8 also seeks to maintain 'green' corridors and wedges to maintain biodiversity in built up areas and establish green infrastructure links between areas.	the coastal zone also work to support this objective. These cumulative effects may remove some of the uncertainty and help to reinforce the minor positive impacts.
Maintain and enhance landscape character	Development places pressure on landscape, however consideration of the Borough's sensitive and unique landscapes forms a large element of strategic policy in the plan. The focus of strategic growth is directed towards settlements and away from areas of high landscape quality and positive impacts on the objective are anticipated.	The policies to protect natural resources also work to support this objective. Liaison with neighbouring Councils and aligning policies where they have potential cross-boundary influence also helps to reinforce the minor positive impacts and should increase the effects to significant positive.
Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	Development has the potential to conflict with the historic environment. Strategic Policy and detailed management policies are protective towards identified / designated assets, in accordance with statutory requirements and legislation. Detailed management policy is also protective towards undesignated assets of heritage value, through encouraging development that is integrated with its surroundings and encouraging the protection and restoration of vernacular and locally important buildings. The overall impact tends towards significant positive, but total effects include a high proportion of uncertainty.	Policies which protect landscape character and natural heritage work together to strengthen the protection towards the historic environment and the setting of historic features. Policies also strongly encourage design that integrates new development with its surroundings. These cumulative effects will help remove much of the uncertainty and help to reinforce the positive effects leading to significant positive impacts.

4.3 Outcome and Next Steps

4.3.1. Outcome

The SA process has helped influence the content of the draft Plan Strategy by contributing to the critical review of the strategic policies and policy options including their reasonable alternatives. This SA Report has been published alongside the draft Plan Strategy for consultation purposes.

Overall, significant positive sustainability effects are predicted to result from the Draft Plan Strategy throughout the plan term and beyond, particularly in relation to health and well-being, strengthening society, provision of good quality housing, sustainable economic growth, landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Minor positive effects are identified for enabling access to high quality education, managing material assets sustainably, protecting physical resources and use sustainably, encouraging active and sustainable travel and protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity.

Mixed effects on improving air quality, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change, and protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably were identified. The cumulative impact of the plan is to reduce the scale of the majority of the minor negative impacts but some uncertainties remain.

Representations received in response to this consultation may lead to the modification of both the SA Report and Plan Strategy. If these modifications are significant this may lead to additional appraisal against the SA/SEA Framework.

4.3.2. Next steps

SEA Regulations require the Council to produce a formal, post-adoption SA Statement to accompany the Plan Strategy, as soon as reasonably possible after its adoption. The purpose of the post-adoption statement is to outline how the SA process has informed and influenced the plan preparation and decision making process, and demonstrate how consultation on the SA was taken into account. The SA Statement will contain the following information:

- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- How environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the plan;
- How consultation responses were taken into account; and
- Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the plan.

SA will continue throughout the Plan preparation and a Sustainability Report will also be published alongside the Local Policies Plan. In developing the Local Policies Plan we will ensure that no significant negative effects for the sustainability objectives are likely, or where they are unavoidable they can be mitigated to insignificant levels. We will also seek to ensure that positive effects are enhanced where appropriate.

5 Monitoring

A preliminary framework for monitoring has been developed from the key sustainability issues and significant effects identified through the SA. The Council will continue to work with statutory bodies and other partners to finalise and agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and therefore this framework may evolve in response to the results of consultation or changes to the Plan Strategy.

The final Monitoring Framework will be presented in a formal SA Statement following adoption of the Plan Strategy. The final framework will also include details of the current figure and baseline trends (if known). However, it should be noted that monitoring of some of the indicators may rely on adoption of the Local Policies Plan.

It is also recognised that the Council alone will not deliver all the outcomes identified in the target column. Delivery will also rest with the actions of other statutory bodies and service providers and the Council will therefore work closely with its partners in taking forward the final SA Monitoring Framework.

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

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

Indicator	Source	Target
Provide good quality sustainable housing		
1. The number of new homes completed in the Borough by settlement and in the countryside.	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain 5 year land supply based on projected housing growth and distribution
2. The number of new homes completed in the Borough by tenure.	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council NIHE and Housing Associations	Increase in affordable housing provision and assist in meeting identified needs

3.The number of planning applications for 20 dwellings or more that include a proportion of the dwellings designed to 'Lifetime Homes' standard.	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase overall % of homes built to lifetime home standard in Borough
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Indicator	Source	Target
Enable access to high quality education		
1. % of working age population with no qualifications	NISRA Labour Force Survey	Decrease in working age population with no qualifications
2. Number of planning applications permitted for the development of new education facilities (including shared facilities).	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Meet identified needs for new education facilities

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

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

Indicator	Source	Target
Encourage active and sustainable travel		
1. The number of planning applications permitted: •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
2. Access to sustainable and affordable transport	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council DfI Transport Division	To increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car
3. Travel to work by sustainable modes of transport	NISRA (Census)	To increase the proportion of journeys carried out using modes other than the car
4. The development of Greenways and new cycle paths (measured in metres / km).	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increased km, to encourage walking cycling

Indicator	Source	Target
Improve air quality		
1. Air Quality	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Achieving annual mean objectives / improvement in NO ₂ air quality, revocation of AQMA

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

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably		
1. % surface waterbodies in Borough achieving 'good'	DAERA NI Environment Agency	Increase in surface water quality

ecological status (or 'good' ecological potential) or better		
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	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Increase in development using 'soft' SuDs
3. Number and location of properties approved with septic tank	DAERA/NI Water	Decrease number of potential diffuse pollution sources.

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity		
1. Changes to designation of natural heritage assets (surface area km², number).	DAERA NI Environment Agency	Maintaining / increasing areas designated for nature conservation value
2. Condition of natural heritage assets within the Borough (DAERA condition assessments)	DAERA NI Environment Agency	Maintaining / improving areas designated for their nature conservation value
3. The number of development proposals permitted impacting on natural heritage assets contrary to advice received from DAERA Natural Environment Division	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintaining / improving areas designated for their nature conservation value

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

Indicator	Source	Target
Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage		
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).	DfC Historic Environment Division	Maintain/Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value
2. Change in number of heritage assets at risk in the Borough	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society	Maintain/Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value
3. The number of development proposals permitted involving heritage assets contrary to advice received from DfC Historic Environment Division.	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Maintain/Enhance sites, buildings and monuments designated for their heritage value

Appendix 1: Compliance Checklist for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 lists the following information required for Environmental Reports, according to Regulation 11(3), (4). The location in this Sustainability Appraisal Report or the accompanying SA Scoping Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	<p>An introduction to the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council LDP is presented in Section 1.</p> <p>Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes, policies and strategies.</p>
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	<p>Baseline information is presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, under topic sections. Each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.</p> <p>SA Scoping Report Section 5 presents Key Sustainability Issues.</p>
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	<p>The environmental characteristics of the Borough are presented in Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report, in baseline information and as Key Sustainability Issues.</p>
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including. In particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	<p>Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report identifies environmental problems.</p> <p>A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment for the draft Plan Strategy is published for consultation alongside the draft Plan Strategy.</p>

Requirement	Location
<p>5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</p>	<p>SA Scoping Report Section 5 outlines the main policy themes in the introduction to each topic.</p> <p>Appendix 4 of the SA Scoping Report outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.</p>
<p>6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air; (ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii). 	<p>Likely significant effects are described in Sections 3 and 4 of this SA Report. They are reported in the context of the sustainability appraisal framework included in Appendix 5 of the SA Scoping Report.</p> <p>Interrelationships are discussed in Section 2 and Appendix 3 of this SA Report.</p>
<p>7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.</p>	<p>Measures are reported in Section 3 of this SA Report and also in the matrices presented in Appendix 4 of this SA Report.</p>
<p>8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties</p>	<p>Section 2 of this SA Report considers this in general. Section 3 and Appendix 4 provide more detail on the options</p>

Requirement	Location
(such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	appraised and any assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	A preliminary framework for potential monitoring has been included in Section 5 of this SA Report.
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided as a separate document to accompany this SA Report and the SA Scoping Report.

Appendix 2: Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives & Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Strategic Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Sustainability Objectives													
	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
Plan Vision														
In 2030 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough will have a reputation as an excellent, attractive and diverse place in which to live and work. It will be a place that all citizens can take pride in and that is appealing to new residents, investors and visitors alike, with improved job opportunities, housing availability and connectivity that meets the needs of the community. Development will be sustainable and of high quality and will address the ongoing challenges of climate change. Our built and natural environment will continue to be high quality and well looked after and will support prosperity and economic development and provide for a wide range of recreational and leisure activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development														
(SO 1): Promote sustainable growth by managing development and securing new infrastructure provision in our settlements and countryside to meet the needs of all our citizens.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	?	?	?	?	?
A Place of Economic Opportunity														
(SO 2): Establish Antrim and Newtownabbey as a premier business location where both existing and new, innovative, cultural and creative enterprise can prosper.	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
(SO 3): Provide a range and quality of land and premises to facilitate business growth, promote economic diversification and protect our strategically important employment locations.	o	o	o	o	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
(SO 4): Promote development and regeneration of our town centres and commercial areas.	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	o	o	o	o	?
(SO 5): Support the development of sustainable tourism and enhanced tourism infrastructure.	✓	✓	o	o	✓	?	?	✓	o	o	?	?	?	✓
(SO 6) Improve accessibility, connectivity and ease of movement to, from and within our Borough and promote sustainable travel choices.	✓	✓	o	o	✓	o	o	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?
A Vibrant and Liveable Place														
(SO 7): Promote positive placemaking and ensure that high quality new development respects, enhances and integrates with our historic environment and natural heritage.	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	o	o	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
(SO 8): Ensure a sufficient supply of land for new homes, provide a diverse choice of housing and strengthen community cohesion.	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
(SO 9): Accommodate and promote well-designed and accessible community, education and health facilities.	✓	✓	o	✓	?	?	?	✓	o	o	?	?	✓	✓
(SO 10): Promote the protection and accessibility of our open spaces.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	o	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Place with a Sustainable Future														

Sustainability Appraisal Framework	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment
(SO 11): Promote biodiversity and conserve the natural assets of our countryside, coast and loughs.	✓	○	○	○	✓	○	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(SO 12): Ensure the responsible use of land and natural resources and promote sustainable energy production to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	?	✓	?	✓		?
(SO 13): Tackle flood risk by making space for water and promote sustainable drainage systems.	✓	○	✓	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	?
(SO 14): Ensure the responsible management of waste and support measures to increase recycling.	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓

Compatible	✓	No relationship	○	Uncertain relationship	?	Incompatible	✗
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Appendix 3: Impact of Preferred Options on Sustainability Objectives

Tables A 3.1 to A3.4 show the total effects (long term) attributed during the appraisal process, arranged under each theme of the Council's strategic objectives. They give a visual impression of how the policies perform against the sustainability objectives.

However, it should be noted that some of the DM policies were grouped together in the appraisal process and some of the SPs have been appraised through their underpinning DMs and therefore are absent from these figures. It should also be noted that for some policies, effects may be much greater than those of other policies.

Table A3.1

		Sustainable Development													
		1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
SP1a	Sustainable Development & Development Impact Assessments (SP1.1-1.5)	++	++	++	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
SP1b	Spatial Growth Strategy (SP1.6-1.12)	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	?	?	?	0	+	+
SP1c	Sustainable Development - Delivering Sustainable Outcomes (Developer Contributions) SP1.13-1.17	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+

Table A3.2

		A Place of Economic Opportunity													
		1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
DM 1	Economic Development – Zoned Sites and Settlements (incorporating SP 2 SP 2.6 – SP 2.9)	+	+	0	+	++	++	-	+	?	?	0	?	-	-
DM 2, DM 4 and DM 5	Economic Development – Countryside, Agricultural Development, Farm Diversification	0	+	0	0	++	?	-	-	?	?	?	?	-	?
DM 3	Economic Development – Incompatible Uses	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	0
DM 6 - DM8	Development within Centres, Development outside Centres and Development at The Junction, Antrim	+	++	+	0	++	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
DM 9	Tourism Development	+	+	0	0	++	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
DM 10	Access and Parking	+	+	+	0	+	0	-	+	+	0	-	0	0	0
DM 11	Access onto Protected Routes	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
DM12	Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	0	+
DM 13	Belfast International Airport – Operations	++	0	0	0	++	0	?	-	?	?	?	?	0	0
DM 14	Public Utilities and Infrastructure	++	0	0	0	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	-	0
DM 15	Development Relying on Non-Mains Sewerage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
DM 16	Telecommunication Facilities and Digital Services	+	+	0	+	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0

Table A3.3

		A Vibrant and Liveable Place													
		1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
SP 4a	Homes - Housing Growth	+	+	++	?	+	?	-	?	-	-	-	0	?	?
SP 4b	Homes – Housing Allocation	+	++	++	+	+	+	-	++	?	-	-	-	-	?
DM 17	Homes in Settlements	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	++	?	-	0	?	+	?
DM 18	Homes in the Countryside	+	++	++	0	+	0	0	-	-	0	?	0	+	?
DM 19	Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
DM 20	Traveller Accommodation	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0
DM 21	Specialist Residential Accommodation	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0
DM 22	Residential Extensions and Alterations	+	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
DM 23	Protection of Open Space	++	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	++
DM 24	Community Facilities	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
DM 25	Urban Design	+	++	0	0	++	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	++
DM 26, DM 29	Shopfront Design and Advertisements	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++
DM 27	Rural Design and Character	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	++
DM 28	Amenity Impact	++	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
DM 30 - DM 34	Archaeology, Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character.	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	++
DM 35	Enabling Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
DM 36	Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++

Table A3.4

		A Place with a Sustainable Future													
		1.... improve health and well-being.	2.... strengthen society.	3.... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4.... enable access to high quality education.	5.... enable sustainable economic growth.	6.... manage material assets sustainably.	7.... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8.... encourage active and sustainable travel.	9.... improve air quality.	10.... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11.... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12.... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13.... maintain and enhance landscape character.	14.... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment.
SP 9	Natural Resources (SP 9.2)	?	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	?	?	?	?	?
DM 37-39 & DM 42	Designated Sites of Nature Conservation, Protected Species, Habitats, Species & Features of Natural Heritage Importance, Trees & Development	+	+	0	0	+	-	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	0
DM 40	Landscape Protection	+	0	0	0	++	-	?	0	0	+	+	+	++	++
DM 41	Coastal Protection	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	++	++	0
DM 43	Minerals Development	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	?	0	0
DM 44	Mineral Reserve Policy Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	?	?	?	?	?	?
DM 45	Renewable Energy Development	0	0	0	0	?	+	?	0	+	+	0	+	++	++
DM 46 DM 48 DM 49	The Control of Development in Flood Plains, Reservoir Flood Risk, Artificial Modification of Watercourses	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	0	0
DM 47	Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+
DM 50	Pollution	++	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	++	0	0
DM 51	Major Hazards	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DM 52	Contaminated Land	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
DM 53 DM 54	Waste Management and Disposal Facilities and Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities	++	0	+	0	+	++	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	0

Appendix 4: The Sustainability Appraisal Matrices

POLICY	HOW APPRAISED	PAGE
Sustainable Development		
Strategic Policy 1 Sustainable Development	Appraised in three parts: Sustainable Development & Development Impact Assessments (SP1.1-1.5)	121
	Spatial Growth Strategy (SP1.6-1.12)	124
	Sustainable Development - Delivering Sustainable Outcomes (Developer Contributions) SP1.13-1.17	127
A Place of Economic Opportunity		
Strategic Policy 2 Employment	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 1 – DM 9	
Policy DM 1 Economic Development – Zoned Sites and Settlements	DM 1 appraised	130
Policy DM 2 Economic Development – Countryside	DM 2, DM 4 and DM 5 appraised as a group	135
Policy DM 3 Economic Development – Incompatible Uses	DM 3 appraised	139
Policy DM 4 Agricultural Development	DM 2, DM 4 and DM 5 appraised as a group	135
Policy DM 5 Farm Diversification	DM 2, DM 4 and DM 5 appraised as a group	135
Policy DM 6 Development within Centres	DM 6 – DM 8 appraised as a group	142
Policy DM 7 Development outside Centres	DM 6 – DM 8 appraised as a group	142
Policy DM 8 Development at The Junction, Antrim	DM 6 – DM 8 appraised as a group	142
Policy DM 9 Tourism Development	DM 9 appraised	145
Strategic Policy 3 Transportation & Infrastructure	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 10 – DM 16	
Policy DM 10 Access and Parking	DM 10 appraised	148
Policy DM 11 Access to Protected Routes	DM 11 appraised	150
Policy DM 12 Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)	DM 12 appraised	152
Policy DM 13 Belfast International Airport - Operations	DM 13 appraised	155
Policy DM 14 Public Utilities and Infrastructure	DM 14 appraised	158
Policy DM 15 Development Relying on Non-Mains Sewerage	DM 15 appraised	161
Policy DM 16 Telecommunication Facilities and Digital Services	DM 16 appraised	164

POLICY	HOW APPRAISED	PAGE
A Vibrant and Liveable Place		
Strategic Policy 4 Homes	Appraised in two parts: Homes - Housing Growth (SP 4.2 & SP 4.3) Homes – Housing Allocation (SP 4.4 & SP 4.5) Remainder of SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 17 – DM 22.	167 172
Policy DM 17 Homes in Settlements	DM 17 appraised	179
Policy DM 18 Homes in the Countryside	DM 18 appraised	184
Policy DM 19 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes	DM 19 appraised	188
Policy DM 20 Traveller Accommodation	DM 20 appraised	191
Policy DM 21 Specialist Residential Accommodation	DM 21 appraised	193
Policy DM 22 Residential Extensions and Alterations	DM 22 appraised	196
Strategic Policy 5 Community Infrastructure	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 23 & DM24	
Policy DM 23 Protection of Open Space	DM 23 appraised	199
Policy DM 24 Community Facilities	DM 24 appraised	202
Strategic Policy 6 Placemaking and Good Design	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 25 – DM 29	
Policy DM 25 Urban Design	DM 25 appraised	205
Policy DM 26 Shopfront Design	DM 26 & DM 29 appraised as a group	208
Policy DM 27 Rural Design and Character	DM 27 appraised	211
Policy DM 28 Amenity Impact	DM 28 appraised	214
Policy DM 29 Advertisements	DM 26 & DM 29 appraised as a group	208
Strategic Policy 7 Historic Environment	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 30 – DM 36	
Policy DM 30 Archaeology	DM 30 – DM 34 appraised as a group	217
Policy DM 31 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes	DM 30 – DM 34 appraised as a group	217
Policy DM 32 Listed Buildings	DM 30 – DM 34 appraised as a group	217
Policy DM 33 Conservation Areas	DM 30 – DM 34 appraised as a group	217
Policy DM 34 Areas of Townscape Character	DM 30 – DM 34 appraised as a group	217
Policy DM 35 Enabling Development	DM 35 appraised	221
Policy DM 36 Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings	DM 36 appraised	224

POLICY	HOW APPRAISED	PAGE
A Place with a Sustainable Future		
Strategic Policy 8 Natural Heritage	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 37 – DM 42	
Policy DM 37 Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance	DM 37 – DM 39 & DM 42 appraised as a group	227
Policy DM 38 Protected Species	DM 37 – DM 39 & DM 42 appraised as a group	227
Policy DM 39 Habitats, Species & Features of Natural Heritage Importance	DM 37 – DM 39 & DM 42 appraised as a group	227
Policy DM 40 Landscape Protection	DM 40 appraised	230
Policy DM 41 Coastal Protection	DM 41 appraised	235
Policy DM 42 Trees and Development	DM 37 – DM 39 & DM 42 appraised as a group	227
Strategic Policy 9 Natural Resources	SP 9.2(b), 9.2(c) and SP9.3 appraised. Remainder of SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 43 – DM 45.	238
Policy DM 43 Minerals Development	DM 43 appraised	241
Policy DM 44 Mineral Reserve Policy Areas	DM 44 appraised	244
Policy DM 45 Renewable Energy Development	DM 45 appraised	248
Strategic Policy 10 Environmental Resilience and Protection	SP appraised via underpinning DMs, DM 46 – DM 54	
Policy DM 46 The Control of Development in Flood Plains	DM 46, DM 48 and DM 49 appraised as a group	252
Policy DM 47 Surface Water Drainage & Sustainable Drainage Systems	DM 47 appraised	255
Policy DM 48 Reservoir Flood Risk	DM 46, DM 48 and DM 49 appraised as a group	252
Policy DM 49 Artificial Modification of Watercourses	DM 46, DM 48 and DM 49 appraised as a group	252
Policy DM 50 Pollution	DM 50 appraised	258
Policy DM 51 Major Hazards	DM 51 appraised	261
Policy DM 52 Contaminated Land	DM 52 appraised	263
Policy DM 53 Waste Management and Disposal Facilities	DM 53 and DM 43 appraised as a group	266
Policy DM 54 Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities	DM 53 and DM 43 appraised as a group	266

Strategic Policy SP1a – Sustainable Development & Development Impact Assessments (SP1.1-1.5)

Option	Take forward the principle of sustainable development, and Developer Impact Assessments based on current legislative requirements and planning policy			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	Overarching policy for sustainable development. All policies from the plan seek to improve health and wellbeing – directly or indirectly. For example: connectivity, active travel routes, open space provision, nuisance control (noise/odour), and new healthcare facilities.
2... strengthen society.	++	++	++	Overarching policy for sustainable development. New housing, community facilities, town centres & open space (neutral spaces) could all be delivered by this policy. The plan led system aims to deliver sustainable development including for the community – aspects of development such as connectivity and public realm.. Policy able to directly deliver for this objective. Developer contributions could be an aspect, which may enable delivery of community needs.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	++	++	++	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Housing will be delivered through the plan led system under range of policies that aim to facilitate delivery of sustainable and appropriate housing – location, quality, need, affordability, type.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. The plan is a facilitating role and the provision of services will be delivered by external players outside of the planning system.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	Overarching policy for sustainable development that can deliver for a sustainable economy by enabling, facilitating and supporting all aspects through innovation and competitiveness – tourism, town centres, retail.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Facilitates and encourages MAs – telecommunications, waste facilities, energy infrastructure in suitable locations as well as enabling reuse of vacant land/derelict land.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Consumption of land inevitable but policy able to protect known mineral reserves and minimise greenfield loss through this approach. Imperative reasons for overriding public interest (IROPI) are still feasible and the policy enables balancing needs. It was discussed how the number of IROPI cases are unlikely to be significant. The policy aims for the most efficient use of land.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. This policy supports and facilitates the delivery of active travel and public transport related measures, which cumulatively support the delivery of the objective. Transport Assessments will be used by the Council to assess fully the impact of development proposals on existing transport movement, local infrastructure and how it contributes to wider government policy aimed at achieving more sustainable travel patterns and reducing environmental impacts. The plan is a facilitator, enabler and delivery will be dependent of external service providers beyond the remit of the planning system, such as Transport NI. Behavioural changes in modes of transport will also be a factor.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Where applicable an assessment is typically required for air quality. The Plan led system has policies that cumulatively help to avoid incompatible land uses as well as to encourage and enable moves toward cleaner air –

				active/sustainable travel policies, open space, incompatible economic land uses. It was discussed that external factors are also key including behavioural change, which is reflected in the score.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. The policy has a strong presumption against development proposals within floodplains but does allow for it in exceptional circumstances. Flood risk assessments (protective and adaptive) are required however, development in floodplains is generally not supported. The Plan led system has cumulative policies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help adaptation to the impacts of climate change - flooding, active travel, open space, designated site protection, conservation of peatlands/coastlines. Although mitigation and adaptation to climate change are encouraged/facilitated/supported, the Plan encourages and facilitates development – housing, roads, facilities/services and industry/business - which can increase greenhouse gas emissions - unavoidable.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Drainage assessments are required where feasible. Policy seeks to avoid impacts on water – quality, flow, and designated sites - flood plains but development does place pressure on water resources, which is reflected in the score.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development that considers environmental conditions and requires a variety of impact assessments – environmental, air, and ecological. It was discussed how development can place pressure on the natural environment but overall protection of environment is enabled through other policies able to directly deliver for designated sites, buffers and local biodiversity. Any IROPI cases would have to be called in by DfI. LDP will align with SPPS and reflect sustainable development, which should help avoid impacts across the wider countryside where sites/species/habitats/biodiversity are mostly located.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Overall, landscape is a consideration of the Plan. There are a number of policies directly able to deliver for the objective –specific areas designated for their landscape value (SLPAs) and focus on settlements – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) can be requested for some developments. Development itself places pressure on landscape but numerous controls/measures are evident– appropriate siting, design, visual amenity etc.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Overarching policy for sustainable development. Overall, the historic environment is a consideration of the Plan. Plan led system facilitates economic delivery that can appropriately reuse features of historic importance, or incorporate them into projects/proposals. Policies can cumulatively encourage integration of historic features for tourism or educational related ventures. New sites can be designated under the Plan. Archaeological Impact Assessments can be supplied to help document undiscovered archaeology.

Summary of Policy

Overarching policy for sustainable development. The LDP is based on a plan-led framework for rational and consistent decision making. SP1 is the overarching policy for all development with regards to the principle of development. This policy refers to the most commonly required assessments in planning. Supports the Community and Corporate Plans. The policy underpins all decision-making on development proposals by recognising the need to provide balance between the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development and ensuring that no one pillar is given more prominence than any other. This policy approach will also be the basis for the allocation of land for development at the local policies plan stage of the LDP. The LDP seeks to further sustainable development through its policies and designations which balance the social and economic priorities of our Borough alongside the careful management of our historic environment and natural heritage.

Reasonable Alternatives

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of RDS, SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance, including legislative requirements under the NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 and the Planning (NI) Act 2011.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy was predicted to score positively against all 14 sustainability objectives covering all three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental. Significant positive outcomes were predicted as most likely for delivery of the social sustainability objectives - health and well-being, strengthening society and sustainable housing; as well as the economic sustainability objective - enabling sustainable economic growth; and the environmental sustainability objective – maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

The most sustainable option: Sustainable Development and Development Impact Assessments

The preferred option: Sustainable Development and Development Impact Assessments

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Significant positive outcomes were predicted for improving health and well-being, strengthening society, sustainable housing, enabling sustainable economic growth; and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

The various impact assessments referred to in the policy. To assist the delivery of sustainable development the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments (as per SP 1.4) in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed.

Strategic Policy SP1b – Spatial Growth Strategy (SP1.6-1.12)

Option	Take forward a Spatial Growth Strategy based upon the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and existing committed development allocations.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where services/facilities are already located with sustainable growth opportunities elsewhere Positives for access to these – emergency services, doctors, open space, recreational opportunities. Policy enables/facilitates greater proportion of the population to be concentrated where access to health and well-being are located.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where services/facilities are already located with sustainable growth opportunities elsewhere and enabling people from both urban and rural areas to benefit from a sustained community. Policy helps to facilitate people to stay in their homes and communities and areas with positives for social cohesion, sense of place/belonging and identity for communities and individuals.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where services/facilities are already located with sustainable growth opportunities. This helps to enable provision of appropriate and adequate housing – size, type, affordability. Approach taken focuses on the critical mass so that the greater proportion of housing issues in both urban and rural areas should be dealt with.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where services/facilities are already located with sustainable growth is likely to help to sustain the numbers of pupils/students needed for local educational facilities. The critical mass approach is also more likely to align to where facilities with higher-level skills provision are located.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Ensures sustainable growth in both urban and rural areas with a focus on existing settlements and top tiers but with rural areas and the countryside and its inhabitants also a consideration with regards to facilities/services and employment roles. Focus of core growth in top tier settlements to support vibrancy of town centres still enables sustainable growth in lower tiers and rural areas. Policy option facilitates keeping the rural area attractive, which supports tourism. Approach can facilitate provision of jobs and workers in most suitable locations – best use of location – with accessibility to key transport routes a criteria for growth.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located has positives for facilitating the location and provision of material assets - waste, energy, telecommunications and associated structures. Also more feasible to ensure the reuse of vacant/derelect land and take advantage of the proximity principle. The critical mass approach aligns delivery of MAs in a more efficient manner. It should help support the most efficient use of land and transport routes for delivery of things like waste management and energy distribution.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located enables a more efficient use of land for development but at the same time helps to avoid impacts on minerals and earth science sites (if located in wider countryside). The policy makes the use of land unavoidable but aims for sustainable patterns of development.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located will be proactive for delivery of the objective as the greater proportion of the population will be able to be located near to the majority of facilities and services. The plan is a facilitator, enabler and delivery will be dependent of external service providers such as Transport NI. The need for increased provision level of public transport, behavioural change of the population to use alternative transport modes will also be a factor.

9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located and the majority of the population reside may reduce local air quality – home heating, transport emissions, loss of open areas – from an increasing population. However, in the top four tiers of the settlement hierarchy in the Council people are more likely to be able to access gas with fewer risks to local air quality than coal or oil. Policy approach may enable more people to use active and public transport but other factors are also relevant so it may or may not help to improve local air quality. Policy facilitates development and aims to avoid conflict between land uses so air emission assessments can be requested. There is some uncertainty about the outcome of the policy and delivery of this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located may help enable delivery of more sustainable homes to more people and enable access to more sustainable forms of energy (gas, shared domestic renewables) and transport (active/sustainable transport). The Plan will also enable adaptation under cumulative policies. However overall development generates greenhouse gas emissions and car numbers/journeys may reduce in the main settlements but likewise population growth and lack of behavioural change may halt any reduction. These uncertainties are reflected in the score.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located should help avoid wetland habitats but generally development places pressure on water resources – demand and adequate sewerage infrastructure. It also increases runoff and can reduce the amount of land able to help reduce flows and deal with local flooding, although measures can be introduced. There is some uncertainty about the delivery for the objective under the Plan because external service providers are involved.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located will help avoid impacts across the wider countryside where protected and priority species/habitats and local biodiversity levels are more likely to be located. The natural environment is referred to as a consideration with 'growth'. With the Plan, land take is unavoidable for development including in urban areas but with a focus on existing settlements – critical mass approach – a more efficient use of land with an ability to avoid any losses of biodiversity is more feasible. Policy option promotes growth in settlements top down which will help to limit impacts on natural environment. Focus on settlements with careful measures included such as countryside policies will ensure the natural environment will be considered. Protective policy approach for designated sites and local biodiversity but may not enhance.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth within existing settlements with limits on growth in the countryside seeks to protect landscape from ribbon development. The policy approach enables protection of the visual amenity of settlements and protects the wider countryside.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Focusing core growth where existing settlements are already located enables and facilitates appropriate reuse of vacant historic buildings and sites. Growth is to be considered alongside the historic environment. Some areas in the Council area have already been identified for their historic value - key sites coming forward at local policies plan stage (such as Nutts Corner and the International Airport) where consideration may be given to having bespoke policies created for them to help manage potential impacts.

Summary of Policy

Policy focuses on core growth in existing settlements where facilities and services are already located. It also seeks to sustain sustainable rural growth. Sustainable development is promoted by the LDP's overarching Spatial Growth Strategy, which sets out the Council's approach to growth across our Borough. The Spatial Growth Strategy has been informed by and is consistent with the RDS including its Spatial Framework Guidance. Furthermore, the RDS directs that settlements should be the primary location for accommodating future development needs and that the scope and type of development should generally relate to the size and function of each settlement. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Reasonable Alternatives

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS, SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance, including legislative requirements under the NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 and the Planning (NI) Act 2011. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy scored positive against the social and economic sustainability objectives with significant positives recorded for enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably. Predicted outcomes were less certain for some of the environmental objectives – improving air quality, climate change, and managing water resources sustainably. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for two of the environmental sustainability objectives - maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

The most sustainable option: Take forward a Spatial Growth Strategy based upon the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and existing committed development allocations.

The preferred option: Take forward a Spatial Growth Strategy based upon the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and existing committed development allocations.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for two of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth and material assets.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Key site requirements for zoned land.

Strategic Policy SP1c – Sustainable Development - Delivering Sustainable Outcomes (Developer Contributions) SP1.13-1.17

Option	Take forward the principle of developer contributions based on the SPPS and legislative provisions.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Delivery of facilities and services with positives for health and well-being because they could be linked to local need – local neighbourhood/community facilities. Other deliverables that could support delivery of the objective include open space, paths, cycle ways, public art, recreational facilities, etc. There is potential for several projects through the policy for this objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Delivery of local level neighbourhood/community facilities and services, as well as other aspects - open space, public art, and improved public transport routes/access points, public realm. These features can support delivery of the objective – opportunities are available.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Delivery of affordable housing and lifetime homes as well as other aspects that add to the quality of where people live - open space, public art, improved transport links - all could support delivery of the objective. Potential for several projects every year. A variety of housing types and tenures could be deliverable. Section 76 agreements will be key for delivery.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	It was discussed that there may be potential for projects to improve access to educational facilities/resources or to provide facilities for multiple uses but policy unable to deliver directly for the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	?	+	+	Approach contributes to economic growth as essential infrastructure can be enabled/facilitated within certain developments. Unlikely to deter developers but it might. There would be associated development from the policy approach and the requirements of the Section 76 agreements – economic stimulus. Most likely to be necessary for local needs too. With the supplementary guidance, there would be more certainty – which is reflected in the score.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	There is a potential for projects linked to material assets and associated infrastructure – telecommunications, electric vehicle charging points, residential recycling facilities. Able to serve both urban and rural areas.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Unlikely to be able to deliver for the objective on a significant scale due to limited mineral or renewable sites. Where feasible, policy able to facilitate restoration of old renewable sites back to greenfield /semi natural land. Older mineral sites - ROMPS (lacking restoration conditions) may be able to be restored back to greenfield land/semi natural land and help to avoid local level pollution of soil/land. Potential for reinstatement or restoration of land.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Potential to seek improved connectivity through active travel and access to active travel routes. Public transport also able to be promoted. Larger applications more likely to be able to deliver for the objective. Able to benefit those without access to a vehicle and enable improved local connectivity.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Recognised that the policy could help to encourage reduced car use with active/sustainable travel provision and positives for local air quality but the Plan would be unable to deliver completely for the objective because of external players, behavioural change and so on – which is reflected in the score.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	+	+	Adaptation able under the policy. SuDS could be encouraged/facilitated and other measures to reduce flow from developments – permeable surfaces. Green/blue infrastructure projects also likely. It was discussed how there could be potential for positive outcomes with supplementary guidance which is reflected in score.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	+	+	SuDS could be applied to contribute to delivery of the objective. Other measures could include watercourse buffering, developer supported river clean-ups. Policy aims to be positive but there is some uncertainty because contributions for sustainable drainage can be sought although use of SuDS will be a policy requirement i.e. green roofs, wetlands, rainwater harvesting. Policy would help with the commitment to maintain soft SuDS – management arrangements.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	+	+	Policy aims to deliver for the natural heritage – biodiversity, green/open space, tree planting, recreational. It is recognised that the outcomes are aspirational. Proposals in some areas could directly focus on local biodiversity - maintaining, and enhancing it. It was discussed how supplementary guidance could help enhance outcomes. Potential for positive outcomes for delivery of this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	+	Landscape character is likely to be already a major consideration of any proposals. Decommissioning of renewables with restoration, and restoration of mineral sites may be more manageable under this approach (bonds) and help to ensure appropriate restoration of sites. These outcomes in the longer term are reflected in the score.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Objective likely to be already a major consideration of any proposals but proposals could help to restore features and/or reuse features that would help to conserve the historic environment. Excavations could also be used to discover unknown archaeology. Policy enables potential to support interpretation projects – cultural activities. Some sites that are likely to be developed but already known as sites with historic features/diversity could benefit from this policy.

Summary of Policy

The proper planning and sustainable development of our Borough also entails that adequate physical and community infrastructure should accompany growth and new development. As a consequence, developers will normally be expected to bear the cost of works required to facilitate their development proposals and to manage or mitigate adverse impacts arising through the provision of developer contributions. Such contributions may require the completion of a planning agreement under Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Reasonable Alternatives

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of RDS, SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance, including legislative requirements under The NI Miscellaneous Provisions (Act) 2006 and the Planning (NI) Act 2011. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy scored minor positive against most of the 14 sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental, with a significant positive score against the sustainable housing objective. There were only negligible effects recorded for one of the social sustainability objectives – access to education; and one of the environmental sustainability objectives – improving air quality. Some uncertainties were recorded in the short term for climate change and water resources but the development of supplementary guidance should help reduce or remove these uncertainties. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for both objectives in the long term.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the principle of developer contributions based on the SPPS and legislative provisions.

The preferred option: Take forward the principle of developer contributions based on the SPPS and legislative provisions.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for one of the economic sustainability objectives – good, quality sustainable housing.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Supplementary guidance will be brought forward for Section 76 agreements – streamlined system. Key Site Requirements – services provision, historic led initiatives.

Policy DM 1: Economic Development – Zoned Sites and Settlements (incorporating Strategic Policy 2 SP 2.6 – SP 2.9)

Options	Option 1: Bring forward existing employment lands of around 10 ha as SELs.				Option 2: Bring forward existing employment lands of around 10 ha as SELs and identify new sites where required.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Good quality jobs that are locally available can benefit health and wellbeing. The overall impact is negligible.	+	+	+	Good quality jobs that are locally available can benefit health and wellbeing. This option would allow more areas of the Borough to benefit as the new lands provided would enable more long term opportunities for employment.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Creates jobs for everyone. More jobs, more job types, more range of jobs locally. Contributes to reducing inequalities.	+	+	+	Creates jobs for everyone. More jobs, more job types, more range of jobs locally. Contributes to reducing inequalities. This option would enable opportunities for more areas to benefit.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	The overarching SP 2 is proactive for this objective in that it requires major planning applications to provide for employment and skills training. Council will seek to work with the developers of such schemes to identify and agree how a proportion of the total jobs to be created during both the construction and operational phase of the development might be delivered via apprenticeships, work placements or similar mechanisms targeted at local unemployed or underemployed residents.	+	+	+	The overarching SP 2 is proactive for this objective in that it requires major planning applications to provide for employment and skills training. Council will seek to work with the developers of such schemes to identify and agree how a proportion of the total jobs to be created during both the construction and operational phase of the development might be delivered via apprenticeships, work placements or similar mechanisms targeted at local unemployed or underemployed residents. More areas would benefit from this.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy. Ensures there is sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth. Supports creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. Supports enhancement of the skills base. Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It may help to increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work. Will support employment locations that have developed since the publication of legacy plans, particularly in the Antrim legacy area. This will include major employers across the Borough and will contribute to the local and regional economy.	+	+	+	Supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy. Ensures there is sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth. Supports creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. Supports enhancement of the skills base. Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It may help to increase the number of people coming to the Borough to work. Spreads the benefit out to more parts of the Borough and makes the best use of location. Will support employment locations that have developed since the publication of legacy plans, particularly in the Antrim legacy area. This will include major employers across the Borough and will contribute

								to the local and regional economy. Will address long term needs of Antrim and Ballyclare where shortfall in remaining lands.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Concentrates big employment sites mainly in top 3 settlements, where infrastructure is already in place. Supports proximity principle.	+	+	+	Concentrates big employment sites mainly in larger settlements, where infrastructure is already in place. Supports proximity principle. This option may require new infrastructure in the new sites, but the settlements are already established and should be capable of accommodating this. In selecting new sites, Council would take account of their infrastructure provisions/needs.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	Some existing employment lands are already developed or brownfield. However, many areas zoned through draft BMAP but not yet developed are greenfield / semi-natural and their development will result in a permanent change of land use. May help support minerals industries. Adverse impacts may be reduced through KSRs.	-	-	-	Existing employment lands are already mainly developed or brownfield. However, many areas zoned through draft BMAP but not yet developed are greenfield/semi natural and their development will result in a permanent change of land use. New sites may potentially incorporate greenfield land but would be assessed before zoning to ensure losses of greenfield/semi-natural land cover are minimised. May help support minerals industries. Adverse impacts can be reduced through KSRs.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	The principle of clustering the majority of employment in larger settlements is supportive of this objective where infrastructure is already in place. There are also greater opportunities for sustainable travel options. SELs benefit from being located on main strategic transport routes, with easy access to motorways / efficient connections to ports & airports. It is recognised that there continues to be a need to improve public transport linkages and this will apply to those sites that are less well served by public transport.	+	+	+	The principle of clustering the majority of employment in larger settlements is supportive of this objective where infrastructure is already in place. There are also greater opportunities for sustainable travel options. SELs benefit from being located on main strategic transport routes, with easy access to motorways / efficient connections to ports & airports. It is recognised that there continues to be a need to improve public transport linkages and this will apply to those sites that are less well served by public transport. The selection of sites for new SELs will provide greater opportunity for encouraging active and sustainable travel.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Strategic employment zonings aim to retain employment closer to where people live and reduce commuting. Having employment at strategic locations is unlikely to improve air quality in the locality of the SEL. Development in a SEL may increase the frequency of freight in and out of sites, increase the car journeys in that location and there may be additional air-borne outputs from activities on site. The impact of these emissions will depend upon the location and adjacent land uses.	?	?	?	Strategic employment zoning aims to retain employment closer to where people live and reduce commuting. Having employment at strategic locations, and considering some additionally is unlikely to improve air quality in the locality of the SEL. Development in an existing or new SEL may increase the frequency of freight in and out of sites, increase the car journeys in that location and there may be additional air-borne outputs from activities on site. The impact of these emissions will depend upon the location and adjacent land uses.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Unlikely to reduce climate change emissions with transport movements of people and goods; operational outputs from businesses/industry. This will also depend on the types of business in the SEL. Development within a SEL may be designed with climate change adaptation in mind; new building design may include energy efficiency measures.	?	?	?	Unlikely to reduce climate change emissions with transport movements of people and goods; operational outputs from businesses/industry. This will also depend on the types of business in the SEL. Development within a SEL may be designed with climate change adaptation in mind; new building design may include energy efficiency measures. In addition, strategically determined development can be located away from waterways and floodplains. New sites would employ selection criteria to ensure that most appropriate locations are chosen.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Existing sites are mostly already built out / surfaced with drainage in place. Drainage and flood risk assessment would inform requirements for new development. Development on SELs may bring potential risks to water quality and increased consumption. This can be mitigated through Key Site Requirements, and pollution prevention policy.	0	0	0	Existing sites are mostly already built out / surfaced with drainage in place. Drainage and flood risk assessment would inform requirements for new development. Development on SELs may bring potential risks to water quality and increased consumption. This can be mitigated through, key site requirements, and pollution prevention policy. New SELs could benefit from Key Site Requirements to or other measures to reduce impacts on water, such as requirement to incorporate SuDS.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Existing occupied sites are mostly already built out / surfaced and / or brownfield. However, many areas zoned through draft BMAP but not yet developed are greenfield or have scrub vegetation. Their development may still result in some losses of biodiversity but the overall impact on the objective is unknown; mitigation can help to reduce the impact of development.	?	?	?	Existing occupied sites are mostly already built out / surfaced and / or brownfield. However, many areas zoned through draft BMAP but not yet developed are greenfield or have scrub vegetation. Their development may still result in some losses of biodiversity but the overall impact on the objective is unknown; mitigation can help to reduce the impact of development. In selecting new sites, Council can take account of biodiversity and avoid unacceptable losses.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Existing sites are mostly already built out / surfaced within settlements. Further development on these is unlikely to affect landscape character negatively. However, for the rural sites, landscape character may be influenced and mitigation through landscaping as a KSR.	-	-	-	New sites are likely to be edge of settlement, Development on these may affect landscape character negatively. Adverse impacts may be reduced through KSRs for vegetation screening / landscaping.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	-	-	-	The locations of many of the SELs contain historic environment assets. Ground works associated with extensive development can impact on previously undiscovered / undocumented archaeological remains. Existing sites are mostly already built out / surfaced within settlements. Certain existing SELs have Key Site Requirements in respect of historic environment assets. Existing lands may have historic assets and these should be brought forward as KSRs when zoned at Local Policies Plan stage.	-	-	-	The locations of many of the SELs contain historic environment assets. Ground works associated with extensive development can impact on previously undiscovered / undocumented archaeological remains. Existing sites are mostly already built out / surfaced within settlements but possible new SELs may be located in areas with potential for undiscovered archaeology. Adverse impacts on this objective can be reduced through KSRs.

Summary of Policy:

The aim of this policy is to promote core economic development schemes on zoned employment sites and to facilitate sustainable employment opportunities elsewhere in settlements that are appropriate to their location. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Reasonable Alternatives

There are two Options. The Council's commissioned employment study identified that future forecasts predict that there is not a need for substantial new employment lands. However, some larger settlements have a shortfall in remaining employment lands (Antrim and Ballyclare). Therefore Option 1 is to bring forward existing lands (including legacy zoned lands and lands granted planning permission). This includes land in Newtownabbey, Antrim, Ballyclare as well as Nutts Corner and BIA.

Option 2 is to bring forward the same plus additional lands in Antrim and Ballyclare where the employment study identified a shortfall, with sites to be confirmed at Local Policies Plan.

These alternatives have been developed taking account of Issues 8-10 of the Preferred Options Paper, which were appraised in the SA Interim Report.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

Option 1 has a mostly negligible effect on the social sustainability objectives, however a minor positive impact was identified for the objective to strengthen society. It has a strongly positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts identified for the objectives relating to economic growth and material assets. A minor positive impact is also identified in respect of education, as economic development may enhance local opportunities for skills and vocational training. A mixture of impacts is identified for the environmental sustainability objectives; impacts are uncertain for the objectives relating to air quality and climate change as they dependent on the type of development brought forward. Impacts on natural resources are also uncertain. Minor negative impacts are identified for physical resources and the historic environment as development of SELs will result in permanent land use change. However, the impact on these objectives could be reduced through the application of Key Site Requirements to reduce the scale of the effect.

Option 2 has a mostly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, with minor positive impact identified for the objectives to improve health and to strengthen society. The option has a strongly positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts identified for the objectives relating to economic growth and material assets. The additional opportunities brought by this option also enable it to deliver more benefits than Option 1 for these objectives. A minor positive impact is also identified in respect of education, as economic development may enhance local opportunities for skills and vocational training. A mixture of impacts is identified for the environmental sustainability objectives; impacts are uncertain for the objectives relating to air quality and climate change as they

dependent on the type of development brought forward. Impacts on natural resources are also uncertain. Minor negative impacts are identified for physical resources, landscape and the historic environment, as development of SELs will result in permanent land use change. However, the impact on these objectives could be reduced through the application of Key Site Requirements to reduce the scale of the effect. While Option 2 has an additional minor negative score over Option 1 for the environmental objectives, it scores more positively than Option 1 for the social and economic sustainability objectives and these benefits are considered outweigh the disadvantages. The negative effects may be reduced through application of Key Site Requirements.

The most sustainable option: Option 2: Bring forward existing employment lands of around 10 ha as SELs and identify new sites where required.

The preferred option: Option 2: Bring forward existing employment lands of around 10 ha as SELs and identify new sites where required

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen enable sustainable economic growth' and 'to manage material assets sustainably'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Review of existing SELs Key Site Requirements. New sites will be subject to SA at the Local Policies Plan stage to ensure that the most sustainable sites are selected. All boundaries of sites will also be confirmed at Local Policies Plan stage. Key Site Requirements which seek to identify and preserve key heritage assets at existing or proposed new SELs. SuDS designed in conjunction with landscaping / shared space could help achieve cross-cutting benefits. Ecological surveys would also help to inform Key Site Requirements. EIA screening and archaeological assessment of major sites / major developments.

Policy DM 2: Economic Development – Countryside, Policy DM 4: Agricultural Development, Policy DM 5: Farm Diversification

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Enables people to have jobs or a more secure source of income in rural locations, which supports good mental health and well-being. Allows farming to have additional income options or improve efficiency. Aims to safeguard against agricultural development that has a detrimental impact on health through unacceptable odour/nuisance/pollution.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Provides rural communities opportunities to develop and access local services. Allows people to stay and work where they live.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link, but businesses could include early years childcare provision. Rural businesses could in some cases enable apprenticeships or training to be delivered. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Spreads opportunity across rural parts of the Borough. Supports innovation and competitiveness within the local economy and supports creation of a range of job types that are accessible to rural areas. These policies can also help to maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism, for example supporting shops or cafés which are also used by local residents.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	Not all rural areas have access to high speed broadband, strong mobile signal etc. It may be less efficient to remove waste. Some type of farm diversification can produce waste streams that are difficult to process. The overall effect depends on what type of development is brought forward, however mitigation would help to prevent adverse impacts.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	May result in some losses of greenfield land. Farm diversification promotes clustering of buildings which would help to support efficient use of land. Mitigation would help to reduce negative impacts. Policies also promote re-use of existing building first.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	Rural economic development is less likely to benefit those without access to a vehicle; it is less likely to be served by active/sustainable transport routes. The policies may enable more people to work from home in rural areas, reducing transport requirements. Tourism businesses could be linked with existing or proposed walking/cycling routes.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Certain types of agricultural development can lead to aerial emissions. However, the policy would not permit new intensive farming development that would lead to unacceptable emissions of ammonia. The overall impacts depend on what type of development come forward under the policy but negative impacts may be reduced through mitigation.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Agriculture is a principal contributor to greenhouse gases; an increase in agriculture intensity may adversely impact this objective. The effect on the objective dependent on what types of development are brought forward; other types of diversification may help to reduce emissions. The plan contains a number of policies that will ensure that the impact of proposal is fully assessed before the granting of planning permission along with any necessary mitigation, which will help to reduce the risk of adverse impacts.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Indirect impacts may arise – intensification of farming/agriculture can have high fresh water demands and certain practices can lead to pollutants entering watercourses (however the regulation of impacts may be outside the remit of planning). There are good resources of groundwater in the Borough which can be abstracted under licence for private water supply (in lieu of mains). The impacts on the objective are uncertain, as it depends on what type of development is brought forward through these policies. The plan contains a number of policies that will ensure that the impact of proposal is fully assessed before the granting of planning permission along with any necessary mitigation, which will help to reduce the risk of adverse impacts.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Development in the countryside may lead to losses of local biodiversity. Redevelopment of old barns and buildings could potentially impact protected species such as barn owls and bats. The impact on the objective depends on what types of development are brought forward and where, however negative impacts may be reduced through mitigation. The plan contains a number of policies that will ensure that the impact of proposal is fully assessed before the granting of planning permission along with any necessary mitigation, which will help to reduce the risk of adverse impacts.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	The policies place an emphasis on the reuse of existing buildings in preference to new buildings. The policies require that new development respects rural character in the case of business development or is not prominent or visually intrusive in the landscape for agricultural development. Mitigation would help to reduce potential impacts on this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Could help to encourage old buildings being brought back in to use. There is the potential for new development to impact on undiscovered / undocumented archaeological remains. There is also potential for new development to have an impact on the setting of historic environment assets, however adverse impacts should be mitigated by other policies under SP 7. The overall impact on the objective is uncertain, as it is dependent on what development is brought forward and where.

Summary of Policy

Policies DM 2, DM 4 and DM 5 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the support of economic growth in rural parts of the Borough, where the nature and scale of the proposal is appropriate to its surroundings.

The aim of policy DM 2 'Economic Development – Countryside' is to ensure that appropriate sustainable economic development opportunities are available in the countryside to support rural communities and help sustain the rural economy, whilst protecting the countryside from unsuitable uses in terms of amenity or environmental impact. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. It is acknowledged that exceptionally a large scale industrial or economic development project, because of its size or specific site requirements, may necessitate a countryside location.

The aim of policy DM 4 'Agricultural Development' is to ensure that the operational development needs of farm businesses are managed in an appropriate way that responds to the needs of the business and results in a sustainable form of development in the countryside. The aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of Policy DM 5 'Farm Diversification' is to facilitate sustainable diversification schemes that will allow farmers to supplement the income they receive from farming. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

These policies are strongly influenced by Strategic Policy 7, The Historic Environment and Strategic Policy 8 Natural Heritage, along with their associated DMs. There is also cross-over with DM 18 'Residential Development in the Countryside'.

The appraisal has taken a strategic approach in the assessment of DM 2; it is recognised that DM 2.5 in particular could facilitate a wide range of development types, but the specific effects are difficult to predict as they are dependent on what is brought forward, when, and how it is implemented. It is anticipated that policy DM 2.5 would only be applied on a very small number of occasions over the plan lifetime and therefore specific project-level impacts are not included under the assessment.

Reasonable Alternatives

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policies have a mainly negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives although a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to strengthen society, as these policies provide rural communities with opportunities to develop and access local services. A significant positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. Uncertain impacts are identified on material assets, as rural areas may not have the same type or amount of infrastructure provisions as urban areas. The impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mostly uncertain, however minor negative impacts are identified for the objectives relating to physical resources, active and sustainable travel and landscape. The LDP contains a number of policies that will ensure that the impact of a proposal is fully assessed and any necessary mitigation clearly identified before the granting of planning permission, which will help to reduce the risk of adverse impacts.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to enable sustainable economic growth'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Development Impact Assessments including those listed in SP 1.4 may be necessary to identify impacts and design effective mitigation for certain development types.

Policy DM 3: Economic Development – Incompatible Uses

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 4			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Option should help protect the physical and mental health and well-being of local residents and/or adjacent land users from nuisance pollution – noise, dust, light, litter, odour and vibration. Helps to avoid incompatible adjacent land uses that would otherwise affect delivery of this objective.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link – option cannot deliver for the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link - option cannot deliver for the objective. Noted that policy may restrict housing in some areas but these would not be in the most appropriate locations.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link – option cannot deliver for the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Option enables sustainable economic growth by protecting sufficient land around sites/businesses so that they can expand in the future if need be. Option can protect land for this purpose, which helps avoid future conflicts over land use and helps to ensure like for like land uses can co-exist. Approach is sustainable in that it is a long-term plan that considers other uses. Makes best use of location.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Approach likely to help focus specific economic land use and associated growth in specific areas, helping to avoid development in inappropriate locations. Policy able to help centralise economic ventures near to adequate energy supplies and waste facilities/services. Option should also help to ensure growth at recycling centres and other waste management facilities where nuisance pollution is more likely and the need to expand. Many material assets – e.g. sub stations, transmission lines and waste management facilities need to be buffered for health and safety as well as expansion. Policy likely to benefit these types of industry.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The option is able to futureproof exploration of minerals by buffering sites and protecting them from inappropriate adjacent land uses, which may inhibit future growth. It is noted that in some circumstances, the policy may safeguard greenfield land but this may only be long term temporary.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link - option cannot deliver for the objective.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Option enables expansion of economic ventures without the risk of affecting the air quality of adjacent residents or land users because it controls location of adjacent land uses. Although the approach can help avoid local air quality issues such as odour and particulates, from affecting local people, it is unlikely to improve local air quality – normal background levels. In some circumstances, local air quality may worsen because of the nature of the economic venture. It is noted that this may only be temporary, but the uncertainty is reflected in the score.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link - option cannot deliver for the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Buffering aspect may have some indirect positives for local water quality and lowering risk of related pollution. In some circumstances, there could be a restriction on a proposal for example upstream, but it is unlikely to be of a scale to affect delivery of the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	No link.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No link.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	No link.
Summary of Policy: The aim of this policy is to prevent new development from jeopardising the operation of, and employment associated with, an already existing or approved enterprise that contributes to the local economy. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. This policy aims to buffer sites so that they may expand in the future. It is a protective policy for economic uses, which aims to manage adjacent land uses and avoid incompatible land uses.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives. Policy is the only realistic option to meet the needs of the RDS, SPPS and current policy framework.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The option scored positive for health and wellbeing, sustainable economic growth, material assets and physical resources with an uncertain score against the air quality objective. The option scored negligible against all other sustainability objectives.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 4			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 4	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

No measures identified.

Policy DM 6: Development within Centres, Policy DM 7: Development outside Centres, Policy DM 8: Development at The Junction, Antrim

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and tailored policies identified by the Council's Retail and Commercial Leisure Study 2018.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Centres help to provide social and intergenerational contact. Policy supports town centre uses that include health facilities. Takes account of local need. Creates enjoyable spaces to go for recreation.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Supports the retention and enhancement of neutral shared spaces (town centres, shopping centres). Promotes positive social interaction. Will also support smaller settlements having a centre which creates a focal point, sustains rural retail and makes a place for social contact.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy promotes housing in town centres e.g. living above shops. This may help to meet the needs of specific groups of people.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	DM 7.3 allows flexibility to permit proposals for community, education and healthcare facilities to ensure these are located where they are easily accessible to the communities that they are intended to serve. The impact would depend on uptake. The likelihood of development being brought forward through this policy is considered to be quite low / infrequent and the overall impact is considered to be negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	'Town centre first' approach promotes and sustains vitality and vibrancy of town centres. Supports creation of a range of job types. It helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Vibrant town centres can encourage visitors / tourism. Policies for The Junction have been developed to try and help support Antrim Town Centre and not take business away from it.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Focuses retail in areas where infrastructure is there. Adopts the proximity principle. Clustering also helps to enable deliveries and waste collections, etc.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	All sites are already within settlement limit / built up areas and already developed. This policy would not result in any additional land use and the overall impact is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Town centres are all accessible by public transport. Rural centres / local centres should also be able to be walked to from surrounding residential areas. Noted that the Junction is not that easily accessible by active travel.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Town centres and many village centres are accessible by public transport. Creates conditions for active/ sustainable travel but depends on uptake / behavioural change.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	May reduce need to travel by personal vehicle.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	All sites are already within settlement limit / built up areas and already developed. Impacts on this objective are negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	All sites are already within settlement limit / built up areas and already developed. Impacts on this objective are negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	All sites are already within settlement limit / built up areas and already developed. Impacts on this objective are negligible.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	May lead to retention / restoration of older buildings, supporting town centres and helping to protect and enhance local distinctiveness. New centre at Mossley West may be in proximity to listed building and industrial heritage assets, however DM 6.1 places the requirement for new development to "maintain or enhance the visual amenity of the area by providing an active and attractive frontage appropriate to the location" which should help to mitigate against adverse impacts. Proposals could integrate with the historic environment. DM 7.2 includes the requirement that for out of centre development "the scale of development proposed is appropriate to its location".

Summary of Policy

The aim of policy DM 6 'Development within Centres' is to recognise and promote the positive role of our Borough's town, district and local centres as the most appropriate locations for retail development and other employment, leisure and cultural uses which meet the needs of our Borough's residents. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 7 'Development outside Centres' is to protect the role, viability and vitality of existing town centres from the adverse impacts that can arise from competing development proposals for retail and other town centre uses in other locations. A sequential test must therefore be undertaken for relevant proposals on sites located outside our Borough's centres and, where appropriate, a retail impact assessment must also be undertaken. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 8 'Development at The Junction, Antrim' is to ensure that the core role and function of The Junction as an outlet and retail warehouse park remains distinguishable from Antrim Town Centre and that Antrim Town Centre is recognised as the first choice destination in Antrim for town centre uses. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS in terms of town centre first approach.

Additional detail relevant to these DMs is presented in Strategic Policy 2. Table 4 of SP 2.12 will be assessed under these DMs. SP 2.13 will be further considered at the local policies plan stage.

Reasonable Alternatives

No reasonable alternatives to these policies were identified through the policy development process or through consultation.

For policies DM 6 and DM 7 this policy framework continues that established mainly by PPS5 and the 'town centre first' approach from the SPPS. A new Retail Study which was undertaken to inform the draft Plan Strategy and it has confirmed the approach to be taken by the Council in order to support retail and other town centre uses. Therefore no other reasonable alternatives have been found. The Retail Study also identified that specific policy was required for The Junction to prevent it from impact adversely on the continued vitality and viability of Antrim Town Centre and therefore there are no feasible RAs for DM 8.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policies have a positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, rising to significant positive for the objective to strengthen society by helping to deliver attractive and vibrant focal points for communities. They also have a positive influence on the economic sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth. The impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly negligible, reflecting the fact that the centres are mostly already built up areas in settlements. However, minor positive impacts are identified for the objectives to encourage active and sustainable travel and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage, as the policies can promote renovation /restoration of older buildings in town centres and would support active and sustainable transport links.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and tailored policies identified by the Council's Retail and Commercial Leisure Study 2018.

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and tailored policies identified by the Council's Retail and Commercial Leisure Study 2018.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen society' and 'to enable sustainable economic growth'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects were identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Policy DM 32 and Policy DM 36 will protect against adverse impacts on listed or locally important buildings.

Policy DM 9: Tourism Development

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 16			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Recreation facilities for tourism can also benefit local population. Tourism assets such as Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes or Local Landscape Policy Areas may provide opportunities for walking and cycling which contributes to healthier lifestyles.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Supports creation / enhancement of shared spaces. Promotes positive social interaction.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Tourism facilities can provide a contribution to this objective by providing an educational resource. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Supports innovation within the local economy. Tourism is an integral part of the economy and adds value to an area. Appropriate tourism development may allow for diversification of the economy, particularly within rural areas. Helps to make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Natural heritage assets can be capitalised on and can support agri-food spin-off. Cross over with policy DM 2.4: Economic Development in the Countryside.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	The impact depends on the type of tourism related development and where it is to be located. Countryside locations may have insufficient infrastructure to support tourism.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May lead to some land loss in the countryside. Some types of tourism may support the safeguarding / restoration of the land. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Tourism may provide opportunity for development of cycling walking routes but these are unlikely to be commuting routes, more recreational. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Development of the nature supported by this policy is unlikely to affect air quality. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Development of the nature supported by this policy is unlikely to affect climate change objectives. Development near coast, rivers or lough may be influenced by the effects of climate change (e.g. increased storminess). The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Tourism may increase demand on water however the supply of water is not an issue in the Borough. Waste water disposal may require septic tanks / package treatment in rural areas – adverse impacts avoided through discharge consent. DM 9.10 (c) includes the requirement for all tourism development to have adequate drainage infrastructure. Scale of development is unlikely to be significant. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	May lead to some greenfield in the countryside. Developer will be required to demonstrate no unacceptable loses to biodiversity. Some types of tourism development can lead to enhancement of biodiversity. Through DM 9.10 (a) developers will be required to demonstrate the development is compatible with policies to safeguard and enhance natural heritage assets. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Through DM 9.10 (b) developers will be required to demonstrate that there is a high quality of design and the scale and nature of the development will allow for its integration into the receiving environment. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Sustainable tourism has the potential to support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment. Through DM 9.10 (a) developers will be required to demonstrate the development is compatible with policies to safeguard and enhance the historic environment.
Summary of Policy The aim of this policy is to facilitate the growth of sustainable tourism by supporting the development of a range of high quality attractions, facilities and accommodation across our Borough in accessible locations and in a manner that will not damage our Borough's key tourism assets. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 2 (SP 2.15) and the appraisal has included SP 2.15.				
Reasonable Alternatives No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy framework continues that established mainly by PPS16 and the SPPS.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives The option has a generally positive relationship with the social sustainability objectives, though the effect on housing is negligible. The impact on enabling sustainable economic growth is strong positive and it was also noted that tourism facilities can also have indirect beneficial effects on education. Uncertain effects are reported for material assets, as rural areas may not always have satisfactory infrastructure to accommodate tourism development. The effects on the environmental sustainability objectives are mostly negligible, however a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage, recognising that tourism may be heritage-led and can encourage cultural activities.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 16.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 16.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to enable sustainable economic growth'.				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects were identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

No measures identified.

Policy DM 10: Access and Parking

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 3			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy option can enable safe access arrangements that will not inhibit the free flow of traffic. This could be particularly beneficial for safe access for emergency services. The policy option also facilitates cycle parking which will help to promote the use of healthier modes of travel. Option can facilitate public and active travel nodes. Could reduce the risk of traffic accidents and maintain pedestrian safety.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy option could help facilitate cohesion with active and sustainable travel as well as co-location of facilities. Also able to increase accessibility between people and across communities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy option facilitates access and parking as an integral part of housing developments. Provides good quality housing with adequate provision of parking. Able to help create safer living environments.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy option can enable the efficient and safe movement of traffic that also enables best use of location for users – attractive to investors and residents and visitors. Able to provide adequate parking for businesses.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect but it was discussed that there may be potential to use vacant or derelict land – co-location of facilities.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	Parking must be a consideration of any development and can use up a significant amount of land. Parking not always the most efficient use of land particularly with other development pressures.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy option enables reduced level of parking when linked to active and sustainable travel routes. Policy also provides adequate provision for parking for cyclists. Facilitates delivery of objective but it is recognised that the policy does not guarantee their use.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Policy option enables the provision of adequate parking for car, cycle and servicing vehicles as well as safe access arrangements which could help to reduce traffic congestion, number of car users and associated adverse effects on local air quality from transport emissions. The policy promotes active and sustainable travel routes through the provision of cycle parking which may reduce reliance on the use of cars as a primary mode of transport.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	This policy option will have a negligible effect on this objective, although it was discussed that the policy supports reduced reliance on the car and facilitates this to some extent by enabling/facilitating modes of active or sustainable travel with lesser greenhouse gas emissions.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Hard surfaces with polluted run-off likely to be a consequence, which is recognised in the score. Runoff from hard surfaces likely to increase.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect but policy option requires natural heritage to be a consideration with any impacts to be avoided. Biodiversity is protected under other natural heritage policies.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect because this policy is subject to other policy ensuring that landscape character should not be affected (DM25). High standard of landscaping is required for any car-parking proposal. Sites are usually part of a development or within a settlement, so landscape character not an issue. Park and rides could have more of an impact but high standard of design, layout, and landscaping can mitigate. Policy option can alleviate traffic congestion and illegal car parking which can help maintain the character of an area.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effects as other policies are able to provide protection for the historic environment and cultural heritage. Policy option should not be detrimental to the local historic environment.
Summary of Policy				
The aim of this policy is to promote road safety, ensure that there is a safe and efficient movement of traffic, particularly on our local roads and that proposals make appropriate provision for parking. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.				
Reasonable Alternatives				
Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS, the SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance and as the existing policy framework was considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives				
The policy option scored well against all the social sustainability objectives – health and well-being, strengthening society and sustainable housing. The option scored well against one of the economic objectives - sustainable economic growth; two of the environmental objectives - active and sustainable travel, and improving air quality. The option scored negligibly against most of the remaining environmental objectives but there were minor negative scores against physical resources and water resources.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 3.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 3	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				
Alignment of the LDP with Transport Plans from DfI. SuDS policy. Application of relevant cross over policy throughout the plan.				

Policy DM 11: Access onto Protected Routes

Option	Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	The policy option helps to deliver positives for health and safety, whilst improving safety by reducing accidents.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Enables/facilitates functions of routes to be maintained – flowing, connective. Able to connect people across communities but there may be some people who live on the routes that may be negatively impacted.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The drive of the policy is to protect strategic transport corridors - 'economic corridors'. Efficient movement of goods and services – airport and port links - is facilitated and delivered under this option. Regional policy directs the need for these routes to be protected by minimising accesses.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect – policy option unlikely to inhibit the provision of material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect but it was discussed how the option could indirectly retain greenfield land and support the efficient transport of minerals.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Able to ensure efficient transport corridors are available that public transport providers can use. Maintaining efficient transport corridors likely to help avoid congestion.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of option on delivery of the objective but it was discussed how the option is able to ensure efficient movement of traffic as well as facilitate potential reduction of cars on the road, if efficient public transport services are available and adopted by road users. Option should help to reduce traffic congestion and avoid any localised air quality issues.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No direct link however, it was discussed that there is potential to facilitate/support more public transport services/routes that are reliable and attractive for users.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	No link.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No link.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	No link.
Summary of Policy				
The aim of this policy is to promote road safety, ensure that there is a safe and efficient movement of traffic, particularly on our local roads and that proposals make appropriate provision for parking. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.				
Reasonable Alternatives				
The designation of protected routes is carried forward from PPS3 and the SPPS. Given that there is no evidence of changes to the strategic network, this remains appropriate and no reasonable alternatives were considered necessary at this time.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives				
The policy option had a negligible effect on most sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment. Minor positive scores were predicted against one social sustainability objective - improving health and well-being; and one environmental sustainability objective – encouraging active and sustainable travel. Significant positive outcomes were predicted against one economic sustainability objective for enabling sustainable economic growth.				
The most sustainable option: Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy			The preferred option: Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positives were predicted for enabling sustainable economic growth.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				
Consistent approach to site selection through consultation with TNI and other statutory consultees.				

Policy DM12: Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)

Option	New bespoke policy			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy option promotes design measures for developments to support increased levels of walking and cycling which can improve the health and wellbeing of people. The policy option encourages developers to consider and incorporate design features to make it easier for people to walk and cycle for every day journeys instead of using the car. This promotes physical activity, which can have a positive impact on people's physical and mental well-being. It also enables social contact amongst people and communities as well as helping to create a safe, convenient and attractive environment for pedestrian and cyclists. It was discussed how much will depend on behavioural change.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy option enables social contact amongst communities helping to connect people at a local level. Facilitates shared space. Positives for several aspects to enable delivery of the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of the option for delivery of the objective but the local environment does support the living environment and this policy could add to the quality of housing provided. Improving links to local community and likely to be landscaped – open/green space. All positives for delivery of objective but not enough to score.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of policy option on the objective but it is recognised that physical activity to and from school could help students.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy option has the potential to improve local vitality and vibrancy of towns and other centres as people able to access these areas – adding or maintaining footfall. Active travel routes may already link to local tourism and could be enhanced. Option potentially able to increase accessibility to a range of job types. The policy option helps promote physical activity amongst the workforce which can help improve their health and overall productivity levels. It can also help reduce costs for an employer to provide car parking spaces for staff.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	No link.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy option able to deliver for the objective by facilitating, providing and enhancing active and sustainable travel at a local level. Potential to enable and encourage more people to opt for active travel rather than use the car through provision of routes with accessibility. Option could also help to link to existing public transport routes again helping to reduce car use.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Policy option aims to reduce overall car use as well as encourage and facilitate more sustainable modes of travel – walking and cycling. These modes are able to reduce air emissions and therefore help to not just maintain air quality but improve it.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Policy option aims to reduce car use and encourage and facilitate more sustainable modes of travel – walking and cycling. These modes are able to reduce GHG emissions and therefore help to some extent to mitigate for climate change. Potential aspects of policy option likely to add to local green infrastructure - adaptation for climate change. It is recognised that behavioural change is needed for the success of this option but it has been scored on the understanding that this would happen.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of policy option although it is noted that the option could promote the use of waterways as part of local active travel routes – blue infrastructure network with active travel included.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect but it is noted that there may be indirect benefits for green/blue infrastructure and local biodiversity if routes are for example located near waterways or within green spaces. Open space is required/promoted under DM25.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect but it is noted that cross-over with DM25 should consider design aspects of proposed routes.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Negligible effect of the policy option on delivery of the objective but it is noted that it presents potential for features of historic environment including disused transport routes and their associated assets to be conserved. Routes may help to conserve or enhance existing areas or features of historic interest through their reuse or increased level of use. Option could help increase awareness amongst users and at same time conserve industrial/cultural assets.
Summary of Policy <p>The aim of this policy is to promote measures in the design and layout of developments that will support increased walking and cycling as these are important sustainable modes of transport which can improve the health and wellbeing of citizens. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Supports the Community and the Corporate Plan.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives <p>Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS, the SPPS and other relevant planning policy/guidance.</p>				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives <p>The policy option scored significantly positive against two of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. It also scored minor positive for one of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. Minor positives were also recorded against three of the environmental sustainability objectives – improving air quality, reducing and adapting to climate change; and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective.</p>				
The most sustainable option: New bespoke policy			The preferred option: New bespoke policy	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive effects were predicted for two of the social sustainability objectives - health and well-being, and strengthening society. Significant positive effects were also predicted for the environmental sustainability objective to deliver active and sustainable travel.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects were identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Master planning for key sites and alignment of LDP with emerging transport plans from DfL. Cross-over with other relevant policy – DM25.

Policy DM 13: Belfast International Airport – Operations

Option	Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy from PSU 3 of PSRNI and within Antrim Area Plan			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy option would help manage safety and noise in the local area. Able to avoid significant, negative impacts from the airport. Protective policy enables consideration of residents/workers/visitors in the immediate area and helps protect them from nuisance pollution linked to the operations of the airport. Policy option also aims to safeguard the airport itself by restricting development which adversely affects the safety of aircraft operating to and from BIA.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy option supports the strategic airport with its major links to all of the country. Able to help maintain the airport as a significant employer, exporter/importer, as well as the international airport. The policy option will help to ensure that BIA remains an important driver for economic development, freight distribution activities, and generating additional employment opportunities.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of the option on delivery of the objective but it was discussed that there may be potential constraints on some renewables in the area but renewables are already present in the wider area and have not been constrained. Likewise, the option helps to focus material assets in the one strategic location.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Policy option has 4 zones of land for potential development which are currently greenfield land although some are within and adjacent to existing curtilage. It was discussed how the option aims to develop land in the most efficient manner and all within an operational boundary. There would be no adverse effects on other aspects of this objective like minerals but if development were to happen then loss of greenfield land and impacts on soil would be likely.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	There could be potential for a rail link in the future – there is a non-operational route at present - but otherwise this policy does not directly encourage or facilitate sustainable or active travel. It was discussed that there are buses and taxis but provision could be improved. Walking and cycling routes could be improved from the nearest town and railway station - Antrim. Currently there are no plans for active travel routes to be established. An operational bus service to and from the airport runs through day and night but plans for new routes from other areas are not yet available. Policy does not deliver for the objective.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Policy option seeks to meet the ongoing operational needs of BIA and the potential for future growth whilst ensuring any BIA related development proposals do not result in an unacceptable impact for adjacent residents or businesses. Expansion could occur. Passenger numbers and freight movements may increase. Likewise, these may decrease. It is recognised that local air quality could decrease during busier periods and with road congestion but likewise air quality may remain as is.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Policy option can enable expansion that would then probably increase greenhouse gas emissions from an increased number of flights – passenger and/or freight. Associated road traffic volumes, to and from the airport, may increase emissions but volumes may not increase. Any potential growth under this policy may not happen. This uncertainty is reflected in the score.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Policy option may enable expansion, which may include additional car parking, which could then increase risk of polluted runoff to local waterways. Similarly increased traffic volumes to and from the airport could do same. Possible drainage issues. Other agencies would be involved – design criteria, integration of permeable surfaces and other SuDS. Uncertainty is reflected in the score.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Policy option may enable expansion with a loss of greenfield land/open space. The land is most likely to be semi-natural land and there is a hare population present at the airport. Any loss of this land is likely to impact on local biodiversity. As the expansion/growth may not happen the uncertainty is reflected in the score.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The policy option may enable expansion/growth in already identified zones (BIA masterplan) that are within the operational boundary of the airport.

Summary of Policy

The aim of this policy is to meet the ongoing operational needs of Belfast International Airport (BIA) and the potential for future growth in view of its critical importance to the economy of our Borough and the Region. In addition, the policy aims to ensure that development proposals within the vicinity of BIA do not adversely affect public safety and the safety of aircraft operating to and from the airport. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS.

Reasonable Alternatives

No reasonable alternatives considered necessary as the existing policy from PSU 3 of PSRNI and policy within Antrim Area Plan is considered fit for purpose. Supports Community Plan and Corporate Plan.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy option scored significant positive for one of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, and for one of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. It was predicted that the option would have negligible effects against most of the remaining objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development but a number of uncertain outcomes were predicted for several of the environmental sustainability objectives – physical resources, air quality, climate change, water resources and natural resources. If expansion at the airport were to occur then the uncertain scores against the environmental sustainability objectives would most likely become negative scores. Minor negative outcomes were predicted for delivery of the active and sustainable travel objective.

The most sustainable option: Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy from PSU 3 of PSRNI and within Antrim Area Plan	The preferred option: Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy from PSU 3 of PSRNI and within Antrim Area Plan
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? <p>The policy option scored significant positive for one of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being; and for one of the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth.</p>	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? <p>No significant adverse effects were identified.</p>	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects <p>As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments (air/noise) to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed. Airport Master Plans. The full extent of the BIA area will be defined within the Council's Local Policies Plan stage guidance on the BIA area. Cross-referencing with other policies. Integration of SuDS.</p>	

Policy DM 14: Public Utilities and Infrastructure

Option	Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	Policy option enables avoidance of nuisance pollution from inappropriate adjacent land uses – noise, odour. Health and safety is a consideration of overhead cables. Positive outcomes for people's health and well-being feasible as adequate provision of water, sewage treatment facilities and energy are provided through the policy.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	++	++	++	Policy option is an integral part of delivering for the economy as well as sustaining people/workers with a quality of life. The policy may provide employment opportunities for service providers. Energy, water and waste services are all essential to the functioning of businesses and industries and adequate provision facilitates the baseline of the economy and its growth. However it is noted that the LDP is a facilitator/enabler of development and overall delivery of this objective will be dependent of external service providers beyond the remit of the planning system, such as NIE, NIW etc.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	++	++	++	Policy option facilitates and supports adequate energy provision and enables flexibility for new connections for renewables and gas.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	The effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible but it was discussed how land take could be brownfield and footprints for overhead infrastructure would likely be negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	The effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible but it was discussed how the option enables gas infrastructure and renewables into the grid – both are cleaner energy sources with positives for air quality.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	The effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible but it was discussed how the option enables gas infrastructure and renewables into the grid – both are cleaner energy sources with positives for climate.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	++	++	++	Policy option protects wastewater treatment works and provides adequate cleaning of water. Policy option enables expansion of wastewater works.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Policy option would likely develop land for facilities/services with land take for new areas but other policies are able to protect the natural environment. Policy option also able to adequately manage wastewater, which could otherwise pollute local environment.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Policy option aims to minimise visual intrusion of associated facilities but it was discussed that overhead lines are able to have a negative impact on landscape character at the landscape scale which is reflected in the score.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Policy option facilitates and supports compatible land uses and aims to avoid any impacts on the local historic environment. Scope exists to avoid impacts on landscape through the very nature of the type of proposal likely to come forward, as probably a Schedule 1 or 2 development - Environmental Impact Assessment required with landscape assessed and any predicted impacts mitigated.

Summary of Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure the Plan facilitates the delivery of necessary public utilities. These have an important role to play in delivering key infrastructure to support the economic and social development of the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Reasonable Alternatives

This policy framework, in terms of PU01 and PU02 continues that established mainly by PPS10 and PSRNI policy PSU11 and therefore represents a 'business as usual' approach. No reasonable alternatives were considered given the specific requirements of the SPPS in relation to these policy areas and as the existing policy framework was considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy option scored significant positive against at least one sustainability objective across all three pillars of sustainable development. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the social sustainability objective - improving health and well-being; for the economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably; and for the environmental objective – protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably. The option had a predicted negligible effect on the majority of the sustainability objectives but there a minor negative outcome was predicted against the maintaining and enhancing landscape character objective.

The most sustainable option: Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy

The preferred option: Adopt the broad thrust and direction of existing policy

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for one of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and for two of the economic sustainability objectives – sustainable economic growth and managing material assets sustainably.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments. Cross over with other policies – DM14.

Policy DM 15: Development Relying on Non-Mains Sewerage

Option	Take forward the board thrust and direction of policy including PPS 21			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	There are some obvious links in that development requiring sanitation is adequately considered but the effect on delivery of the objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	There could be links to some housing developments but the effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	It was discussed that the policy enables development with adequate infrastructure which all plays a part within the local economy but the effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link – sewerage is dealt with under the water objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	It was discussed that the policy enables avoidance of pollution of ground/soil/groundwater but the effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible. Pollution of groundwater is dealt with under the water objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Where no mains provision is available for proposals, enough information must be supplied by the developer to enable sound decisions that will protect the local aquatic environment – groundwater, streams/ivers and other local water bodies via pollution pathways.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	It was discussed that the policy enables protection of the natural environment by avoiding pollution of groundwater and other waterbodies but the effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No link
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	No link
Summary of Policy <p>The policy follows on from existing policy and represents a 'business as usual' approach. The aim of this policy is to protect the Borough's water resources from the actual or potential polluting effects of on-site treatment plants. The Council recognises recent technological advances in non-mains sewerage systems aimed at mitigating potential pollution problems. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives <p>No Reasonable Alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM15 is taking forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy CTY 16 of PPS21 which is considered fit for purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.</p>				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives <p>Overall, the policy would have a negligible effect on most of the 14 sustainability objectives covering all the three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment. Minor positive outcomes were predicted for one of the environmental sustainability objectives - protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably.</p>				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the board thrust and direction of policy including PPS 21			The preferred option: Take forward the board thrust and direction of policy including PPS 21	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects				

Overall, mainly positive/neutral effects with no significant negative effects foreseen. As such, there is no requirement to modify the policy direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies.

Policy DM 16: Telecommunication Facilities and Digital Services

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 10			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Positives for health by enabling good/adequate communications (mobile coverage/internet access) for people – emergency services, contact with family/friends. Remote healthcare also more feasible. Overall people more able to access appropriate services and facilities.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Helps to provide communications infrastructure that can enable social interaction with positive benefits for individuals and communities. Maybe particularly important in rural areas – reducing possible inequalities experienced within rural communities. Overall people more able to access appropriate services and facilities.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	More feasible to provide rural communities with access to online educational resources and enhance knowledge and skills learning within rural areas. Able to enhance or enable multiple opportunities linked to people's professional and personal development.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Enables businesses to connect to services and facilities as well as customers. Potentially able to significantly support hospitality sector and tourist related ventures – bookings, special offers. Likely to be particularly important for rurally located businesses. Policy would help enable a higher level of competitiveness. The provision of cable and wireless attractive for investors - futureproofing. Also supportive for working from home opportunities – start-ups, own businesses, flexible working.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy enables provision of adequate telecommunications with feasibility of upgrades.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	It was discussed that the policy aims for minimal land take and footprints for associated structures but overall the effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Enables people to more easily work from home, either as a flexible working arrangement or own business. Policy also enables more people to start up a business in local area – particularly in rural areas. This may reduce the number of cars on the road and/or the number of journeys being made. Home working in the borough is on the increase, which may help to reduce car journeys. Encouraging rural businesses may also do same and enable more walking or use of buses but it was discussed how the policy supports delivery of the objective but it cannot directly deliver for it - other key factors are outside of the control of the plan.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	It was discussed that working from home and rurally located businesses/opportunities may cumulatively help to reduce transport related emissions but the overall effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	It was discussed that unacceptable risks to the natural environment should be avoided through consideration of environmentally sensitive features but the overall effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	It was discussed that unacceptable risks to the natural environment should be avoided through consideration of environmentally sensitive features but the overall effect on delivery of the objective would be negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Visual amenity is an aspect of the proposals – siting, location and design are all key aspects. Mast sharing also referred to which has the potential to reduce visual impacts through the number and location of potential structures.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	The location, setting and design of structures are all key aspects to be considered and the policy aims to avoid any conflicts between the telecommunications/digital infrastructure and historic environment assets.

Summary of Policy

The policy follows on from existing policy and represents a 'business as usual' approach. The aim of this policy has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS as well as bringing forward the current provisions of the PPS10 (TEL 1). The aim of this policy is to promote enhanced digital connectivity across our Borough and to enable the telecommunications industry to operate in a way that meets the demands of modern technical connectivity, whilst keeping the visual and environmental impact of telecommunications equipment to a minimum.

Reasonable Alternatives

No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given the specific requirements of the SPPS in relation to this policy area and as the existing policy framework was considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy was predicted to have positive effects on the majority of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and access to education. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for two economic sustainability objectives - enabling sustainable economic growth and managing material assets. Negligible effects were predicted for the majority of remaining environmental objectives but minor positive outcomes were predicted for maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 10

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 10

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for two economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth, and managing material assets sustainably.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects were identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Overall, mainly positive/neutral effects with no significant negative effects foreseen. As such, there is no requirement to modify the policies direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies.

Strategic Policy 4: Homes - Housing Growth

Options	Option1 8,310 new dwellings based on average of Housing Growth Indicator growth rate (554 dwellings per annum)				Option 2 9,750 new dwellings based on pre-crash build rate (748 dwellings per annum) and average Housing Growth Indicator growth rate (554 dwellings per annum) giving 650 dwellings per annum.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Brings forward opportunities for good quality housing which contributes to good health and well-being plus housing that suits people with specific needs.	+	+	+	Brings forward opportunities for good quality housing which contributes to good health and well-being plus housing that suits people with specific needs. The extra quantum of housing enables this option to provide greater opportunity for delivering lifetime homes which can also support intergenerational contact.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Opportunities for people, connections, good quality housing. Can contribute to social/affordable housing needs and reduce inequalities.	+	+	+	Opportunities for people, connections, good quality housing. Can contribute to social/affordable housing needs and reduce inequalities. The larger quantum of housing provides more opportunity for housing across the Borough including rural areas. Therefore it will aid to strengthen rural communities marginally more.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy will enable opportunity for a variety of household types and sizes, including affordable housing. It will also provide opportunity for the development of life-time homes. This will help to meet the needs of specific groups, e.g. single people, couples, retired people or people with disabilities. Housing growth may deliver more low-carbon homes and would help to meet locally identified need, helping to reduce homelessness.	+	+	+	The policy will enable opportunity for a variety of household types and sizes, including affordable housing. It will also provide opportunity for the development of life-time homes. This will help to meet the needs of specific groups, e.g. single people, couples, retired people or people with disabilities. Housing growth may deliver more low-carbon homes and would help to meet locally identified need, helping to reduce homelessness. The larger allocation would help to enhance positive effects due to increased opportunity.
4... enable access to high quality education.	?	?	?	Additional housing may help support rural schools through population. In larger settlements it may place pressure on schools if there are capacity issues. As this policy doesn't determine the location of new housing, the effect on the objective is uncertain.	?	?	?	Additional housing may help support rural schools through population. In larger settlements it may place pressure on schools if there are capacity issues. As this policy doesn't determine the location of new housing, the effect on the objective is uncertain.

5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Provides homes for employees locally and supports jobs in the construction sector. The strength of the benefit depends on where the housing is located, which is not determined by this policy.	+	+	+	Provides homes for employees locally and supports jobs in the construction sector. The strength of the benefit depends on where the housing is located, which is not determined by this policy. Evidence suggests that the ratio of the population in the Borough that are over retirement age will increase over the plan period which may mean a reduced proportion that is economically active.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	?	?	?	May place pressure on services and infrastructure if infrastructure improvements do not keep pace with growth, e.g. waste / recycling provision. Build rate may mean economies of scale support the delivery of infrastructure (e.g. fibre/cable, mains gas in new developments). The impact depends partly on where the housing is located, which is not determined by this policy. Local Policies Plan may take account of material assets when defining locations.	?	?	?	May place pressure on services and infrastructure if infrastructure improvements do not keep pace with growth, e.g. waste / recycling provision. Build rate may mean economies of scale support the delivery of infrastructure (e.g. fibre/cable, mains gas in new developments). The impact depends partly on where the housing is located, which is not determined by this policy. Local Policies Plan may take account of material assets when defining locations.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	It is anticipated that for the vast majority of settlements, there is an ample supply of land currently available to meet the housing growth requirement. As a consequence it is likely that here will only be a minimal requirement for the zoning of additional housing land in the Local Policies Plan unless location-specific needs dictate otherwise. Local Policies Plan zoning can help to reduce the scale of the impact. The identification of new sites will be undertaken in line with the RDS target to locate 60% of new homes on existing vacant and underutilised land within the urban footprint of settlements over 5,000 and preference will be given to the use of previously developed and undeveloped land before greenfield extensions to our towns and villages.	-	-	-	It is anticipated that for the vast majority of settlements, there is an ample supply of land currently available to meet the housing growth requirement. As a consequence it is likely that here will only be a minimal requirement for the zoning of additional housing land in the Local Policies Plan, unless location-specific needs dictate otherwise. Local Policies Plan zoning can help to reduce the scale of the impact. The identification of new sites will be undertaken in line with the RDS target to locate 60% of new homes on existing vacant and underutilised land within the urban footprint of settlements over 5,000 and preference will be given to the use of previously developed and undeveloped land before greenfield extensions to our towns and villages.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	?	?	?	More housing may lead to greater need for public transport services and may help to deliver new connectivity. However the provision of active and sustainable transport routes and their use is outside the scope of this policy. The location / spatial distribution of new housing would have greater influence over uptake.	?	?	?	More housing may lead to greater need for public transport services and may help to deliver new connectivity. However the provision of active and sustainable transport routes and their use is outside the scope of this policy. The location / spatial distribution of new housing would have greater influence over uptake.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Additional housing will create additional emissions from central heating and transport.	-	-	-	Additional housing will create additional emissions from central heating and transport. The negative impacts of this option would be slightly increased due to the greater number of houses.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	Additional housing will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions / increased energy consumption. Flood plains/ peat areas are unlikely to be impacted.	-	-	-	Additional housing will generate additional greenhouse gas emissions / increased energy consumption. Flood plains/ peat areas are unlikely to be impacted. The negative impacts of this option would be slightly increased due to the greater number of houses.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	New housing development will result in removal of semi-natural land cover and replacing with hard surfaces. Potential to increase runoff, increased water consumption. However, as most of the new housing will be delivered through existing commitments, on sites that have already been cleared of much of their vegetation, impact may be limited.	-	-	-	New housing development will result in removal of semi-natural land cover and replacing with hard surfaces. Potential to increase runoff, increased water consumption. However, as most of the new housing will be delivered through existing commitments, on sites that have already been cleared of much of their vegetation, impact may be limited. The negative effects of this option would be slightly increased due to the greater number of houses.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Projected growth would result in removal of semi-natural land cover. Noted that many existing zoned areas have already been cleared. Zoned sites with particular biodiversity interests have been given protection through Key Site Requirements.	0	0	0	Projected growth would result in removal of semi-natural land cover. Noted that many existing zoned areas have already been cleared. Zoned sites with particular biodiversity interests have been given protection through Key Site Requirements, however this option would result in slightly greater loss of semi natural / greenfield land as it enables more housing in rural settlements / countryside.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	Projected growth will include a proportion of housing going in the countryside and the location of these new houses is uncertain. There is more certainty on the future location of housing in existing settlements due to there being a large number of existing committed sites. However, the siting and design of houses in the countryside will be covered by other policies to ensure they are integrated with their surroundings and do not impact on landscape character.	?	?	?	Projected growth will include a proportion of housing going in the countryside and the location of these new houses is uncertain. There is more certainty on the future location of housing in existing settlements due to there being a large number of existing committed sites. However, the siting and design of houses in the countryside will be covered by other policies to ensure they are integrated with their surroundings and do not impact on landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Excavation works for housing developments may potentially impact previously unrecorded archaeological remains. New housing development may influence the setting of historic assets. The effect is dependent on the location of housing. Adverse impacts could be reduced or avoided through mitigation. Key Site Requirements such as archaeological evaluation and testing may enable archaeological features to be discovered assessed, recorded and preserved.	?	?	?	Excavation works for housing developments may potentially impact previously unrecorded archaeological remains. New housing development may influence the setting of historic assets. The effect is dependent on the location of housing. Adverse impacts could be reduced or avoided through mitigation. Key Site Requirements such as archaeological evaluation and testing may enable archaeological features to be discovered assessed, recorded and preserved.

Summary of Policy

RDS regional guidance indicates that planning should manage housing growth to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development, support urban and rural renaissance and help to strengthen community cohesion. The varied housing needs of the whole community need to be met, which includes the availability of affordable and specialist residential accommodation. Housing growth needs to be managed to achieve sustainable patterns of residential development. In order to provide for a sustainable level of housing growth and an adequate choice of housing across the Borough, the Council will facilitate the delivery of a sufficient quantity of new homes for the Plan period 2015 to 2030.

Reasonable Alternatives

Option 1: Total of 8,310 dwellings (average of 554 per annum) – RDS Housing Growth Indicator (HGI) rate.

Option 2: Total of 9,750 dwellings (average of 650 per annum) – derived from RDS Housing Growth Indicator (HGI) rate but also taking into consideration historic build rates.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

Option 1 has a positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. Impacts on the economic sustainability objectives tend towards uncertainty as the policy identifies the number of new houses that will be facilitated, but it is not specific about their location. The impact on sustainable economic growth is minor positive; recognising that construction is an important contributor to the economy. Impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly minor negative or uncertain, this reflects that significant numbers of new housing may place pressure on environmental resources, but the magnitude of impact can vary depending on distribution and location.

Option 2 has a positive impact on all of the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the provision of good quality, sustainable housing. Although the impacts are minor, this option delivers more benefits for the social sustainability objectives than Option 1, as the larger allocation would permit slightly more housing in rural settlements which would benefit rural communities. Impacts on the economic sustainability objectives tend towards uncertainty as the policy identifies the number of new houses that will be facilitated, but it is not specific about their location. The impact on sustainable economic growth is minor positive; recognising that construction is an important contributor to the economy. Impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives are mainly minor negative or uncertain, this reflects that significant numbers of new housing may place pressure on environmental resources, but the magnitude of impact can vary depending on distribution and location. As this policy delivers a greater quantity of housing, the minor negative impacts on the environmental objectives are slightly greater than Option 1. However, it is considered that the enhanced benefits delivered on the social sustainability objectives outweigh these disadvantages and it may be possible to reduce the scale of the negative effects through, for example, KSRs.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 9750 new dwellings based on pre-crash build rate (748 dwellings per annum) and average Housing Growth Indicator growth rate(554 dwellings per annum) giving 650 dwellings per annum.	The preferred option: Option 2 9750 new dwellings based on pre-crash build rate (748 dwellings per annum) and average Housing Growth Indicator growth rate(554 dwellings per annum) giving 650 dwellings per annum.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to provide good quality, sustainable housing'.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: When defining new zonings, landscape, biodiversity and infrastructure should be key considerations. Specific sites will be subject to further consideration at the Local Policies Plan Stage. Key Site Requirements including archaeology / historic environment, infrastructure including links to public transport and walking and cycling.	

Strategic Policy 4: Homes – Housing Allocation

Options	Option 1 Proportionate Reduction of the Preferred POP option (25%).				Option 2 Retain the level of growth allocated in the Preferred POP option for Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements of the Borough, resulting in a higher proportionate reduction in the allocation to other towns, villages and smaller settlements				Option 3 Reduce the proportion of growth to all settlements whilst allocating a higher proportion to Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements with the remaining allocation reflecting the current size and role of the other towns, villages and smaller settlements			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Concentrating the population where health services and recreation provisions already exist (in towns) may enable good access for greatest proportion of population to health and wellbeing services. Allows more people to live close to families in villages/smaller settlements supporting caring requirements but may also not have good access to primary care centres. Should help support majority of the population.	+	+	+	Concentrating the population where health services and recreation provisions already exist (in towns) may enable good access for greatest proportion of population to health and wellbeing services. This option may restrict the potential for families to stay together / live near each other in lower tier settlements and may reduce opportunities for family provision of care in more rural areas.	+	+	+	Concentrating the population where health services and recreation provisions already exist (in towns) may enable good access for greatest proportion of population to health and wellbeing services. Allows a sufficient number of people to live close to families in villages/smaller settlements, supporting caring requirements. Should help support majority of the population.

2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Concentrates much of the population growth in the metropolitan urban area and major hub where there is good provision of shared space, but less so than Options 2 & 3. Directs some growth to lower order settlements where there is some provision for opportunities for open space as well as neutral town and village centres.	-	-	-	Concentrates a significant majority of the population growth in the metropolitan urban area and major hub where there is good provision of shared space. However, young families in smaller settlements may have to move out of the area if they are not able to afford/obtain housing in their village. Fewer opportunities to deliver on needs / reducing inequalities in smaller settlements. Lowering growth to smaller tiers is unlikely to help sustain services in rural areas.	+	+	+	Concentrates the majority of the population growth in the metropolitan urban area and major hub where there is good provision of shared space. This option also allocates sufficient growth to sustain population in smaller settlements which supports services in villages and will maintain their vitality. It retains the provision to deliver on needs / reducing inequalities in smaller settlements.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Allows for provision of variety of household types and sizes in settlements through all tiers and facilitation of affordable housing. It brings more opportunities for delivering affordable and lifetime homes.	-	-	-	May restrict the provision of housing of various types and sizes in all settlements (especially in the lower tiers), may not allow the facilitation of affordable housing in some areas of need/may not be able to meet locally identified needs.	+	+	+	Allows for provision of variety of household types and sizes in settlements through all tiers and the facilitation of affordable housing. The balanced approach retains good opportunities for affordable and lifetime homes.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Concentrates population in top tiers which keeps population near secondary and further level education and skills providers. Also helps sustain rural primary schools.	+	+	+	Concentrates population in top tiers which keeps population near secondary and further level education and skills providers. May not support as many rural primary schools.	+	+	+	Concentrates population in top tiers which keeps population near secondary and further level education and skills providers. Maintains sustainable population in smaller settlements to support rural primary schools.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Concentrates population in larger settlements where there are greatest opportunities for and accessibility to jobs. In rural areas this policy may have implications for those wanting to work and live in their local area.	-	-	-	Concentrates population in larger settlements where there are greatest opportunities for and accessibility to jobs. In rural areas this policy may have implications for those wanting to work and live in their local area. Younger populations in smaller villages may not be sufficiently maintained to support smaller local business.	+	+	+	Concentrates population in larger settlements where there are greatest opportunities for and accessibility to jobs. Also sustains populations in lower tiers to support business.

6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	+	+	Focuses majority of population in areas where infrastructure provision is fit for purpose and encourages proximity principle. Delivers sufficient 'critical mass' in settlements for upgrades. Lower tier settlements will benefit from growth which could allow them to be considered by service providers for new services, however it may take time for new services to be established.	+	+	+	Focuses significant majority of population in areas where infrastructure provision is fit for purpose and encourages proximity principle. Lower tier settlements may not have sufficient population growth to enable them to be considered for new services.	+	+	+	Focuses most of the population in areas where infrastructure provision is greatest fit for purpose and encourages proximity principle. Delivers sufficient 'critical mass' in settlements for upgrades. Balanced approach means that lower tier settlements will also benefit from growth which could allow them to be considered by service providers for new services.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	-	-	-	New housing will result in land use. By directing more housing to the smaller, more rural settlements this option may result in a proportionally lower housing density for the overall amount of housing growth, which may lead to greater greenfield land loss. Growth in rural settlements may use more semi-natural land and have fewer opportunities to use brownfield sites.	0	0	-	New housing will result in land use. However focusing the greatest proportion in largest towns where housing density tends to be greater would lead to most efficient use of land. May help to minimise overall land use.	0	-	-	New housing will result in land use. This option would direct the greatest proportion of growth to the main settlements where housing density would be greater and land use is likely to be more efficient. It maintains some growth in the smaller, more rural settlements where land use may be less efficient, but a modest growth level would perhaps encourage smaller areas to be developed preferentially, such as infill sites, which may help reduce greenfield land loss.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Focusing most of the population in the higher tier settlements allows greater opportunity for alternative transport modes. Still has quite a high proportion in lower tiers where there may be fewer active and sustainable travel options available. Maintains rural population in smaller settlements which should help to sustain rural public transport services.	+	+	+	Focusing most of the population in the higher tier settlements allows greater opportunity for alternative transport modes. May make public transport in smaller communities less sustainable / more uncertain.	+	+	+	Focusing most of the population in the higher tier settlements allows greater opportunity for alternative transport modes. Maintains rural population in smaller settlements which should help to sustain rural public transport services.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Additional housing will create additional emissions from central heating and transport. This option would mean lower growth the main towns / hub which may reduce opportunity for access to 'cleaner' central heating options (e.g. mains gas) and reliable, regular public transport.	?	?	?	Additional housing will create additional emissions from central heating and transport. This option may place more pressure on urban areas by increasing the population, but may also bring more people within range of 'cleaner' central heating options (e.g. mains gas) and reliable, regular public transport.	?	?	?	Additional housing will create additional emissions from central heating and transport. This option maintains a balance people across the main towns while sustaining villages for access to reliable, regular public transport.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	Additional housing will create additional greenhouse gas emissions from central heating and transport. This option focuses less growth in the main town/hub and more in the rural areas. It may lead to proportionately more GHG emissions per capita, due to lower housing densities and reduced access to alternative transport modes.	-	-	-	Additional housing will create additional greenhouse gas emissions from central heating and transport. By focusing the majority of growth in the main towns / hub this option may result in lower increase of GHG emissions per capita, through efficiencies gained via housing density and access to alternative transport modes.	-	-	-	Additional housing will create additional greenhouse gas emissions from central heating and transport. By focusing the majority of growth in the main towns / hub, this option may result in lower increase of GHG emissions per capita through efficiencies gained via housing density and access to alternative transport modes, but slightly less so than Option 2.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	-	-	-	Generally waste water treatment provision in towns is adequate. However, housing in main town / hub may place pressure on storm water network where there are combined sewers. The Council does not have control over drainage provision. Most of this growth is already committed. Combined sewer overflows are placing pressure on aquatic food resources in Belfast Lough.	-	-	-	Generally waste water treatment provision in towns is adequate. However, housing in main town / hub may place pressure on storm water network where there are combined sewers. The Council does not have control over drainage provision. Belfast Lough and Lough Neagh are failing WFD objectives. Most of this growth is already committed. Combined sewer overflows are placing pressure on aquatic food resources in Belfast Lough.	-	-	-	Generally waste water treatment provision in towns is adequate. However, housing in main towns may place pressure on storm water network where there are combined sewers. . The Council does not have control over drainage provision. Most of this growth is already committed. Combined sewer overflows are placing pressure on aquatic food resources in Belfast Lough.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	-	Housing in general doesn't provide positive environmental benefits, however locally important biodiversity and designated sites would be protected against significant negative impacts. This option may result in a proportionally lower housing density for the overall amount of housing growth, which may lead to greater biodiversity loss.	-	-	-	Housing in general doesn't provide positive environmental benefits, however local biodiversity and designated sites would be protected. Focus on main town / hub could help to reduce loss of semi-natural land and would likely reduce overall land use. (May place pressure on urban biodiversity). Likely to be more efficient use of land. This option performs slightly better than the others on this objective, due to land use efficiencies.	-	-	-	Housing in general doesn't provide positive environmental benefits, however locally important biodiversity and designated sites would be protected against significant negative impacts. Focus on main town / hub could help to reduce loss of semi-natural land and would likely help to minimise overall losses of biodiversity.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	This option directs the least growth to the main town / hub. Development in smaller settlements may have greater risk of landscape character effects, but would be controlled through site selections. Some lower tier settlements have quite high growth rates allocated although numbers are low in hamlets. Cumulative impacts may be greater. Some effects could be mitigated through other policy.	0	0	0	Very little growth allocated in lower tier settlements, most growth focused in main town / hub where impacts on landscape are less likely.	0	0	-	This option directs the majority of growth to the main town / hub. Development in smaller settlements may have greater risk of landscape character effects. Many sites are already committed. Smaller (more rural) settlements have very modest growth allocated. Effects could be mitigated through other policy.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	Excavation works for housing developments may potentially impact previously unrecorded archaeological remains. New development in the setting of historic assets can also influence the historic environment. The effect is dependent on the location of housing and can be mitigated through the application of Key Site Requirements to allow negative effects to be avoided and enable archaeological features to be discovered assessed, recorded and preserved.	?	?	?	Excavation works for housing developments may potentially impact previously unrecorded archaeological remains. New development in the setting of historic assets can also influence the historic environment. The effect is dependent on the location of housing and can be mitigated through the application of Key Site Requirements to allow negative effects to be avoided and enable archaeological features to be discovered assessed, recorded and preserved. This option brings less growth to smaller settlements which could help protect sense of place, but may also lose local distinctiveness if rural businesses close down.	?	?	?	Excavation works for housing developments may potentially impact previously unrecorded archaeological remains. New development in the setting of historic assets can also influence the historic environment. The effect is dependent on the location of housing and can be mitigated through the application of Key Site Requirements to allow negative effects to be avoided and enable archaeological features to be discovered assessed, recorded and preserved. Modest growth in rural settlements should help to avoid loss of local distinctiveness.

Summary of Policy:

The provision of new homes requires the consideration of a number of issues, including the level and location of future housing growth, the type of homes required and how dwellings should be designed to meet the needs of residents. In order to provide for a sustainable level of housing growth and an adequate choice of housing across the Borough, the Council will facilitate the delivery of at least 9,750 new homes for the Plan period 2015 to 2030. This policy concerns the allocation of housing growth to each settlement and the countryside. Three options have been appraised.

Reasonable Alternatives:

Option 1 Proportionate Reduction of the Preferred POP option (25%).

Option 2 Retain the level of growth allocated in the Preferred POP option for Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements of the Borough, resulting in a higher proportionate reduction in the allocation to other towns, villages and smaller settlements

Option 3 Reduce the proportion of growth to all settlements whilst allocating a higher proportion to Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements with the remaining allocation reflecting the current size and role of the other towns, villages and smaller settlements

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

Option 1 has a positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, with a significant positive impact on the objective to deliver sustainable housing. It also has minor positive impacts on all of the economic sustainability objectives. In respect of the environmental sustainability objectives the appraisal recognises that new housing consumes resources and generates emissions and this particular option may result in less efficiency than Options 2 and 3. The impacts are mainly minor negative or uncertain, although positive impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Option 2 has a positive impact on health and well-being, but the very limited growth allocated to lower tier settlements would result in negative impacts on the other social sustainability objectives. A mixture of impacts is also identified for the economic sustainability objectives, with the limited growth in smaller settlements negatively impacting the objective to enable sustainable economic growth. In respect of the environmental sustainability objectives the appraisal recognises that new housing consumes resources and generates emissions but this particular option may result in more efficiency than Options 2 and 3. The impacts are mainly minor negative or uncertain, although significant negative impacts are identified on water resources, as the growth allocated for the two largest settlements could exceed the capacity of the waste water infrastructure and the receiving waterbodies are already failing to meet water quality objectives.

Option 3 has a similar pattern of scores as Option 1. It has a positive impact on the social sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to deliver sustainable housing and also for strengthening society in the long term timescale. It has minor positive impacts on all of the economic sustainability objectives but perhaps delivers slightly more benefit for these than Option 1. In respect of the environmental sustainability objectives, the appraisal recognises that new housing consumes resources and generates emissions. This option may result in slightly better efficiency than Option 1, benefitting these objectives, but not quite as much as Option 2. The impacts are mainly minor negative or uncertain, although positive impacts are identified for the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.

The most sustainable option: Option 3 Reduce the proportion of growth to all settlements whilst allocating a higher proportion to Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements with the remaining allocation reflecting the current size and role of the other towns, villages and smaller settlements.

The preferred option: Option 3 Reduce the proportion of growth to all settlements whilst allocating a higher proportion to Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Antrim as the major settlements with the remaining allocation reflecting the current size and role of the other towns, villages and smaller settlements.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen society' and 'to encourage active and sustainable travel in the long term. Significant positive effects are also identified for the objective 'to provide good quality, sustainable housing' throughout all timescales.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects were identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Key Site Requirements to help deal with surface water at source. These could include requirements for SuDS, slowing the flow, permeable paving. Key Site Requirements to protect natural resources. Specific sites will be further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage. Criteria to select the most sustainable new sites where required. DM 27 helps to reduce the magnitude of negative effects on landscape and natural resources.

Policy DM 17: Homes in Settlements

Options	Option 1: Bring forward the general housing policy contained within existing PPS 7, PPS 12 and the SPPS (Option for Affordable housing Zone sites/KSR).				Option 2 Development Management Policy (DMP) for affordable housing only.				Option 3 Combine options 1 and 2 – Zone, Key Site Requirements and DMP for affordable housing.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Affordable housing zoning could provide vulnerable people in the community with the necessary services/facilities for their physical and mental health and well-being. Wheelchair users also a consideration. Open space, good housing, social contact – positives for creating distinct places where people are happy.	+	+	+	Affordable housing zoning could provide vulnerable people in the community with the necessary services/facilities for their physical and mental health and well-being. Wheelchair users also a consideration. Open space, good housing, social contact – positives for creating distinct places where people are happy. May be less certainty to deliver affordable housing under this objective – market reliant.	+	+	+	Option could provide greater opportunities to deliver for this objective. Open space, good housing, social contact – positives for creating distinct places where people are happy. Maximises opportunities to deliver affordable housing and better quality of life – equally.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positive outcomes for society. Able to integrate communities and provide accessible shared space across communities. Potential to get stronger over time. Able to improve people's pride in where they live – reduce inequality. Potential for negative impacts if market affected by economic conditions.	+	+	+	Able to deliver positive outcomes for society – accessible, shared space; open space, equality. Potential for negative impacts if market affected by economic conditions.	+	+	+	Option could maximise positive outcomes for society using all possible measures to deliver for the objective. Open space, accessible, shared space, housing quality, contact, and equality. Potential for negative impacts if market affected by economic conditions.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Option would help to deliver high quality homes – and meet demand. It was discussed how market conditions could affect delivery of the objective. It was discussed that most of the housing in the plan will be delivered through committed sites however, the plan will	+	+	+	Option would deliver for the objective with positives similar to option 1 including the opportunity to deliver affordable and lifetime homes. It was also discussed how market conditions could affect delivery of the objective.	+	+	+	Option would deliver for the objective and could maximise positive outcomes with a higher degree of confidence and flexibility to deliver for the objective – lifetime and affordable homes. It was

				consider the need to zone land in the local policies plan stage specifically for affordable housing.								also discussed how market conditions could affect delivery of the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.	0	0	0	No link.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Building itself stimulates related jobs and the local economy. Housing obviously enables people to live near to employment opportunities. Able to locate housing in areas, which in turn increases its attractiveness as a place to live.	+	+	+	Building itself stimulates related jobs and the local economy. Housing obviously enables people to live near to employment opportunities. Able to help locate housing in sustainable areas, which in turn increases its attractiveness as a place to live.	+	+	+	Building itself stimulates related jobs and the local economy. Housing obviously enables people to live near to employment opportunities. Able to facilitate location of housing in most sustainable areas, which in turn increases its attractiveness as a place to live.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy promotes walking and cycling routes and supports linkages to local facilities and services through public transport and active travel routes. Lower quantity housing developments would still be expected to integrate with local facilities and services.	+	+	+	Policy promotes walking and cycling routes and supports linkages to local facilities and services through public transport and active travel routes. Lower quantity housing developments would still be expected to integrate with local facilities and services.	+	+	+	Policy promotes walking and cycling routes and supports linkages to local facilities and services through public transport and active travel routes. Lower quantity housing developments would still be expected to integrate with local facilities and services.
9... improve air quality.	?	?	?	Policy option facilitates housing, which generates traffic emissions during construction and through use from heating and local traffic. Active and sustainable travel both promoted which could help reduce traffic related emissions and open space provision could help to maintain or improve local air quality. Home heating options may be more likely to be gas particularly with growth focused to settlements but wood burner stoves are also popular.	?	?	?	Policy option facilitates housing, which generates traffic emissions during construction and through use from heating and local traffic. Active and sustainable travel both promoted which could help reduce traffic related emissions and open space provision could help to maintain or improve local air quality. Home heating options may be more likely to be gas particularly with growth focused to settlements but wood burner stoves are also popular.	?	?	?	Policy option facilitates housing, which generates traffic emissions during construction and through use from heating and local traffic. Active and sustainable travel both promoted which could help reduce traffic related emissions and open space provision could help to maintain or improve local air quality. Home heating options may be more likely to be gas particularly with growth focused to settlements but wood burner stoves are also popular.

				Much may depend on behaviour. Uncertainties reflected in the score.				Much may depend on behaviour. Uncertainties reflected in the score.				Much may depend on behaviour. Uncertainties reflected in the score.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	-	-	-	Policy option promotes active travel and sustainable travel, which could help reduce local traffic emissions. It was discussed how delivery of lifetime homes can help to reduce the use of resources including energy, as well as waste production but the overall provision of housing is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – construction phases, heating and travel. Focused growth in settlements will not only develop brownfield sites but also greenfield land/sites in buffer areas and lower tiers.	-	-	-	Policy option promotes active travel and sustainable travel, which could help reduce local traffic emissions. It was discussed how delivery of lifetime homes can help to reduce the use of resources including energy, as well as waste production but the overall provision of housing is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Focused growth in settlements will not only develop brownfield sites but also use greenfield land/sites in buffer areas and lower tiers.	-	-	-	Policy option promotes active travel and sustainable travel, which could help reduce local traffic emissions. It was discussed how delivery of lifetime homes can help to reduce the use of resources including energy, as well as waste production but the overall provision of housing is unlikely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Focused growth in settlements will not only develop brownfield sites but also use greenfield land/sites in buffer areas and lower tiers.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Policy option able to provide open space based on the proportion of houses in the development. This open space could be green space with some biodiversity value but could be a play park or a hard surfaced area. Cross over with other policy also requires landscaping and biodiversity measures but these may be hardscapes and refer to promotion of small-scale biodiversity measures.	?	?	?	Policy option able to provide open space based on the proportion of houses in the development. This open space could be green space with some biodiversity value but could be a play park or a hard surfaced area. Cross over with other policy also requires landscaping and biodiversity measures but these may be hardscapes and refer to promotion of small-scale biodiversity measures.	?	?	?	Policy option able to provide open space based on the proportion of houses in the development. This open space could be green space with some biodiversity value but could be a play park or a hard surfaced area. Cross over with other policy also requires landscaping and biodiversity measures but these may be hardscapes and refer to promotion of small-scale biodiversity measures.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policy option facilitates consideration of siting, design and layout concerning local character would be required. Open space also a key consideration. Proposals would need to be appropriate and avoid any conflict with local character. Cross over with other policy requiring positive and appropriate integration.	+	+	+	Policy option facilitates consideration of siting, design and layout concerning local character would be required. Open space also a key consideration. Proposals would need to be appropriate and avoid any conflict with local character. Cross over with other policy requiring positive and appropriate integration.	+	+	+	Policy option facilitates consideration of siting, design and layout concerning local character would be required. Open space also a key consideration. Proposals would need to be appropriate and avoid any conflict with local character. Cross over with other policy requiring positive and appropriate integration.

14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	?	?	The siting, size, design and layout will be part of a number of considerations for new housing developments that must refer to local character and form – reflect existing conditions. Proposals should avoid any conflict with local character by integrating with historic/cultural patterns and features/assets. However, there is some uncertainty as much may depend on how related heritage policies are applied; and the nature, scale and location of applications.	?	?	The siting, size, design and layout will be part of a number of considerations for new housing developments that must refer to local character and form – reflect existing conditions. Proposals should avoid any conflict with local character by integrating with historic/cultural patterns and features/assets. However, there is some uncertainty as much may depend on how related heritage policies are applied; and the nature, scale and location of applications.	?	?	The siting, size, design and layout will be part of a number of considerations for new housing developments that must refer to local character and form – reflect existing conditions. Proposals should avoid any conflict with local character by integrating with historic/cultural patterns and features/assets. However, there is some uncertainty as much may depend on how related heritage policies are applied; and the nature, scale and location of applications.
Summary of Policy The aim of this policy is to promote the development of high quality, attractive and sustainable homes, which meet the present and future needs of all sections of the population within the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS and existing operational policy. The policy also contains measures for lifetime homes and affordable housing.									
Reasonable Alternatives Reasonable alternatives were based on the aspect of affordable housing with Option 1 considering zoning sites/Key Site Requirements, Option 2 - Development Management Policy, and Option 3 - combining options 1 and 2. The SPPS refers to zoning and Key Site Requirements but the Northern Ireland Housing Executive recommends policy.									
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives All three options delivered similar outcomes against each sustainability objective however, option 3 was predicted to maximise benefits particularly for social sustainability objectives. All three options were predicted to deliver significant positive outcomes against health and well-being, strengthening society, sustainable housing and the environmental objective – active and sustainable travel. Negligible outcomes were predicted for several objectives covering all three pillars of sustainable development including education, material assets, physical resources and water resources. Positive outcomes were predicted for sustainable economic growth and landscape character but uncertain outcomes were predicted for air quality, natural resources and the historic environment. A minor negative score was awarded against the climate change objective for all three options.									
The most sustainable option: Option 3 Combine options 1 and 2 – Zone, Key Site Requirements and DMP for affordable housing only					The preferred option: Option 3 Combine options 1 and 2 – Zone, Key Site Requirements and DMP for affordable housing only				

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and providing sustainable housing. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted for the environmental objective to deliver active and sustainable travel.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Design Concept Plan. Cross-over with other policies – SP4, SP6, DM25 - waste, housing, historic environment. Key Site Requirements and supplementary planning guidance. Reference to existing guidance – Creating Places – until new Council guidance is provided.

Policy DM 18: Homes in the Countryside

Options	Option 1: Adopt existing policy contained in PPS 21 and the SPPS.				Option 2 - Amalgamate the broad thrust and direction of existing policy contained within PPS 21 and SPPS, with amendments as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Farm Dwelling - DM 18.3 (b) & DM 18.4<ul style="list-style-type: none">The farm business must be established and active for a continuous period of 6 years;Off-site clustering.Replacement Dwellings DM 18.8<ul style="list-style-type: none">Change in the wall stead provision.Dwellings within a Built Up Frontage – DM 18.17 (a)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Change in the definition of a built up frontage - 5 dwellings instead of 3).Dwelling within an Existing Cluster - DM 18.18 (a)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cluster 5 instead of 4.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Special domestic circumstances able to be delivered for people with needs. Inter-generational contact feasible. Enables better quality of housing and social cohesion.	+	+	+	Special domestic circumstances able to be delivered for people with needs. Inter-generational contact feasible. Enables better quality of housing and social cohesion.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Enables social cohesion by enabling families and friends and communities to stay together. Reduces inequality in rural areas by considering their specific needs. Flexibility in the existing policy. Important for quality of life for rural people – reflected in the score. Encourages clustering which brings benefits for society. Important for quality of life for rural people – reflected in the score.	+	+	+	Enables social cohesion by enabling families and friends and communities to stay together. Reduces inequality in rural areas by considering their specific needs. Encourages clustering which brings benefits for society. Important for quality of life for rural people – reflected in the score.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	The policy provides opportunities to meet the housing needs of rural people as set out in the SPPS. Affordable housing and special circumstances could all be delivered under this option	+	+	+	Needs of rural people as identified by central government would be delivered but local needs could also be met - flexible. The policy provides opportunities to meet the housing needs of rural people as set out in the SPPS. Affordable housing and special circumstances could all be delivered under this option.

4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective but it is noted that clustering may help sustain local schools.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective but it is noted that clustering may help sustain local schools.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Enables rural workers to live in area that they are from or working in. Positive outcomes by enabling people to live near their businesses. Noted that there would be possibilities linked to non-agricultural businesses, which could increase economic opportunities in the rural area.	+	+	+	Enables rural workers to live in area that they are from or working in. Positive outcomes by enabling people to live near their businesses. Noted that there would be possibilities linked to non-agricultural businesses, which could increase economic opportunities in the rural area.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Option could encourage reuse of land and reduce derelict land – minimal. Replacement dwellings may not be in best-suited areas for material assets – electricity, telecommunications, waste facilities. Clustering may provide positives for objective – waste collections, power supplies. Policy is more flexible to enable people to obtain planning permission for replacement dwellings which in turn will help reduce the number of unsightly derelict dwellings in the countryside.	0	0	0	Option could encourage reuse of land and reduce derelict land – minimal. Replacement dwellings may not be in best-suited areas for material assets – electricity, telecommunications, waste facilities. Clustering may provide positives for objective – waste collections, power supplies. Policy is more flexible to enable people to obtain planning permission for replacement dwellings which in turn will help reduce the number of unsightly derelict dwellings in the countryside.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Potential to encourage reuse of land and therefore further reduce any use of greenfield sites. Potential for lane sharing and small sites could also help reduce greenfield land take. May encourage locally sourced materials to be used. Overall, the option aims to deliver housing in the countryside with use of construction materials and land take but facilitate a more efficient use of these resources. Likely to be small amounts hence the negligible score.	0	0	0	Potential to encourage reuse of land and therefore further reduce any use of greenfield sites. Potential for lane sharing and small sites could also help reduce greenfield land take. May encourage locally sourced materials to be used. Overall, the option aims to deliver housing in the countryside with use of construction materials and land take but facilitate a more efficient use of these resources. Likely to be small amounts hence the negligible score.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	-	-	-	The policies do not deliver for this objective. The policies facilitate further opportunities for dwellings in the countryside, which could encourage people to live further away from settlements where key transport services are located, therefore increasing car usage.	-	-	-	The policies do not deliver for this objective. The policies facilitate further opportunities for dwellings in the countryside, which could encourage people to live further away from settlements where key transport services are located, therefore increasing car usage.
9... improve air quality.	-	-	-	Policy likely to increase car use – number of journeys and length of journeys. Unable to definitely link to public transport links or active travel. Recognised that home heating may affect local air quality (oil). With the likely quantities and dispersal, rates, local air quality may not be adversely affected but new developments in the countryside are unlikely to improve air quality.	-	-	-	Policy likely to increase car use. Unable to definitely link to public transport links or active travel. Recognised that home heating may affect local air quality (oil) but quantities and dispersal deemed unlikely to affect local air quality but will not improve it.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect due to quantities.	0	0	0	Negligible effect due to quantities.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Policy option enables housing across the wider countryside. It is recognised that these homes are reliant on septic tanks and that these technologies pose risk of local pollution – ground, water. Also disposal issues and lack of monitoring – all outside of the control of planning. Option may encourage dispersed housing which adds pressures to the water and sewage facilities.	?	?	?	Policy option enables housing across the wider countryside. It is recognised that these homes are reliant on septic tanks and that these technologies pose risk of local pollution – ground, water. Also disposal issues and lack of monitoring – all outside of the control of planning. Option may increase the number of tanks and demand for water but likewise option could help centralise water/sewage related infrastructure.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Cumulative impact of development in the countryside has the potential to damage local biodiversity but policy requires retention of existing long established boundary planting to aid integration and maintain local biodiversity.	0	0	0	Cumulative impact of development in the countryside has the potential to damage local biodiversity but policy requires retention of existing long established boundary planting to aid integration and maintain local biodiversity. By encouraging clustering, biodiversity loss and impacts on habitats across the wider countryside, should be avoided.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Existing housing policies aim to facilitate a sustainable form of residential development in the countryside. They aim to balance the need for sustainable development in the countryside in order to sustain rural communities, against the protection and enhancement of the character and value of the countryside. The policies acknowledge the negative impacts of inappropriate forms of residential development including overdevelopment. The policies provide a range of mitigation measures to ensure new dwellings integrate sympathetically with their surroundings but application is problematic – ribbon development.	+	+	+	Protection and conservation of local distinctiveness and character would be aimed for. Clustering with existing development and reuse of derelict buildings is encouraged which cumulatively should help to reduce overall impacts on landscape character and visual amenity. Ribbon development should be less of a risk. Policy option will provide improved clustering opportunities as well as the reuse of derelict buildings for replacement opportunities, which in turn will help improve the character of the area. The policies aim to facilitate a sustainable form of residential development in the countryside. They aim to balance this need for sustainable development in the countryside in order to sustain rural communities, against the protection and enhancement of the character and value of the countryside.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	?	?	?	Policy option considers local historic character – facilitate retention and use of important vernacular buildings. Able to protect local character by reusing buildings. However, there are market forces that do not encourage people to consider reuse of vernacular buildings. Encouraging/facilitating but not able to directly deliver.	?	?	?	Policy option to consider local historic character – facilitate retention and use of important vernacular buildings. Able to protect local character by reusing buildings. However, there are market forces that do not encourage people to consider reuse of vernacular buildings. Option could increase the ability of people (encourage/facilitate) to use certain types of building but option unable to 'make' people do this. Option may be able to deliver more for the objective.

Summary of Policy

The aim of this policy is to facilitate sustainable forms of residential development in the countryside of the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Reasonable Alternatives

Option 1 is to adopt existing policy contained within PPS 21 and the SPPS. Option 2 is an amalgamation of existing policy contained within PPS 21 and the SPPS with amendments to improve the overall sustainability of the policy. Amendments focus on the following aspects of the policy: farm dwelling - farm business must be established and active for a continuous period of 6 years, off-site clustering; replacement dwellings - change in the wall stead provision; dwellings within a built up frontage, change in the definition of a built up frontage - 5 dwellings instead of 3; dwelling within an existing cluster - cluster 5 instead of 4.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

Both of the options were predicted to deliver equal outcomes for the majority of the sustainability objectives but option 2 was predicted to deliver more positively for landscape character and likely to be more flexible for the historic environment. Positive outcomes were predicted for health and well-being, and sustainable economic growth, and for option 2 against landscape character. Significant positive outcomes were also predicted across both options for strengthening society and sustainable housing. Negligible outcomes were predicted for both options across several objectives – education, material assets, physical resources, climate change and natural resources. Both options scored less favourably against some of the majority of the environmental objectives with negative scores against active and sustainable travel, air quality; and uncertain scores for both options against water resources and historic environment although option 2 is likely to deliver more for the historic environment. Option 1 also scored minor negative against the landscape character objective.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 - Amalgamate the broad thrust and direction of existing policy contained within PPS 21 and SPPS with amendments.

The preferred option: Option 2 - Amalgamate the broad thrust and direction of existing policy contained within PPS 21 and SPPS with amendments.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for some of the social sustainability objectives – strengthening society and sustainable housing.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects were identified.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Supplementary guidance and application of appropriate conditions. Monitoring to identify unknown impacts. Guidance for implementing policy. Cross-over with other policy – DM27. Monitoring through reviews.

Policy DM 19: Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes

Option	Adopt existing policy (Policy CTY 9 in PPS 21 and the SPPS)			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	May enable care provision in certain areas and under particular circumstances. Could enable people to have care, or provide care to others. Could enable people to live near their home if it has been damaged for example in a flood, or fire. It was discussed how the anticipated quantities of this type of application are likely to be low but there would be positive outcomes for those individuals – both physical and mental well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Able to provide positive benefits for people who need temporary care as well as for their families and dependents. It may enable those people to remain in close contact - intergenerational contact. Could enable temporary solutions while ones that are more permanent are sought. Policy option able to provide opportunities that can help sustain rural communities by enabling people to stay close to family and friends under certain circumstances.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective but it was discussed how it may make it easier for people to live on site while house renovations are taking place.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective but it was discussed how the policy may enable people to live on site while they construct a new dwelling or provide temporary accommodation for seasonable workers on farms – all with local economic benefits.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No direct link - temporary situation so any caravans or mobile homes would be unlikely to affect delivery of the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective - temporary situation.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective - temporary situation and likely to be small numbers.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect for delivery of the objective - temporary situation.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	The policy acknowledges the limitations in the design and finishes of caravans and mobile homes and its potential for integration into the landscape. The policy requires all permissions to be time limited, which will help to safeguard the character and appearance of the countryside. It was discussed how caravans can be unsightly in scale and design, and mitigating the impacts is likely to come down to heavy reliance on landscaping, integration and time limits. Although temporary, the potential adverse effects of the policy option on landscape are reflected in the score.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	It is noted that option would enable clustering and could provide some control/guidance over locations that would enable avoidance of historic features. There would be minimal to no risk to any underground archaeology but overall it is probably not enough to deliver a score for this objective.
Summary of Policy				
The aim of this policy is to facilitate those circumstances where a caravan or mobile home may be a sensible temporary solution to provide residential accommodation, particularly in the countryside. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.				
Reasonable Alternatives				
No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM 19 is taking forward existing policy of CTY 9 of PPS21 and the SPPS, which is considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives				
The policy option was predicted to have little effect on most of the economic and environmental sustainability objectives but it was predicted to deliver positive outcomes against some of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. The policy option scored minor negative against one of the environmental sustainability objectives for maintaining and enhancing landscape character. This highlights the importance of measures like effective monitoring to help avoid any long-term adverse impacts on landscape character.				
The most sustainable option: Adopt existing policy (Policy CTY 9 in PPS 21 and the SPPS)			The preferred option: Adopt existing policy (Policy CTY 9 in PPS 21 and the SPPS)	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Effective monitoring of time limited planning permissions to ensure that there is no long-term visual impact on landscape. Cross over with other policies – DM 25 (urban) and DM 27 (rural).

Policy DM 20: Traveller Accommodation

Option	Adopt existing policy detailed in HS3 (amended) PPS12 and the SPPS			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Positive impact by ensuring accommodation is provided to meet the unique needs of travellers. Enables access to health facilities and services. Encourages family cohesion and social contact.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Positive impact by helping to reduce inequalities. Promotes inclusion of all groups. Enables the travelling community to maintain own culture/community and supports/facilitates its co-existence with the mainstream culture.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Positive impact by helping to meet the specific needs of a community/group and provide affordable housing options for them.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of the option on delivery of the objective but it was discussed how the option may help enable traveller children to have the opportunity to access educational facilities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective but it was discussed how the option could enable workspace on sites for local communities to use for economic ventures but overall it is probably not enough to score.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Option able to ensure suitable provision of services and facilities to one site – critical mass approach. More able to integrate for adequate service provisions – power supply, waste services.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective although it was discussed how potential loss of greenfield land could occur but the quantities are unlikely to be of any amount to warrant a score.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective although it was discussed how there could be potential links to local active travel routes.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective although it was discussed how there could be suitable facilities for water consumption and waste/sewage provided thus reducing any negative impacts from sites.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Policy option encourages sites towards settlements/settlement edges, which should reduce impacts on the wider countryside and local biodiversity levels. It is recognised that the quantity of land potentially lost or affected may be greenfield but it is thought to be of such a scale that it would be unlikely to affect delivery of the objective.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	-	-	-	Policy option could have negative impacts on local landscape character although sites can be integrated using adequate landscaping. The risk of visual intrusion at the local level is reflected in the score.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Policy has potential for positive outcomes for delivery of the objective by avoiding negative impacts on historic features and local distinctiveness. Option able to minimise risk of intrusion on historic and cultural features of interest. Option directly supports/facilitates traveller culture but overall it is probably not enough to score against the objective.
Summary of Policy The aim of this policy is to meet the accommodation needs of travellers within the Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.				
Reasonable Alternatives No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM 20 is taking forward existing policy detailed in HS 3 (amended) of PPS 12 and the SPPS, which is considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives It was predicted that the policy option would have a negligible effect across the majority of economic and environmental sustainability objectives but would deliver positive outcomes for most of the social sustainability objectives - improving health and well-being, strengthening society, and provision of sustainable housing. Positive outcomes were also predicted for one of the economic objectives - managing material assets sustainably. However, a minor negative score was predicted for delivery of the landscape character objective.				
The most sustainable option: Adopt existing policy detailed in HS3 (amended) PPS12 and the SPPS			The preferred option: Adopt existing policy detailed in HS3 (amended) PPS12 and the SPPS	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects No specific sites have been identified within the Borough so this will be kept under review and further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage.				

Policy DM 21: Specialist Residential Accommodation

Options	Option 1 - Maintain status quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 9.				Option 2 - Bespoke policy for specialist residential accommodation.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	Policy option enables provision of suitable accommodation for people with physical or mental health issues/needs. Able to connect people to healthcare services and facilities and deliver for their specific healthcare needs. Able to accommodate carers and enable social contact/cohesion where it could be otherwise lost. People more likely to have access to telecommunications – social contact and sense of security as well as enabling health monitoring if it is required.	++	++	++	Policy requires the submission of a specific statement of specialist housing need which helps to deliver the objective. Policy option enables provision of suitable accommodation for people with physical or mental health issues/needs. Able to connect people to healthcare services and facilities and deliver for their specific healthcare needs. Able to accommodate carers and enable social contact/cohesion where it could be otherwise lost. People more likely to have access to telecommunications – social contact and sense of security as well as enabling health monitoring if it is required.
2... strengthen society.	++	++	++	Policy option able to help with social interaction/cohesion by meeting the needs of an aging population and vulnerable groups such as those people with a disability. Also able to facilitate shared space provision. There is a growing/aging population in the Council with specific needs and policy could help deliver for this objective.	++	++	++	Policy option able to help with social interaction/cohesion by meeting the needs of an aging population and vulnerable groups such as those people with a disability. Also able to facilitate shared space provision. There is a growing/aging population in the Council with specific needs and policy could help deliver for this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	++	++	++	Policy option is able to meet the needs of specific groups with tailored provision of housing that delivers for locally identified needs such as elderly or vulnerable people, those with mobility difficulties or mental and physical disabilities.	++	++	++	Policy option is able to meet the needs of specific groups with tailored provision of housing that delivers for locally identified needs such as elderly or vulnerable people, those with mobility difficulties or mental and physical disabilities.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective but it is noted that jobs may be created/sustained.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective but it is noted that jobs may be created/sustained.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective but it is noted that provision of telecommunications may be more feasible.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective but it is noted that provision of telecommunications may be more feasible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective although it is recognised that there could be the potential to reduce the	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective although it is recognised that there could be the potential to reduce the

				overall footprint of overall housing supply – a more efficient use of land through sharing accommodation/downsizing.				overall footprint of overall housing supply – a more efficient use of land through sharing accommodation/downsizing.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Significant positive impact as the policy enables specialist residential accommodation to be sited in a location where it can deliver convenient access to public transport routes and to relevant local services and facilities including local shops and health facilities. Overall would be able to help reduce the need for vehicle use.	+	+	+	Significant positive impact as the policy enables specialist residential accommodation to be sited in a location where it can deliver convenient access to public transport routes and to relevant local services and facilities including local shops and health facilities. Overall would be able to help reduce the need for vehicle use.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective but option able to help encourage other modes of transport than motorised vehicle, which could help to maintain local air quality but overall it is unlikely to improve it.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective but option able to help encourage other modes of transport than motorised vehicle, which could help to maintain local air quality but overall it is unlikely to improve it.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective although it is noted that the option could present potential for other modes of sustainable travel to be used than the car as well as a more energy efficient use of resources amongst people living together and sharing resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of this objective although it is noted that the option could present potential for other modes of sustainable travel to be used than the car as well as a more energy efficient use of resources amongst people living together and sharing resources.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective but it is noted that some sites may need some sort of secondary treatment for wastewater but most are likely to be mains.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective but it is noted that some sites may need some sort of secondary treatment for wastewater but most are likely to be mains.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Policy option presents an efficient use of land but with potential for some land loss with impacts on local biodiversity but overall the amount is unlikely to be of a quantity to affect delivery of the objective.	0	0	0	Policy option presents an efficient use of land but with potential for some land loss with impacts on local biodiversity but overall the amount is unlikely to be of a quantity to affect delivery of the objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Policy option unlikely to affect landscape character due to the likely locations of sites however, if it were to be a consideration, then any proposals would be required to be integrated. Compatible land uses must co-exist.	0	0	0	Policy option unlikely to affect landscape character due to the likely locations of sites however, if it were to be a consideration, then any proposals would be required to be integrated. Compatible land uses must co-exist.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	No link.	0	0	0	No link.
Summary of Policy								
The aim of this policy is to help meet the accommodation needs of those individuals whose needs cannot be readily met through the provision of general housing. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.								

Reasonable Alternatives

Option 1 proposes to maintain status quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 9. The reasonable alternative under Option 2 is for a bespoke policy for specialist residential accommodation which can better address a specialist need.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

Both options scored similarly across all three pillars of sustainable development and all of the sustainability objectives. Negligible outcomes were predicted for most of the environmental sustainability objectives and all of the economic objectives. The policy options both scored significantly positive against the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, strengthening society and provision of good quality, sustainable housing. They both scored significant positive for delivery of active and sustainable travel.

The most sustainable option: Both options are equally sustainable.

The preferred option: Option 2 - Bespoke policy for specialist residential accommodation.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive effects were predicted for delivery of the health and well-being, strengthening society, sustainable housing, and active and sustainable travel.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Cross-over with other relevant policies – SP 4, DM 25, DM 28.

Policy DM 22: Residential Extensions and Alterations

Option	Adopt existing policy contained in the Addendum to PPS 7 Residential Extensions and Alterations			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enabling people to live longer in their homes by enabling adaptation of their homes to accommodate specific needs of people including healthcare needs. The policy option could enable families to live together under otherwise difficult circumstances for longer – family cohesion. There is currently a significant amount of these types of proposal in the borough. The policy option enables positives for both mental and physical health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy option enables people to stay longer in their homes/areas/communities. Option presents opportunities for families to stay together - promoting social cohesion and intergenerational contact. Facilitates people to remain in their homes for longer across generations.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy option enables people to stay longer in their homes by facilitating adaptations to suit their specific needs including healthcare needs. Option also enables works linked to expanding families and/or changing circumstances that enables people to stay in their existing homes – sustainable development. Option enables different types of adaptations to deliver for specific needs.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective although it was discussed that the option could help support and sustain building trade and construction market.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy option enables use of existing infrastructure/utilities – energy use and waste services. Option enables centralised use of material assets - critical mass approach. Positive outcomes predicted concerning efficient use of material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Option may mean a loss of green space in some circumstances but option aims to control any excess losses of land and may involve the use of curtilage with no loss of greenfield land. Option facilitates works on houses in built up areas. Overall, the option supports protection of physical resources through avoidance of the wider countryside and ribbon development, as well as a more efficient use of resources by retaining materials.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although it is noted that the option could enable a more efficient approach to the use of resources by enabling people to stay within their homes.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although it is noted that there would be positives for use of existing water/sewage facilities/existing water and sewage infrastructure. It is noted that extensions have to be signed off with adequate water treatment facilities a consideration i.e. issues with insufficient septic tanks for the scale of dwelling.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although it is noted that the option aims to avoid unacceptable losses of natural heritage features such as trees. There could be indirect positives of the option as it enables extensions that could avoid more diverse and semi-natural areas – more efficient use of land.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policy option aims to consider local landscape character so as visual intrusion is minimised and changes to existing properties do not detract from the appearance or character of the local area. Appropriate design – scale, mass, design and use of materials - would be required; and complete new builds more likely to be avoided.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Policy option requires appropriate design that considers the existing property and adjacent buildings as well as the local character of the surrounding area through proposed scale, mass, design and use of materials. Policy option able to protect and conserve local character/context. There are also significant numbers of this type of application in the Council.
Summary of Policy				
The aim of the policy is to promote high quality, sympathetically designed, residential extensions and alterations, which respect the character of the area where they are situated and safeguard neighbouring residential amenity. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.				
Reasonable Alternatives				
No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary given that policy DM 22 is taking forward existing policy detailed in the Addendum to PPS 7 and the SPPS, which is considered fit-for-purpose given the characteristics of the Council area.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives				
The policy option scored positive against most of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and strengthening society; with a significant positive for delivery of the sustainable housing objective. The policy option also scored positive against some of the economic sustainability objectives – managing material assets sustainably, and protecting and using physical resources sustainably. Negligible effects were predicted against the remaining economic sustainability objectives as well as most of the environmental sustainability objectives but positive outcomes were predicted against the landscape character and the historic environment objectives.				
The most sustainable option: Adopt existing policy contained in the Addendum to PPS 7 Residential Extensions and Alterations			The preferred option: Adopt existing policy contained in the Addendum to PPS 7 Residential Extensions and Alterations	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for delivery of the sustainable housing objective.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Supplementary guidance and application of appropriate conditions. Cross over with other policy – SP7, DM30-36 – for listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Areas of Townscape Character.

Policy DM 23: Protection of Open Space

Option	Adopt existing policy contained in the Addendum to PPS 7 Residential Extensions and Alterations.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	This policy seeks to improve the health and wellbeing of those who live within the Borough. The policy seeks to protect and make accessible open spaces for all to enjoy, including the creation of accessible green networks within, around and linking settlements. This will help promote health and wellbeing and social contact, as well as enhancing biodiversity opportunities.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Open space contributes positively to the character, attractiveness and vitality of our towns, villages and settlements. It can assist in creating a sense of civic pride and cross community relations. It provides a place where communities can meet and promotes positive social interaction. It also provides areas for play, an essential element in the development of our Borough's children, and enhances the quality of the residential environment.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	This policy does not have a direct link to the provision of good quality, sustainable housing however there is an indirect relationship through policy DM 17.6, which requires new open space, including play space, as part of new residential development. The appraisal has also identified that converting areas of open space to deliver new housing (where a housing need has been identified) is a key pressure on this policy.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Safeguards the quality of the Borough.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Indirectly related to restoring derelict land, e.g. former quarry sites (this effect may emerge over time, but is not considered to be a perceptible impact).
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Retains semi natural land cover/biodiversity. May indirectly protect soil quality of neighbouring lands. Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites. May have cross-over with other policies in terms of potential 'after uses' of quarries.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Open space helps to link green network. Safeguards walking or cycling routes and green corridors. Unlikely to have impacts on traffic congestion. Developers would be encouraged to create walking/cycling links to existing open spaces.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Minimal impacts anticipated on the objective, as effect is reliant on behavioural change. However it would help encourage people to choose walking or cycling in preference to the car. Open spaces can provide a buffer between existing land uses, including residential areas and transport routes.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Protecting open space / urban space that supports wildlife can be beneficial. Parks along the coastline provide a buffer which helps reduce the risk of damage to the built environment from storm events. Existing parks / playing fields provide flood storage areas in the Borough. These effects are indirect but are positive.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Protected open spaces provide a buffer between development and watercourses (including coastal waters). Vegetated buffer zones support the objective by helping to intercept pollutants before they enter watercourses; some may also provide attenuation or storage areas for surface water.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Impacts depend somewhat on the locations of open space designations, however generally it would help protect local biodiversity and safeguards green/blue infrastructure. Also helps to protect designated sites (e.g. Belfast Lough, Lough Neagh & Lough Beg) which have open space designated around their boundaries (in some areas). Supports ecosystem services. Provides positive environmental benefits. Open spaces are extensive in our Borough and some sites are strategically located to protect important areas.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Protects areas that are designated for landscape. Protects the setting of prominent features including transport corridors. Avoids major impacts on coastal views. Some open space designations can provide a buffer between development and landscape / seascape areas.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Protecting open space contributes to the setting of built heritage in certain areas. Many listed buildings and structures in the Borough have open space areas around them, e.g. Antrim Castle Gardens, Mill Race in Antrim, Bleach Green Viaducts and the canal at Toome. The historic environment is closely interlinked with landscape and natural environment. Without this policy, character and setting could be lost.
Summary of Policy: The aim of this policy is to protect against the loss of existing open space to other competing uses. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS which acknowledges that open space, whether or not there is public access to it, is important for its contribution to the quality of urban and rural life. This policy is a continuation of existing operational policy, with small amendments. It has cross over with housing policy DM17.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy has a mainly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives, significantly so in the context of providing areas for recreation and physical activity which in turn benefits health and well-being and social interaction. It also has a minor positive impact on sustainable economic growth, by making the Borough more attractive. The policy has a positive impact on all of the environmental sustainability objectives except improving air quality (on which the effect is negligible). It delivers significant positive impacts for the objectives of protecting natural resources, protecting and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.				

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 8.	The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 8.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to improve health and well-being, 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity', 'to maintain and enhance landscape character' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.'	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Developers may leave areas of open space unmaintained / low quality, this practice should be discouraged and could be supported through SP 1.14 (Developer Contributions). Consider encouraging 'meanwhile uses'. Key Site Requirements will be further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage, and consideration of management plans and monitoring framework for open space.	

Policy DM 24: Community Facilities

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Enables community facilities, e.g. health facilities, community centres to be located close to where people live. Creates conditions for enabling services - however is dependent on providers wanting to deliver services in areas of need. Policy doesn't in itself improve access to health care. DM 24.6 and SP 5.2 enable new sports and recreation facilities which can also support the physical activity aims of this objective, however as the impact is dependent on uptake the magnitude remains minor.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The provision of appropriate new facilities would help promote active recreation which would also help reduce social inequality and build community cohesion. The policy enables community facilities to be located close to where people live. It directs development such as schools, libraries, health centres, community centres, youth clubs, etc. towards locations where the communities will see the greatest benefits.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Creates conditions for new education skills provision – may help to support the objective in rural areas. Community facilities can enhance education and skills provision, for example classes in libraries, evening classes, etc. and playgroups /early years provisions. SP 5.3 supports the dual use of educational sporting facilities to benefit local communities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Supports enhancement of skills base which improves employability.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	May help create the conditions to help deliver new/enhanced assets. E.g. high-speed broadband provision, upgrading electricity networks, bringing mains gas infrastructure to new areas. Community facilities may also provide access to internet. (May be important in localised areas but not considered to be a perceptible impact overall).
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy favours sites located within settlements and accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. May benefit those without access to a car.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Enabling community facilities to be located close to where people live may encourage some reduction in car journeys but not sufficient to influence the objective overall.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Enabling community facilities to be located close to where people live may encourage some reduction in car journeys but not sufficient to influence the objective overall.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Policy may help to encourage reuse of old buildings (but does not set out specifically to do so). New community facilities may provide opportunities for cultural activities. Overall not considered to have a perceptible impact on this objective.
Summary of Policy: <p>The aim of this policy is to safeguard and enhance existing community services and facilities that serve the needs of our Borough's residents and to support the appropriate provision of new or enhanced facilities. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. This policy is a continuation of existing operational policy.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives: <p>No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.</p>				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: <p>The policy has a mainly positive effect on the social sustainability objectives through its ability to support the provision new facilities for health and community benefit, although it was recognised that the delivery of new facilities is dependent on third party service providers. No link was identified with the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing. The policy also indirectly supports the economic sustainability objectives, by supporting development types which may also provide additional points of access to learning and skills, especially for rural communities. The policy has a negligible effect on the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, though it was recognised that the policy's focus in developing sites in existing settlements at locations that are accessible supports the objective to encourage active and sustainable travel.</p>				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS.	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

No likely significant effects have been identified.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

Overall, mainly positive/neutral effects with no significant negative effects are foreseen. As such there is no requirement to modify the policy direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Review and examination of existing and planned future development of facilities will be further considered at the Local Policies Plan stage.

Policy DM 25: Urban Design

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Encourages the principle that places should be designed to encourage activity/ movement of people. Accessibility and inclusive spaces for people. Policy has the specific aim that new development should be designed to encourage social interaction and healthier lifestyles. It also has specific aims to improve accessibility for those with impaired mobility and linkages with the green/blue infrastructure network.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy promotes new development that encourages social interaction and healthier lifestyles. It also encourages the design of accessible and inclusive places for all, taking particular account of those with impaired mobility. The policy aim to enhance where possible existing or proposed public realm areas supports this objective by creating/enhancing shared spaces. It also supports this objective by encouraging design that helps to reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Doesn't deliver housing in itself, however encourages good design that enhances accessibility which may indirectly support provisions for lifetime homes and homes for specific groups of needs, e.g. reduced mobility.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Will positively impact vitality and vibrancy of town centres. People first approach. Persons with mobility difficulties will be able to access public spaces. May help to reduce fear of crime / antisocial behaviour through good design.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Focuses on settlements, which are more likely to have good infrastructure. Policy may help to encourage and support use of renewables – through environmental resilience aspects. The criteria promoting new digital infrastructure also supports this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May have indirect effects in terms of potentially encouraging retention of semi-natural land cover and enhancing existing natural features, but overall these will be negligible. Operational within settlements only, therefore impacts on land use changes are likely to be negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Encourages movement / active travel. May create / enhance walking routes – people first approach, includes focus on reducing reliance on cars.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	May have indirect positive effects through encouraging walking / cycling in urban areas and ensuring that linkages are facilitated, but overall the effect is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Supports the objective through encouraging reduced reliance on vehicles. Seeks to encourage the integration of sustainable energy measures and encourages the consideration of climate change resilience in design (with particular emphasis on sustainable drainage of surface water which is a key issue of climate change).

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Supports objective though inclusion of criteria for environmental resilience – aiming to reduce the risk of flooding on site and promoting the inclusion of SuDS in design.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Supports objective though inclusion of criteria on landscaping and biodiversity.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policy recognises landscape. Consideration of landscaping and retention of trees and other landscape – actively seeks to take landscape features in to consideration in terms of overall design, supporting the objective. Sensitively integrates new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Encourages sympathetic design to the local built form and appropriate integration with any heritage assets and/or landscape. Encourages preservation of local character and distinctiveness. Also encourages good design in terms of the role and function of the settlement and its historic development, its physical form, uses, characteristic use of materials or architectural style, the existence of any relevant surrounding designations and/or zonings – these aspects support the objective and could bring significant positive effects at the local scale.
Summary of Policy: The aim of this policy is to promote high quality design which is responsive to the local character and distinctiveness of the urban places of our Borough and which is based on the principles of positive placemaking. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. This policy is a consolidation and continuation of policy elements on design that were previously included in several of the PPSs. The policy has a strong relationship with SP 1.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy has a positive effect on the social sustainability objectives through its promotion of high quality environments that encourage well-being, safety and movement. No direct link was identified with the objective to provide good quality, sustainable housing, however it is acknowledged that the aims would contribute to better quality living environments with a focus on accessibility, which may indirectly support objectives for lifetime homes and homes for those with specific needs. In terms of economic objectives this policy delivers significant positive impacts on enabling sustainable economic growth by making the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest and also has a minor positive effect on material through the inclusion of digital infrastructure provision. Positive impacts are also delivered for the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, with significant positive impacts on the objective to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and				

cultural heritage by focusing on placemaking and good design which integrates local cultural heritage and/or landscape and strengthens sense of place by developing places with character, identity and local distinctiveness.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to strengthen society, 'to enable sustainable economic growth, and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.'

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Supplementary Design Guides (SDGs) on a range of topic areas may assist with ensuring consistency of approach in terms of design. Consideration to be given to preparing potential new SDGs.

Policy DM 26: Shopfront Design and Policy DM 29: Advertisements

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS17.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective. May have indirect relationship in terms of safety – signs would not be allowed in areas where they may distract drivers or impede driver vision.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	May protect sense of place. Advertising can play a big role in showing what is in an area and what makes it attractive. An advertised asset may in turn become a neutral space. Can help to encourage good design that supports neutral spaces. Places people first. May enhance safety or perception of safety.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Contributes to positive urban design which helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Improves the vitality and vibrancy of town centres.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No direct relationship identified - noted that modern advertising can have wider purpose - other urban centres have recently installed 'smart street furniture' which in addition to being an advertising billboard incorporates USB charge points, Wi-Fi, local assistance touch screen, air quality monitors and some include a defibrillator.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Ensures that advertising is sympathetic to its surroundings and landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Ensures that advertising is sympathetic to its surroundings. Specifically criteria to protect the setting of listed buildings as well as Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character.
Summary of Policy: <p>Policies DM 26 and DM 29 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. avoiding visual impacts and maintaining character. Both policies bring forward the broad thrust of design guidance principles of the original PPSs and SPPS.</p> <p>The aim of policy DM 26 is to promote the high quality design of shopfronts within the Borough.</p> <p>The aim of policy DM 29 is to ensure that advertisements are designed and displayed in a manner that respects the character of the area where they are proposed and that they will not harm local amenity or prejudice public safety. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy also forms a continuation of existing operational policy (PPS 17).</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives: <p>No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; policy DM 26 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan. Policy DM 29 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.</p>				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: <p>The policies have a limited impact overall on the social sustainability objectives, however minor positive impacts are identified in respect of the objective to strengthen society by promoting shopfront design that complements safety with visual amenity and which enhances vibrancy and attractiveness. It also recognises that advertising plays a role in establishing and sustaining neutral / shared spaces. The consideration of good design in shopfronts and advertising supports the economic objective of sustainable economic growth by establishing/sustaining attractive and vibrant town centres and making the Borough an attractive place to live, work and visit. Both policies have a negligible impact on the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. The policies deliver significant positive</p>				

impacts to these sustainability objectives, through ensuring that visual amenity and setting are considered, the design of new shopfronts / advertising is sympathetic and that heritage assets are protected against inappropriate signage.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS17.

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS17.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to maintain and enhance landscape character, and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.'

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Supplementary Design Guides (SDGs) may assist with ensuring consistency of approach in terms of design and preventing inappropriate precedents from being established inadvertently. Consideration to be given to preparing potential new SDGs.

Policy DM 27: Rural Design and Character

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Creates a more pleasant environment to live in. Has a negligible effect on the objective.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Creates a more pleasant environment to live in. Has a negligible effect on the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Protects the countryside from inappropriate development. Help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Supports best use of location. Helps with encouraging sustainable tourism.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May indirectly support objectives through encouraging use of local materials to respect local building character, but effects are negligible. Noted also that the policy is centred on appearance / design rather than footprint.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective. (The policy is centred on appearance / design rather than footprint).
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Strongly encourages the retention of existing trees and hedgerows which supports the objective. Paragraph 27.5 places a requirement for landscaping, planting and retention of traditional boundaries. Noted that the positive effects may be enhanced through directing preference towards native or locally-characteristic species in landscaping/planting plans.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	<div><div>+</div><div>+</div><div>+</div></div>	<div><div>+</div><div>+</div><div>+</div></div>	Policy seeks to integrate new development sensitively to protect and enhance local distinctiveness and maintain visual amenity. Restricts building size, form, massing to appropriate scale that can be absorbed by surrounding landscape. Paragraph 27.5 includes the requirement for landscaping, planting and retention of traditional boundaries which can support the objective and may help enhance landscape. Protects areas designated for their landscape.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	<div><div>+</div><div>+</div><div>+</div></div>	<div><div>+</div><div>+</div><div>+</div></div>	Through the emphasis on protecting landscape and visual amenity this policy will indirectly help to protect and conserve the historic environment by protecting the setting of features. It respects the traditional design and pattern of development, advocates the use of traditional materials and aims to maintain traditional boundaries which may be of historical significance. Also noted that vegetation boundaries may also have wider significance, such as defining a townland boundary.
Summary of Policy: The aim of this policy is to promote high quality forms of development which are designed to sympathetically integrate into their surroundings and to protect the amenity and character of our countryside. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy has links with DM 25 'Urban Design'.			
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.			
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: The policy has a negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives. It also has a largely negligible impact on the economic sustainability objectives, however a minor positive impact is identified for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth by protecting rural character which makes the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit. The policy has a negligible impact on the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, with the exception of protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining and enhancing landscape character and protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage. The policies deliver minor positive impacts to natural resources and significant positive impacts on the landscape and historic environment objectives. These impacts are primarily achieved by ensuring landscape character remains protected through promoting sympathetic building design, a strong emphasis on maintaining natural vegetation where possible and augmenting these through additional landscaping and planting in association with new development.			
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.		The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?			

There were significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to maintain and enhance landscape character', and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Application of suitable planning conditions and use of Supplementary Design Guides (SDGs) may assist with ensuring consistency of approach.

Policy DM 28: Amenity Impact

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Health/protecting people are at the forefront of this policy. Would help to avoid incompatible adjacent land uses. May contribute to managing / preventing noise or odour impacts, especially where it has been previously identified as an issue. Significant health and well-being effects are possible in terms of protecting existing development against nuisance impacts from new development.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Contributes to a more pleasant environment. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Contributes to a more pleasant/better quality environment. Indirectly helps to maintain the quality of existing housing. Would help to avoid incompatible adjacent land uses.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live and work in and may positively influence tourism. However, the policy may restrict or constrain certain developments where they could impact on people. If potential impacts from a new development were not able to be successfully mitigated, then it may not be permitted to go ahead. This policy may influence the design of new buildings which may in turn affect their character or increase build costs – this is unlikely to create any perceptible negative impacts on the objective. The policy is sufficiently flexible to allow most issues to be overcome without acting adversely on economic growth, while acting positively on amenity.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy may indirectly affect the location / siting of certain types of renewables. However it would not prevent the overall delivery of this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Supports the objective by seeking to site new development appropriately in the context of its receiving environment so to ensure that will not have a negative impact on the amenity of those living, working or visiting nearby. The policy could also be applied to more rural environments, for example a new development that has associated fumes or ammonia emissions would require consideration under DM 28.2 and may not be compatible with nearby residential development unless effective mitigation is in place.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	No direct effects but may indirectly help to protect natural resources.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective. While overlooking / dominance / overshadowing is a consideration under DM 28.2, it is more a health and wellbeing issue rather than in terms of landscape character.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
Summary of Policy: The aim of this policy is to ensure that new development is compatible with its surroundings and that it will not have a negative impact on the amenity of those living, working or visiting nearby. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. This policy is a consolidation and continuation of policy elements on amenity that were previously included in several of the PPSs. The policy has links with DM 50 'Pollution' and DM 27 'Rural Design and Character'.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: This policy does not have a perceptible impact on the majority of the sustainability objectives. The policy aim of preventing potential nuisance impacts from occurring where new development is proposed in the vicinity of existing development delivers significant positive impacts in respect of health and well-being. By protecting amenity, it also delivers minor positive impacts on the objective for sustainable economic growth. The policy's focus on reducing nuisance from odour, fumes and other forms of pollution also delivers indirectly for the objective to improve air quality.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPSs.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There were significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to improve health and well-being'.				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

The measures indicated under SP 1.4 will support the evidence base: noise, air quality and odour assessments carried out upfront will help inform on magnitude of predicted impacts and whether mitigation measures are necessary. EIA would be required for larger developments. DM 28.3 places a requirement for mitigation measures which are deliverable, which should help to ensure compliance with planning conditions.

Policy DM 30: Archaeology, Policy DM 31: Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, Policy DM 32: Listed Buildings, Policy DM 33: Conservation Areas and Policy DM 34: Areas of Townscape Character

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS6.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Historic environment assets such as listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, conservation areas, etc. contribute to the value of the Borough as a pleasant environment to live in and promote wellbeing and good mental health. Historic parks, gardens and demesnes are important assets for outdoor recreation and exercise. Protecting these assets will benefit the objective.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	The policy can support this objective by helping to enhance shared spaces - parks gardens and demesnes, listed buildings, conservation areas and ATCs may either be a shared space or be located around shared spaces (e.g. town squares/town centres). Protecting and enhancing these assets contributes to sense of place. The importance of buildings and other assets can be felt across generations, especially older generations and people who have lived in the area for a long time.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Policy does not directly help to deliver new housing, however the policies support the potential for historic building stock to be re-used for housing. The policies may influence groundworks and preparatory works carried out ahead of constructing new housing, however these effects should be negligible overall.
4... enable access to high quality education.	+	+	+	Can indirectly support the objective. While not directly delivering new education facilities, encouraging the reuse of old buildings can help to support skills training in crafts/trades. Preserving archaeological assets and requiring their excavation and investigation can assist with and support third level education. Preserving and enhancing historic environment can provide enrichment in primary, secondary and third levels education.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The policies help make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. They help to improve the vitality and vibrancy of town centres. Preserving historical assets and their settings can attract investment and tourism. It has been noted that the emerging industry of film and TV has made use of local historic assets. Renovating old buildings / conservation architecture helps to support a wide range of trades. Noted also that re-development of old buildings can require specialised skills and permissions and may be more challenging to developers, however the policy is considered to be flexible enough to avoid negative impacts.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Policy seeks to avoid demolition of older buildings where these could be reused. Reuse of old buildings rather than replacing them can reduce waste. While the influence is a positive one, the effect in this context is not considered to have a perceptible impact on the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Promoting/supporting the reuse of existing buildings can help to ensure more sustainable use of quarried materials. Cross over with DM 36 specifically notes the use of locally sourced materials in vernacular / locally important buildings and advocates sympathetic use of materials. Promotion of the reuse of buildings may help to reduce greenfield land loss. Protecting assets or areas supports this objective by retaining semi natural land cover/biodiversity.

8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	This policy supports the objective indirectly by encouraging reuse of old buildings in preference to new development. This can help to reduce transportation requirements for building materials through fewer materials being required and/or materials needing to be locally sourced to match existing building fabric. Historic parks can encourage walking/cycling by providing walking and cycling routes but these are more typically used for leisure purposes rather than active travel.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Indirectly can support by reducing transport requirements for building materials. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Promoting the reuse of buildings helps to reduce materials consumption/generation of waste. Also reuse of old buildings helps to reduce carbon footprint of buildings. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Doesn't deliver directly for the objective but could contribute towards it. Noted that many of the Borough's industrial heritage records are associated with watercourses. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The protection of historic parks gardens and demesnes and scheduled areas helps to protect biodiversity found in these sites. Also protection against demolition of old / listed buildings can help to protect bats, etc. Many historic assets are located within the context of long-standing areas of natural heritage. The scale of some of the areas of the Borough afforded protection by these policies is such that this can indirectly deliver substantial benefits to the objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policies advocate the protection of setting as well as the asset itself, so these policies can have wider landscape benefits.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	These policies strongly support this objective. They serve to protect conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage and allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings. They protect and enhance local distinctiveness. They permit for archaeological features to be potentially discovered, assessed, recorded and preserved at sites where new development is proposed (e.g. housing developments may necessitate large areas of land to be subject to topsoil stripping). The preservation and enhancement of the setting of historic assets is maintained as a consideration when approving new development. The policy also supports access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment. The policies support the active use of listed buildings and the restoration and reuse of vacant older buildings. Safeguarding of historic parks and gardens can support access to cultural activities

Summary of Policy:

Policies DM 30, DM 31, DM 32, DM 33 and DM 34 have been appraised together as a group as they all seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. avoiding adversely impacting the identified assets and/or undiscovered archaeological assets that form part of our historic environment and cultural heritage.

The aim of policy DM30 is to protect our Borough's archaeological remains from development that would have an adverse impact on their integrity and setting. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy is an evolution of previous PPS, taking account of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM31 is to protect our Borough's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes from development that would have an adverse impact on the overall character and integrity of these distinct areas. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy is an evolution of previous PPS, taking account of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 32 is to protect, conserve and where possible enhance the Listed Buildings located within our Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 33 is to support development which preserves or where possible, enhances the character and appearance of our Borough's Conservation Areas and their settings. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 34 is to ensure that development proposals respect the appearance and qualities of our Borough's townscape areas and maintain or enhance their distinctive character. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

These policies also have a relationship with DM 36, 'Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings'.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives were identified through either the policy development or consultation; these policies are the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

The policies have a beneficial relationship with the majority of the social sustainability objectives, as conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides quality spaces for recreation and socialising, as well as creating a more pleasant surrounding. This in turn delivers minor positive impacts on well-being and strengthening society. The policies also have a beneficial relationship with the majority of the economic sustainability objectives, by enabling skills to be maintained/providing learning opportunities and making the Borough an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. The policies have a positive influence on the environmental sustainability objectives, though the relationship is not strong enough to have a perceptible impact on all of them. These policies all have the ultimate aim of protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment and cultural heritage and consequently have a significant positive impact on this sustainability objective.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS6.

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS6.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There were significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

Overall mainly positive effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Encouraging and supporting training in skills that support the restoration of historic environment assets may help to reduce costs and constraints on obtaining contractors with the required specialist knowledge/skills. Funding / grants may help to offset costs of permissions, constraints and taxation; provision of specialist knowledge and advice from central government may help developers to access funding more readily. Supplementary Planning Guides (SPGs) may also provide clarity to developers on what is expected for an area/ listed building.

Policy DM 35: Enabling Development

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 23			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	There may be some indirect links where the restoration of a historic asset (which through the application of this policy would be associated with a 'long-term public benefit') may extend to health and wellbeing benefits that could be locally significant. However the nature of this policy is such that benefits are unlikely to occur often or be widespread in the Borough.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	There may be some indirect links where the restoration of a historic asset (which through the application of this policy would be associated with a 'long-term public benefit') may extend to community benefits that could be locally significant. However the nature of this policy is such that benefits are unlikely to occur often or be widespread in the Borough.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Could facilitate new housing, but depends on what projects are brought forward. The instances of where the policy will be used are likely to be so infrequent that the effect on the objective is uncertain, but the impact is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Could facilitate new small-scale economic development or tourism provision which could be locally significant, but effects are dependent on what projects are brought forward. The instances of where the policy will be used are likely to be so infrequent that the effect on the objective is uncertain, but the impact is negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Derelict buildings can host protected wildlife, e.g. barn owls, bats. New development facilitated by the restoration of old, vacant buildings and structures may result in losses of local biodiversity. However mitigation for protected species and through planting / landscaping could help to overcome adverse impacts. The instances of where the policy will be used are likely to be so infrequent that the overall effect on the objective is likely to be negligible.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy specifies that development resulting from its application must be of a high quality design through which the setting and intrinsic quality and features of the important heritage asset are respected. Even though the likelihood and frequency of the policy being applied is low, its application could provide positive effects on this objective as the setting of heritage assets can be an important factor of the landscape and may be visible from a much wider area.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Would enable the restoration/reuse of a historic building or structure that would otherwise be left to deteriorate. This may have locally important benefits to this objective, especially as criteria include a 'long-term public benefit'. However it is noted that the likelihood and frequency of the policy being applied is low.
Summary of Policy <p>The aim of this policy is to secure the future of an important heritage asset, through restoration, conservation or repair, by means of cross financing Enabling Development. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the policy provisions of the SPPS. The policy is an evolution of the previous draft PPS 23, taking account of the SPPS 6.25. The policy enables an alternative source of funding (developer) to allow buildings or other assets to be upgraded or brought back into use where it may not otherwise occur. However it still has to be good quality, sustainable development. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 7 (SP 7.2 – SP 7.5).</p> <p>This policy would only result in development in exceptional cases (i.e. over the lifetime of the plan there may be no/very few examples where it is applied).</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives: <p>There are no reasonable alternatives; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.</p>				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: <p>The specific scope, scale and opportunity afforded by this policy means that its impact on the sustainability objectives is limited. Its influence on the social sustainability objectives is beneficial, however no perceptible impacts are identified. For the majority of the economic sustainability objectives there is no link, but a positive influence on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth is identified, again not sufficient to raise an overall impact. The policy delivers minor positive impacts on the environmental sustainability objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage as it promotes high quality design and respecting the setting of the asset forms an integral part of the policy. These positive impacts may be locally very significant, however the scope and scale of the policy is such that the overall impact is minor.</p>				

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 23.	The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 23.
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects have been identified.	
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects have been identified; no mitigation is necessary.	
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: Overall, mainly neutral effects with no significant negative effects foreseen. As such there is no requirement to modify the policy direction to provide mitigation. Mitigation of any negative aspects of the policy will include consideration of development proposals against other policies. Consideration of supplementary planning guidance including capacity building by central and local government.	

Policy DM 36: Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Negligible effect of the option on delivery of the objective although there could be some links if regeneration of a building could lead to use for health facilities/services. Regeneration could also help improve the appearance of the local area with benefits for people's mental health and well-being.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Policy option could enable buildings to be reused for local use by local people. Option enables potential to strengthen the community through regeneration of assets - as opposed to vacant buildings, or buildings of a poor standard. The policy could deliver positives for local communities – shared space provision/enhancement. It was discussed how the quantity of potential buildings and their locations, and local need for community assets is not known. The quantity of potential buildings is unlikely to be a significant amount and so any effect on community is unlikely to have more than a negligible effect on the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Policy option could facilitate/enable buildings including vacant buildings to be converted into houses and apartments to modern standards – fit for purpose. It was discussed how the quantity of potential buildings, their potential locations and local need is not known. The quantity of buildings likely to be regenerated under the policy is unlikely to be to any significant level to impact the delivery of the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect but it was noted that it would be unlikely that the policy could lead to reuse of buildings for delivery of the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy option able to improve the local attractiveness of the borough to residents, investors and visitors. Option able to improve local vibrancy and vitality of town centres by facilitating reuse of vacant buildings and supporting regeneration of streets/spaces. This in turn can attract business, which in turn attracts associated business and so on - helps to increase footfall. Option able to support local level tourism ventures although it was discussed that this would probably be at a low level. Policy enables restoration of buildings to a standard for constructive/positive reuse.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Policy option enables reuse of existing buildings/sites and materials, which aligns with sustainable development principles like the proximity principle and critical mass approach. There would be more potential to reuse existing infrastructure with opportunities to reduce waste by reusing and recycling materials but it was discussed that due to the quantity of potential buildings would be unlikely to affect delivery of the objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on delivery of the objective although it was noted that due to the quantity of potential buildings that could be reused under the policy that it would be unlikely to affect delivery of the objective.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Policy option facilitates construction that can reduce resource and energy consumption, as well as waste production by reusing local materials and infrastructure, whilst most likely updating buildings to be as energy efficient as possible with an increased likelihood of having a much lower carbon footprint – construction and operation – gas or renewable energy sources. Due to the quantity of potential buildings that could be reused under the policy that it would be unlikely to affect delivery of the objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No link.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	Policy option able to deliver positive benefits for the natural resources objective by potentially reducing development across the wider countryside by enabling and supporting reuse of existing buildings/sites. This could help avoid development of greenfield land. Due to the quantity of potential buildings that could be reused that it would be unlikely to affect delivery of the objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policy option enables and supports reuse of buildings that are most likely to be linked to the local character of an area. It helps to support protection of local distinctiveness and character as well as helping to facilitate improving the character of an area.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	+	+	+	Policy able to protect and conserve local historic environment by regenerating/ conserving buildings of character and local distinctiveness. Policy supports and facilitates retention of buildings linked to local historic/cultural heritage. It would be able to help protect and conserve local character as well as enable opportunities to enhance assets with an historic value. Potential to preserve settings of cultural heritage assets.
Summary of Policy <p>The aim of this policy is to support the active re-use of Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings by their sympathetic renovation or conversion. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the RDS and SPPS.</p>				
Reasonable Alternatives <p>There is no reasonable alternative. The policy takes forward the provisions of the RDS and SPPS as well as current operational planning policy and will also support the Corporate Plan and Community Plan.</p>				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives <p>The policy option scored negligible across the majority of the sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development although minor positive outcomes were recorded for one of economic sustainability objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth. Positive outcomes were also predicted for delivery of the environmental sustainability objective to maintain and enhance landscape character; and significant positive outcomes were predicted for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment objective.</p>				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPS 21.	

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for one of the environmental sustainability objectives for protecting, conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.**Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects**

Review opportunities for identification of key buildings at the Local Policies Plan Stage and future reviews of the plan. Supplementary guidance. Key Site Requirements. Cross-over with Strategic Policy 6.

Policy DM 37-39, & 42: Designated Sites of Nature Conservation; Protected Species; Habitats, Species & Features of Natural Heritage; Trees & Development

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPS2			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Direct links from the policies and delivery of the objective. Protection of features presents direct benefits through provision of natural environment – recreational activities and amenity value all positive for physical and mental health. Facilitates a local natural environment from which people can benefit both physically and mentally.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Ensures shared space is available for people to use/access as a neutral space – social contact. Policies enable retention and enhancement of shared space.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No link.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Increases attractiveness of the Borough for people visiting, living and working in it – and investing in it. Policies facilitate protection and conservation of the natural environment, which in turn helps support the tourism and hospitality sectors as well as associated ventures – recreation, leisure – sustainable tourism. Overall able to increase the number of people coming to the Council and benefitting from it.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	Policies may inhibit development of some types of renewables in certain areas – site locations and/or associated infrastructure. Likewise, there could be restraints on other new or expanded material assets – waste resources, telecomms. These restraints are reflected in the score. It was discussed how there would be exceptions for regionally significant developments.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Policies able to protect earth science sites/features, as well as retain greenfield land- semi-natural land. Help to conserve soil, helping to reduce land erosion and avoiding soil pollution. Overall, policies able to protect nature conservation sites and habitats but also enable flexibility so that minerals industry can operate sustainably.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link.
9... improve air quality.	+	+	+	Policies able to encourage natural features as buffers and provide a degree of protection in terms of air quality. Potential to help combat pollutants at local level – simple tree planting. Potential to help maintain air quality by retaining semi natural vegetation.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Policies able to retain, enhance and create wildlife corridors as well as protect floodplains and other wetlands. Peatland protection also referred to in the policies. All these features are important to help combat climate change – carbon storage, water storage, natural flood defences. It was discussed how the policies could restrict renewables in some areas but the policies do not prevent renewables.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Policies able to provide protection of water through protection and conservation of sites and wetland habitats and species connected to those areas. Policies able to indirectly help support water quality downstream – designated sites include Belfast Lough, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg. Flexible approach of policies enables development when and where it is needed and helps to manage point source pollution (but not diffuse pollution).
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Policies aim to protect and conserve designated nature conservation sites and other areas with a biodiversity interest. Able to maintain green/blue infrastructure network in the wider countryside and in urban areas too. Overall, the policies are able to provide multiple environmental benefits.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policies able to protect landscape because of the overlap between protection of natural environment and retention of landscape features. Local level natural features able to be protected which are likely to be intrinsic to the local landscape – local character. This could include trees in urban settings and woodlands or wetlands in certain areas. Policies able to protect landscape across land and open water and coast/seascape areas. There is overlap between the natural areas and the landscape areas. Both urban and wider countryside areas covered under the policies.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Policies have an element of protection for this objective when designated nature conservation sites/natural heritage features are associated with historic environment sites/features. It was discussed how the level of protection from the policies would be likely to benefit delivery of the objective but to not to a perceptible level.

Summary of Policy

(DM 37) The aim of this policy is to protect designated sites of nature conservation importance from the potentially damaging impact of inappropriate development taking account of international, national and local obligations. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

(DM 38) The aim of this policy is to protect all legally protected species and habitats from the damaging impact of development with the potential to harm them. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

(DM 39) The aim of this policy is to ensure adequate protection is afforded to those features of natural heritage or biodiversity value which fall beyond designated sites. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

(DM 42) The aim of this policy is to protect existing trees, woodland and hedgerows which are considered to be of amenity value, promote well considered landscape schemes in new development and enhance tree cover. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. There is also a statutory duty on the Council under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to ensure adequate provision is made for the protection of existing or planting of new trees in assessing development proposals.

Reasonable Alternatives

None - Legislative requirement and current policy direction have directed policies, which are the only realistic options to deliver and meet the aims of the RDS and the SPPS and other current operational planning policy.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policies all scored positive for two of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. Positive outcomes were also predicted for two of the economic sustainability objectives – sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources. A negative score was recorded for material assets as constraints could occur for renewables in some areas. Positive outcomes were also predicted for the majority of environmental sustainability objectives including improving air quality, reducing and adapting to climate change, and protecting and managing water resources. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective, as well as maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPS2.

The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and range of PPS2.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were predicted for two of the environmental sustainability objectives - protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Local Landscape Policy Areas. Key Site Requirements. Cross-over with other policies - renewables, minerals, air quality.

Policy DM 40: Landscape Protection

Options	Option 1 – Bring forward legacy plan designation (BMAP)				Option 2 – Bring forward legacy plan designations (BMAP) and identify landscape policy areas in legacy Antrim area.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Protects the quality of the environment in terms of landscape. Safeguards areas of open space, encourages access to the outdoors which can support good physical and mental health and well-being. It is compatible with the designation of a 'quiet area' at Carnmoney Hill Upper. The protection permits low intensity recreational use or tourism proposals and amenity access which may benefit H&W objectives.	+	+	+	Protects the quality of the environment in terms of landscape. Safeguards areas of open space, encourages access to the outdoors which can support good physical and mental health and well-being. It is compatible with the designation of a 'quiet area' at Carnmoney Hill upper. The protection permits low intensity recreational use or tourism proposals and amenity access which may benefit H&W objectives. The inclusion of additional designated areas is unlikely to increase the policy's effects against this objective as the proposed areas are already recognised open space areas, but it may make them more well-known.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Enhances opportunity for creating a shared community asset. Overall effects on the objective are negligible.	0	0	0	Enhances opportunity for creating a shared community asset. Overall effects on the objective are negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	The option could influence the location and extent of land available for housing. However the effect is localised and the policy does not affect the overall delivery of housing across the Borough.	0	0	0	The option could influence the location and extent of land available for housing. Although detailed boundaries for new SLPAs will not be drawn until local policies plan stage, any effects are likely to be very localised and the policy would not affect the overall objective of delivering housing across the Borough. Impacts are not anticipated to be perceptible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. May enhance the economic benefits of sustainable tourism; the policy is supportive of tourism development that is appropriate to the surroundings.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. May enhance the economic benefits of sustainable tourism; the policy is supportive of tourism development that is appropriate to the surroundings. Identifying additional areas gives this option the opportunity to deliver more for the objective. Current strategies for tourism development are centred on Lough Neagh and the increased protection of the landscape in this area will benefit the objective.

6... manage material assets sustainably.	-	-	-	The designation of areas as SLPAs will indirectly constrain the areas where new development of certain types of renewables may be permitted through policy DM 45. The current AoHSV sites include upland areas which may be particularly suited to wind generation. The policy would not inhibit the provision of telecommunications or energy infrastructure, providing that no adverse impacts to landscape are demonstrated through a visual impact assessment and landscape analysis for structures over 15m.	-	-	-	The designation of areas as SLPAs will indirectly constrain the areas where new development of certain types of renewables may be allowed through policy DM 45. The SLPAs include upland areas which may be particularly suited to wind generation and part of Lough Neagh and its surroundings. The policy would not inhibit the provision of telecommunications or energy infrastructure, providing that no adverse impacts to landscape are demonstrated through a visual impact assessment and landscape analysis for structures over 15m. The designation of additional sites as SLPAs will increase the spatial extent of these restrictions, thus slightly increasing the negative effects of this option on this objective over Option 1.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Policy would not preclude the development of geothermal energy projects in appropriate locations. It may indirectly constrain minerals extraction via Strategic Policy 9, however it is not currently known if significant mineral resources are present in the designated areas. The policy offers some flexibility for minerals development, in that it would potentially permit mineral extraction in SLPA protected areas, where regionally significant benefits are identified that outweigh the importance of the site (provided that other criteria in respect of impact assessment, mitigation and restoration are met). The overall effect on the objective is uncertain.	?	?	?	Policy would not preclude the development of geothermal energy projects in appropriate locations. It may indirectly constrain minerals extraction via Strategic Policy 9, however it is not currently known if significant mineral resources are present in the designated areas / areas proposed to be designated (it was noted in the appraisal that there is a former quarry at Tardree). The policy offers some flexibility for minerals development in that it would potentially permit mineral extraction in SLPA protected areas, where regionally significant benefits are identified that outweigh the importance of the site (provided that other criteria in respect of impact assessment, mitigation and restoration are met). The overall effect on the objective is uncertain.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	May indirectly inhibit the production of renewable energy in certain areas of the Borough by placing restrictions on tall structures, thus slightly reducing the opportunities for the Borough to contribute to low carbon energy generation. Not considered to have a perceptible effect on the objective.	+	+	+	May indirectly inhibit the production of renewable energy in certain areas of the Borough by placing restrictions on tall structures, thus reducing the opportunities for the Borough to contribute to low carbon energy generation. Could indirectly benefit the objective by providing protection to flood plain and buffer areas at Lough Neagh. Some of the new SLPAs include forested areas and peatland (at Drumdarragh); their protection will indirectly contribute to carbon capture and may support other objectives for reducing the impacts of climate change (e.g. landslides and flooding from increased intensity rainfall events).

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Spatial designations which reduce the scope and scale of new development may provide indirect benefits to water quality and quantity by protecting river banks / shore lines and upland areas where surface water is attenuated in a natural manner. SP 8.7 (c) indicates that LLPAs may be applied to river banks and shorelines which would benefit the objective. The overall effect is considered to be negligible.	+	+	+	Spatial designations which reduce the scope and scale of new development may provide indirect benefits to water quality and quantity by protecting river banks / shore lines and upland areas where surface water is attenuated in a natural manner. SP 8.7 (c) indicates that LLPAs may be applied to river banks and shorelines which would benefit the objective. One of the new SLPAs creates a buffer to Lough Neagh and Lough Beg which benefits the objective. A possible reduction in the number of new houses in proximity to Lough Neagh may result in fewer septic tanks which may help to prevent deterioration in surface and ground water quality.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity and provides positive environmental benefits for the identified sites. SP 8.7 (e) indicates that LLPAs may be applied to areas of local nature conservation interest. Parts of Carnmoney Hill, Carrickfergus Escarpment and Cavehill (Collin Ward) are identified Local Wildlife Sites.	+	+	+	Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity and provides positive environmental benefits for the identified sites. SP 8.7 (e) indicates that LLPAs may be applied to areas of local nature conservation interest. The inclusion of additional strategic sites helps to protect and/or enhance designated sites and their buffers (e.g. Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA and Ramsar; Drumdarragh, Tardree and parts of Carnmoney Hill, Carrickfergus Escarpment and Cavehill (Collin Ward) are identified Local Wildlife Sites.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Continues to protect areas designated for landscape. Protects and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors. Landscape is key consideration for this policy. SP 8.7 (f) also protects landscape wedges and open areas adjacent to settlements to help maintain the separate identities of settlements.	+	+	+	Continues to protect areas designated for landscape. Protects and/or enhances the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors. Landscape is key consideration for this policy. The addition of new areas is driven through LCA and reflects additional areas of landscape value that merit additional protection. SP 8.7 (f) also protects landscape wedges and open areas adjacent to settlements to help maintain the separate identities of settlements. Delivers more for this objective than Option 1.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	Helps to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage and may help to preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets. SP 8.7 (a) and (b) indicate that LLPAs may be located around cultural heritage/historic environment assets. This policy may help to protect landscape patterns and field boundaries.	+	+	+	Helps to protect and conserve built and cultural heritage and may help to preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets. SP 8.7 (a) and (b) indicates that LLPAs may be located around cultural heritage/historic environment assets. This policy may help to protect landscape patterns and field boundaries. This option provides more areas with protection through the additional strategic designations however these areas would not receive protection until boundaries are defined at local policies plan. The Lough Neagh SLPA could encompass Shanes's Castle, providing additional protection to this demesne.

Summary of Policy:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that the visual amenity, local character and distinctiveness afforded by our Borough's landscape resource and its associated features are properly considered in assessing development proposals. It also aims to protect those distinctive landscapes within our Borough, which are particularly sensitive to change due to their quality, features and low capacity to absorb new development. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 8 (SP 8.4 - 8.8). This DM also cross-references with DMs in Strategic Policy 9.

Reasonable Alternatives:

The principle of spatially defining areas that should be afforded specific protection for their landscape quality has been established through legacy BMAP (none are identified in legacy Antrim Plan). Some of the previously-designated areas cross into other Council areas. Removing the existing spatial designations for landscape character is therefore not considered to be a reasonable alternative.

Option 1 adopts the principle of retaining the existing strategic landscape designations, which are only found in the BMAP area.

Option 2 considers the inclusion of strategic landscape designations for the parts of the Borough that are under the Antrim Area Plan area. The Antrim Area Plan (as amended by PPS 21) does not include a strategic-scale spatial designation for landscape character. ANBC has carried out a Landscape Character Study which has identified new sites which have a landscape quality that would benefit from strategic protection.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

Option 1 has a positive influence on the social sustainability objectives, however perceptible (minor) impacts are only identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. The Option has a minor positive impact on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth as it helps to make the Borough an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest and permits tourism development where its scale is appropriate to the surroundings. A minor negative impact was identified in respect of material assets; the policy will constrain potential for renewable energy generation and it encompasses upland areas that may be particularly suitable for wind. However, the other wider benefits brought about by the policy are considered to outweigh this negative consequence. The policy has an uncertain relationship with physical resources, as it would impose constraints on minerals development, however the exception afforded through DM 40.4 would allow flexibility in the event that a regionally significant need is demonstrated. No or negligible impacts are identified for many of the environmental objectives but the policy has a positive impact on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity increasing to significant positive for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Option 2 has a positive influence on the social sustainability objectives, however perceptible (minor) impacts are only identified for the objective to improve health and well-being. This option has identified additional areas that are of sufficient landscape quality that they merit protection through strategic policy. The evidence-based approach has also identified certain sites that will benefit from more specific policy to protect their landscape character. This approach is considered to deliver more for the objective to enable sustainable economic growth and would bring significant positive impacts by making the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. It may particularly help to support the Council's aims for sustainable tourism development. A minor negative impact was identified in respect of material assets; the policy will constrain potential for renewable energy generation across a greater area than Option 1. However, the other wider benefits brought about by the policy are considered to outweigh this negative consequence. The policy has an uncertain relationship with physical resources, as it would impose constraints on minerals development, however the exception afforded through DM 40.4 would allow flexibility in the event that a regionally significant need is demonstrated. No or negligible impacts are identified for many of the environmental objectives, but the policy has a positive impact on protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, increasing to significant positive for the objectives to maintain and enhance landscape character and to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage. By providing strategic policy protection across a greater area, this Option can deliver more for these objectives than Option 1.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 is the most sustainable Option.

The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred Option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

Likely significant effects were identified for the objectives 'to enable sustainable economic growth', 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified for the preferred Option; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Consideration to be given to take account of historic assets (such as Shane's Castle) and other sites when defining boundaries.

Policy DM 41: Coastal Protection

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Policy option will protect existing open space and the natural environment with positives for people's health and well-being – amenity value, access for recreation or leisure. Indirectly makes a safer environment for local people.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Policy option enables provision and protection of shared space for social interaction amongst people from different communities and across generations.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on the delivery of the objective but it was discussed how the policy would help prevent housing in areas liable to flooding during storm events and help to futureproof the borough with regard to this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy option enables protection of the coastal area and has potential to provide economic benefits in terms of attracting visitors into the Borough – spin off local economic ventures feasible to support visitors. There can be issues with the road infrastructure but the policy supports national and regional development in certain circumstances as well as works to maintaining or improving necessary infrastructure or flood defences – all these have the potential to contribute to the economy.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy able to support protection of coastal land, which is designated for earth science reasons – geological ASSI. Strategic Policy 9 also introduces a presumption against minerals development in the coastal area. Likely to have minimal impact on minerals development given the short length of coast.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	+	+	+	Policy option will indirectly afford protection to existing cycle and walking facilities in the coastal area.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect. Open space can act as a buffer that can help reduce local air pollution. There is a busy main road running adjacent to the coast and the area of open space, which is likely to help diffuse local traffic pollution.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Policy option protects the coastal area, which is designated as ASSI and adjacent to other designate sites – Belfast Lough SPA, RAMSAR and IBA. The policy enables future rising sea levels and flooding events by protecting a buffer and avoiding inappropriate development in the coastal area – reduces risk of damage to property and people. The policy enables adaptation for climate change because it protects coastal green/blue infrastructure.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy option provides a natural buffer for sea rise and local flooding. The buffer area can help protect the quality of coastal waters by discouraging inappropriate development and acting as a filter for run off. All these factors are able to reduce risks of water pollution as well as flooding.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Policy option enables green/blue infrastructure through the protection of open space, green space and the coast - all with natural features adding to local biodiversity levels. Designated sites for nature conservation are already in the local area and the policy supports the protection and conservation of these sites, which in turn is positive for other local biodiversity features. The option is able to restrict inappropriate development and supports ecosystem services - delivers positive environmental benefits.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	Policy option is able to protect the quality of coastal landscape. The option facilitates a means to avoid or minimise visual intrusion and helps to ensure the area remains attractive for residents, visitors and investors because of its landscape quality. The policy ensures an important part of the total coastline resource is retained.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Negligible effect although there could be future opportunities that would support delivery of the objective by enhancing local historic and cultural features of interest.
Summary of Policy				
The aim of this policy is to protect, and where possible, enhance the coastal area of our Borough. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS and legacy plan designations.				
Reasonable Alternatives				
Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and the SPPS. Retaining BMAP policy to protect this coastal strip.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives				
The policy option scored minor positive or significant positive against most of the sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development. The option scored minor positive against two of the social sustainability objectives – improving health and well-being, and strengthening society. It also scored minor positive against the sustainable economic growth objective and against the physical resources objective. The majority of positive scores were predicted against the environmental objectives - active and sustainable travel, reducing causes of and adapting to climate change; and protecting, managing and using water resources sustainably; with significant positive outcomes predicted for protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant effects were predicted for two of the environmental sustainability objectives - protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining and enhancing landscape character.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Cross-over with other relevant policy – Strategic Policy 8, Strategic Policy 9. Consideration of future coastal studies from key statutory consultees.

Strategic Policy SP9 - Natural Resources (SP 9.2)

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland with identification of environmental sensitive sites and designations.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	?	?	?	Protective, presumption against minerals generally unless overriding need identified, and presumption against unconventional until potential effects are fully understood. Balances the need for development against the need to safeguard local communities and the environment. However, effect on this objective is uncertain because it is not known what proposals, if any, may come forward. Noise could be a nuisance. Minerals extraction may result in additional HGV traffic on roads which may affect road safety. It should be possible to mitigate most disturbance / nuisance.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	If there is a future shortfall in minerals, this policy may facilitate the provision of locally sourced construction materials which may have an indirect positive effect on this objective. However the evidence base does not suggest that that availability of minerals/materials will be an issue in the borough over the lifetime of the plan and overall the impact is considered to be negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link. (Indirect link through locally sourced minerals providing construction materials for new buildings, however the relationship with the objective is negligible).
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	It is not known what proposals, if any, would come through under this policy. The policy enables the best use of location where availability of minerals is constrained by local geology. It enables access to resources locally and allows minerals to be extracted if an overriding regional need is identified and this could help to provide employment in the future. The presumption against unconventional extraction is unlikely to have a negative effect on economic development – evidence base does not currently suggest that significant unconventional resources are present.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	It is not known what proposals, if any, would come through under this policy. However, if acted on, the policy would enable the minerals industry to operate sustainably and would allow a resource that is constrained by local geology to be extracted. It may support the objective by enabling materials to be locally sourced and would consider minerals across Council boundaries. It may enable future use/benefit of quarries and recognises potential for sub-surface planning. The impact is not considered to be significant, as it is unclear what, if any, proposals would come forward over the life of the plan.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Mineral extraction may give rise to HGV traffic. The overall effect on this objective is considered to be negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Mineral extraction may give rise to HGV traffic and may generate dust and other emissions. The effects are dependent on what type of development comes forward. It was discussed how a locally sourced mineral would maybe reduce the need for transport. The overall effect on the objective is considered negligible.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	?	?	?	Impacts depend on what type of development comes forward, e.g. a fossil fuel may result in greater CO2 emissions. A locally-sourced mineral could reduce transport needs. However, mitigation would help to reduce / avoid negative impacts.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	?	?	?	Mineral extraction activities could affect groundwater and surface water quality. The policy is protective in the context of preventing unconventional hydrocarbon extraction. Impacts would depend on what type of development comes forward and where – it was discussed that the policy would allow development in coastal policy areas in a case where overriding regional need was identified. However, mitigation would help to reduce / avoid negative impacts.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	?	?	?	Mineral extraction activities could affect biodiversity. The policy is protective in the context of preventing unconventional hydrocarbon extraction. Impacts would depend on what type of development comes forward and where. However, mitigation would help to reduce / avoid negative impacts. Imperative reasons of overriding public interest would be required to permit this type of development where significant impacts on European sites would occur.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	?	?	?	The exceptions could allow an adverse impact on landscape to occur. The effects could be locally significant but would depend on what type of development comes forward and where. However, mitigation would help to reduce / avoid negative impacts.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	?	?	The exceptions could allow an adverse impact on Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes assets to occur. The effects could be locally significant, but would depend on what type of development comes forward and where. However, mitigation would help to reduce / avoid negative impacts.

Summary of Policy

The SPPS directs local development plans to bring forward policies to balance the need for these valuable resources against the need to protect and conserve the environment. It is also important to protect amenity and the safety of the public from the impact of such developments. The Council will operate a presumption against minerals development that would affect Strategic Landscape Policy Areas, Registered Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (International, National and Local sites) unless it can be demonstrated, that there is a regional need for the proposed mineral that outweighs the importance of the site.

The Council supports the regional policy position that there shall be no unconventional hydro-carbon extraction (otherwise known as fracking) until such times as the full environmental impacts of such development is known. Supports the Community and Corporate Plan.

Reasonable Alternatives

Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and the SPPS. It supports the position of the Department for the Economy on the protection of this lignite reserve.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policy had several uncertain outcomes predicted against most of the environmental sustainability objectives – climate change, water resources, natural resources/biodiversity, landscape, and the historic environment. Negligible outcomes were predicted for most of the social sustainability objectives and some of the economic and environmental objectives. There was an uncertain outcome predicted against the social sustainability objective for health and well-being but minor positive outcomes were predicted for two of the economic objectives – enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources.

The most sustainable option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland with identification of environmental sensitive sites and designations.

The preferred option:

Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland with identification of environmental sensitive sites and designations.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred option.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Environmental Impact Assessment; Transport Assessment; Flood Risk Assessment and/or Drainage Assessment; Contaminated Lands Assessment; Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment; Noise Impact Assessment; Air Quality Impact Assessment; Ecological Assessment; shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment; Archaeological Impact Assessment & Evaluation. Restoration Plans. Developer Contributions to safeguard reinstatement/restoration.

Policy DM 43: Minerals Development

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Policy option aims to mitigate for nuisance pollution - noise, air quality. It aims to avoid degradation of local environmental conditions that could otherwise negatively affect people including their safety – local transport routes. Minerals can provide materials for the construction sector which in turn supports provision of healthcare facilities and services.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Negligible effect - there could be potential community benefits if restoration and after use of sites are considered in a local context but the option does not directly deliver for the objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Negligible effect - policy option links to the housing industry in that it delivers resources for construction and maintenance and able to provide locally sourced materials but the option does not directly deliver for the objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	Negligible effect - policy option may have potential links to the objective if mineral sites are used for local education projects/visits – educational resource, but the option does not directly deliver for the objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Policy option is able to provide jobs and increase the local skills base in the minerals sector. Option can make best use of location by enabling minerals to be extracted for use in an appropriate manner. There could be potential links for training opportunities. Enables competitiveness within the market and supports associated businesses and industries. Option provides potential to make the Borough more attractive for investors by providing local sources of minerals. Minerals is the foundation of building/construction industry but also supports secondary industries also feasible from minerals industry.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Policy option encourages the proximity principle. Any quarry should be restored at its end of life, which will help to reduce future vacant or contaminated land. Policy option also supports recycling.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Policy option enables minerals extraction at local level for use locally but also as export. It helps to benefit their future use - sustainability. Policy seeks sustainable use of minerals – need versus environmental. Policy enables restoration of sites, which helps to bring the land back into potential reuse. Quarry sites can also create earth science sites and add to the earth science protected network. The policy option aims for a balanced approach in favour of sustainable mineral development.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on the delivery of the objective but it was discussed that the policy is protective with mitigation to avoid impacts on local air quality from mining or processing activities.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on the delivery of the objective although it was noted enabling locally sourced minerals to be extracted and used - the proximity principle – may help to reduce travel related greenhouse gas emissions from the sourcing of minerals and use of them. Natural assets/features are also a consideration so loss of important habitats and features for carbon or water storage should be avoided/minimised – made aspect of restoration plans.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Negligible effect on the delivery of the objective - policy option recognises groundwater, drainage, surface water, fisheries, and aims to minimise impacts on the water environment. Policy option mitigates for potential negative impacts.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	-	-	?	Policy option enables mineral extraction, which removes existing semi-natural land cover with a loss of land, soil and biodiversity. There can be potential risks to designated sites, locally important habitats/species as well as a loss of local biodiversity and natural heritage. Restoration can promote reinstatement of sites. Restoration plans will be required by condition but the quality of these at such time is not known. It cannot be determined how successful these will be and with future likely changes in climate, local biodiversity and quarry owners.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Negligible effect- the policy option aims to reduce any local visual impacts and aims to integrate sites within the local environment by minimising visual intrusion. The policy is able to protect the most sensitive landscapes – Strategic Landscape Policy Areas (SLPAs). Restoration plans can link to local landscape value and aim to maintain and restore it, and may even have opportunities to enhance it.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	0	0	0	Policy option considers the historic environment and can mitigate for it but it does not directly deliver for the objective.
Summary of Policy The aim of this policy is to promote the sustainable use of our valuable minerals by balancing the need for exploitation of a particular reserve where it exists against the potential adverse environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts that may arise as a consequence. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.				
Reasonable Alternatives Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS. It supports the Community and Corporate Plan. No other reasonable alternatives have been identified through either the policy development or consultation.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives The policy option had negligible effects against most of the sustainability objectives across all three pillars of sustainable development – society, economy and environment. Significant positive outcomes were predicted for the economic sustainability objective - enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources. Minor negative scores were predicted in the short and medium term for the protecting natural resources and enhancing biodiversity objective but uncertain outcomes were predicted in the long term because it is difficult to predict with certainty how effective restoration plans will be for natural resources and local biodiversity.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and Planning Strategy for Rural NI.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? Likely significant positive outcomes were predicted for two sustainability objectives - enabling sustainable economic growth, and protecting physical resources.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Hydrological and hydrogeological assessments are required which can help to protect local water environment. Phased restoration plans as condition of any approval – high standards. Section 76s (Strategic Policy 1). Restoration plans also linked to landscape. Bonds – financial guarantee, linked to restoration of mineral sites. Cross over with landscape policies (DM 40.2).

Policy DM 44: Mineral Reserve Policy Areas

Option	Adopt existing policy (MIN 5 of PSRNI) and zoning in the Antrim Area Plan (with any new zonings to be identified at local policies plan stage, including existing boundaries).			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Would allow extension or replacement of occupied dwellings. Area affected is small, impacts are negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Protects potential local energy source for future use, which would have a positive impact on the economy at that time. There is unlikely to be any perceptible benefits during lifetime of plan; it is a long term resource that is being protected. Should any new/additional mineral reserve policy areas be identified (which would only occur at local policies plan, they may permit a business to continue its operations for a longer timescale. May pose a slight constraint on some businesses in the Mineral Reserve area; the effects would be very localised and not perceptible overall across the Borough. The overall effect on the objective is considered to be negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	This policy option may constrain certain types of renewables development in close proximity to the boundary of a policy area. However, effects would be localised to within the boundary of a policy area only and would not be perceptible overall across the Borough. The policy protects a potential energy source, however, if the resource was ever brought into use there would also be a requirement to construct associated infrastructure to permit its use. The overall effect on the objective is considered to be negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	The policy protects the lignite resource for possible future extraction. In the NI context, the currently identified resource is regionally significant. There is an important earth science feature within the Lignite Policy Area close to Crumlin (which was discovered when prospecting for lignite). The Reserve area helps to protect that feature in the short term, however, the importance of the feature may be superseded by the importance of extracting the resource, if a decision is ever taken to do so. The definition of boundaries for potential new Mineral Reserve Policy Areas will require evidence to be provided on where the target mineral is known to be located.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No direct relationship identified.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	?	Not likely to have effects within the lifetime of the plan, however lignite is a fossil fuel and may generate emissions if it were to be extracted in future. The long term effects are uncertain - impacts are unknown as if extraction of lignite were to occur, it may be associated with new technologies which could mitigate impacts.

10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	?	Not likely to have effects within the lifetime of the plan, however it is a fossil fuel and would generate CO2 if it were to be extracted in future. The long term impacts are uncertain as if extraction were to occur in the future, it may be associated with new technologies.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	?	Not likely to have effects within the lifetime of the plan, however if it were to be extracted in future it is uncertain whether there would be perceptible impacts on water resources. Fossil fuel energy generation is often associated with intake and discharge of water and other minerals development also requires water resources. The long term effects are uncertain, as they would depend on whether the resource is ever extracted and how it would be extracted.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	?	Indirectly protects biodiversity by restricting other types of development in the Mineral Reserve Policy Area. The only Mineral Reserve Policy Area currently identified encompasses a number of fields/areas identified by DAERA as being used by whooper swans and breeding waders. It also encompasses an area of woodland and an area identified as habitat for marsh fritillary. The existing Mineral Reserve also overlaps the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA and Ramsar and the Aghnadarragh ASSI. Should other Reserves be identified at local policies plan, it is unlikely that these would be in sites of nature conservation importance due to Strategic Policy 8. The long term effects are uncertain, as they would depend on whether the resource is ever extracted and how it would be extracted. Impacts could be potentially significant negative if the lignite reserve is developed; mitigation would be required.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	?	The existing Mineral Reserve area overlaps with a proposed new Scenic Landscape Protection Area (SLPA). In the short and medium term it indirectly helps to support the SLPA and protects landscape character by restricting development in the Reserve area. In the long term, impacts are uncertain, as the effect depends on whether the resource is ever extracted and how it would be extracted. Should other Reserves be identified at local policies plan, it is unlikely that these would be in areas of high importance for their landscape character. Should the resource be developed impacts may be significant negative, in which case mitigation would be necessary.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	?	Indirectly protects area's landscape and therefore the setting of the historic environment in the existing Mineral Reserve area. In the long term, impacts are uncertain, as the effect depends on whether the resource is ever extracted and how it would be extracted. However, excavation for the resource could result in the discovery of new archaeology. Should the resource be developed, mitigation could help to avoid significant negative impacts. Should other Reserves be identified at local policies plan, it is unlikely that these would be in areas with assets identified through Strategic Policy 7.

Summary of Policy:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that the future exploitation of identified mineral reserves in the Borough is not prejudiced by inappropriate surface development and that development proposed in the vicinity of the reserve is carefully considered to ensure that it would not be prejudiced by future extraction of the mineral. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The detailed boundaries of Mineral Reserve Policy Areas will be identified in the Local Policies Plan.

This policy is a continuation of existing operational policy; current boundaries will apply until new boundaries come into effect at local policies plan. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 9 (SP 9.3). It has cross-over with DM 43 and DM 40.

Additional note: Since 23 September 2004 it has been Department for the Economy policy not to grant Mineral Prospecting Licences for Lignite exploration. The Department does not envisage any circumstances in the foreseeable future whereby the development or extraction of lignite

would be permitted within Northern Ireland, although it still considers the lignite deposits to be of strategic importance and that they might be utilised in the more distant future with the deployment of Carbon Capture & Storage or other, as yet undeveloped, technologies.

Reasonable Alternatives:

No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary; this Policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS and is in line with the current position from the Department for the Economy.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

This option has no / negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives. Some influences are identified for the economic sustainability objectives, however, the effects are localised and are not considered to have a perceptible impact overall. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective to protect physical resources and use sustainably, as the main aim of the Mineral Reserve Policy Area is to protect physical resources from development that would preclude their future extraction. The effect on the environmental sustainability objectives is generally negligible or minor positive in the short to medium term, as the policy prevents other types of development from occurring and it may take several years for any policy areas to be developed for minerals. However, in the long term, the impacts are uncertain on many of these objectives. The appraisal recognises that development of the existing Reserve Area for minerals extraction could potentially lead to significant negative impacts for the environmental sustainability objectives in respect of natural resources, landscape and historic environment. It may be possible to mitigate negative impacts through development impact assessment.

The most sustainable option: Adopt existing policy (MIN 5 of PSRNI) and zoning in the Antrim Area Plan (with any new zonings to be identified at local policies plan stage, including existing boundaries).

The preferred option: Adopt existing policy (MIN 5 of PSRNI) and zoning in the Antrim Area Plan (with any new zonings to be identified at local policies plan stage, including existing boundaries).

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?

There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to protect physical resources and use sustainably'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?

No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

The definition of new boundaries for the existing Mineral Reserve Policy Area should take account of nature conservation and local biodiversity. If defining additional Mineral Reserve Policy Areas, a precautionary approach should be taken in accordance with SP 7 and SP 8.

Consider retaining a protective buffer zone to the Lough and watercourses (which would benefit the natural resources, water resources and active/sustainable travel objectives). In the event of a change in policy which permits lignite extraction, Development Impact Assessments including those listed in SP 1.4 would be necessary to identify and mitigate impacts.

Policy DM 45: Renewable Energy Development

Options	Option 1. Maintain current policy throughout the Borough.				Option 2. Maintain current policy and introduce a spatial framework for wind energy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Does not contribute towards positive impacts on health and well-being but would prevent adverse impacts from occurring from noise/visual impacts and nuisance. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.	0	0	0	Does not contribute towards positive impacts on health and well-being but would prevent adverse impacts from occurring from noise/visual impacts and nuisance. Gives greater certainty of avoiding adverse impacts in areas surrounding settlements. The overall impact on this objective is negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	The overall effect on this objective is negligible. However the appraisal noted that rural communities are more likely to be disrupted by renewable developments than communities in settlements. Development may affect agricultural activities and access. It was also recognised that opposition to certain types of development can also bring communities together.	0	0	0	The overall effect on this objective is negligible. However the appraisal noted that rural communities are more likely to be disrupted by renewable developments than communities in settlements. Development may affect agricultural activities and access. It was also recognised that opposition to certain types of development can also bring communities together.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit or invest. Enables diversification, expansion of businesses (especially agricultural businesses) and helps to reduce costs for industrial development/economic development with high energy demands. May help enhance skills base through servicing and repair provisions. Effects can be spread through the year. Supports innovation and competitiveness.	?	?	?	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work and visit. Enables diversification, expansion of businesses (especially agricultural businesses) and helps to reduce costs for industrial development/economic development with high energy demands. However this option restricts the overall area available. This option gives greater certainty on what areas are presumed to be suitable for renewables and what areas are not. May help enhance skills base through servicing and repair provisions. Economic effects from renewables can be spread throughout the year. Supports innovation and competitiveness. This option would reduce the area with potential to invest in renewables; it would reduce land supply in certain locations where there is resource (e.g. upland areas). The overall impact is uncertain.

6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Enables renewable energy production/connections. Supports development of renewables. Encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets. AD plants support this objective in terms of waste management as well as energy generation.	+	+	+	Enables renewable energy production/connections. Supports development of renewables in certain areas. Encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets. Constraint areas would considerably reduce the scope / scale of potential benefits, especially where upland areas are restricted. AD plants support this objective in terms of waste management as well as energy generation.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	?	?	?	Renewables development can result in land take / changes in land use. This option provides less control over demand / location for sites.	?	?	?	May help to protect greater proportion of Borough from land take / changes in land use. Allows greater control over areas to protect them from inappropriate development. This option is likely to result in fewer negative effects.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	+	While some types of renewables do not generate emissions and help to offset emissions from fossil fuel energy generation, anaerobic digesters can contribute to air pollution and ammonia emissions. However, taken as a whole, renewable energy is considered to have net positive effect on air quality (regionally), but the magnitude of effect is dependent on the uptake within the Borough. This option could deliver more for this objective by providing greater opportunity.	0	0	+	While some types of renewables do not generate emissions and help to offset emissions from fossil fuel energy generation, anaerobic digesters can contribute to air pollution and ammonia emissions. However, taken as a whole, renewable energy is considered to have net positive effect on air quality (regionally), but the magnitude of effect is dependent on the uptake within the Borough. This option delivers slightly less for the objective than Option 1 due to the wider area where constraints apply.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Encouraging renewable energy is considered to be net positive on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but the magnitude of effect is dependent on the uptake within the Borough. This option could deliver more for this objective by providing greater opportunity.	+	+	+	Encouraging renewable energy is considered to be net positive on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but the magnitude of effect is dependent on the uptake within the Borough. This option would reduce the capacity for new renewables in the Borough but adds extra protections for peatlands and other designated sites which are also important for carbon capture.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	The policy is protective against adverse effects on water resources (including groundwater) through DM 45.1 (e) and (g). However overall it does not help improve water quality or water resources and the impact is negligible.	0	0	0	The policy is protective against adverse effects on water resources (including groundwater) through DM 45.1 (e) and (g). However overall it does not help improve water quality or water resources. This option delivers slightly more protection due to the inclusion of spatial designations, but the overall impact is still negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy is protective against significant adverse effects on ecology and natural resources through DM 45.1 (e) and (g). DM 45.2 (e) affords protection against significant adverse effects to woodlands and biodiversity.	+	+	+	The policy is protective against significant adverse effects on ecology and natural resources through DM 45.1 (e) and (g). DM 45.2 (e) affords protection against significant adverse effects to woodlands and biodiversity. This option delivers slightly more for this objective due to the inclusion of spatial designations.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	+	+	+	The policy is protective against significant adverse effects on landscape character through DM 45.1 (a) and 45.2 (a). It would generally serve to protect & maintain landscape character in the Borough but would not enhance it. This policy would allow some types of development.	+	+	+	The policy is protective against significant adverse effects on landscape character through DM 45.1 (a) and 45.2 (a). The introduction of the Strategic Landscape Policy Areas spatial restriction where certain types of renewables are not acceptable adds extra protection to the most sensitive landscapes – provides greater certainty.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	DM 45.2 (a) and (e) protects against significant adverse effects on the historic environment and verifies that the proposal is appropriate to the scale and character of its setting, respecting the main features of the site and the wider environment which would include the historic environment. The policy is protective / conserving but does not contribute to enhancement.	+	+	+	DM 45.2 (a) and (e) protects against significant adverse effects on the historic environment and verifies that the proposal is appropriate to the scale and character of its setting, respecting the main features of the site and the wider environment which would include the historic environment. The introduction of the Strategic Landscape Policy Areas spatial restriction where certain types of renewables are not acceptable and the inclusion of parks, gardens and demesnes as spatial restriction provides additional protection to the historic environment and sense of place. This may help to preserve local distinctiveness and protects settlements and their setting.

Summary of Policy:

The aim of this policy is to facilitate the development of renewable energy generation facilities in appropriate locations and to ensure full consideration is given to the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impact of such schemes. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. Greater use of renewable energy in our Borough will create a more dependable energy mix and reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels. It will encourage a low-carbon society and help improve air quality. The policy takes forward the broad thrust and direction of existing operational policy and the aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Reasonable Alternatives:

Option 1 applies the current policy on renewables development throughout the Borough, but does not provide any spatial guidance. This option would be a continuation of existing policy approach and would be fully applied at adoption of the Plan Strategy.

Option 2 applies the current policy on renewables development throughout the Borough, but would introduce a spatial framework for wind energy development, which identifies areas of the Borough where wind turbines would not be acceptable (Group 1), areas of protection where proposals would be critically assessed (Group 2), and areas where there is potential for wind farm development (Group 3). The policy aspect of this Option would be fully applied at adoption of the Plan Strategy, however spatial boundaries which would inform aspects of each Group (most notably the boundaries of SLPAs) will not be applied until Local Policies Plan.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

Option 1 has some identified effects on the social sustainability objectives, however the overall impact is negligible. By avoiding the implementation of spatial constraints on renewables development, this option delivers significant positive impacts on the objective for material assets. Minor positive impacts are also identified for enabling sustainable economic growth. An uncertain effect is identified for physical resources, as different types of renewable have different land use requirements. As the policy is a protective one, the effect on the other environmental sustainability objectives is mainly positive for this Option, though impacts are mostly minor.

Option 2 has some identified effects on the social sustainability objectives, however the overall impact is negligible. This policy could have a range of effects on the objective to enable sustainable economic growth – the introduction of spatial constraints delivers more for tourism and provides more certainty on where investment in renewables is acceptable, however the areas where development may be constrained could reduce opportunities for diversification and offsetting energy costs for industry. The spatial element also reduces the strength of the positive impact for material assets to minor. An uncertain effect is identified for physical resources, as different types of renewable have different land use requirements. As the policy is a protective one, the effect on the other environmental sustainability objectives is mainly positive for this Option. The additional protection brought through the spatial designations means that this Option delivers significant positive impacts on the objectives for landscape and historic environment. While this Option delivers less for sustainable economic growth and material assets than Option 1, it is considered that the positive impacts on the environmental objectives (especially over the medium-long term) outweigh the disadvantages on the economic sustainability objectives.

The most sustainable option: Option 2 is the most sustainable Option.

The preferred option: Option 2 is the preferred Option.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to maintain and enhance landscape character' and 'to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Consider the inclusion of exceptions that would enable a certain degree of flexibility where overriding benefits could occur (in appropriate locations). Surveys, including ecological surveys, may help to inform boundaries at Local Policies Plan. As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed. Supplementary Planning Guidance and appropriate application of planning conditions may also reduce negative effects.

Policy DM 46: The Control of Development in Flood Plains, Policy DM 48: Reservoir Flood Risk, Policy DM 49: Artificial Modification of Watercourses

Option	Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Indirectly can contribute to well-being by providing reassurance that new and existing developments are safe from flood risk. May indirectly protect open space. Other safety benefits such as reducing risk of areas being 'cut off' from services (including health services) by flood events.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	Indirectly protects existing parks and recreation areas that have dual purposes as flood storage areas which are open spaces and neutral spaces. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Avoids housing being located in unsuitable areas. Contributes to future-proofing of new development. Ensures that new houses are going in the right locations. Reduces risk of potential damage to new housing.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link. Noted that some playing field and sports grounds that are flood storage can be used by educational facilities.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Encourages best use of location / ensures that new development is located on an appropriate site. Helping to ensure that new businesses are located away from floodplains or within flood risk areas helps to avoid impacts from flood events on business operations, improves business resilience and supports sustainable economic growth. Noted that there are reservoirs in the Borough to which policy DM 48 may be applicable and which may influence the location of new economic development.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May help to reduce soil erosion and maintain soil quality.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Doesn't inhibit the development of greenways / green / blue infrastructure (exception for recreation) but nor is it supportive of their development.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Protects flood plains, indirectly protects wildlife corridors. Supports adaptation to climate change. Helps to reduce the risk of damage to the built environment from storm events.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Helps minimise risk from flooding and avoid the need for flood defence. Protects flood plains. DM 49 also helps to maintain natural morphology and water flows for good ecological quality by discouraging culverting.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Generally these policies help to protect water-dependent designated sites and their buffers and can protect local biodiversity through restricting development on floodplains which may be wetlands. DM 49 also seeks to maintain watercourses in their natural state, protecting natural / semi natural habitats.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Indirectly helps to protect the setting of rivers and the coast (prominent features). Noted that allowing land raising on coastal flood plains may affect coastal views, however this would only be relevant to a very small portion of the Council area due to other constraints.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	May indirectly protect setting of historical and industrial heritage along watercourses and the coast. Allows restoration / change of use of existing buildings (e.g. old mills). Overall considered negligible.

Summary of Policy

The aim of policy DM 46 'the Control of Development in Flood Plains' is to minimise the flood risk arising for new and existing development posed by the natural function of fluvial and coastal flood plains. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 48 'Reservoir Flood Risk' is to minimise potential flood risk for developments in close proximity to controlled reservoirs. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of policy DM 49 'Artificial Modification of Watercourses' is to minimise the potential flood risk impact and adverse consequences for the environment associated with the modification of watercourses. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

These policies are a continuation of existing operational policy (PPS 15 revised) taking account of updates in the SPPS and guidance published by DfI.

Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives to these policies were identified through the policy development process or through consultation.

Policy DM 46 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS and is in line with the current position from the Department for Infrastructure. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan and 'Sustainable Water – A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015-2040'.

Policy DM 48 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS. It also supports Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan and Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI. A change in legislation would be necessary before any reasonable alternatives could be evaluated.

Policy DM 49 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the SPPS.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

The policies have a positive influence on the social sustainability objectives, but only the objective to improve health and well-being has perceptible impacts (minor positive) identified. Links to the economic sustainability objectives are limited, however a minor negative impact is identified for enabling sustainable economic growth, as some economic and industry zonings are in areas potentially affected by flooding, including reservoir flooding. The policies have a negligible impact on many of the environmental sustainability objectives however minor positive impacts are identified for the objectives relating to climate change and natural resources. Significant positive impacts are identified for the objective relating to water, as these policies will help to protect and retain natural flood plains and will ensure that the management and discharge of surface water from new development is given due consideration for new development.

The most sustainable option: Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.

The preferred option: Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objective 'to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.'

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

Review zonings and Key Site Requirements (Key Site Requirements) for existing zoned sites in context of current evidence base. Supplementary Guidance may be beneficial for developers in respect of flood risk assessments and drainage assessments.

Policy DM 47: Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Option	Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	0	0	0	Provides peace of mind that surface water issues are under control. The overall effect on the objective is considered to be negligible.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	May help to provide better quality and multi-functional open spaces.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link. Indirectly benefits the objective by helping to attenuate rainfall and reduce risk of surface water flooding. May help to reduce future number of unfit homes (affected by flooding).
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	Developers may consider the consideration / incorporation of SuDS and carrying out a drainage assessment as a burden, however applied correctly it is good practice and SuDS are not necessarily more expensive than conventional drainage. May make the Borough a more attractive place to live and visit. The overall effect on the objective is considered to be negligible.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	May help to retain areas of semi-natural land cover. SuDS may help to protect soils and reduce pollution. Impacts depend on uptake and type of SuDS. The overall effect on the objective is considered to be negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	Could indirectly help to enhance walking/cycling routes. The overall effect on the objective is considered to be negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	+	+	+	Drainage assessment can help to mitigate against the effects of climate change in respect of flooding. If implemented, SuDS could help to mitigate further against the effects of climate change, e.g. increased intensity rainfall events.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Drainage assessment can help to mitigate against surface water flooding. If implemented, SuDS could help to improve the quality of surface and ground water and help to meet water quality objectives. Could help to reduce risk of flooding. However, there is no strong incentive to include 'soft' SuDS in new development and no certainty that this would occur.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Drainage assessment seeks to protect against impact on features of the natural environment. If implemented, SuDS could help to protect and enhance local biodiversity.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	If implemented, SuDS could help to enhance landscape character, but there is no certainty that this would occur.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	+	+	+	DM 47.2(c) specifically seeks to protect against impact on features of the historic environment through Drainage Assessment. Historic environment assets can be vulnerable to changes in frequency or duration of periods of immersion and/or drying out and the policy benefits this objective.

Summary of Policy

The aim of this policy is to reduce flood risk for new developments from surface water (pluvial) sources. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The Council recognises the potential harmful impacts of surface water flooding and will seek to promote a more sustainable approach to drainage and flood risk management. The policy brings forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy to promote the use of SuDS as part of the wider strategy to address climate change. Additional detail relevant to this DM is presented in Strategic Policy 10 (SP 10.3 (d) and (e)).

Reasonable Alternatives

No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary. The policy being brought forward recognises the importance of SuDS as a recommended measure for water drainage and as a key mechanism in Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for NI.

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives

Option 1 has a negligible impact on the social sustainability objectives and economic sustainability objectives, although some positive effects are recognised. No impacts are identified for the environmental sustainability objectives relating to physical resources, active and sustainable travel, air quality and landscape, although some indirect benefits are recognised. The requirement to carry out Drainage Assessment is considered to bring a minor positive impact on the objectives relating to climate change, water, natural resources and biodiversity, and the historic environment. Impacts from SuDS are difficult to quantify as the policy merely encourages SuDS but does not give certainty on their delivery. If used, 'soft' SuDS can potentially deliver greater benefits to the environmental sustainability objectives.

The most sustainable option: Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.

The preferred option: Bring forward the broad thrust and direction of existing planning policy.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Consider further the possibility of zoning areas in terms of SuDS at local policies plan. Supplementary Design Guidance (SDG) may aid developers in designing SuDS that are appropriate to the characteristics of the site. Key Site Requirements which provide for the retention of trees and hedgerows and the use of SuDS in order to lessen the potential impact on flooding.

Policy DM 50: Pollution

Option	Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPSs.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	++	++	++	Likely significant effects by ensuring that developments seek to avoid nuisance from noise, light, air pollution, which could otherwise affect health.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Policy has strong link with SP 1.4 in delivering sustainable housing, by ensuring all planning applications give consideration of the environmental impacts of the development and provide appropriate mitigation.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Helps make the Borough a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest. Policy may place slight financial burden on developer if it is necessary to commission studies to demonstrate that no effects will occur. Adverse effect on developers is minimal in comparison to overall benefits to the wider Borough.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	0	0	0	Remediation of derelict/contaminated land benefits this objective. However policy does not actively promote / enable land remediation and consequently the overall impacts on this objective are likely to be negligible.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	0	0	0	Helps protect soils against pollution and helps to maintain soil quality. The overall impacts on this objective are likely to be negligible.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	++	++	++	Helps to avoid air pollution. Will help to avoid increase of ammonia emissions (especially near to sensitive receptors). Will help to maintain air quality but not necessarily improve it.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Will help to protect designated sites or locally important habitats. More an impact in terms of natural resources rather than climate change.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	++	++	++	Will help to improve the quality of surface and ground water (including coastal waters) to meet objectives. Also will help to protect aquatic food resources.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	++	++	++	Protects and/or enhances designated sites and protects and/or enhances local biodiversity. Provides positive environmental benefits.

13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No effect identified, however it is noted that light pollution is a consideration of this policy.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Avoidance of noise and pollution (incl. light pollution) helps to preserve the setting of historic environment assets.
Summary of Policy: The aim of this policy is to ensure that development proposals do not result in environmental pollution which could adversely affect the environment or local amenity. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy is a consolidation and continuation of policy elements that were previously included in several of the PPSs. The policy has links with DM 28 (28.2).				
Reasonable Alternatives No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary; this Policy meets the aims of the SPPS and legislative requirements. No other reasonable alternatives were identified through either the policy development or through consultation.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives The policy has a significant positive impact on the health and well-being objective and a minor positive impact on the housing objective by safeguarding against harmful impacts when new development is proposed. No other impacts are identified for the social sustainability objectives. The policy has a minor positive impact on enabling sustainable economic growth by making the Borough a more attractive place. Impacts on many of the environmental sustainability issues are negligible, however significant positive impacts are identified for the objectives relating to air quality, water, and natural resources due to the sensitivity of these objectives to polluting emissions.				
The most sustainable option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPSs.			The preferred option: Take forward the broad thrust and direction of policy including the SPPS and PPSs.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to improve health and well-being', 'to improve air quality', 'to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably' and 'to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity'.				
What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is deemed necessary.				

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:

Guidance may help to raise awareness with developers as to what types of development typically require studies/evidence to demonstrate no significant effects.

Policy DM 51: Major Hazards

Option	Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 12.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Reduces risk of health and safety impacts from accidents at major hazard sites and pipelines. Affords 'peace of mind'.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	0	0	0	May constrain some types of development, however the areas affected are very limited.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Helps to safeguard regionally important material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	DM 51.2 Indirectly helps to safeguard mineral resources.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.

14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	000	No direct link was established between this option and this objective.
<p>Summary of Policy:</p> <p>The aim of this policy is to minimise health and safety risk by restricting development proposed in close proximity to major hazard sites and facilities. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The Borough has limited infrastructure to which this policy applies and the appraisal has been conducted in the context of what is currently present.</p>		
<p>Reasonable Alternatives:</p> <p>No reasonable alternatives are considered necessary; this Policy meets the aims of the SPPS and legislative requirements.</p>		
<p>Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:</p> <p>The nature of this policy and the limited range of infrastructure development to which it applies means that this policy has very little influence on the sustainability objectives. The policy has a minor positive impact on health and well-being by maintaining a safe distance between development and major hazard sites or pipelines to protect both infrastructure and people against accidents. As the policy is protective of important infrastructure, it also has a minor positive impact on managing material assets sustainably. Minor positive impacts were also identified for the objective relating to physical resources as the policy allows quarries to carry out their operations more efficiently.</p>		
<p>The most sustainable option: Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 12.</p>		<p>The preferred option: Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations and DCAN 12.</p>
<p>What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option?</p> <p>No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.</p>		
<p>What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?</p> <p>No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.</p>		
<p>Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects: No additional measures are identified.</p>		

Policy DM 52: Contaminated Land

Option	Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	Ensures development does not occur on sites where there may be potential health risks without these risks being mitigated/removed.
2... strengthen society.	+	+	+	Para 5.16 of the DPS recognises that in certain circumstances comprehensive mixed use redevelopment schemes may be acceptable where this introduces community gains and allows vacant or underused land to return to productive use and to create a more attractive environment. In turn, this can help to stimulate enterprise in disadvantaged areas.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	0	0	0	Ensures that all risks are addressed appropriately where new housing is located on potentially contaminated land. While this may be locally important, the overall effect on this objective is negligible.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	Makes best use of location. Enables the opportunity to return vacant or underused land within settlements to productive use (which may include economic development use). Para 5.16 of the draft Plan Strategy recognises that in certain circumstances comprehensive mixed use redevelopment schemes may be acceptable where this introduces community gains and allows vacant or underused land to return to productive use and to create a more attractive environment. In turn, this can help promote more sustainable outcomes by assisting with economic regeneration and physical renewal, helping to stimulate enterprise in disadvantaged areas. However, requirements may place additional cost/burden on developer.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	In combination with SP 1.11 this policy supports returning vacant or underused land or buildings within settlements to productive use in a sustainable, safe manner. It ensures that waste is disposed of or recycled at an appropriate facility.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	In combination with SP 1.11 this policy helps to return vacant or underused land within settlements to productive use. . In turn, this can help promote more sustainable outcomes by reducing the need for green field development. Cleaning up contaminated sites to protect against future release of pollutants can enhance the quality of soils in the surrounding area.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	No direct link identified, however brownfield sites (in settlements) may have better links to active and sustainable travel. The overall impact on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	+	+	+	Remediation of contaminated sites helps to reduce groundwater and surface water pollution.

12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	+	+	+	Remediation of contaminated sites helps to improve and protect designated sites and their buffers.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	Restoring derelict sites can help to improve landscape (localised area).
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	Some contaminated land may be associated with industrial heritage uses and costs of remediation may discourage developers from their restoration. It uncertain how many sites in the borough may be affected in this way, but the numbers are not likely to be sufficient to raise a perceptible impact.
Summary of Policy: The Council recognises that the redevelopment of brownfield land for new uses can help create more sustainable patterns of development. However, on occasion the recycling of land can result in problems where the land has been subject to uses and practices in the past which may have caused ground contamination. The aim of this policy is to ensure that the potential need for contaminated land remediation is taken into account when redevelopment proposals are being considered. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS. The policy has a link with Strategic Policy 1 (SP 1.11) and DM 50.				
Reasonable Alternatives: No reasonable alternatives were considered necessary; this policy is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. No other reasonable alternatives were identified through either the policy development or through consultation.				
Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives: This policy has minor positive impacts on most of the social sustainability objectives, however a negligible impact is identified for housing. Minor positive impacts are also recorded for most of the economic sustainability objectives, by encouraging vacant or underused land to return to productive use, but no link is identified with the objective to enable access to high quality education. The policy has a negligible impact on the majority of the environmental sustainability objectives, however minor positive impacts are identified for the objectives relating to physical resources, water and natural resources.				
The most sustainable option: Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations.			The preferred option: Maintain Status Quo – generic planning considerations.	
What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? No likely significant effects are identified for the preferred Option.				

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option?
No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.
Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects:
Supplementary guidance and appropriate application of planning conditions to ensure contaminated land can be remediated.

Policy DM 53: Waste Management and Disposal Facilities and Policy DM 54: Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities

Option	Adopt existing policy approach as contained within PPS 11 Waste Management to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.			
Sustainability Objective	ST	MT	LT	Explanation
1... improve health and well-being.	+	+	+	DM 53.2 seeks to protect against adverse effects on human health, air/odour and noise pollution. It helps reduce potential for conflict / nuisances between neighbouring land uses. Waste services are essential services and contribute to public health.
2... strengthen society.	0	0	0	No direct link. DM 53.9 requires satisfactory measures for the restoration and aftercare of sites that will enhance biodiversity. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
3... provide good quality, sustainable housing.	+	+	+	Prospective developers of new housing areas should consider at initial design stage the waste implications and requirements of future occupiers of such development. Waste arising from the development during both the construction and the operational phases should be quantified and measures identified to minimise and manage the waste generated. This will help to minimise the disruption and expense if provision has to be made later. Noted that 'after uses' post restoration (for waste facilities associated with quarries) could include housing.
4... enable access to high quality education.	0	0	0	No link was established between this option and this objective.
5... enable sustainable economic growth.	+	+	+	The waste industry creates jobs. Supports businesses. Makes best use of location (proximity principle). DM 54 helps to safeguard existing facilities to meet their long term needs, where appropriate. DM 53.6 also seeks to protect existing economic development uses from incompatible waste management facilities.
6... manage material assets sustainably.	+	+	+	Helps support reuse/recycling and composting initiatives by safeguarding waste facilities and protecting areas, allowing them to expand to meet need. Encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets.
7... protect physical resources and use sustainably.	+	+	+	Directs waste facilities towards land that has had a previous use, aims to minimise greenfield land use. Agricultural land quality may be improved through the deposition of inert waste, however it was noted that historically this type of activity has had gaps in regulation and there are recorded instances of non-inert waste being deposited which may contribute to pollution.
8... encourage active and sustainable travel.	0	0	0	By supporting the principle this policy helps to reduce transport needs for waste (proximity principle). The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
9... improve air quality.	0	0	0	Policy seeks to avoid adverse impacts on receptors from air pollution. However, the policy is unlikely to improve air quality. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
10... reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	0	0	0	Supports recycling and reduction in waste disposal. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.

11... protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	0	0	0	Enables / protects necessary facilities, allowing them space to expand where necessary, whilst ensuring that water resources are safeguarded. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
12... protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	0	0	?	Seeks to avoid adverse impacts on natural heritage assets. There is the possibility of benefits post-restoration – the policy seeks to encourage enhancement of biodiversity in restoration (DM 53.9), however the scale and magnitude is not known and it depends on the approach taken and what was present before the site was originally developed as to whether there are net benefits.
13... maintain and enhance landscape character.	0	0	0	DM 53 seeks to avoid adverse impacts on character and amenity of surrounding area. It promotes clustering and integration into surroundings. Long term, post restoration there could be improvements to landscape, but impacts are dependent on the approach taken and what was present before the site was originally developed. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	0	0	0	DM 53.2 (c) seeks to avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment. DM 53.2 (d) also seeks to avoid character and amenity of surrounding area. The overall effect on the objective is negligible.

Summary of Policy:

Policies DM 53 and DM 54 have been appraised together as a group as they both seek to achieve the same aim, i.e. the provision and protection of waste management/disposal facilities. These policies cross over with SP 10.7 – 10.9, DM 3 'Economic Development – Incompatible Uses, DM 25 'Urban Design', DM 28 'Amenity Impact' and DM 50 'Pollution'.

The aim of Policy DM 53 'Waste Management and Disposal Facilities' is to support the development of sustainable waste management, recycling and disposal facilities in appropriate locations to ensure that we continue to reduce, recycle and reuse our waste. This aim has taken account of and is consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

The aim of Policy DM 54 'Protection of Existing Waste Management Facilities' is to protect existing waste management facilities within the Borough so that we can continue to process and dispose of the waste we produce. In addition, the policy seeks to ensure that existing waste management infrastructure is not prejudiced by new developments of a sensitive nature, such as new residential development, and equally that where development is proposed in the vicinity of existing sites that this will not be adversely affected by any aspect of the existing waste management operations and processes undertaken. These aims have taken account of and are consistent with the provisions of the SPPS.

Reasonable Alternatives:

Policy DM 53 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. No reasonable alternatives have been identified through either the policy development or consultation.

Policy DM 54 is the only realistic option to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS. No reasonable alternatives have been identified through either the policy development or consultation. The policy as drafted is the current position as set out in existing Departmental planning policy. There is no official evidence base to identify and justify an area as having reached a threshold in terms of waste facilities. Under the planning policy, each application will therefore be assessed on its own merits and this will include an assessment of cumulative impact. .

Summary and comparison of options against the Sustainability Objectives:

This policy has mainly positive impacts on the social sustainability objectives; a significant positive impact is identified for health and well-being, as waste services are vitally important for public health and the policies are protective against nuisance impacts. Minor positive impacts are also identified for the objective to provide good quality sustainable housing. The policies have a positive impact on the majority of the economic sustainability objectives; minor positive on sustainable economic growth, but significant in respect of material assets. The policy has a negligible impact on the majority environmental sustainability objectives. Minor positive impacts are recorded for physical resources as the policy aims to make efficient use of land. An uncertain impact is identified for natural resources; post-use restoration could potentially lead to improvements however the net effect is dependent on what the land use was prior to the site being established as a waste facility.

The most sustainable option: Adopt existing policy approach as contained within PPS 11 Waste Management to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

The preferred option: Adopt existing policy approach as contained within PPS 11 Waste Management to meet the aims of the RDS and SPPS.

What likely significant effects are envisaged with the preferred option? There are likely significant positive effects identified for the objectives 'to improve health and well-being' and 'to manage material assets sustainably'.

What mitigation measures are envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the preferred option? No significant adverse effects are identified; no mitigation is necessary.

Measures to reduce negative effects and promote positive effects

As per SP 1.4, the Council will require developers to provide impact assessments in association with planning applications where this is necessary to allow proper consideration of the impacts of the development and any mitigation measures proposed. Supplementary Guidance and appropriate application of planning conditions.

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