

# Antrim and Newtownabbey Local Development Plan 2030

Towards Preferred Options







A prosperous place  
Inspired by our people  
Driven by ambition





# Foreword

This document marks the first step in creating a new Local Development Plan for our Borough, which looks ahead to the year 2030. It will be a key document in shaping the future of the Borough and will affect us all. I am therefore keen to encourage as many people as possible to contribute to its content.

The Council, through its Corporate Plan, has set out an ambitious vision for the Borough. The new Local Development Plan will become a vitally important tool in working towards the realisation of that vision. It will indicate where development should happen and what shape it should take, and will provide confidence to investors and communities alike.

We aim to prepare our new Local Development Plan as swiftly as possible and have set a challenging programme in our Timetable. We are committed to enhanced public engagement throughout the process and will create opportunities for the public to be involved. We are acutely aware that plans can only be truly successful if they are rooted in local knowledge and an appreciation of what people want, so your views are very important to us.



For the first time in many years, locally elected representatives are at the forefront of the planning system and have the tools to positively and proactively guide development in the Borough. This provides a wonderful opportunity to transform the shape of our area and improve the quality of life for those who live and work in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough. Together, through an efficient planning process that promotes positive development, we can create and maintain vibrant and welcoming towns, villages, neighbourhoods, and rural areas, whilst improving our environment and encouraging and supporting economic growth. I look forward to hearing your views on the future development of our Borough.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon".

**Jacqui Dixon** BSC MBA  
Chief Executive of Antrim and  
Newtownabbey Borough Council





# Introduction

We are commencing work on a new Local Development Plan for the Borough which will look forward to 2030. The purpose of the new Plan will be to inform the public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested parties of how the Borough should develop in the years ahead. Local Development Plans contain policies and proposals that are used when determining planning applications. A good plan will lead to decisions that are consistent and people will know what to expect in terms of change, and the locations where development will be encouraged.

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

Our Development Plan must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Government Departments. This includes the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland, the Strategic

Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), and any other policies, advice or guidance such as that relating to relevant landscape character assessments and conservation areas.

We are keen to engage with communities and stakeholders about their aspirations for future development. The earlier we know people's views, the easier it is to take them on board. Therefore it is very important that if you want to get involved you should do so at the earliest opportunity.

This document aims to introduce you to the plan preparation process and in particular our Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement. It also sets out how and when you can be involved in the initial stage of plan preparation.





# What does a Local Development Plan do?

The Local Development Plan is a spatial land use plan which is primarily about place. It will guide future development and use of land in our towns, villages and rural areas by addressing the spatial implications of social, economic and environmental change. The Plan will balance competing demands and aim to ensure that good development occurs in the right place, at the right time. It is a powerful tool for place-shaping.

The Plan will cover many land uses like new homes, businesses, shops, transport, community facilities and green infrastructure. It will contain a vision for the Borough in the years to 2030, strategic objectives showing how the vision will be achieved, as well as new land-use zonings where these are needed and new policies which will be used to assess planning proposals.





# What are the Stages of Plan Preparation?

There are a number of stages in preparing our Local Development Plan. We have published a Timetable which sets out the key stages of the process in more detail and provides an indication of when we expect to reach each stage.

A summary of the Timetable is set out below and a full copy is available on our website or upon request by contacting our Planning Section. We will keep our progress under review and if necessary we will adjust our work programme and publish a revised Timetable document.

## Timetable

Assessments	1	Publication of Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement	January 2016	Public and stakeholder engagement
	2	Evidence gathering	First Quarter 2016	
	3	Preferred Options Paper	Summer 2016	
	4	Draft Plan Strategy	First Quarter 2017	
	5	Independent Examination	Mid-Year 2017	
	6	Adopted Plan Strategy	End of 2017	
	7	Evidence gathering	First Quarter 2018	
	8	Draft Local Policies Plan	Spring 2018	
	9	Independent Examination	Summer 2018	
	10	Adopted Local Policies Plan	Early 2019	
		Monitoring & Review of LDP with Public/Stakeholder Engagement	Ongoing	



# What are the Key Planning Documents?

The Plan will comprise two documents that are prepared in sequence. The first is the **Plan Strategy** which will be followed by the **Local Policies Plan**. However, before we can prepare these documents we must publish our **Preferred Options Paper** which will set out the key planning issues for the Borough, identify a range of options to address them and define our preferred options.

Our **Plan Strategy** will include a range of strategic and borough wide policies to facilitate and manage development and a spatial strategy that will indicate in broad strategic terms, the locations where different types of development will be promoted.

Our **Local Policies Plan** will include site-specific proposals and local policy designations required to deliver our vision, objectives, spatial strategy and strategic policies defined in the Plan Strategy.

When the Plan Strategy is adopted, it will replace the corresponding parts of the existing development plans<sup>1</sup> and operational planning policies that were produced by the Department of the Environment. The remaining parts, in so far as they are relevant to our Borough, will be replaced upon adoption of the Local Policies Plan.

We will continue to monitor development and gather further **evidence** as we work through each stage of plan preparation. Our evidence will be published on our website and be available to inspect at our offices.

We will also undertake a number of **assessments and appraisals** to ensure that the policies and proposals in the Plan are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. Further details on this are available on our website or upon request.

We will continue to **engage** with you throughout the plan preparation process.

We have published a **Statement of Community Involvement** which provides further detail on how and when you can become involved.

*1 Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 & Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001 (including alterations)*





# Where are we now?

We are currently working towards our **Preferred Options Paper** and primarily engaged in gathering evidence which includes undertaking various studies on matters which are expected to affect development in the Borough. We are also engaging with key stakeholders such as Government Departments, statutory agencies and service providers.

To inform our **Preferred Options Paper** we are also very keen to listen to the views of individuals, the community and other stakeholders and therefore encourage you to get involved.

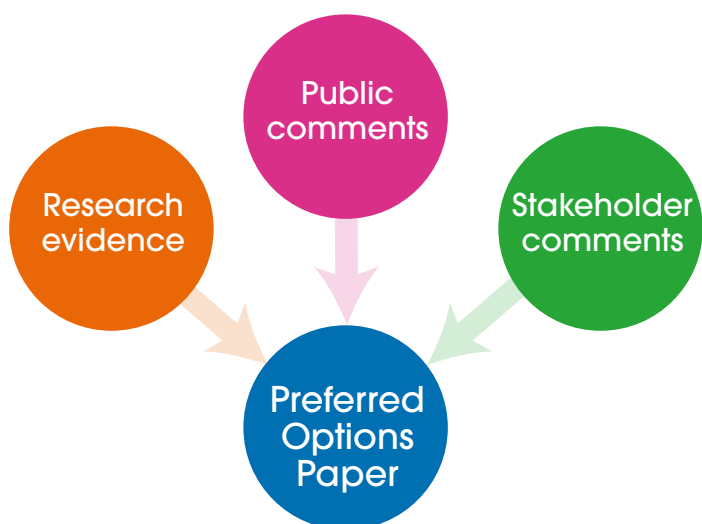
We want to  
hear from you!

## Why should I get involved?

Our Local Development Plan can only be truly successful if it is rooted in local knowledge and an appreciation of what is important to local people. You should get involved because it's all about where you live and work and your future, so your views are important.

Our focus at this stage will be on finding out what you think and this will be the first of many opportunities for you to have your say and help plan for the Borough for the next 14 years.

Not everyone though will be able to get the outcome they want. It will be important to get a balance as the Plan will need to go through an independent examination to make sure it is sound and meets the forecast need for homes, jobs, shops etc. However, by making sure your ideas or concerns are understood, listened to and considered, it will help achieve a more informed plan for the Borough. **Help us to plan better.**





# How do I get involved?

There will be many ways you can become involved, some are suggested below.

- Tell us if you are interested and wish to be kept informed of work on the Plan and other key planning matters. You can complete our **Community Involvement Form** which is available on our website or upon request.
- Read our **Timetable** as it sets out the key stages of the Local Development Plan preparation process and our **Statement of Community Involvement** which provides details of when and how to get involved. Both these documents are available on our website or upon request.
- Let your local Councillors know about your views on key planning issues.
- Keep an eye on our website and Twitter account for our latest news, and also your residents' magazine **Borough Life** which will have articles on the Local Development Plan.
- Share your views when requested and keep your comments focussed and succinct. It might be helpful to speak to your neighbours, friends or community groups to collect your thoughts together.

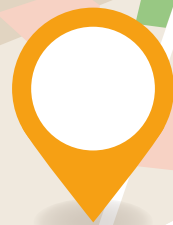
- Please contact us if you want to speak to a planning officer directly. Please get involved when there is a public engagement event or consultation and respond accordingly.

We will be holding a series of community workshops to help us gather your views on the **Key Strategic Issues** that we need to take account of before formulating preferred options.

Details of these will be published on our website and also in the Antrim Guardian and Newtownabbey Times. If you are unable to attend an event, there will also be an online questionnaire which you can complete to give us your views on key strategic planning issues.

There will be a number of other events and activities arranged throughout the preparation of the new Plan. These will continue to give everyone an opportunity to share their views and become engaged with the development of plan policies and proposals. We will place details of these events and activities on our website as they become available.





# Where do I begin?

To help you engage with the planning process we have gathered together some initial themes and questions for you to think about. These are set out below. Our list is not exhaustive and there may be other matters which you may think we need to consider.

We will be seeking your views on these issues. Please remember that at this early stage we are only thinking about key strategic issues and will not be considering the merits of specific sites for development.

## What should our Borough be like in 2030?





Should you or someone you know require a copy of this document in an alternative format please contact **E** [comms@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:comms@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk) or the contact details below.

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 **@ANBorough**

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