

Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Plean Forbartha Áitiúil an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin Breithmheas Inbhuanaitheachta - Tuairisc Scóipe Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030 Sustainability Appraisal - Scoping Report

(Measúnacht Straitéiseach na Timpeallachta don
Phléipháipéar Tosaíochta san áireamh)
(Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment
for the Preferred Options Paper)



Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council

Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared by Shared Environmental Service in conjunction with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. It has been prepared alongside the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan 2030 Preferred Options Paper published on 1st June 2018.

Consultation Arrangements

The Local Development Plan: Preferred Options Paper (POP) is a consultation document, open for public comment for a 12-week period from 1st June to 24th August 2018.

The POP document, together with the associated documents, including this Report and the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report can be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website at www.newrymournedown.org

The documents are also available in hard copy to view during normal office hours at Council's offices at:

Newry Planning Office
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

or

Downpatrick Planning Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Public Engagement Events will be held throughout the District **during June 2018**. See the Council's website and local press advertisements for details.

Your comments on this Report, the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, the POP document and other associated documents are invited.

Your comments may be submitted by e-mail to: ldp@nmandd.org preferably by using the online questionnaire at www.newrymournedown.org

Alternatively, you can write to the Council, all comments in response to this consultation document to be clearly referenced 'LDP: Preferred Options Paper' and addressed to:

LDP: Preferred Options Paper
Development Plan Team
Council Offices
Downshire Civic Centre,
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick, BT30 6GQ

To ensure equality of opportunity in accessing information, copies of this Report, the POP document and the associated documents in alternative formats are available on request. Where the exact request cannot be met we will ensure a reasonable alternative is provided.

The Closing Date for receipt of comments is **5pm on Friday 24th August 2018**.

Following the 12 week consultation period all responses received will be assessed by the Council. A summary of all representations received will be presented in the form of a Public Consultation Report. This report will detail the strategic issues raised in the consultation responses. All representations will be held on a database which will be used for the preparation of the Local Development Plan in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation 2016. It should be noted that your

responses are public documents and may be disclosed following receipt of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The Public Consultation Report will be published on the Council's website and will also be considered during the Independent Examination of the Plan Strategy.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down extends to an area of approximately 650 square miles. It adjoins the boundary of three neighbouring Local Government Districts: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. It also shares a boundary with counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland.

Population projections estimate that the population of the district is expected to grow from 177,994 in 2016, to 194,994 by 2030, which is a projected increase of around 9.7% over the Plan period.

Newry, Mourne and Down currently has 88 designated settlements, with 16% living in Newry City, 24% living in the 7 towns, 20% within the 28 villages and 5% within the 52 small settlements. The remaining 35% of the population were living outside the settlements in the open countryside.

The Council has a key role in meeting the needs of citizens who live and work in the district, through the provision of services directly, or with other partners. The Corporate Plan, 2015-2019, has a clear mission to *“to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable”*. The vision for the Local Development Plan (LDP) is that *“Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”*

The primary aim of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is to further sustainable development. The LDP is required to ‘take account’ of the regional policy context. Therefore it is vital that the LDP facilitates development in a manner that enables our social and economic priorities to be pursued, whilst ensuring that our built and natural environment is appropriately managed, both now and into the future.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a statutory process incorporating the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001). A Sustainability Appraisal is being carried out alongside preparation of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s LDP Local Planning Authorities use Sustainability Appraisal to assess plans against a set of sustainability objectives. This process helps to evaluate possible strategic, policy and site specific options, as well as the most sustainable in terms of economic, social and environmental performance.

What is the purpose of this document?

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is to:

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

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

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

The objectives for sustainable development for Newry, Mourne and Down District 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 minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles 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 minimize 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 car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by 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 resources.

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

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area(s) of Archaeological Potential
ACMD	Area(s) of Constraint on Minerals Development
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ARK	Access Research Knowledge
ASAI	Area(s) of Significant Archaeological Interest
ASQ	Area of High Scenic Quality
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
ATC	Area(s) of Townscape Character
AVC	Area(s) of Village Character
AWB	Artificial Waterbody
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BHARNI	Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland
BRES	Business Register and Employment Survey
CCC	Committee on Climate Change
CCRC	Climate Change Risk Assessment
COE	Council of Europe
cSAC	Candidate Special Areas of Conservation
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DCCAE	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
DE	The Department of Education
DEA	District Electoral Area
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DETI	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DOE	Department of the Environment
DoH	Department of Health
DoJ	Department of Justice
dPFG	Draft Programme for Government
EA	Education Authority
EAPP	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
EC	European Commission
ELD	The Environmental Liability Directive
EO	The Executive Office
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Site
Four	Devolved Administrations and English Government (NI Lead Department indicated in
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GEP	Good Ecological Potential
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHQ12	12 Item General Health Questionnaire
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
HCS	Housing Condition Survey
HED	Historic Environment Division

HGI	Housing Growth Indicator
HMWB	Heavily Modified Waterbody
HRA	Habitat regulations Assessment
HRP	Household Reference Person
HSCB	Health and Social Care Board
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IGGP	International Geoscience and Geoparks
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LGD	Local Government District
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
LPT	Local Policing Teams
MDM	Multiple Deprivation Measures
MHT	Mourne Heritage Trust
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
NA	Not Applicable
NAP	National Adaptation Programme
NB RBD	Neagh Bann River Basin District
NCN	National Cycle Network
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NE RBD	North Eastern River Basin District
NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIFRS	NI Fire and Rescue Service
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
NINIS	Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service
NIRLCA	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NIW	Northern Ireland Water
NMD	Newry, Mourne and Down
NPT	Neighbourhood Policing Teams
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NT	National Trust
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PfG	Programme for Government
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
pSPA	Proposed SPA
QOF	Quality and Outcomes Framework
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
ROI	Republic of Ireland
ROMPs	Review of Old Mineral Permissions
RPA	Review of Public Administration
RSPB	Royal Society of Protection of Birds

SA	Sustainability appraisal
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SAR	Standardised Admissions Rate
SCA	Smoke Control Area
SCAMP	Sustainable Catchment Action Management Plans
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SDR	Standardised Death Rate
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Significant Flood Risk Area
SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
SIR	Standardised Incidence Rate
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SMR	Sites and Monuments Records
SOA	Super Output Area
SONI	System Operator for Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
STN	Strategic Transportation Network
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UK	United Kingdom
UK Gov.	UK Government
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WMU	Water Management Unit
WTW	Water Treatment Works
WwTW	Waste Water Treatment Works

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Scoping Report

This scoping report is the first formal output of the Sustainability Appraisal process for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It presents information about the topics being assessed under the Sustainability Appraisal, which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment. It outlines the assessment methodology and approach for future Sustainability Appraisal reports. The Scoping Report will be updated throughout Plan preparation and will be included with all Sustainability Appraisal Reports published as part of the consultation process for the LDP.

1.2 The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan

The LDP timetable was published in August 2017 and sets out indicative timeframes for the key stages in the production of the LDP. Chapter 3 describes the approach we are taking to plan preparation in more detail and provides an overview of Newry, Mourne and Down.

1.3 Sustainable Development

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

Achieving sustainable development is a requirement set out in Provision 25 of The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This requires all Departments and Councils in Northern Ireland, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In doing this they must have regard to any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development published by Northern Ireland departments.

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

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

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

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

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

1.4 Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

1.5 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

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

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

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

1.6 Stages in Sustainability Appraisal

The key stages of Sustainability Appraisal are summarised below with their location. Those areas shaded in grey will be reported on at a later stage.

Table 1.6.1: Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage	Description	Location
Stage A (1) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes and Sustainability Objectives.	Appendix 4
	Collect baseline information	Chapter 4 & 5
	Consult the Consultation Body on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.	Consulted NIEA 10/11/17, response received 18/12/17, recommendations incorporated where appropriate (refer to Appendix 6) and will be further addressed in the updated Scoping Report for Plan Strategy.
	Identify environmental issues and challenges	Chapter 5
	Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	Chapter 6

¹ DOE (2015) Development Plan Practice Note 04: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment

Stage	Description	Location
	Produce draft Scoping Report and share with stakeholders	Section 2.3
Stage A (2) Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report	Publication of Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, assessment of reasonable alternatives against agreed Sustainability Appraisal framework and undertaking public consultation along with the Preferred Options Paper (POP).	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage B	Assessment of alternatives and any likely significant effects on the draft plan against Sustainability Appraisal framework, taking into account the evidence base and where necessary, proposing mitigation measures for alleviating any adverse effects.	Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report published with POP
Stage C	Sustainability Appraisal Report to document the appraisal process and findings.	Not at this stage (Plan Strategy and LPP)
Stage D	Consultation with the public, environmental authorities and any EU member state affected on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and draft plan.	Not at this stage
Stage E	Sustainability Appraisal Statement to show how the Sustainability Appraisal and opinions/consultations have been taken into account, the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted and the proposed measures to monitor the plan.	Not at this stage
Stage F	Monitoring: Establishing arrangements to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan, to identify unforeseen adverse effects and undertake appropriate remedial action.	Not at this stage

1.7 Other Assessments

1.7.1 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 Local Development Plan, this is also carried out for Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance under the provisions of the Ramsar Convention). Baseline information for Habitats Regulations Assessment is included in Appendix 7 of this Scoping Report. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published for consultation with the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. A final Habitats Regulations Assessment will be published when each of these are adopted.

1.7.2 Rural Proofing

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which came in to force on 1 June 2017 and applies to NI Government Departments and Councils, states that *'A public authority must have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans.'* Public authorities must report annually on how they have implemented this requirement.

The approach to considering rural needs is called 'rural proofing' and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) provides advice on carrying it out in 'Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing'¹ and 'A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 for Public Authorities'². Rural proofing is the process by which all major policies and strategies are assessed to determine whether they have a differential impact on rural areas. Where appropriate, adjustments are made to take account of particular rural circumstances.

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

As plan preparation progresses and more detail emerges about proposals, how they will be implemented and where they will be located, rural issues will be considered in more depth. A rural proofing checklist, reflecting the 'Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template'³, will be included in the Sustainability Appraisal for Plan Strategy.

1.8 Scoping Report Structure

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

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

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

³ DAERA (2017) Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL: THE APPROACH

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the overall approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the LDP preparation process. Chapters 4 to 6 are the application of this approach for the Scoping Report for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council LDP.

2.2 Principles

The Sustainability Appraisal process is carried out under the following principles:

Role

Sustainability Appraisal is a tool to aid plan making which identifies potential effects of options, how they may be mitigated and informs the most appropriate option. It does not however give a 'right' answer and is not the decision-making mechanism.

Integrated

Sustainability Appraisal is an essential part of the plan making process which is integral to and carried out through the whole of plan preparation and subsequent monitoring. It helps to test the effects of options and inform the selection of proposals. It will provide evidence of the decision making process and any changes brought about to ensure sustainability of the LDP.

Shared Information

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

Relevant

The Sustainability Appraisal focuses on context and data that is relevant to the plan. It will not detail issues that cannot be addressed within the remit of the LDP.

Connected

The LDP may be influenced by or have an impact on neighbouring areas. This Sustainability Appraisal considers strategies and plans beyond Newry, Mourne and Down where there is potential for significant positive or negative effects. Neighbouring Councils will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report and Sustainability Appraisal Report. It is also acknowledged that Newry, Mourne and Down has indirect connectivity with the marine environment through its river systems.

Proportionate

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

Up-to-date

The Sustainability Appraisal, including the Scoping Report will be updated during plan preparation to ensure that it reflects current policies, plans and programmes and recent data.

Future proof

Potential future changes within and beyond the life of the plan are considered to anticipate needs and to try to maintain opportunities for long term sustainable development.

2.3 Involving Others

Informal and formal consultation with stakeholders and the public is an essential part of Sustainability Appraisal, to ensure that the topics and issues have been fully considered. The first formal consultation required on this Scoping Report is with the Consultation Body. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) acts as the lead for the Consultation Body and was consulted on the outline of this Scoping Report in November 2017. The NIEA's comments have been incorporated, where appropriate, in this report and will further inform future updates to the Scoping Report and Appraisal Reports.

Where possible, experts with general and local knowledge of all topics have been consulted to inform the technical papers and Chapter 5. Statutory consultees will be invited to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal Reports. A register of consultation responses is being maintained and will be provided in a future version of this report.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council adjoins Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ards and North Down Borough Council. It also shares a boundary with counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland. These Councils will be invited to comment on the Preferred Options Paper and Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The public will be formally consulted on the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report, together with this Scoping Report, during consultation on the Preferred Options Paper. There will also be public consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Reports which will accompany the Draft Plan Strategy and Draft Local Policies Plan. Representations at public consultation that are relevant to the Sustainability Appraisal will be reviewed. Where necessary, the Sustainability Appraisal Reports will be revised in response to representations and to any changes to the Preferred Options, Plan Strategy or Local Policies Plan.

2.4 The Evidence Base

The evidence base is arranged according to a number of topics and for each topic a consistent approach to reporting is followed. The approach is described in more detail in Chapter 4 and the evidence base is presented in Chapter 5.

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

2.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

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

2.6 Significant Effects

The Sustainability Appraisal will assess the significant effects of options both positive and negative. There is no single definition of a significant effect, therefore assessment is a matter of judgement taking account of the extent of the effect spatially and in time.

2.7 Assessment Method

The key stages are Sustainability Appraisal of:

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

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

2.8 Appraisal of reasonable alternatives for the Preferred Options Paper

In the Preferred Options Paper, strategic proposals are presented with options for delivery. The options are reasonable alternatives where these can be identified. The Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report accompanying the POP evaluates these options using the appraisal matrix shown in Table 2.8.1. The matrix includes:

The plan topic and delivery options to be assessed

A score indicating the nature of the effect for each option in the short, medium and long term with an explanation of why the score was given.

A summary comparing the options and recommending the preferred approach together with any mitigation recommended to address negative effects and measures, where appropriate, to enhance positive effects.

Table 2.8.1: 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 2.8.2: Scores and definitions for Sustainability Appraisal Matrix

Rating		Description
++	Significant Positive	Policy/ proposal would greatly help to achieve the objective
+	Minor Positive	Policy/ proposal would slightly help to achieve the objective
0	Neutral / no effect	Policy/ proposal would have no overall effect
-	Minor Negative	Policy/ proposal would slightly conflict with the objective
--	Significant Negative	Policy/ proposal would greatly conflict with the objective
?	Uncertain	The effect cannot be predicted because 1. the approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective; or 2. the relationship is dependent on the way in which the approach is implemented; or 3. insufficient information may be available to enable an appraisal to be made.
ST	Short Term	Up to five years
MT	Medium Term	Five to 15 years
LT	Long term	Over 15 years

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

The proposals in the draft Plan Strategy will be reviewed and the Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal updated to reflect any changes from the previous stage. This will be published as a Sustainability Report in support of the consultation on the draft Plan Strategy.

2.10 Local Policies Plan

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

2.11 Cumulative Effects

Consideration will be given to any cumulative effects of proposals at each stage of plan preparation. These will include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies.

3. NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1 Context – Requirement to Prepare a Local Development Plan

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

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

The LDP should fulfil the following functions:

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

3.2 Preparation

The purpose of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council 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) (DRD, 2012) and guide development decisions within Newry, Mourne and Down 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 to enable us to plan positively for the future of Newry, Mourne and Down. It will ensure that land is zoned appropriately and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop Newry, Mourne and Down for future generations.

The LDP must also take account of the regional policy context set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Central Government Departments. This includes, amongst others, the Sustainable Development Strategy, the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)¹, the UK Marine Policy Statement and, when published, the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)² and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)³.

¹ DRD (2012) Regional Development Strategy 2035

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

³ Planning NI Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Planning Guidance

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

3.3 Overview of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Newry, Mourne and Down extends to an area of approximately 1,680 square km and borders adjoining Council areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Ards and North Down. It also shares a boundary with counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland.

According to the 2011 Census, the total population of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area increased by 12.2% from 152,881 to 171,533 between 2001 and 2011. The total population has further increased and was estimated to be 177,994 in 2016¹. This trend is expected to continue through the plan period with a projected increase to 194,994 by 2030¹. This represents a 9.7% increase within the plan period.

The demography of our population is also changing with the number of residents aged 65 and over expected to increase from 26,599 in 2016 to 39,945 in 2030¹. This proportion of our population is therefore expected to increase from 14.7% in 2015 to 20.3% by 2030¹. In addition the number of residents aged 0-15 is expected to decrease during the plan period, with this portion of our population expected to decrease from 22.37% in 2015 to 20.94% in 2030. These demographic changes are likely to have implications for housing needs, education provision and access to healthcare and community services in the district.

The 2011 Census identified that 65% of the district's population reside in the 88 designated settlements with 16% living in Newry City, 24% living in the 7 towns, 20% within the 28 villages and 5% within the 52 small settlements. The remaining 35% of the population were living outside the settlements in the open countryside.

At the time of the 2011 Census 10.72% of households were comprised of a single person aged 65 and over² and 17.55% of households did not have access to a car or van³. This has implications for housing, infrastructure and access to key services.

Figure 1 illustrates Newry, Mourne and Down and its wider context. Figure 2 shows the principal settlements and transport routes.

¹ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Population Projections 2014-based

² Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) NMD Area Profile 2017

³ NISRA Car or Van Availability: KS405NI (administrative geographies)

Figure 1. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Context Map

Source Newry Mourne and Down District Council LD Preferred Options Paper

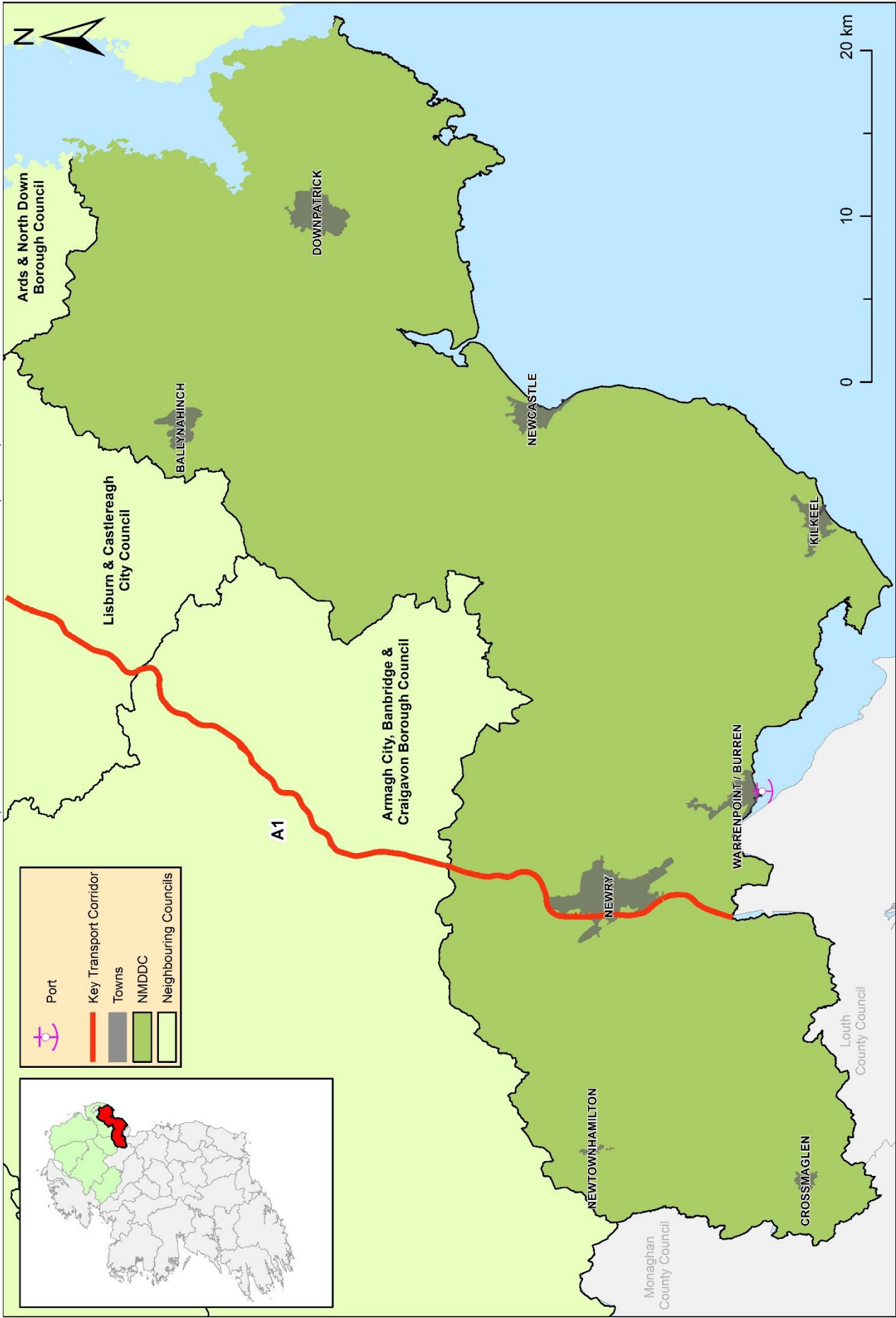


Figure 2. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Transport Map

Source Newry Mourne and Down District Council LD Preferred Options Paper



4. OVERVIEW OF THE BASELINE EVIDENCE

4.1 Presentation of Baseline Evidence

The baseline evidence is presented in Chapter 5 for fourteen topics which span the social, economic and environmental themes. Many topics overlap, therefore Table 4.1.1 presents an outline scope for each topic to clarify where the information is presented.

Table 4.1.1: Scope of Sustainability Topics

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

Each topic is presented using the same structure, using the general headings listed below:

- Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies
- Baseline Information
- Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan
- Key Sustainability Issues

4.2 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The Sustainability Appraisal must include a review of other policies, plans, programmes and strategies that have an influence on the content of the LDP. The aims of this review are:

- to identify all external social, economic and environmental objectives which have a bearing on the Sustainability Appraisal of the LDP;
- to reflect sustainability objectives contained in regional policies and strategies;
- to identify any other sustainability issues that might influence the preparation of the plan;
- to highlight whether other policies, plans or programmes might give rise to cumulative effects when combined with the LDP.

Consideration of this context also helps ensure that the LDP will deliver obligations for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council which are within the scope of the LDP. Appendix 4 presents the strategies, policies, programmes and plans that have been considered with their key objectives and implications for the LDP. This will be updated throughout plan preparation.

4.3 Strategic Context

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

4.3.1 Regional Development Strategy

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

The RDS sets out a strategic, long-term vision on the future development of NI up to 2035. It provides an overarching strategic planning framework and influences the future distribution of development throughout NI. The RDS contains strategic regional guidance which provides policy direction in relation to economic, social and environmental matters aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion.

The RDS recognises the important role of Newry and Downpatrick as the two main hubs and Warrenpoint and Newcastle as local hubs in generating prosperity. It recognises that Newry is strategically located on the Belfast-Dublin corridor, and has the potential to develop as a region within the wider eastern seaboard corridor. The RDS acknowledges the 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) that exists between the Council and Louth County Council, which commits the region to increased cross border co-operation. The MOU underpins the pivotal role of the greater Newry region. It establishes a strategic alliance between the two bodies and seeks to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region. This relationship will see both authorities work collaboratively together and share key services.

To ensure all areas benefit from economic growth, it also reflects the Programme for Government approach of balanced sub-regional growth and recognises the importance of key settlements as centres for growth and prosperity. The RDS also recognises that the district has a significant rural demographic and that in order to sustain rural communities, new development and employment opportunities which respect social and environmental circumstances are required.

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

4.3.2 Strategic Planning Policy Statement

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) provides an overarching statement of the general regional planning principles underlying the reformed plan led system. It provides a planning policy framework which must be taken into account in the preparation of LDPs and the provisions are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The SPPS outlines a number of core principles underpinning the reformed planning system in Northern Ireland. These are:

- improving health and well-being;
- creating and enhancing shared space;
- supporting the economy;
- supporting good design and positive place-making;
- preserving and improving the built and natural environment.

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

4.3.3 Sustainable Development Strategy

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

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

The strategic objectives that are key are highlighted under the relevant topic.

4.3.4 Draft Programme for Government

The Programme for Government (PfG) is the highest level strategic document of the Executive. It sets out the priorities that it will pursue in the current Assembly mandate and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The draft PfG was consulted on in October 2016.

The draft PfG contains 14 Strategic Outcomes supported by 48 Indicators. The outcomes touch on every aspect of government including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are intended to meet statutory obligations and to make real improvements to the quality of life of citizens.

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

4.3.5 UK Marine Policy Statement and Marine Plan for Northern Ireland

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

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 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. A Marine Plan for Northern Ireland is in preparation. 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 Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents. For all Public Authorities, this means that currently, for example, in the preparation of Local Development Plans and all associated documents, Public Authorities, are legislatively required to have regard to the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS).

4.3.6 Community Planning

Community Planning is a process whereby Councils, statutory bodies and the community work together to develop and implement a shared vision for promoting the well-being of their area and pave the way for the most efficient use of scarce resources. It involves everyone working together to make life better for local people and deliver real improvements. It means planning ahead to improve the big issues that matter to people like health, education, employment, safety and the environment.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Community Plan, entitled ‘*Living Well Together*’ aims to become the overarching strategic plan for integrated planning and delivery of services for the area of Newry, Mourne and Down.

The Council has led on the community planning process to provide the framework for collaborative working to deliver positive change for our communities.

The vision for *Living Well Together* is:

Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.

The aims of our community plan are to:

- •Highlight the challenges facing Newry, Mourne and Down, both now and in the coming decade
- Prioritise what really matters to communities within Newry, Mourne and Down
- Empower communities to respond to these challenges
- Clearly communicate the Partnership’s framework for action
- Improve the wellbeing of people in Newry, Mourne and Down
- Continually improve our delivery on the service action plan using data development and key partnerships
- Strive for inspirational outcomes underpinned by strategic indicators.

4.3.7 Corporate Plan

Our corporate plan 2015-19 presents the council's mission:

Our mission as a Council is to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable

It has five core values which will be fundamental to everything that we do:

Citizen focused- We will actively encourage citizen and community engagement, as well as be a listening and responsive Council.

Accountable- We will make decisions based on an objective assessment of need and operate in a transparent way as well as openly reporting on our performance.

Collaborative- We will actively encourage and pursue working in partnership and at all levels to deliver for our District.

Sustainable- We will take into account the social, economic and environmental impacts of our decisions on current and future generations.

Fair- We will proactively target actions at those which are marginalised in our community.

The corporate plan has identified a number of priorities or strategic objectives:

1. Become one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland
2. Attracted investment and supported the creation of new jobs.
3. Supported improved health and well-being outcomes.
4. Protected our natural and built environment.
5. Led the regeneration of our urban and rural areas.
6. Advocated on your behalf specifically in relation to those issues which really matter to you.
7. Empowered and improved the capacity of our communities.
8. Transformed and modernised the Council, providing accessible as well as value for money services.

4.3.8 Masterplans and Regeneration

Town Centre Masterplans are non-statutory documents which focus on regeneration and public realm improvements. They set out a vision for a particular town centre and identify key proposals for realising that vision over a set period of time. Recent examples of masterplans for the district are:

- Ballynahinch Town Centre Masterplan
- Downpatrick Town Centre Masterplan
- Newry City Centre Masterplan
- South East Coast Masterplan (includes Kilkeel, Newry and Warrenpoint)

Non-statutory Village Plans have also been prepared for various settlements throughout the district to encourage village renewal and development.

4.4 Baseline Information

A desk-based review has been undertaken to identify baseline conditions in Newry, Mourne and Down. Each sustainability topic is presented in Chapter 5 with a review of relevant current information available. Where it has not been possible to provide Council-specific information, information for Northern Ireland has been used and where there are critical data gaps these are identified.

Information sources include data collected for our LDP preparatory papers and for the preparation and monitoring of the Community Plan found at: <http://www.newrymournedown.org/living-well-together>.

The Community Plan was developed with engagement through four thematic working groups, each with a number of priority areas:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health and well-being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Early Years □ Family support □ Physical Activity □ Supporting healthier living □ Mental and emotional well-being □ Emergency response □ Sustainable schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Employability and Training □ Tourism □ Business Support □ Planning and Assets □ Public Sector Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Environment and Spatial Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Access to quality housing □ Production and usage of energy from sustainable resources □ Reducing the impact of waste □ Reducing the level and impact of traffic and congestion □ Increasing access to and speed of broadband □ Protecting, enhancing and benefitting from environmental assets □ Increasing and enhancing access to natural and built heritage □ Reducing the impact of, and mitigating against flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Safety and Good Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Anti-social behaviour □ Youth engagement □ Seasonal Intervention Grants □ Drugs and alcohol □ Gender based crime □ Hate crime □ Road safety □ Burglary and fear of crime □ Rural crime □ Improving community confidence in police

The baseline topics for the Sustainability Appraisal have a wider scope than the LDP evidence gathering requirements. Data sources in 'Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information'¹ have been referred to as well as the 'Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report'².

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

¹ DAERA (2017) Local Development Plans: DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information

² DAERA (2017) Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017

4.5 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

This section highlights trends in the baseline information and describes how the baseline might evolve without the LDP. This also helps identify key issues for each topic and identifies potential sustainability problems or opportunities that could be addressed through the LDP.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was included within two previous Area Plans prior to April 2015:

- Down Area Plan 2015
- Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015

These Plans have been prepared across a broad timescale and do not reflect the new Council, nor our Community Plan, *‘Living Well Together’*.

4.6 Key Sustainability Issues

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

4.7 Proposed Sustainability Objectives

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

5. THE EVIDENCE BASE

5.1 Health and Well-being

5.1.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

Part of supporting good health is encouraging physical activity. There are several strategies and initiatives for this purpose including 'Sport Matters', 'A Fitter Future for All', the 'Outdoor Recreation Action Plan', and 'Exercise, Explore, Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. These include creating the environment and specific facilities to encourage increased physical activity, including active transport.

The 'Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan' and the 'Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan' inform infrastructure requirements for health care. Making Life Better is a ten-year strategic framework for public health launched in 2014. It provides direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland and reduce inequalities in health. Outcome 12 of this framework 'Making the Most of the Physical Environment' is highly relevant to the LDP. Actions can be grouped into the following general themes:

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

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

The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 locally implement the European Noise Directive, the aim of which is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, of exposure to environmental noise. The Regulations apply to noise from major road, railway, airport and industrial sources. These existing sources are not subject to planning control, but may be considered in the context of proposed development which could be affected by environmental noise. A range of legislation is in place to establish permitted noise levels and manage noise emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. The 2014 Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland provides clarity on current noise policies and practices.

Our Corporate Plan 2015-2019¹ seeks to deliver on our ambitions and to make a real difference to the economic, health, educational, as well as the environmental well-being of the district. Our mission is

¹ [http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/NMD_Corporate_Plan_11905_web\(1\).pdf](http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/NMD_Corporate_Plan_11905_web(1).pdf)

‘to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable’ and one of our priorities and strategic objectives is ‘Supported improved health and well-being outcomes.’ The Corporate Plan recognises the need to at least maintain good performance in health as a council and to tackle high levels of health inequalities. This includes the need for investment in facilities to encourage healthier lifestyles. Key actions will be

- Replace the two existing Leisure Centres in Newry City and Downpatrick.
- Develop targeted programmes to tackle obesity and diabetes.
- Promote increased physical activity levels.
- Implement a leisure facilities and play strategy

The need to promote good health care provision for all citizens is also identified.

While these are short-term (2019) objectives the LDP can create the conditions to support these actions in the future.

One of the five outcomes of Living Well Together, our Community Plan to 2030, is ‘*All people in Newry, Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing*’. Progress towards achieving this is to be measured by indicators relating to levels of life expectancy, work life balance, preventable death and health status. The Indicators and Measures section of Living Well Together explains why the chosen indicators matter and data for each indicator is provided.

5.1.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is available on the Community Plan ‘Developing Your Plan¹’ page, where a Community Plan Baseline Evidence Report is available together with individual reports for each indicator. Data has also been sourced from the Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Papers 1: ‘Population & Growth’ (2014 – 2015) and 1st Revision 2015; Paper 10: ‘Open Space, Recreation and Leisure’ (2017) and Paper 14: ‘Education, Health and Community Services’ (2017).

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System (HSCIMS) enables the examination of health inequalities within sub-regions of Northern Ireland and includes a comparison between the average and the most deprived areas in each geographical area. This topic overlaps with the Community, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report, Department of Health, 2017² provides a detailed analysis of health indicators for our District compared with Northern Ireland over the period 2004 – 2015. The range of the data and reporting periods varies according to the type of data however in all cases five sequential datasets are provided allowing trends to be viewed. Many datasets are broken down to DEA level which helps highlight where there are poorer health outcomes. In addition a comparison has been carried out of the data for the district as a whole and those SOAs which are in the 20% most deprived in Northern Ireland. The report includes many graphs and maps to illustrate the findings. This report summarises those findings highlighting distinctive trends in our district, comparisons with Northern Ireland and evidence of the adverse effects of deprivation on health.

Overview

The Community Plan³ reports that a relatively high percentage of people are in very good health (50.32%). 70.1% of people have no long-term health problems, the second highest of all the Councils in Northern Ireland. There are two major hospitals, Daisy Hill in Newry City and the Downe in Downpatrick. Of 40 health indicators analysed at regional level by the Information Analysis

¹ <http://www.newrymournedown.org/developing-your-plan>

² <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hscims-sri-newmoudownlgd-2017.pdf>

³ http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/community_plan_livingwelltogether_apr_17.pdf

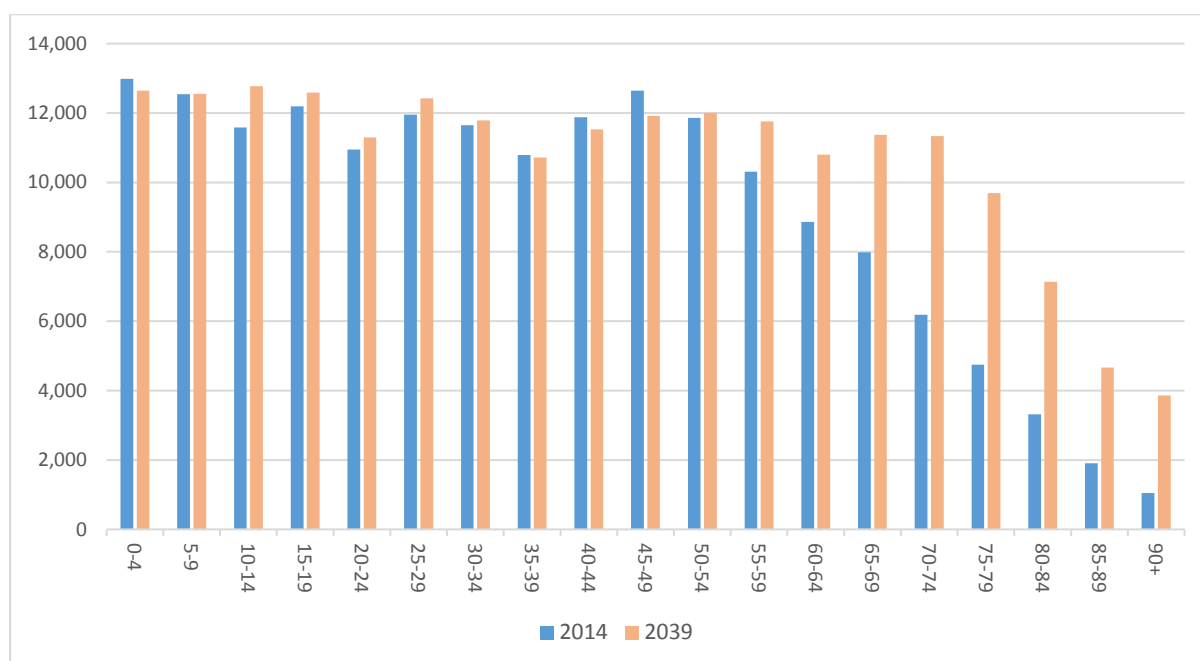
Directorate, the district has health outcomes better than the NI average for 8 indicators, similar to the average for 25 indicators and worse than the NI average for 7 indicators.

Population profile

The future population profile is relevant as it informs health care needs. At June 2016 the estimated population was 177,816 of which 23.6% (NI 20.8%) are children up to 15 and 13.5% (NI 16.0%) are 65 and older. The 'Working Age' (16-64) population is similar to that for NI at 62.8% (NI 63.2%).

The most recent population projections published by NISRA are based on population data from 2014¹. These show that by 2039 the population of the district is projected to have increased from its 2014 level by 15.7% or 27,458 significantly higher than the population increase projected for NI as a whole (9.8% increase). Figure 5.1.1 shows that, as with NI as a whole, the council has an ageing population. This growth of the older age groups will increase the requirement for late and end-of-life care.

Figure 5.1.1: Predicted population change for Newry and Mourne District Council 2014 – 2039



Source: NINIS

On Census Day 2011, there were 22,048 people aged 65+ years living in Newry, Mourne and Down, 46.7% stated they had very good or good health, 39.8% had fair health and the remaining 13.5% had bad or very bad health.

Life expectancy

The life expectancy at birth has increased and is better than that for NI overall. At 2012-14 males are expected to live 78.4 years (NI 78.3) and females 82.5 years (NI 82.3). However male life expectancy at birth in the most deprived District Electoral Area (DEA) is 3.3 years lower than the average and 1.0 year lower than average for females.

Causes of Death

The three main causes of deaths in the Council area in 2008 - 2014 were cancers (2,523), circulatory diseases (2,511), and respiratory disease (1,104) which combined accounted for 70% of all deaths².

¹ NISRA 2014-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland (Date published: 25 May 2016)

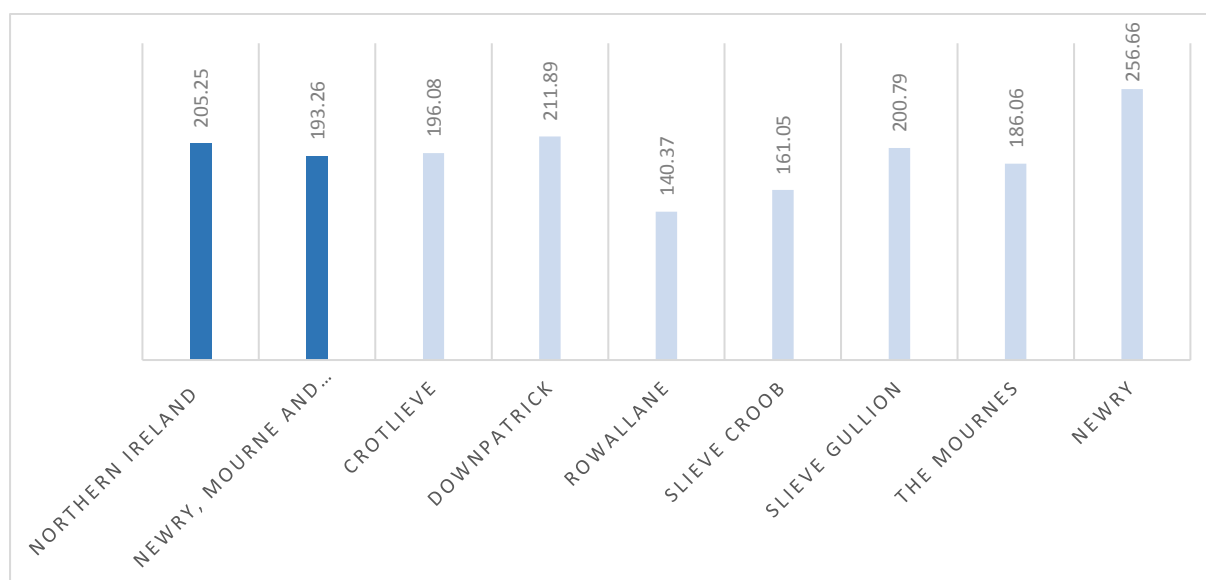
² Cause of Death Northern Ireland- Additional Statistics: NISRA

Figure 5.1.2 presents the values for Standardised Death Rate (SDR) due to Preventable and Amenable Causes by DEA in a spatial format.

Standardised Death Rate (SDR) due to Preventable Causes is used as one of the indicators of health inequality. The SDR is calculated by standardising the average death rate over a five year period, the most recently published being 2010-14. 'Preventable Causes' are causes of death considered to be preventable by broad public health interventions. The 2010-2014 SDR due to Preventable Causes was 203 and lower than the NI average (211) and the overall rate has reduced by 40 since 2006 - 2010. However the most deprived DEA had a SDR for Preventable Causes of 273, 35% more than the average for the district. This % gap in inequality has grown over the past 10 years¹.

Figure 5.1.2 presents the values for Standardised Death Rate (SDR) due to Preventable and Amenable Causes by DEA in a spatial format. It shows that overall Newry, Mourne and Down has a standardised preventable death rate below that for Northern Ireland however it is considerably higher in the DEAs of Newry and Downpatrick.

Figure 5.1.2: Standardised Preventable Death Rate 2010-16



Source: Standardised Death Rate - Preventable (administrative geographies) NINIS

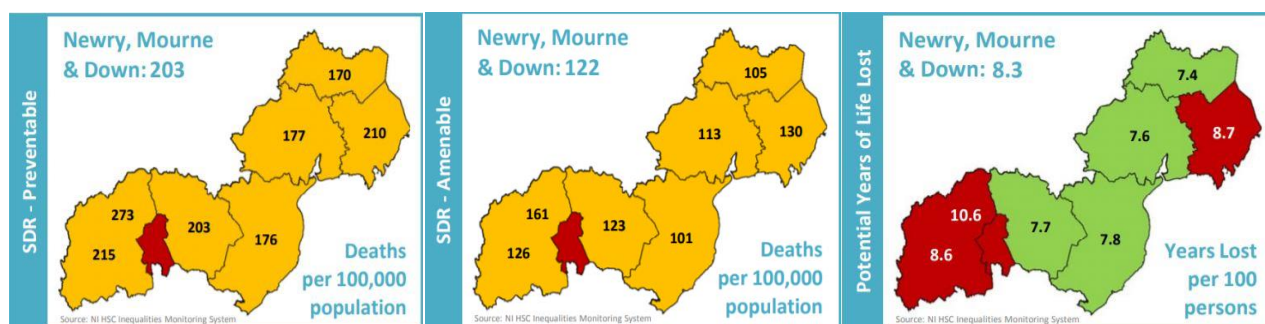
The SDR due to Amenable Causes (causes of death considered to be amenable to medical intervention) was lower in our district (122) than the NI average (132), but the gap between the most deprived DEA (161) and the average for the Council area was 39% and has also increased over 10 years. While the rates of preventable, amenable and avoidable deaths are better than or similar to the NI average for most DEAs they are significantly worse for Newry DEA.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report also publishes 'Potential Years of Life Lost' (PYLL). This is a summary measure of premature mortality which provides an explicit way of weighting deaths occurring at younger ages due to preventable or amenable causes. Figure 5.1.3 presents this variable for the DEAs in Newry, Mourne and Down District spatially.

In Newry, Mourne and Down for 2012-2014 this was 8.3 years lost per 100 persons which was 2% lower than the NI average (8.5 years) and the rate has been improving over the past 10 years. However the figure for the most deprived DEA in Newry, Mourne and Down (Newry DEA) was 10.6 years, a difference of 41%. This inequality gap is shown in the report to have fluctuated over the past 10 years but the overall trend is that it is increasing.

¹ Information Analysis Directorate Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017

Figure 5.1.3: SDR due to Preventable and Amenable Causes and Potential Years of Life Lost for Newry, Mourne and Down District Electoral Areas



DEA **better than**, **similar to** or **worse than** the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council average.

Source: Health Inequalities Sub-regional report 2017: Information Analysis Directorate

Admission Rates

Between 2009 and 2016 the overall Standardised Admission Rate (SAR) for all hospital admissions in decreased by 1.9% from 25,003 to 3,377. The rate in 2016 was the third highest of all LGDs and above the average rate for Northern Ireland.

Physical Health

A person is described as having a limiting long term health problem if they have a health problem or disability that limits their daily activities and which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months. This includes problems that are due to old age. Results from the 2011 Census show that in Newry Mourne and Down, 81.4% of people stated their general health was either good or very good (79.5% NI). However, 11.6% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities a lot, and 8.3% of people had long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities a little.

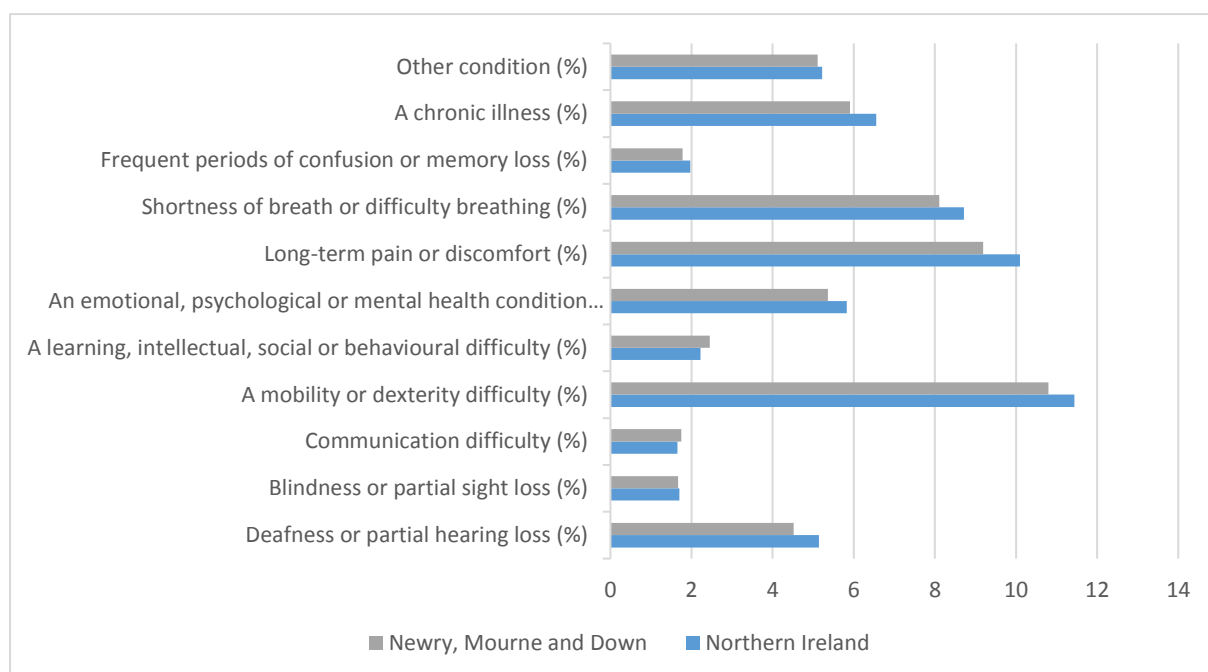
Considering the 65+ age group, we can see that 33.9% report having their day-to-day activities limited a lot due to long term health problems or disability. However, 42.1% of over 65's in the district reported that their activities were not limited due to ill-health or disability.

Figure 5.1.4 presents the percentage of the population in the district and in Northern Ireland who are reported to live with long-term health conditions. Most conditions were reported as being less frequent in Newry Mourne and Down District with the exceptions being a learning, intellectual, social or behavioural difficulty, and a communication difficulty.

The areas with most people with a limiting long-term illness are within the towns i.e. Ballybot, St. Patricks 2 & Drumgullion 1 (Newry City), Donard 1 (Newcastle), Cathedral 2 (Downpatrick) and Ballynahinch East (Ballynahinch). Naturally, where there are higher levels of long-term limiting illness, there are lower levels of people who described their health as being good or very good and vice versa. There are also areas with higher proportions of people providing unpaid care including Dunmore & Castlewellan 1 (Down) and Kilkeel South 1 & Annalong 2 (Newry & Mourne).

In 2011/12, 6% of children in Northern Ireland were disabled compared to 14% of adults of working age and 44% of adults over State Pension age (DSD Family Resources Survey). Disability is further discussed under inequalities in this section and in the Community topic.

Figure 5.1.4: % of population with Long-term conditions in Newry Mourne and Down and Northern Ireland



Source: Type of Long-Term Condition: KS302NI (administrative geographies)

Providing Care

At the 2011 census, 11.37% of residents (NI 11.81%) stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others in association with a long term physical or mental health problem, or old age.

In 2011/2012, 6% of the population were informal carers and that figure included 7% of working age adults, 9% of State Pension age adults and 1% of children. 62% of reported carers are women. The time spent caring varies from 42% of adult carers providing care for less than 20 hours per week, to 22% caring for 50 hours or more per week.¹

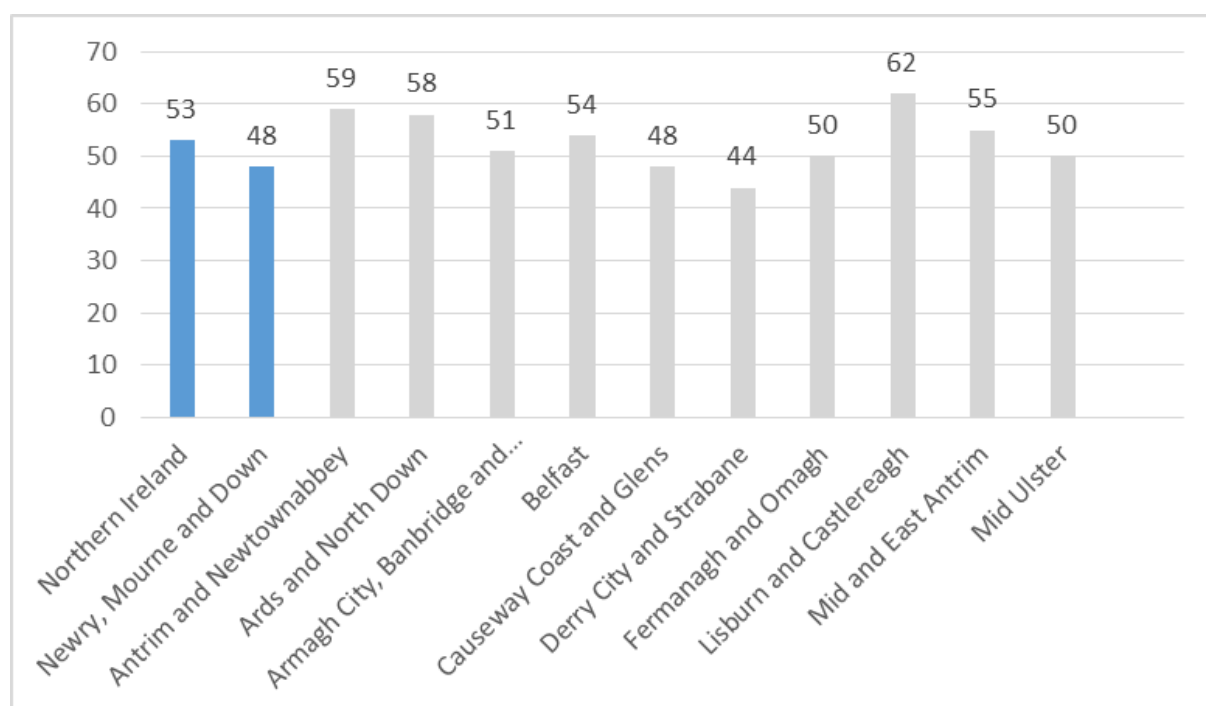
Carers allowance claimants is a measure of the number of people within our district that are dependent on carers. The data looks at the number of claimants at LGD level from 2010-2015. The data shows that the number of carers allowance claimants has been increasing steadily year on year with 7,190 claimants in 2015 across our district.

Physical Activity

Physical activity at the Northern Ireland level has increased from a very low level in 2011 of 34% to 53% in 2013. Figure 5.1.5 shows the proportion of the population that participated in sport in 2013/14 at Council level and compares the results to an average figure for Northern Ireland. The proportion of the population participating in sport and physical activity for Newry, Mourne and Down District (48%) was lower than the average for Northern Ireland (53%) in 2013/14 by 9% and was the equal second lowest participation rate of all eleven Councils.

¹ DSD Family Resources Survey, 2011-12

Figure 5.1.5: Participation in Sport and Physical Activity, 2013/14



Source: DfC Continuous Household Survey (2013/14)

More detailed information for 2013/14 shows that, for NI, 28% of people take very little exercise, women are less physically active, less than a fifth of adults do the recommended level of muscle strengthening exercise and only 14% of older people do the recommended amount of balance and coordination exercise. The Health Survey NI 2016/17 found that across NI the level of activity generally correlates with levels of deprivation, with 44% of the most deprived respondents meeting the recommendations¹ compared to 63% for the least deprived quartile. Little difference in activity levels was noted between urban and rural dwellers.

There are many sports grounds, parks and open spaces, a wide variety of environmental designations from local to international importance, footpaths and cycle routes, and other recreational assets in the Council area including many of its tourism assets. These are referred to in the Economy and Employment, Transport and Accessibility and Natural Resources sections of this report.

Looking at more recent data at a wider scale the Health Survey 2016 recorded higher levels of physical activity, in terms of meeting recommendations², for the Southern HSCT 56.4% and South Eastern HSCT 60.2% than in NI overall (55.1%). Research by the Department for Arts, Culture and Leisure in 2015 for Northern Ireland found that a higher proportion of males (63%) than females (47%) had taken part in at least one sport in the previous year. 50% of adults in NI had participated in walking for recreation in the previous year, 22% in swimming or diving, 16% in keep-fit, aerobics, dance or yoga, 15% in jogging and 15% in cycling for recreation. The proportion of adults who participated in sport or walked for recreation had increased, year on year, over the previous four years.

There are a range of parks and children's play facilities across the district. The area is presently well served by a wide range of formal private recreational clubs including soccer, rugby, cricket, Gaelic games and golf.

¹ 150 minutes per week of moderate activity, 75 minutes per week of vigorous activity, or an equivalent combination of the two.

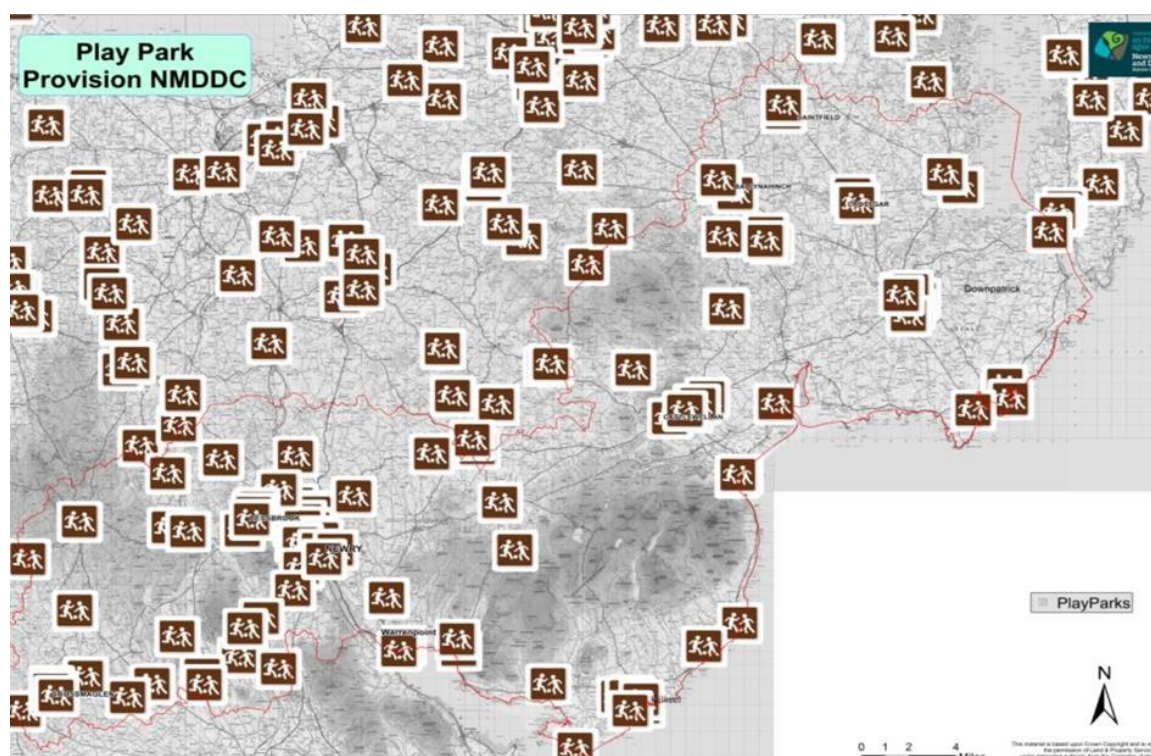
² 150 minutes per week of moderate activity, 75 minutes per week of vigorous activity, or an equivalent combination of the two.

The widespread provision of school playing fields throughout the area also offers potential for community use. The Council is also actively involved in community partnerships for the development and operation of recreational sites. The type and distribution of facilities is detailed in Preparatory Study 10: Open Space, Recreation & Leisure 2017¹. This shows, compared to the Fields in Trust guidelines, that there is under-provision of sports pitches if grass pitches in schools are excluded but sufficient provision if these are included.

Outdoor space in terms of children's play provision is focused in the urban areas with the City of Newry, all the towns and all but two of the villages (Attical and Mayobridge) benefiting from a fixed children's play area(s). In addition some smaller settlements also have a fixed children's play area. The Council's play strategy identified a gap in provision in Mayobridge, Ballymartin, Kilmore, Kilclief, Megennis Villas (Newry) and Bannamaghery Villas (Saintfield). Figure 5.1.6 provides information on the geographical distribution of play parks throughout the district that are provided and maintained by the Council. It demonstrates that most of the district's settlements have some form of playpark within or near to them.

The Ulster Way route through the area is 200km. There are three national cycle network routes that run through the district. The Regional Route (No. 20) runs along the shore of Strangford Lough from Comber to Downpatrick. The National Route 99 runs along the southern shores of Strangford Lough to Newcastle while the National Route 9 follows the Newry Canal Towpath from Portadown to Newry and then veers off towards Bessbrook and Camlough finishing close to Slieve Gullion Courtyard Complex. CycleNI has identified over twenty additional cycle routes up to 60km in the district. The district is also a popular Mountain Bike destination with two of NI's three National Mountain Bike Trails in Rostrevor and Castlewellan, a regional cycle trail in Castle Ward and a local facility in Tollymore. Green-blue infrastructure is further discussed in Section 5.12, 'Natural Resources'.

Figure 5.1.6 Map showing the geographical distribution of play parks in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area



¹ <http://www.newrymouredown.org/local-development-plan-preparatory-papers>

The Council has produced a Sports Facility Strategy 2016. This reflects the wider Strategic Sports Facility Strategy for Northern Ireland (2016), which focuses on the need for future provision that are of cultural significance, as well as those that provide for high performance training and competition. The Strategy states that the majority of Newry, Mourne and Down communities are within the catchment area of an accessible community sports facility. It is proposed to provide a Sports Hub in each of the District Electoral Areas (DEAs) over time, however, in the meantime, the Strategy has identified a number of priorities which include the following;

- Development of new and improved playing pitches to a 'Good' Standard.
- Consideration of additional water space provision in Newcastle
- Consideration of the provision of a Tennis Bubble to provide all year round tennis facilities at Newry and Newcastle Tennis Clubs.
- Consider a shared partnership with a school to provide a 400m 6 lane athletics facility in the Downpatrick /Newcastle area.

The strategy also suggests that there is a need to put in place formal community use agreements to allow the community use of school facilities. The implementation of such agreements would ensure the required supply of sports hall facilities across Newry, Mourne and Down meets demand now and in the future.

Disability Sport

According to [Disability Sport NI](#) people with a disability are less than half as likely to participate in sport as non-disabled people¹.

On Tuesday 10 April 2018, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launched the district's first Disability Sports Hub. The Disability Sports Hub has a wide variety of disability sports equipment including accessible bikes, sports wheelchairs, Boccia sets and other specialist equipment which is to be shared throughout the district as required.

Children and Physical Activity

ARK (Access Research Knowledge - a joint initiative between Queens University and the University of Ulster) carries out an annual survey of P7-aged children and 16 year olds in NI. Commencing in 2015, ARK has been commissioned by Sport NI to include questions on sport and physical activity in the surveys, to provide a baseline and allow policy progress to be measured^{2,3}.

The surveys found that around half (49%) of P7 children and four out of ten 42% 16 year olds reported that they walked or cycled to and from school. However only a third (32%) of P7 children and less than one in ten (8%) 16-year olds met the United Kingdom (UK) guideline target of a minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Large proportions of children are therefore are not engaging regularly in physical activity. One in ten children felt they could not play freely with their friends in their community and children reported being able to play more freely with friends in school (84%), compared with being able to play with friends when in their communities or homes (77%). Children reported feeling safer when playing in school (89%), compared with feeling safe when playing in their communities or homes (73%). This reflects the findings of several UK studies⁴ which found, among other things, that a fifth of children did not play outside at all on an average day and less than one in ten children regularly played in wild spaces compared to half of children a generation ago.

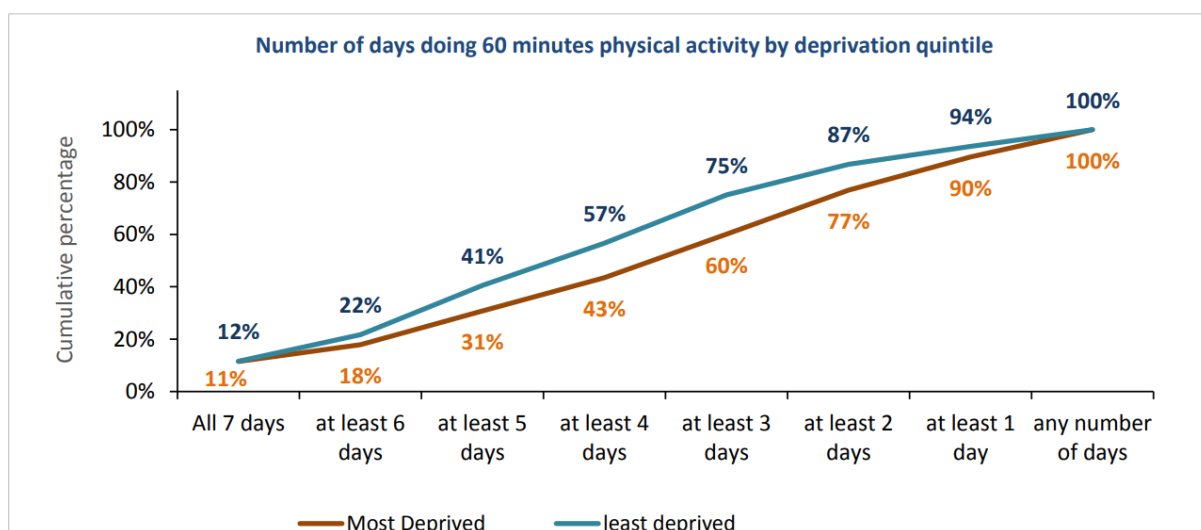
¹ Continuous Household Survey 2014/15: Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

² Schubotz, D., Lloyd, K. & McKnight, M. (2016) 'A Question of Sport - Perspectives of Children and Young People' ARK Research Update 107.

³ McQuade, L., Kehoe, S. & Emerson, L. (2015) 'Are children getting the opportunities to realise their right to play?' ARK Research Update 98

⁴ The Guardian, 25th March 2016 'Three-quarters of UK children spend less time outdoors than prison inmates – survey' (accessed 28.11.17)

Figure 5.1.7: 5-18 year olds participating in physical activity by deprivation quintile (NI)



Source: Information Analysis Directorate's Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016 (Health Modules) p20.

The Information Analysis Directorate's Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitude Survey 2016 (Health Modules) found that 8% of children and young people aged 5-18 do not achieve 60 minutes of moderate physical activity even one day a week. As shown in Figure 5.1.7 the survey also found that although the number of children achieving 7 days of physical exercise is similar between the most deprived and least deprived quintiles, there are a quarter fewer from the most deprived areas achieving 4 days or more (43%) compared with the least deprived (57%). Boys (17%) are twice as likely as girls (8%) to achieve 60 minutes every day.

Infant and Child Health

Infant mortality rates within the Borough (2009-2013) were slightly better than average at 4.5 per 1,000 (NI: 4.7) but worse in 2010-14 (5.02, NI 4.63). The rate of infant mortality in NI is higher than in the rest of the UK and in 2014 and 2015 was one of the highest rates in Europe. The State of Child Health Report 2017¹ found that breastfeeding levels in NI remain the lowest in the UK, with less than 28 per cent of babies receiving breastmilk at 6 weeks. The report also highlights that in the UK, socio-economic status is strongly associated with infant mortality, with increasing risk associated with higher levels of maternal deprivation. There is a higher incidence of poor ante-natal health among expectant mothers in deprived areas, with smoking in pregnancy linked to low birth weights. Conditions related to preterm birth are the most common causes of death in infancy. Deprivation is also linked with higher rates of avoidable deaths in infants such as poisoning, blind cord-related fatalities, drownings and infant co-sleeping deaths.

The death rate in NI for older children aged 10-19 is also higher in NI at 26.2 per 100,000 population than in England and Wales (16.7 per 100,000). Suicide, injuries /violence and road traffic deaths are among the main causes of death in teenagers with the risk of dying for young men is notably higher than for young women. Deprivation and mental health problems were noted to increase the risk of death throughout adolescence.

Diet

Health Survey Northern Ireland data² suggests that overall trends in diet have remained fairly consistent for the period 2010 to 2016 and that foods high in sugar and/or fat remain popular. Greater proportions of persons living in the most deprived quintiles consume unhealthy foods such as processed meat, chips/roast potatoes, confectionary, sugary fizzy drinks compared to those in the

¹ Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (2017) State of Child Health

² Health Survey Northern Ireland: First Results 2016/17: Health Survey NI Trend Tables (Date published: 24 October 2017)

least deprived quintiles. The consumption of fruit and vegetables is also linked with deprivation with 33% of respondents in the most deprived quintile meeting the recommended '5 a day' guideline for fruit and vegetables compared with 48% in the least deprived quintile.

Obesity

In 2014/15 in NI a quarter of adults (25%) were obese with a further 35% classed as overweight. The proportion of adults classed as overweight or obese (60%) has remained relatively constant since 2005/06. Males and those in older age groups were more likely to be obese. For the district as a whole there is a lower level of overweight or obese children and the proportion of overweight children is declining.

The Sub-Regional Health Inequalities Report shows the proportion of children who are classified as overweight or obese according to their BMI for three-Year Aggregate Grouped Years (School Year): 2012/13-2014/15. This data shows that in Primary 1 a fifth (20.7%) of all children in the district had a BMI in the 'overweight or obese' range (NI 21.4%) and 4.3% had a BMI in the 'obese' range (NI 5.1%). Although the council as a whole has better results than for NI the percentage rose to 24% in Newry DEA and 23% in Slieve Gullion DEA. In Year 8, 27.4% of all children in the district had a BMI in the 'overweight or obese' range (NI 28.6%), of which 6.9% had a BMI in the 'obese' range (NI 7.3%). Again the council has better results than NI however for this age group the levels in Downpatrick DEA (35%) and Rowallane DEA (34%) are much higher.

Mental Health

In 2013/14, of those adults surveyed in the Northern Ireland Health Survey, the mean Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing score was 51.0 in Northern Ireland. The scale scores range from 14 (lowest mental well-being) to 70 (highest mental well-being). A comparative figure for Councils is not available.

The Health Survey NI 2016/17 reported that across NI one in six respondents (17%) scored highly on the GHQ12¹ (General Health Questionnaire) suggesting they may have a possible mental health problem. The proportion of females indicating a possible mental health problem fell from 21% in 2015/16 to 18% in 2016/17. The findings for males remained unchanged at 16%. Respondents in the most deprived areas (27%) were twice as likely to record a high GHQ12 score as those in the least deprived areas (14%). Over a fifth of respondents (22%) reported they had missed time at work / school / university due to mental health concerns.

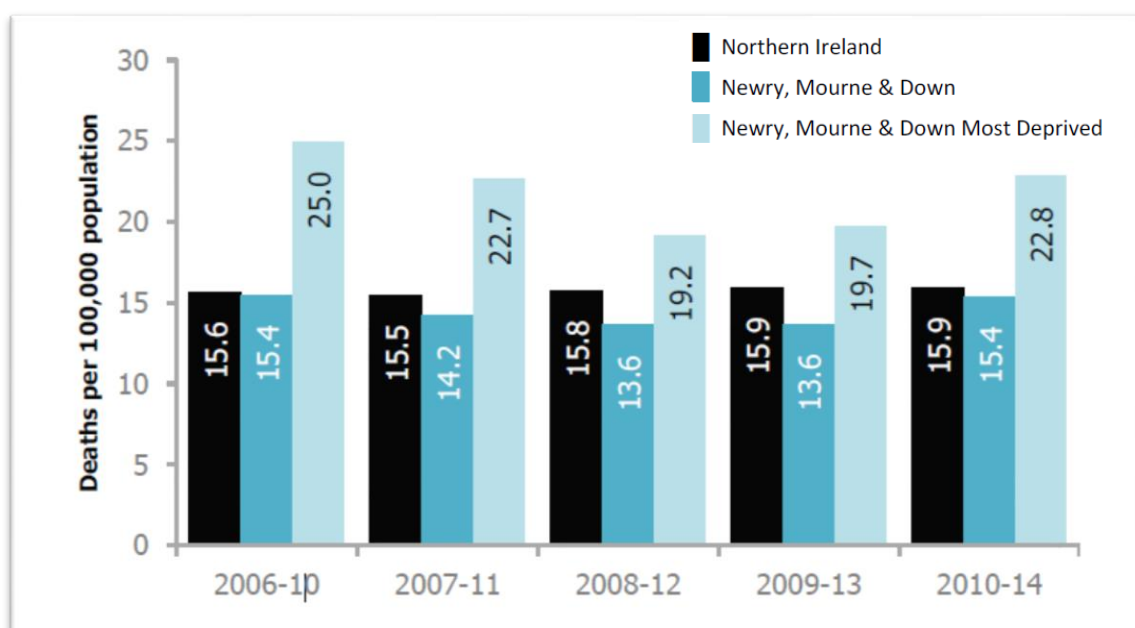
There is limited data on mental health at council level. The standardised prescription rate for mood and anxiety has increased in Northern Ireland and in our council area from 2010 to 2014. It is consistently slightly better in our council (201 per 100,000 compared to 205 per 100,000 for NI in 2014). There is significant variation across the council from 183 for Crotlieve DEA to as high as 213 and 229 for The Mournes and Newry DEAs respectively.

Newry, Mourne and Down also had a rate of hospital admissions for self-harm in 2012/13-2014/2015 of 210 per 100 000 population. This was very similar to the Northern Ireland rate of 215. However when we consider this rate for Newry DEA it is 375 and for Downpatrick it is 256.

The crude suicide death rate in the Council area of 15.4 per 100,000 in 2010-2014 was slightly below the NI average (15.9), but the rate for males (23.1) was almost four times that for females (6.1). Figure 5.1.8 presents the suicide rate for Northern Ireland compared to that for Newry, Mourne and Down District and for the most deprived DEA's in the district. Although the overall rate remains similar to the Northern Ireland rate, it is markedly higher in the most deprived DEAs.

¹ The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ) 12 is a screening device for identifying minor psychiatric disorders in the general population and within community or non-psychiatric clinical settings.

Figure 5.1.8: Crude Suicide Rate in Northern Ireland, Newry Mourne and Down District and Newry Mourne and Down's most deprived DEAs



Source: Health Inequalities Sub-regional report 2017: Information Analysis Directorate

Well-being

The Office of National Statistics reports annually on estimates of life satisfaction, whether you feel the things you do in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK, country, regional and local authority level. It is based around the following questions:

- Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays? Where 0 is 'not at all satisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.
- Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile? Where 0 is 'not at all worthwhile' and 10 is 'completely worthwhile'.

In the period 2012/13-2014/15 the ONS report that people in Newry Mourne and Down rate their life satisfaction at 7.8 out of 10, and 'the things they do in life are worthwhile' 8 out of 10.

Respondents were also asked about their recent feelings as follows:

- Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday? Where 0 is 'not at all happy' and 10 is 'completely happy'.
- Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday? Where 0 is 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious'.

In the period 2012/13-2014/15 the ONS report that people in Newry Mourne and Down gave a scoring for how happy they felt yesterday of 7.6 out of 10. Finally for the same period, the rating for how anxious people felt yesterday was 2.7 out of 10 for Newry, Mourne and Down.

Noise

The total number of noise complaints in Northern Ireland has remained fairly constant over the previous ten years, varying between 11,099 and 12,193. However a 10% reduction has been experienced in 2015/16 from the previous year and is the lowest number of complaints recorded since 2005.

For Newry, Mourne and Down, the majority of noise complaints (73.1%) in 2016 were in relation to domestic noise, with the two leading reasons being animal noise and 'other neighbour noise'. Noise in

the street followed domestic sources with 7.3% of complaints. Transport accounted for 6.9% of complaints with the second highest level of traffic complaints (32) for councils in NI. Industrial noise, including agriculture and single wind turbines in addition to industry/manufacturing accounted for 6.8% of complaints. Construction noise was the basis of 3.3% of complaints. Commercial and leisure premises account for 2.6% of complaints, the main source of which is entertainment premises.

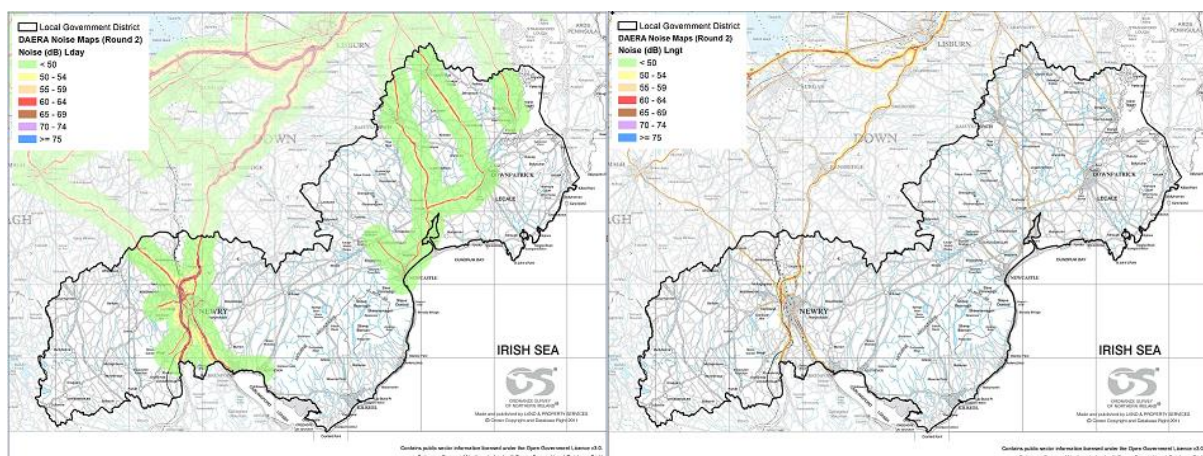
The Environmental Noise Directive requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations, however no settlements reach the threshold of 100,000.

DAERA has developed its own approach to the identification and designation of Quiet Areas set out in policy guidance on the identification, designation and management of quiet areas (September 2016). Noise maps have been produced based on 2011 data for the following sources and are available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise

- major roads - roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually
- major railways - railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually
- major airports - airports with more than 50,000 movements annually
- agglomerations - urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants, taking into account the above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises

In accordance with the END, noise modelling and mapping has been carried out over two stages for major roads (roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages annually), major railways (railways with more than 30,000 train passages annually), major airports (airports with more than 50,000 movements annually) and agglomerations (urban areas with more than 100,000 inhabitants), taking into account the above sources and additionally, other roads, railways, aircraft movements and industrial premises. There are no agglomerations, airports or railways that meet the thresholds for noise mapping within the district, however noise modelling has been carried out within the Council area for the A1. The noise mapping in Figure 5.1.9 shows that the major roads can be significant sources of environmental noise and has allowed areas where people or properties may be exposed to adverse levels of noise to be identified. DAERA can designate quiet areas however none have been designated in our district and there are no candidate Noise Management Areas or Quiet Areas.

Figure 5.1.9: Round 2 Noise mapping for roads carrying more than 3 million vehicles annually



'L_{day}' is the L_{Aeq} over the period 0700 – 1900, local time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average). 'L_{night}' is the L_{Aeq} over the period 2300 – 0700, local time (for strategic noise mapping this is an annual average).

Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - Air and Environmental Quality Unit via OpenData NI

Health Care Facilities and Ambulance Response Times

The Department of Health (DoH) has overall responsibility for health policy and funding of major capital works. It is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) to assess the health and social care needs of the population and to secure the care to meet those needs in keeping with available resources. Provision of community health and social care in the district is the responsibility of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) which covers the Newry and Mourne area and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) which covers the Down area.

Daisy Hill in Newry is the only acute Hospital in the district. Daisy Hill provides a 24 hour Emergency Department, a Maternity Department, Special Care Baby Unit, Inpatient beds in Medicine, Stroke, Rehabilitation, Surgery, Gynaecology, ENT and Paediatrics. Further facilities include a Coronary Care Unit, Day Procedure Unit and adult Haemodialysis Unit. Daisy Hill provides diagnostic services for example radiology and cardiology and therapeutic services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Dietetics and Orthoptics. A range of Mental Health Services and a GP out-of-hours service are also provided on site. Daisy Hill Hospital has been subject to an on-going programme of modernisation and development to include a new area-wide Paediatric Centre of Excellence Work began which was due to be completed in 2017.

Downe Hospital serves as a local hospital in Downpatrick with a type 2 Emergency Department operating from 8am – 8pm (Mon-Fri) and a Minor Injuries Unit operating at weekends. The GP Out-of-Hours Service operates on site and there is also a midwifery led Maternity Unit. The Downe provides some regional services as well as a range of out-patient and diagnostics.

As part of the 'Transforming your Care' initiative the SHSCT announced plans to develop a Community Treatment and Care Centre (CTCC) in Newry. The proposals create a new Health and Leisure hub by co locating the new CTCC and Newry Leisure Centre on one site. The building would incorporate GP Practices, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Hydrotherapy, Imaging, Speech and Language, Dentistry, Orthoptics, Audiology, Mental Health, Children's Services and will act as an administrative centre for Trust Healthcare. The proximity of the proposal to Daisy Hill Hospital facilitates the shared use of existing health services whilst establishing a core of health services in a recognised location in the city.

In 2014/15 there were 49 GP Surgeries in the district with 181,808 people registered with a GP Practice, 31.5% of those people were aged 50+ years. There are 27 Dental Surgeries registered with the two Health Trusts in the district as well as a number of private dental practices.

There are a number of facilities available for care for the elderly and other vulnerable groups such as those with learning difficulties. The majority of these facilities are privately run. While they are independent of the health trusts they are registered with, and inspected by, the RQIA. These comprise 21 Day Care Facilities, 26 Nursing Homes, 19 Residential Care Homes and 33 Domiciliary Care Providers in the district.

The Local Development Plan can aid a joined-up approach ensure there is the necessary flexibility to meet health care need as and when it arises. Future proposals for health services can be reflected in the LDP with necessary land being protected for that use by designating land use zonings.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report provides ambulance and fire response times annually from 2011 to 2015. The average ambulance response time has increased steadily both for NI and for the district to 11 minutes 22 seconds for the district which is two minutes slower than the NI average. In rural locations for all of NI the median ambulance response time has increased from under 12 minutes in 2011 to over 15 minutes in 2015.

There are additional provisions for emergency response which are not accounted for in these figures. These are Rapid Response Vehicles and paramedics and Community First Responders who may be the first person to arrive on the scene in rural areas and are trained to provide life-saving treatment while waiting on an ambulance or rapid response vehicle.

Fire response times have generally decreased for NI and for the district to 8 minutes 52 seconds for our district which is 2 minutes 26 seconds slower than the NI average.

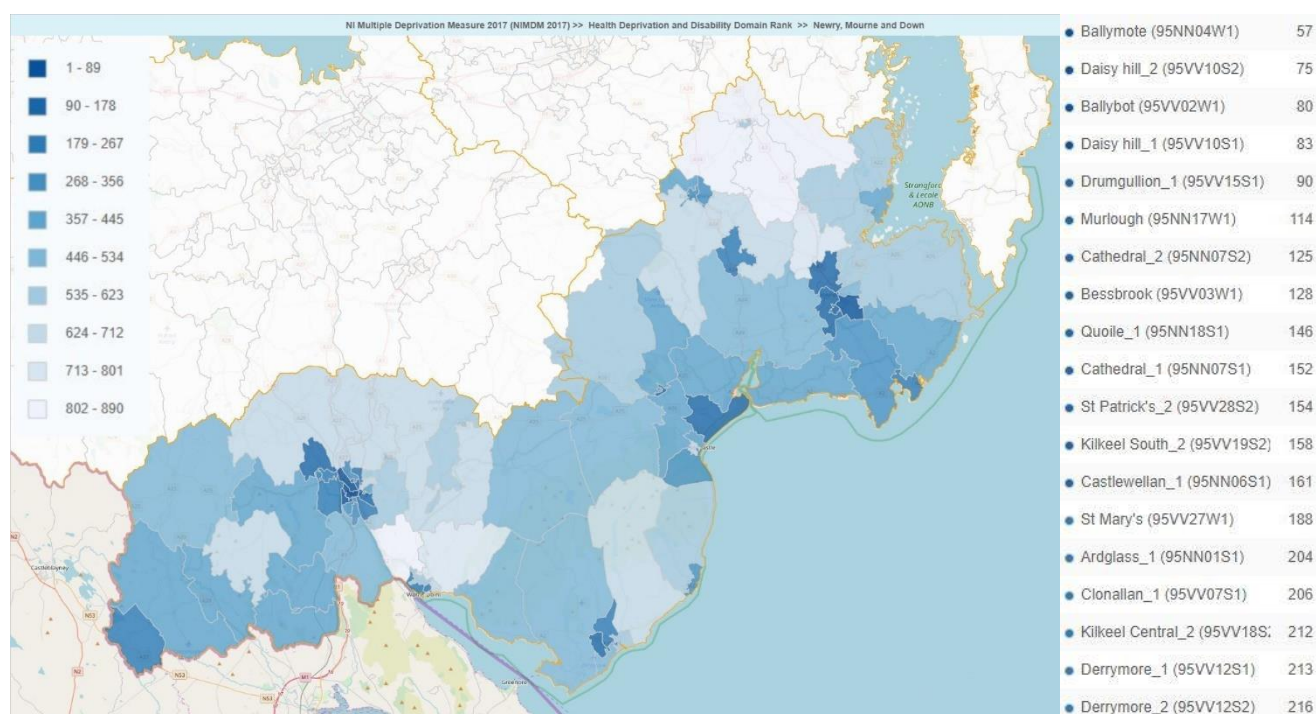
Inequalities

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

The Community plan notes that in relative terms Newry, Mourne and Down has few areas that can be described as highly deprived in the Northern Ireland context and the Council area overall compares well in terms of health indicators. However it is recognised that these small number of areas will be disproportionately represented in premature deaths generally, suicides, admissions to hospitals for drugs, alcohol or self-harm. Those who live in the most deprived 20% of areas in Northern Ireland (including 11 areas in Newry, Mourne and Down) are twice as likely to die under the age of 75, three times as likely to die of lung cancer or suicide, four times as likely to be admitted to hospital for self-harm or die of alcohol or drug related conditions as those who live in the least deprived 20% of areas. The community plan also refers to the rural nature of our District which can also mean that vulnerable people aren't as connected to or able to access the support services they need to ensure good wellbeing.

New statistics measuring the geographical distribution of deprivation or disadvantage were published by NISRA in November 2017. The updated Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM2017) replace the NIMDM 2010, however the older NIMDM2010 has been used for the Health Inequalities Report discussed below. Those Super Output Areas¹ (SOAs) which are in the 20% most deprived areas (ranked 1-178) in terms of health and disability are shown to the right side of Figure 5.1.10. The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain identifies proportions of the population whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or disability. It can be seen that the highest ranked (most deprived) SOAs are clustered within the settlements of Newry, Downpatrick and Newcastle although some outlying rural areas are also identified.

Figure 5.1.10: Health Deprivation and Disability Domain Rank 2017 from NIMDM20017.



¹ Super Output Areas are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics.

Source: NINIS Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, Health Deprivation and Disability Domain.

The Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017 compares trends in indicators of health across deprivation levels within the five HSC Trust areas and the eleven LGD areas. In addition to an analysis of gaps between the Trust/LGD and its most deprived areas, an assessment of the gap between the Trust/LGD and NI is also presented as contextual information. In that report, “inequality gaps’ refer to: ‘The difference between health outcomes for the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOA) within an area (as defined using the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010) and the area’s average.’

The report found that inequality gaps in Newry, Mourne and Down have narrowed for six of the indicators, remained unchanged or were fluctuating for 20 the indicators and have widened for 14 of the indicators. The five health indicators with the widest inequality gap are shown on the graphic in Figure 5.1.11. The indicators with the largest deprivation equality gaps, the most notable narrowed deprivation inequality gaps and the most notable widened deprivation inequality gaps are all presented in Figure 5.1.12.

Figure 5.1.11: Widest Deprivation Inequality Gaps for Newry, Mourne and Down District

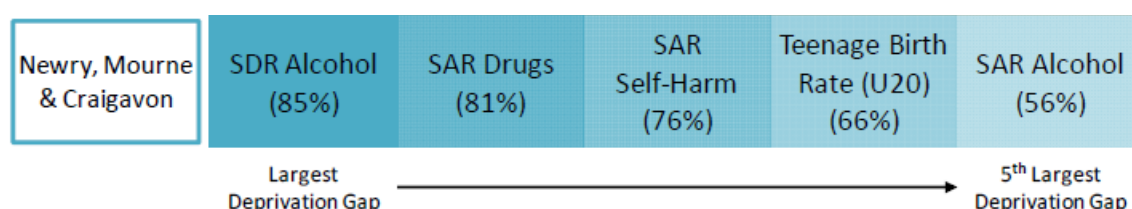
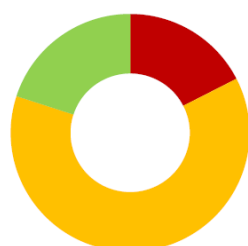


Figure 5.1.12: Key Findings of Health Inequalities Sub-regional Report for Newry, Mourne and Down District

KEY FINDINGS

Newry, Mourne & Down - NI Inequality Gaps



Of 40 indicators analysed⁸⁶...

7	Health outcomes were worse than the NI average.
25	Health outcomes were similar to the NI average.
8	Health outcomes were better than the NI average.

Newry, Mourne & Down Deprivation Inequality Gaps

Largest Deprivation Inequality Gaps	Most Notable Narrowed Deprivation Inequality Gaps	Most Notable Widened Deprivation Inequality Gaps
SDR – Alcohol Related Causes	SDR – Lung Cancer	SDR – Circulatory (U75)
SAR – Drug Related Causes	Primary 1 BMI: Overweight or Obese	SDR – Amenable
SAR – Self-Harm	Crude Suicide Rate	SAR – Drug Related Causes
Teenage Birth Rate	Teenage Birth Rate	Potential Years of Life Lost
SAR – Alcohol Related Causes	SAR - Respiratory	SAR – Circulatory (U75)

⁸⁶ Inequality gaps are not presented for respiratory or drug related mortality rates.

Source: Health Inequalities Sub-Regional Report 2017, p222.

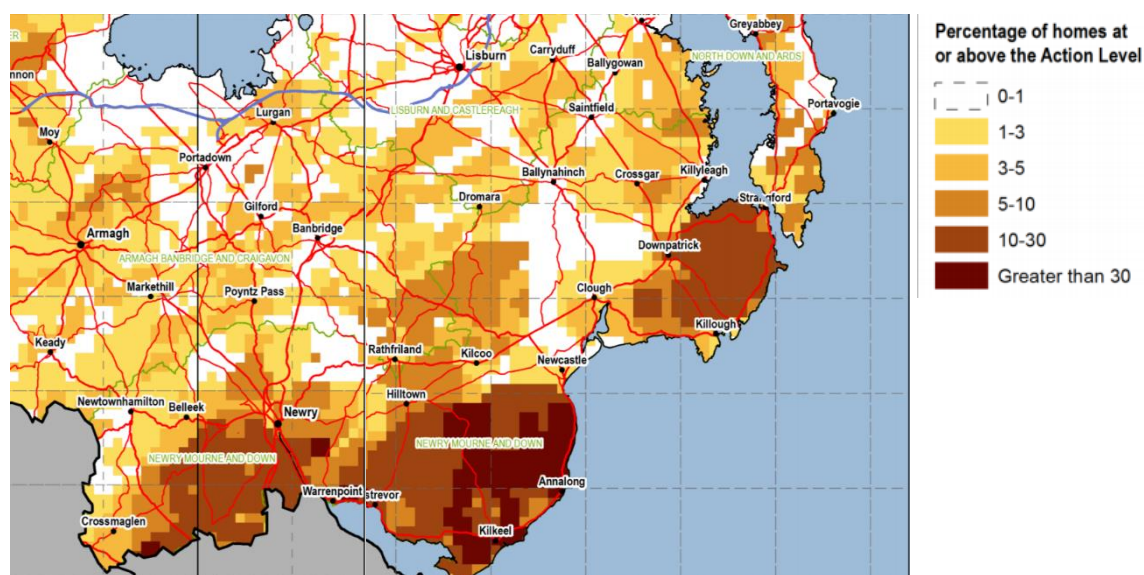
At the Northern Ireland level there was an increase in the level of accidental dwelling fires from 750 in 2011/12 to 898 in 2013/14. The Borough is under the Southern Area command team of the NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) with area headquarters based in Portadown. The Area Command Team is assisted by 4 District Command Teams based at Portadown, Bangor, Newry and Downpatrick.

Radon

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

An indicative atlas of Radon levels in homes throughout Northern Ireland has been published by Public Health England with the Geological Survey. An extract from this atlas is shown below in Figure 5.1.12. The darker colours on the radon map indicate a greater probability of high radon levels in a building. The government has recommended that householders take action to reduce their radon levels where they exceed the 'action level' of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre.

Figure 5.1.12: Extract from 'Radon in Northern Ireland: Indicative Atlas' showing Newry and Mourne area



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

The atlas shows that there is a 10% or greater probability of exceeding the recommended action level for Radon in the Ring of Gullion, Mournes and Lecale areas. The map helps to inform where measurement of Radon levels may be required at dwellings, and if necessary, where action may be required to protect homes.

5.1.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new LDP in place, the Regional Development Strategy (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and relevant planning policy statements (PPSs), would still be applied. However, adverse baseline trends relevant to health and well-being, such as below average levels of physical activity and outdoor leisure time for residents within the Council area may continue.

Opportunities to improve the large discrepancies in health and well-being between the most deprived communities and the average in the Council area could be missed. The opportunity to plan strategically for an environment that encourages active travel and physical activity and to improve the environment and accessibility to services in the most deprived areas could also be missed.

Some of the measures of health disease may be exacerbated if there is no change or a deterioration in environmental conditions. While there are other environmental controls in place, the lack of a plan would mean that there is less opportunity to site development to reduce negative interactions between uses.

The LDP could support national and regional strategies, through planning and designing development to ensure high standards of homes which support people through all stages of life, enabling access to healthcare facilities and helping enhance living and working environments in areas of greatest deprivation. It can promote accessible spaces for all ages and active travel to incentivise physical activity and encourage social interaction as well as protecting and enhancing the environment to minimise adverse effects on health and to support healthy living.

5.1.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Health and Well-being

- By 2039 the population of the district is projected to have increased from its 2014 level by 15.7% or 27,458 significantly higher than the population increase projected for NI.
- Population trends indicate an ageing population with potentially a higher number of older dependents e.g. the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to grow from 3000 in 2014 to over 8000 by 2039.
- An increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services.
- Participation rates in physical activity are higher than the NI average however they are significantly lower than recommended minimum levels.
- There is a need to promote and incentivise regular participation in physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes.
- Newry, Mourne and Down has a very accessible natural environment with forest parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other open spaces with many walking and cycling trails.
- Less than half of children in NI walk or cycle to school.
- There is a particular need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe.
- There will be an increasing need to create accessible means for older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives.
- Development should be sited and designed to connect with public open space, walking and cycling routes and other recreational facilities where possible.
- Levels of adult obesity in NI and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle.
- Obesity in children is slightly lower than the NI average, however over one fifth of P1 children and over one quarter of Year 8 children were overweight or obese in 2010-2012.
- While mental health indicators on average show similar levels to NI there is evidence of poorer mental health in the most deprived part of the council.
- Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts.
- Road safety for all users should be a key consideration of planning and design.
- The location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times. Rural areas require accessibility to general practice and non-emergency healthcare services.

- Generally measures of health are better for the council however there are inequalities in health and well-being with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas.
- Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility.
- Need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts.
- Significant parts of the district have an increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.

5.2 Community

5.2.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

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

The Regional Strategic Objective of the SPSS 'sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting rural economic development of an appropriate nature and scale' is representative of regional rural policy. It seeks to enable people to live and work in rural communities with reasonable provision of facilities while retaining the intrinsic character and value of our countryside and small communities. This echoes the Rural White Paper Action Plan which also refers to improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.

There is growing recognition of the need for provision to take account of the varying needs of different age groups. The World Health Organisation promotes 'An Age-friendly world is a place that enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place that treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. It is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment.' This is reflected in the objectives of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 and the Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021.

Together: Building a United Community is another Executive programme and has a vision for 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. It includes a commitment to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package.

Our Council has developed a Good Relations programme¹ which aims to encourage and support activity that promotes good relations between people from different backgrounds to help improve people's quality of life. In seeking to do so, the Council's Engagement Section works with a range of local community, voluntary and statutory organisations and other sectors to deliver the Good Relations Programme.

The 'Community Safety Action Plan' includes the action for Councils 'to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, deter anti-social behaviour and to address growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites'.

Our Corporate Plan 2015-2019 seeks to deliver on our ambitions and to make a real difference to the economic, health, educational, as well as the environmental well-being of the district. Our mission is

¹ <http://www.newrymournedown.org/good-relations-programme>

‘to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable’ and our strategic objectives for 2019 include that we will have ‘Empowered and improved the capacity of our communities’. The key actions largely relate to greater community involvement in services and facilities however at this stage it does not identify the need for new facilities.

One of the five outcomes of Living Well Together, our Community Plan to 2030, is ‘All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities’. Progress towards achieving this is to be measured by indicators relating to levels of social connections, social capital, civic participation and personal safety and crime rate. The Indicators and Measures section of Living Well Together explains why the chosen indicators matter and data for each indicator is provided.

Actions to address the indicators will be delivered through District Wide Delivery Plans taken forward by our four Thematic Groups one of which is Safety and Good Relations. While each of the Thematic Groups will take lead responsibility for a number of indicators, as outlined above, it is likely that all of the thematic groups will in some way, impact on Social Capital. Cross-cutting elements of tackling inequalities, and early intervention and prevention will permeate through each of the Delivery Plans.

A Police and Community Safety Partnership has been established in Newry, Mourne and Down. The purpose of this group is to help make communities safer and to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues.

5.2.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is available on the Community Plan ‘Developing Your Plan¹’ page, where a Community Plan Baseline Evidence Report is available together with individual reports for each indicator. Data has also been sourced from the Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Papers 1: ‘Population & Growth’ (2014 – 2015) and 1st Revision 2015 and Paper 14: ‘Education, Health and Community Services’ (2017).

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Inequalities Monitoring System (HSCIMS) enables the examination of health inequalities within sub-regions of Northern Ireland and includes a comparison between the average and the most deprived areas in each geographical area. This topic overlaps with the Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Transport and Accessibility, Natural Resources and Historic Environment topics.

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) data in general and its Area Profile for our district at March 2018 have been important data sources. The baseline data also refers to the 2011 Equality Awareness Survey of over 1,000 people which measured attitudes towards specific equality groups and perceptions and experiences of unfair treatment.

Population

Population trends are largely influenced by other factors such as birth and death rate which in turn reflect many other factors such as health. Migration is subject to external influences such as national policy and the regional economy, however it can also be directly influenced by the physical, economic and social environment. Planning can have an influence on this by creating the conditions for investment and place-shaping to make the area more attractive to live in.

According to the 2011 Census the total population of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area increased by 12.2% from 152,881 to 171,533 between 2001 and 2011. The total population has

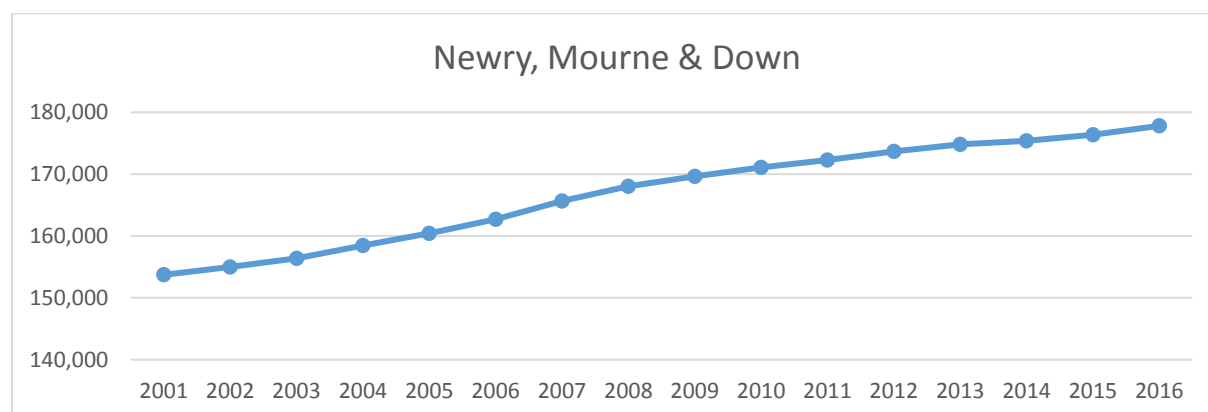
¹ <http://www.newrymournedown.org/developing-your-plan>

further increased and was estimated to be 177,816 in 2016¹. This trend is expected to continue through the plan period with a projected increase to 194,994 by 2030². This represents a 9.7% increase within the plan period.

The demographic of our population is also changing with the number of residents aged 65 and over expected to increase from 26,599 in 2016 to 39,945 in 2030³. This proportion of our population is therefore expected to increase from 14.7% in 2015 to 20.3% by 2030. In addition the number of residents aged 0-15 is expected to decrease during the plan period with this portion of our population expected to decrease from 22.37% in 2015 to 20.94% in 2030. These demographic changes are likely to have implications for housing needs, education provision and access to healthcare and community services in the district.

The 2011 Census identified that 65% of the district's population reside in the 88 designated settlements with 16% living in Newry City, 24% living in the 7 towns, 20% within the 28 villages and 5% within the 52 small settlements. The remaining 35% of the population were living outside the settlements in the open countryside. At the time of the 2011 Census 10.72% of households were comprised of a single person aged 65 and over⁴ and 17.55% of households did not have access to a car or van⁵. This has implications for housing, infrastructure and access to key services.

Figure 5.2.1: Population 2011-2016 from Mid-2016 population estimates by District Council



Source: NISRA Population Totals (administrative geographies)

The rate of population growth for the period 2001-2016 been much higher than that for NI as a whole, with an estimated increase of 15.7% compared with 10.3% for NI and is the third highest rate of growth after Mid Ulster (22.1%) and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon (19.5%). This growth is shown in Figure 5.2.1.

Between mid-2016 and mid-2026, the population of Newry, Mourne and Down is projected to increase by 11, 999 people (6.2%), increasing its share of NI from 9.5% to 9.7%. During this time, the proportion of over 65's is set to increase by 3.6% to 19.2% of the population, and, by 2031/32, 10 % of the population will be over 75.

Figure 5.2.2 shows how the age structure has changed between 2001 and 2011 with an increase of those in the 16-39 and 40-64 age bands. It also shows that in both census years there was a comparatively young profile for the district. Figure 5.2.3 shows predictions for the population growth in the district through to 2041.

¹ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Population Projections 2014-based

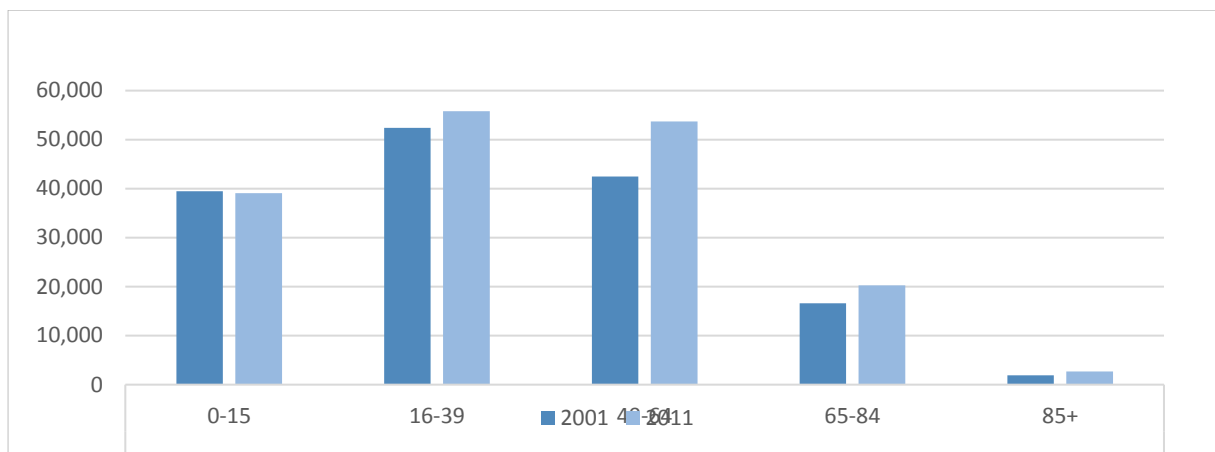
² NISRA Population Projections 2014-based

³ NISRA Population Projections 2014-based

⁴ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) NMD Area Profile 2017

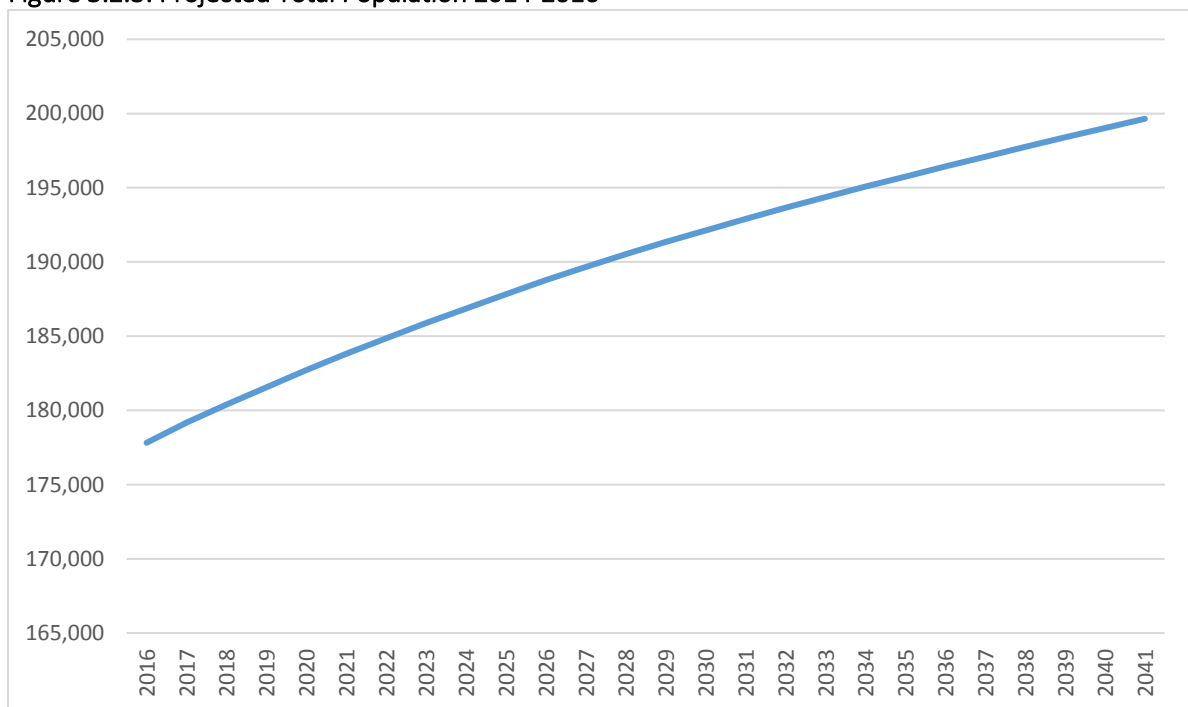
⁵ NISRA Car or Van Availability: KS405NI (administrative geographies).

Figure 5.2.2: Age structure of the usually resident population, 2001 and 2011



Source: NINIS Area Profile Report (November 2017)

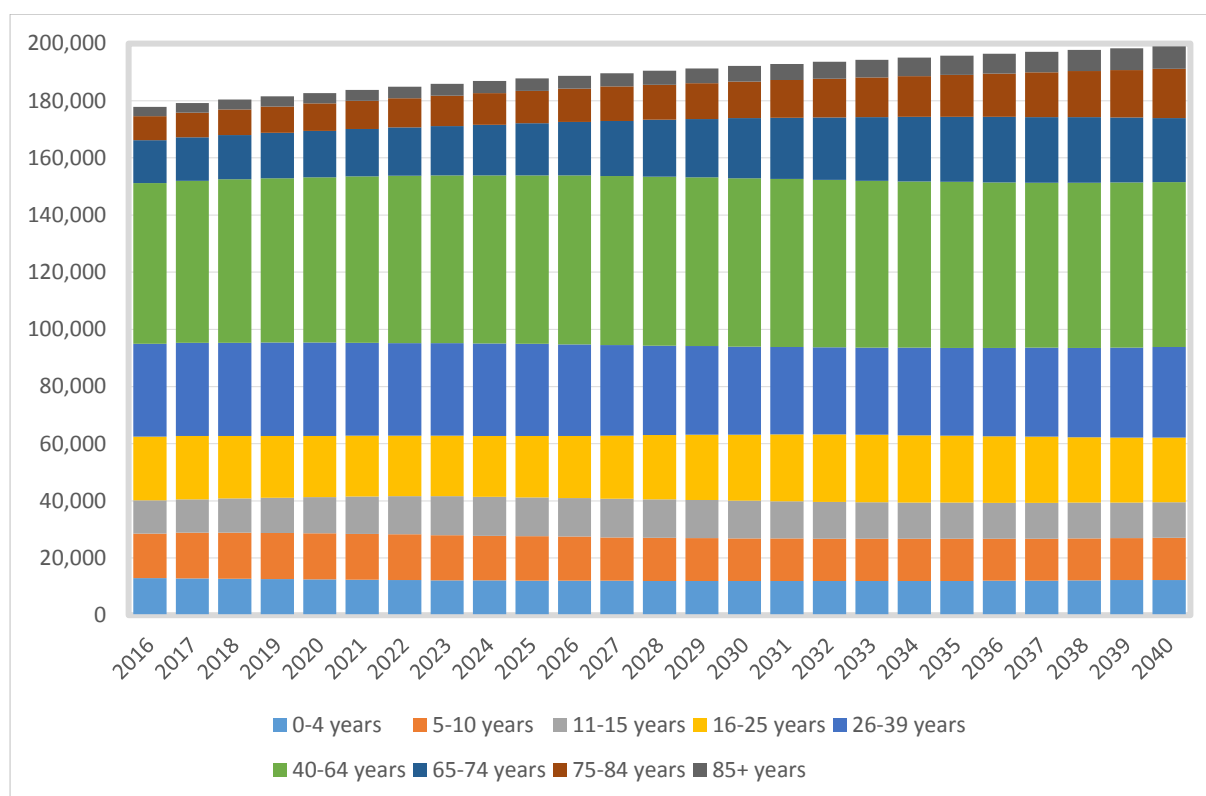
Figure 5.2.3: Projected Total Population 2014-2016



Source: NINIS: Population Projections (administrative geographies) LGD 2014: 2016-41

Figure 5.2.4 shows the same prediction but includes the age band, showing growth in the 65 plus age groups. It shows a rising proportion of those in the 75-84 and 85+ age groups over this period.

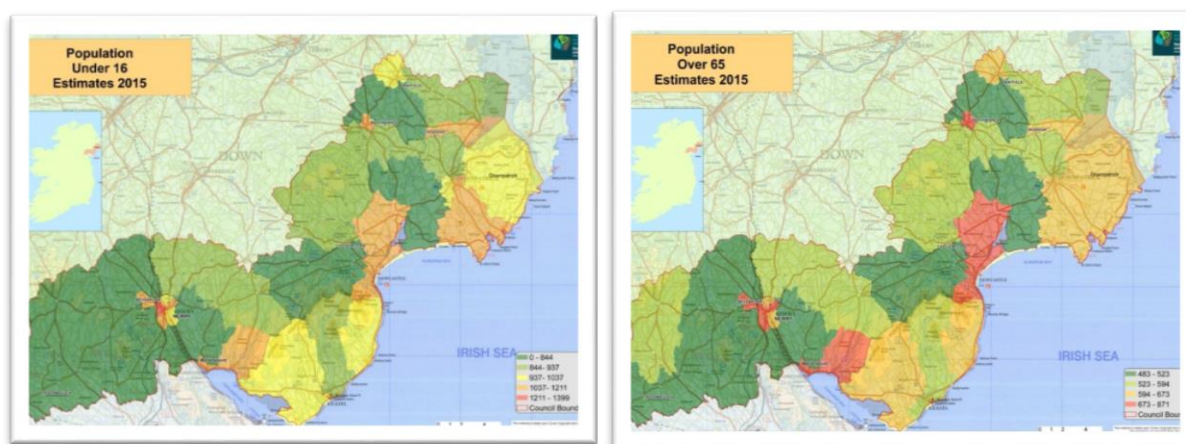
Figure 5.2.4 Age structure according to 5 year bands across projected period 2016-2040.



Source: NINIS: Population Projections: Making Life Better age groups based on 2016 projections

Figure 5.2.3 considers the distribution of the under 16 and over 65 age groups. The population under 16 is greatest in the areas with larger towns and lower in Lecale, Mourne and Gullion. By comparison the population of over 65s, while higher in the towns, is also higher in Mourne and Lecale.

Figure 5.2.5: Spatial Representations of the population under 16 and over 65 from the 2015 Estimates of the 2011 Census.



Source: 2011 Census

Religious belief

LDP Preparatory Study Paper 1 (as revised) describes the district profile in relation to religion. The overall Newry, Mourne and Down population has a strong majority Catholic background in comparison to NI. The majority of SOAs are fairly evenly mixed though quite a few can be identified as being either predominantly (more than 70%) Catholic or Protestant/Other Christian. The designation

of settlements and provision of development opportunities needs to be carefully considered against the needs and spatial distribution of people of different religion or political opinion to prevent prejudice of any religious or political group and thus meet the requirements of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act. Therefore the Plan should where possible, aim to provide land for services, housing and employment accessible to all.

Political opinion

LDP Preparatory Study Paper 1 (as revised) describes the district profile in relation to political opinion based on voting pattern. There a number of caveats and there is variation across the district however first preference votes for Nationalist parties were about two thirds of all votes in 2011 and 2014, for Unionist parties a quarter and other parties/independents under 10% ¹.

Country of Birth and Ethnic Group

LDP Preparatory Study Paper 1 (as revised) describes the district profile in relation to race and ethnicity. In 2001, 9% of Northern Ireland's population were born outside the region. The percentage born outside NI was similar for Down (8.68%) with Newry & Mourne higher at 10%. By 2011, this proportion had increased to 11.16% for N. Ireland compared to 11.94% of the Newry, Mourne and Down population.

The majority of non-indigenous people were born either in the Republic of Ireland, the UK or in Europe. The remainder comprises people born in countries outside Europe. Newry, Mourne and Down, as a district that borders the Republic of Ireland, has a notable percentage of people who were born in the Republic of Ireland (3.19% in NMD compared to 2.09% in Northern Ireland).

Racial ethnicity remains predominantly 'white' with almost 99% of the district described in this category on census day in 2011. Other ethnic groups including Chinese, Indian and Mixed comprise very small numbers. Newry, Mourne and Down has significantly more people within the Irish Traveller ethnic group than the NI average at 0.11% (NI 0.07%).

The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey found that in NI, although attitudes towards the different ethnic groups were generally positive, negative attitudes existed towards Travellers (30%) and Eastern European migrant workers (21%).

Age

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Newry and Mourne Local Government District:

- 23.64% were aged under 16 years and 12.32% were aged 65 and over;
- 34 years was the average (median) age of the population.

In 2015 there were 25,861 people aged 65 or over in Newry, Mourne and Down.

The number of children in Northern Ireland is projected to grow by 18,537 (4.9%), from 382,141 children in 2012 to 400,678 children in 2022, with Newry, Mourne and Down's child population projected to grow by 6.6%, above the Northern Ireland average and the fourth highest growth rate across all 11 council areas.

The changing age structure of the population is illustrated in Figure 5.2.4. Different age groups have particular needs, for example safe access to age appropriate play and recreational facilities for children and young people and greater need for accessibility to health facilities for older people. However many of the needs overlap for example for access to public transportation, open space, leisure and cultural facilities. A 2016 AgeNI Survey for NI found that the main concerns for older people are

- Access to Health and Social Care 69.3%

¹ [http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/ldp_paper_1b_\(1st_revision\)-_pop_and_growth-data_update.docx](http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/ldp_paper_1b_(1st_revision)-_pop_and_growth-data_update.docx) page 22

- Transport 50.6%
- Keeping Warm in winter/Energy prices 49.3%
- Fear of Crime 48.2%

Marital status

Between 2001 and 2011¹, there has been an increase in the proportion of single people in N. Ireland. In the Newry & Mourne and Down Council areas, the trend is similar, albeit with a slightly higher proportion of married people and lower proportion of divorced people. Increases in 'single' may be deceptive – increasing numbers of couples may choose not to marry, e.g. the Registrar General's report of 2017 notes that 43 per cent of births in 2016 occurred outside of marriage, compared to only 13 per cent three decades ago.

Single people may have different housing requirements and may have less purchasing power or different social needs to those who are married. Young single people may be a key consideration in the economy of town centres, as they can provide a significant part of the market for the evening economy, for example in pubs, clubs and restaurants. However, single people may also experience social exclusion, particularly the elderly, disabled and single parents.

Sexual orientation

Data on sexual orientation is not available at local government level and there are no direct measures. Therefore, while it can be assumed that the population includes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, there is no indicator of the proportion of the population represented by these groups. The 2011 Equality Awareness Survey did illustrate negative attitudes towards transgender persons (22%) and although negative attitudes towards lesbian, gay or bisexual persons decreased from 21% in 2008 to 15% in 2011, the change was to neutral rather than positive views.

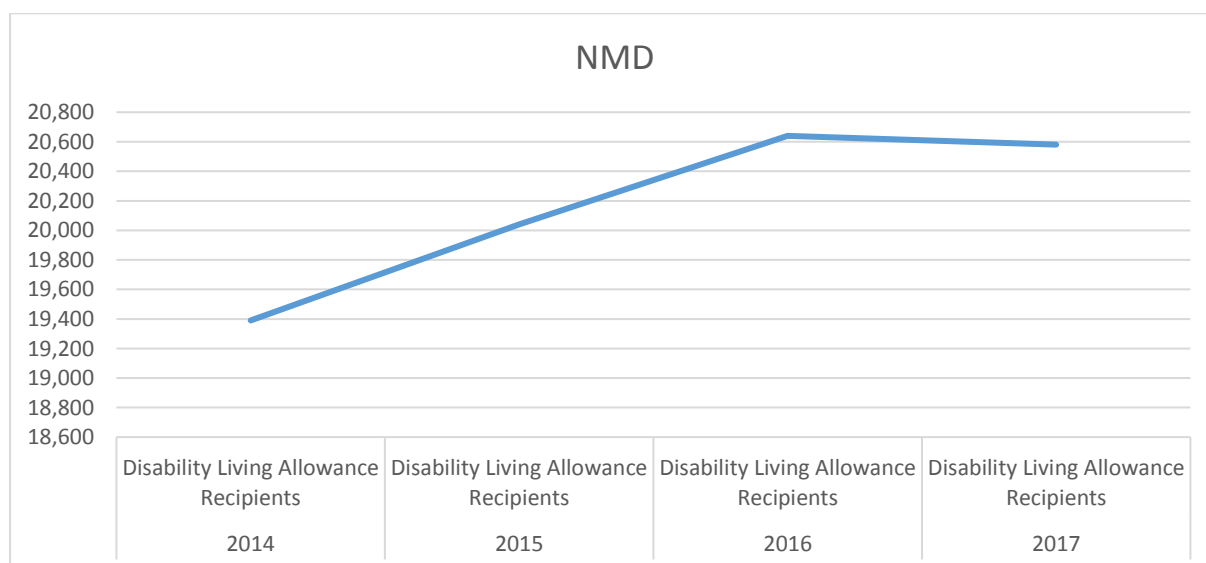
Gender

On Census Day 27th March 2011, 49.6% of the usually resident population were male and 50.4% were female.

Persons with a disability and persons without

Figure 5.2.6 shows the rise in recipients of disability living allowance in the district between 2014 and 2016 with a very slight fall in 2017.

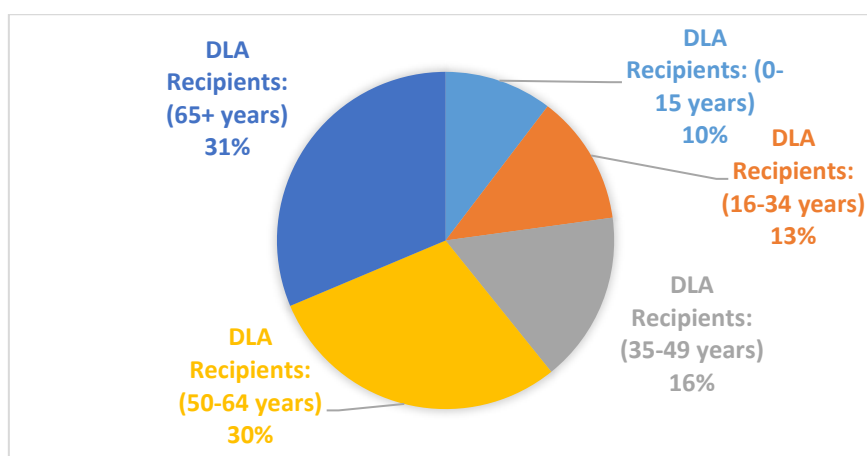
Figure 5.2.6 Disability Allowance Recipients Newry Mourne and Down 2014-2017



Source: NINIS: Disability Allowance Recipients (administrative geographies)

¹ [http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/ldp_paper_1b_\(1st_revision\)-_pop_and_growth-data_update.docx](http://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/ldp_paper_1b_(1st_revision)-_pop_and_growth-data_update.docx) page 14

Figure 5.2.7 Disability Allowance Recipients Newry Mourne and Down 2014-2017



Source: NINIS: Disability Allowance Recipients (administrative geographies)

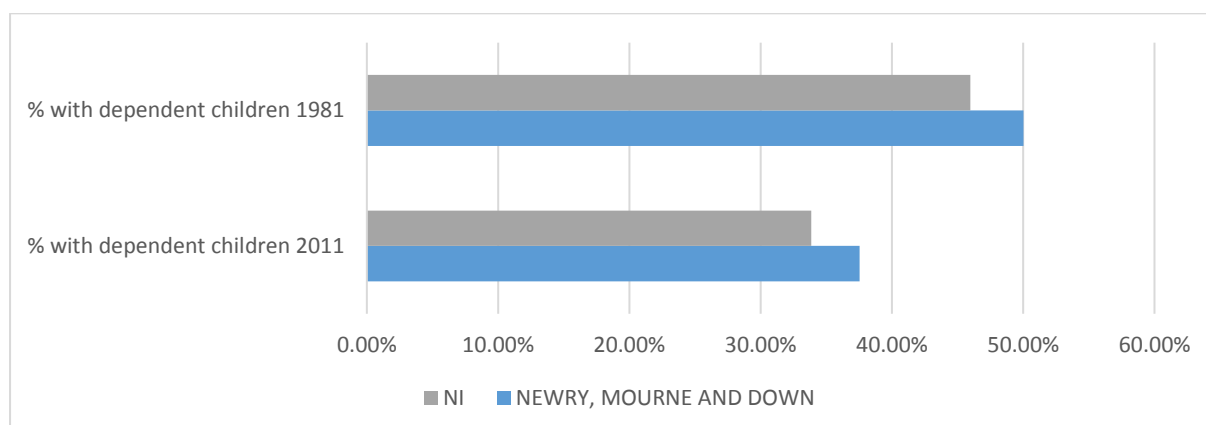
In 2012/13, 7% of children in Northern Ireland were disabled compared to 17% of adults of working age and 46% of adults over state pension age¹. The number of Disability Living Allowance claimants increased in our area from 19,390 in 2014 to 20,580 in 2017 mirroring the NI trend and representing 9.9% of all claimants in NI in 2017. Disability is further discussed in the Health and Well-being topic.

People with dependents and people without

A 'dependent child' is defined as 0-15 or aged 16-18 who is a full-time student and living in a family with his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s) (Census 2011). Overall, the proportion of households (including lone parent households) with dependent children has declined since 1981, although the percentage in Newry, Mourne & Down remains considerably higher than the NI average. Other than Clonallan 2 (Warrenpoint) and Cathedral 1 (Downpatrick), the areas with higher proportions of dependent children are within the rural area, such as Burren and Kilbroney 2 & Mayobridge 2 (Newry & Mourne), Castlewellan 2 & Killough 2 (Down).

The fall in the percentage of households with dependent children is another reason why the average household size has declined. However, a significant proportion of Newry, Mourne & Down SOAs have a large household size which remains well above the Northern Ireland average.

Figure 5.2.8: Households with Dependent Children: Census 1981- 2011



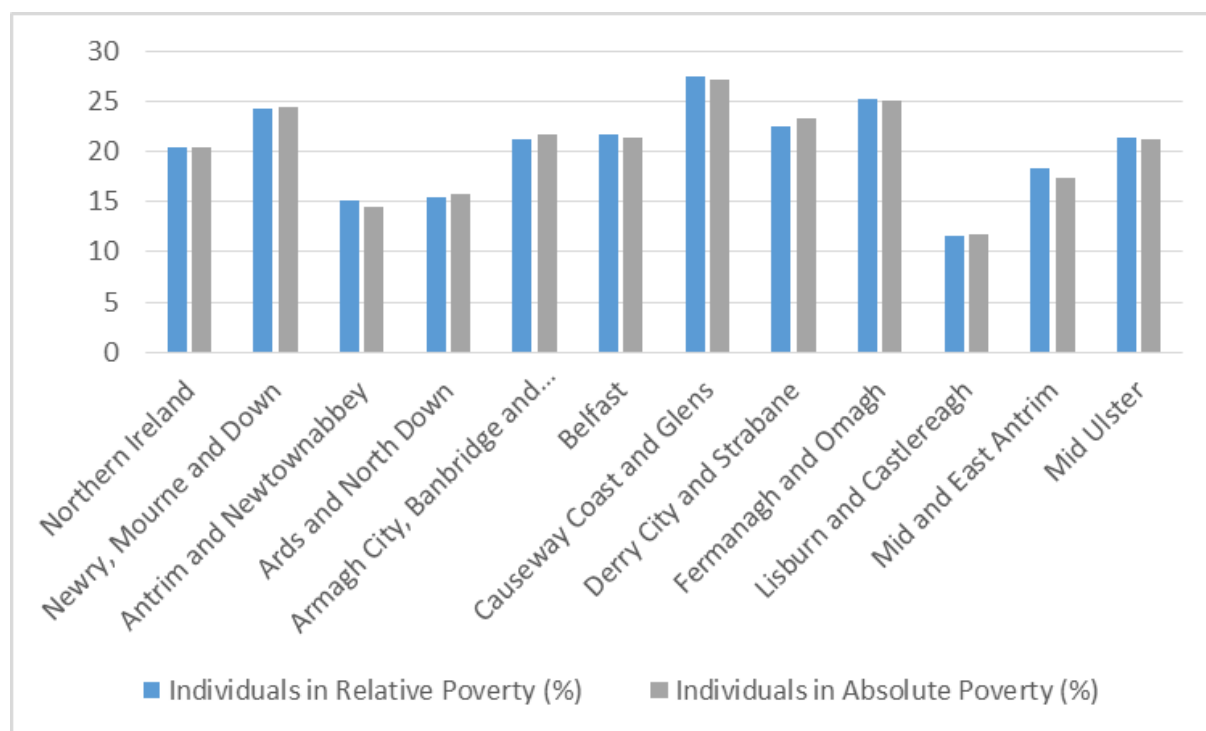
Source: Table KS105NI Northern Ireland Census 2011 Key Statistics Summary Report Published Sept 2014

¹ DSD Family Resources Survey, September 2014

Deprivation

The proportion for Newry, Mourne and Down for both relative (24.29%) and absolute poverty (24.45%) was higher than the average for Northern Ireland (20.4% for both measures of poverty) in 2014/15. These were the 3rd highest poverty rates of the eleven local authorities and above the average for Northern Ireland.

Figure 5.2.9 Absolute and Relative Poverty, 2012-2014



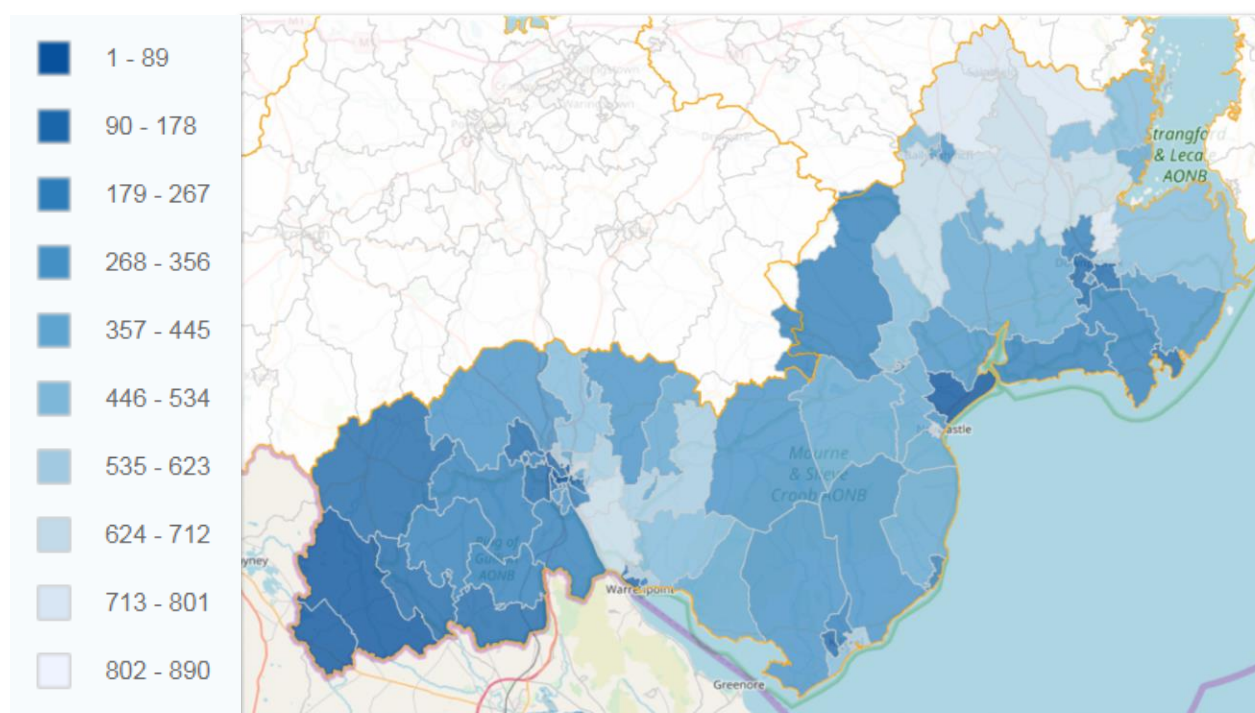
Source: Poverty Grouped Years (administrative geographies) - NINIS (2012/13 - 2014/15)

Another measure is found in the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. Summary Measures have been produced for the new LGDs. Local Government Districts (2014) are ordered from most deprived to least deprived on each indicator of deprivation and then assigned a rank. The most deprived Local Government District (2014) is ranked 1 and the least deprived Local Government District (2014) has a rank of 11.

The NIMDM 2017 shows that of the 84 SOAs making up the Council area, there are 18 that have a multiple deprivation measures (MDM) rank within the 20% most deprived SOAs in NI. 27 are in the 20% most deprived areas in terms of income and 15 in terms of Crime and Disorder.

The Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) combines the seven deprivation domains to rank areas based on multiple types of deprivation. These are presented spatially in Figure 5.2.10 and the darker blue represents the SOA's with the greatest levels of multiple deprivation. It highlights high rankings for multiple deprivation are evident in Newry and Downpatrick and in the smaller settlements such as Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Some rural areas also ranked highly for this measure particularly in the west of the district.

Figure 5.2.10: Multiple Deprivation 2017 in Newry, Mourne and Down



Source: NIMDM 2017 – interactive maps

Rural

The NISRA Urban-Rural Classification 2015¹ identified 14.1% of the district as urban, 13.5% as being mixed rural/urban and 72.4% as being rural. Across NI more people (68.7%) are urban dwellers and 31.3% are rural dwellers.

There has been population growth between 2001-2011 at the village level of the district from 17.60% to 20.16% as a proportion of the district population and also a decline of the district's two main settlements (Newry & Downpatrick) as a proportion of the district's population from 25.02% to 22.02%.

Figure 5.2.11 presents the most deprived rural SOAs within Northern Ireland in 2017. Those in our council district are marked in yellow and this demonstrates a high level of deprivation in rural communities.

¹ NISRA Urban-Rural Classification 2015

Figure 5.2.11: Most deprived rural SOAs within Northern Ireland 2017



Source: NINIS Deprivation Statistics for Super Output Area

Crime

The Newry, Mourne and Down Policing District covers the district. Communities living in Newry City, Mourne & Down District now have four Local Policing Teams (LPTs), based in Newry, Newtownhamilton, Downpatrick and Crossmaglen Police Stations, providing 24 hour cover to continue keeping local people safe right across the district. These officers are supported by three Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), based in Ardmore, Kilkeel and Newcastle Police Stations, which are mobile and can be deployed to areas to deal with critical issues.

For the Community Plan Outcome 5, Indicator 4 reports on the level of personal safety and crime breaking the data down to the level of wards. Newry, Mourne & Down showed peaks in crime levels around 2001/02 and 2002/03 and most recently showed a fall in crime between 2015/16 and 2016/17. Anti-social behaviour is the predominant recorded crime recorded.

Shared Space and Community Facilities

There are 12 leisure /community centres within the district:

- Newry Sports Centre
- Newry Leisure Centre
- Kilkeel Leisure Centre
- St. Colman's Sports Complex, Newry
- Ballynahinch Centre
- Ballymore Sports & Wellbeing Centre
- Downpatrick
- Bridge Centre, Killyleagh
- Castlewellan Centre
- Dan Rice Memorial Hall, Drumaness
- Down Leisure Centre, Downpatrick
- Market House, Ballynahinch
- Newcastle Centre

Other community centres are community owned and are located in the local towns, villages and throughout the rural area, many of which are also subsidised by the Council. Significant community activity also takes place in Orange Halls, GAA Clubs and church halls.

5.2.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

The existing development plans were not prepared in the context of the new council area and do not reflect our more up to date understanding of economic growth and social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development

will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies.

5.2.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Community

- Some areas, particularly villages, have seen substantial growth in recent years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population.
- Levels of deprivation vary widely throughout the council area and there is a marked division between lower income areas to the west and more prosperous areas to the east.
- Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas, however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services.
- Some parts of the district have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion.
- Low income levels is notable, particularly to the west of the district.
- There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability.
- The community is not ethnically diverse although it is slightly more so than NI as a whole. A higher proportion of residents at the last census were from the Republic of Ireland and the district has a higher proportion of Irish Travellers than NI.

5.3 Housing

5.3.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

Good quality housing is essential to safety and well-being. Availability of appropriate housing and access to community and social services influence the independence and quality of life of older people. Good quality housing developments promote well-being and health improvement through development design, which encourages walking and cycling, and use of open space for recreation. Fuel poverty can be tackled through housing design that aims for a low-carbon future, which also helps local air quality and our contributions to climate change mitigation.

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

Our Council Strategy 2015-2019, sets out our priorities through five strategic themes that include supporting 'resilient, healthy and engaged communities'. To achieve this the Council will enable access for residents to recreational facilities and the natural environment, and encourage cohesive communities. Integral to these outcomes will be the provision of sustainable housing that can accommodate the needs of current and future Council populations and help to ensure healthy lifestyle choices.

Our Community Plan focuses on five key outcomes or quality of life conditions it wants to achieve for the community of Newry, Mourne and Down. These include the outcome that all people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Integral to these issues will be good quality housing that is sustainably located and at a reasonable price.

5.3.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the Council's LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers on Housing, Population and Growth, and the Countryside Development Pressure Analysis. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being and Community sections of this report.

Housing Growth Indicators

The Regional Development Strategy has produced Housing Growth Indicators (HGI) as a guide to those preparing development plans. The LDP Paper 2 states that the Housing Growth Indicator (HGI) for 2008 to 2025 for the legacy council districts was set at 9,600 dwellings for Down, and 11,200 for Newry & Mourne. This gave a total HGI for the district of 20,800. When these figures are projected on to 2030 (22 years), the figures are 12,424 for Down District and 14,494 for Newry and Mourne. The projected total NMD HGI to 2030 is an estimated 26,918 new dwellings.

Housing Supply and Distribution

The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 promoted Newtownards and Downpatrick as main towns within Northern Ireland and to strengthen their role as the major administrative, trade, employment and residential centres within the plan area.

The Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan (BNMAP) 2015 objectives include promoting Banbridge and Newry as main hubs within Northern Ireland and to promote Warrenpoint as a local hub.

NISRA reported that since 2008 housing stock has increased but the Council area has had one of the lowest increases at 5.1%. In 2016 there were 62,940 dwellings and of these the majority were detached (28,483), semi-detached (15,608), terrace (13,491) and apartments (5,358)¹.

The LDP Housing paper states that in terms of housing provision, the dominance and strategic importance of the main settlements of Newry and Downpatrick was recognised. In addition to land zoned for housing, the urban areas defined within the development limits of the main and local towns contained significant areas of unzoned or white land. In both Plans, the housing objectives (see below) were to identify sufficient land for new housing in the main and local towns to provide a choice of housing sites in convenient locations to support a range of dwelling types to meet different housing needs, and to protect the character of existing residential areas. A small amount of land was also zoned in villages and smaller settlements in order to provide options and allow flexibility.

The LDP paper on housing notes that in 2001, only 16% of households in Down District were located in Downpatrick, compared to 35% of households in Newry & Mourne District. The proportion of households in 'other urban settlements' i.e. local towns and villages also differs between the two former districts with these settlements in Newry & Mourne making up almost 32% of households compared to almost 50% in Down. The number of households in the Rural Remainder (small settlements & the countryside) are similar, with 33% in Newry & Mourne and 34% in Down.

Newry City has as a more dominant role within its district compared to Downpatrick and the network of small towns and villages in both Districts play an important role in serving a large scattered rural population.

Pressure analysis

From the 2011 Census the district has a population density of 1.06 number of usual residents /ha and Northern Ireland has a population density of 1.34 number of usual residents/ha².

Based on census in 2011 and 2015 mid-year estimates, approximately 16% of the household population of the district were living within the existing development limit of Newry City. 24% of the district's population resided within the seven existing towns as designated in the two existing Development Plans.

From these figures it is estimated that 20% of the population live within the 28 villages as designated within the existing Local Development Plans (LDPs) while 5% of the population live within the remaining 52 small settlements. This leaves approximately 35% of the population estimated to live within the open countryside.

Since March 2006 there has been a general downwards trend in the volume of applications made for single rural dwellings within the district.

Social Housing and Affordability

Figures from NISRA's Housing Statistics 2015-2016 show that social housing projects were the driver of new dwelling starts with an increase of 58% between 2014-15 and 2015-16. The figures for social

¹ NISRA (2016): Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2015-2016

² Census 2011 Population Density CT0217NA;

housing completions showed a decrease of 27% between 2015 and 2016. The majority of the Social Housing Delivery Programme has consisted of new builds. Figures also showed that the waiting list for social housing in Northern Ireland in 2016-2017 stood at 37,611, with Newry, Mourne and Down having 3,322 or 8.8% of the total. The evidence base for social housing is determined in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's (NIHE) Housing Needs Assessment/Housing Market Analysis (HNA/HMA). NINIS for 2015/16 shows for Newry, Mourne and Down that 563 social housing allocations were made.

According to the Northern Ireland House Price Index the standardised house price for Northern Ireland was £130,026 In Q1 of 2018 for the same period Newry Mourne and Down district had a standardised house price of £137,948.

Annual Build Rates

The LDP Paper on Housing notes that it is estimated that between 1st January 1999 and 31st March 2008, 10,633 dwellings were built in Newry & Mourne District with an estimated 2,605 dwellings built in the open countryside. In Down District, some 8911 dwellings were built with an estimated 1014 dwellings built in the countryside. The period up to the end of March 2008 reflects the period of high building activity and annual build rates before the current economic recession.

Household Type & Forward Planning

Household projections for Northern Ireland show that, leading up to 2037, households are to increase to 812,700. This equates to 4,200 households per annum. The average household size is to reduce from 2.54 persons down to 2.43 persons. The households predicted to increase the most are two people households by 26.6% and one person households by 21.5%. In the long term, the number of households with children is predicted to decrease¹. These trends are shown in figure 5.3.1.

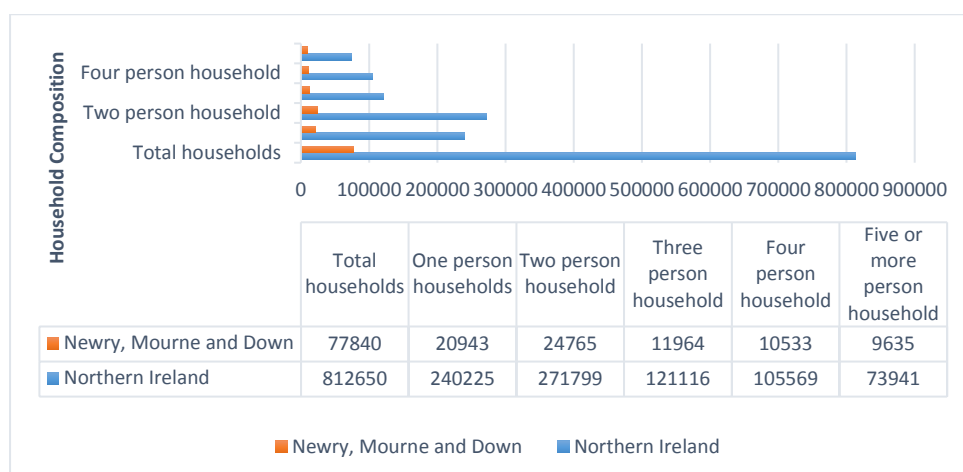
Between 2001 and 2016 the rate of growth in the Council's population has been much higher than for NI as a whole, with an estimated increase of 15.7% compared with 10.3% for NI. The population of Newry, Mourne and Down has the third highest rate of growth after Mid Ulster (22.1%) and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon (19.5%). The predicted rate of population growth from 2014 remains higher than average at 10.1% (NI 7.0%) by 2030 and 13.6% (NI 8.9%).

Household projections for Northern Ireland show that, leading up to 2037, households are to increase to 812,700. This equates to 4,200 households per annum. The average household size is to reduce from 2.54 persons down to 2.43 persons. The households predicted to increase the most are two people households by 26.6% and one person households by 21.5%. In the long term, the number of households with children is predicted to decrease².

¹ NISRA (2016): Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2015-2016

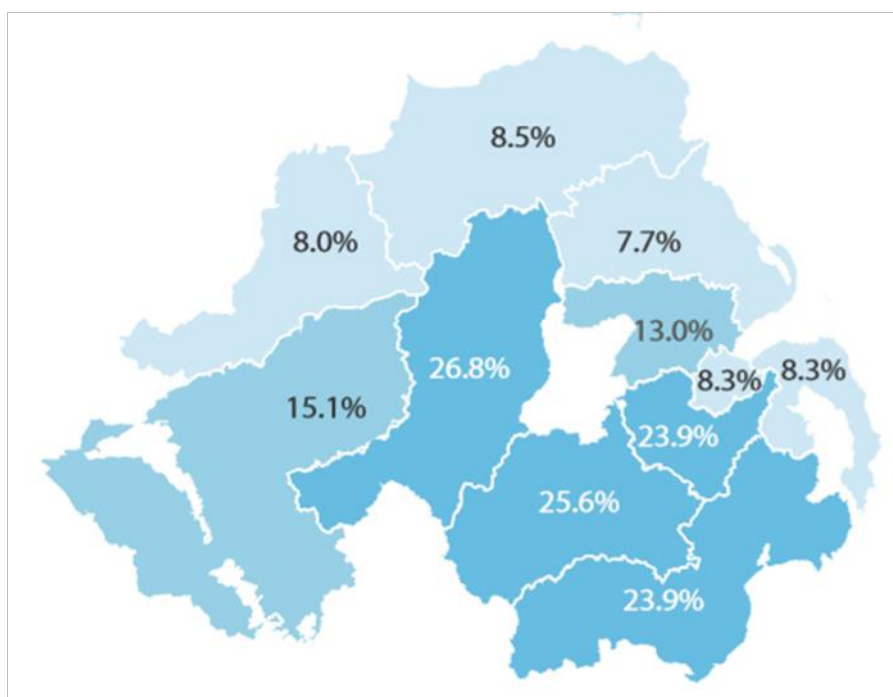
² NISRA (2016): Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2015-2016

Figure 5.3.1: Household projections by composition 2037



Source: NISRA

Figure 5.3.2 Projected household growth in Northern Ireland by Local Government District between 2012 and 2037



Source: NISRA

It is projected that by 2037 households within Newry Mourne and Down will have increased by 23.9% making the district the third highest in Northern Ireland in terms of household growth¹.

Between 2001 and 2016 the rate of growth in the Councils population has been much higher than that for NI as a whole, with an estimated increase of 15.7% compared with 10.3% for NI. The population of Newry, Mourne and Down has the third highest rate of growth after Mid Ulster (22.1%) and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon (19.5%). The predicted rate of population growth from 2014 remains higher than average at 10.1% (NI 7.0%) by 2030 and 13.6% (NI 8.9%).

¹ NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections 2012-2037

Fuel Poverty

A fuel poor household is one needing to spend in excess of 10 % of its household income on all fuel use to achieve a satisfactory standard of warmth. It assesses the ability to meet all domestic energy costs including space and water heating, cooking, lights and appliances.

The NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) 2011 provided a comprehensive picture of the dwelling stock and its condition in 2011 for Northern Ireland and each of the 26 former District Councils. This survey estimated that 42.0% of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty. For households where the Household Reference Person (HRP) was aged 60-74 years, 52.0% of households were in fuel poverty rising to 66.3% where the Household Reference Person was aged 75+ years. The survey classified the legacy councils of Down District and Newry and Mourne as having a fuel poverty level of 42-46%.

There are several schemes available to help households with their fuel requirements. The Affordable Warmth Scheme is for fuel poor households in the private sector and the boiler replacement scheme is for households with old boilers (15 years plus) and that earn below £40 000 per annum.

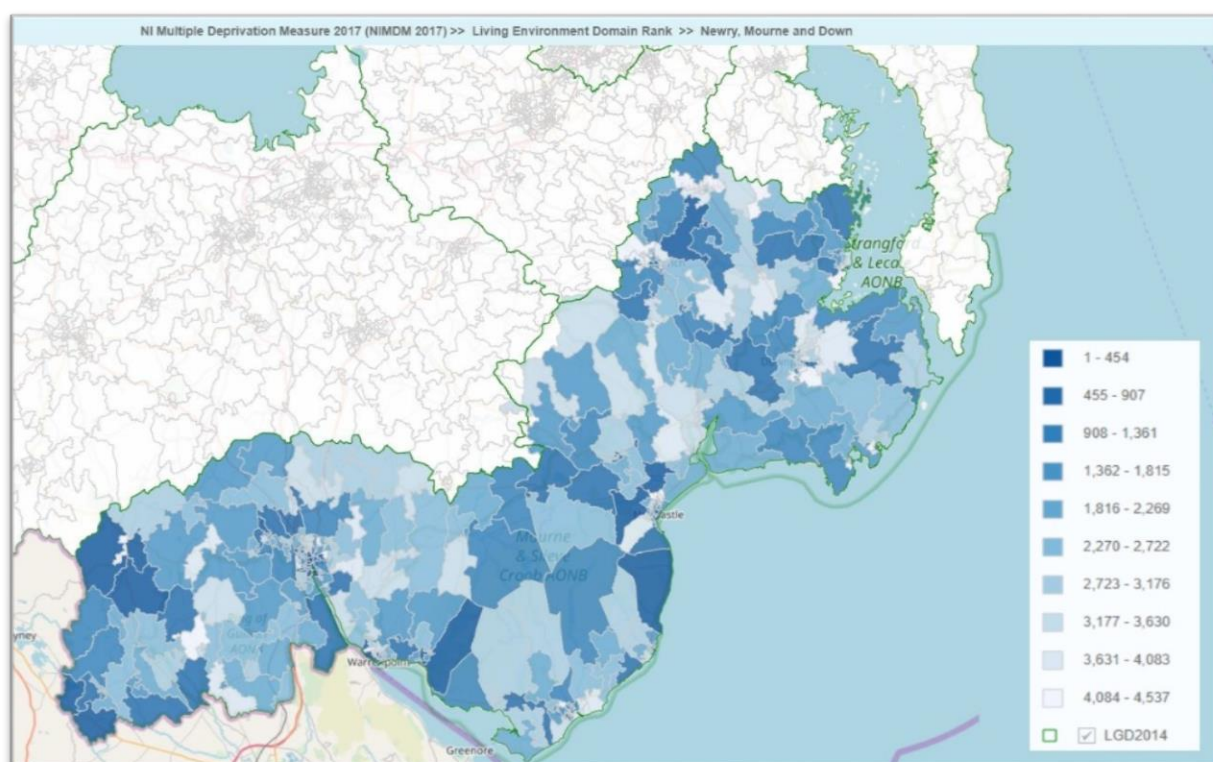
Unfitness and vacancy

The House Condition Survey (HCS) is carried out by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive across all housing tenures and house types. In 2011, across Northern Ireland, 35,240 dwellings were established as unfit (4.6%) and 79.5% of these were vacant. The survey showed an increase in unfitness and an increase in vacancy rates, particularly in rural areas.

In the 2016 NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS), it was reported that, in 2016, 2.1% of housing stock in Northern Ireland was deemed unfit (16 380). It was found that vacancy led to unfitness and was an issue particularly in rural areas. In 2011, of all the unfit dwellings, the majority were uninhabited.

The living environment domain identifies the prevalence of shortcomings in the quality of housing, access to suitable housing and the outdoor physical environment. This is presented in figure 5.3.3. It shows that there are pockets of high deprivation for living environment throughout the district.

Figure 5.3.3: MDM 2017 Map of Living Environment Deprivation (small areas)



Source: NINIS NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017- Living Environment Domain Rank

5.3.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Previous Local Development Plans were not prepared in the context of the new Council area and do not reflect our more up to date understanding of social development in our area. Therefore, in the absence of a new plan, there is a risk that policies and provision for development will not reflect the needs of our Council area or support delivery of our Community Plan. A new plan brings an opportunity to develop a plan led system and to reflect the most recent strategies. In the absence of a new plan, there may be less opportunity to consider current zonings for housing in the context of current conditions and to design housing that accommodates existing and predicted demography.

5.3.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Housing

- Newry City, Downpatrick Town and the NMD local towns have a significant housing shortfall.
- Social housing need remains at a very high level across Newry, Mourne and Down.
- Future housing needs will therefore include a mix of house tenures and types including smaller house types.
- A large portion of the social housing waiting list comprises single and small family households and the predominance of single and smaller households will mean a significant requirement for one and two bedroom dwellings.
- There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability and the elderly. People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives.
- All new housing should aim to provide lifetime homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and help to support healthy lifestyles.
- In 2011, 43-46% of households in Newry, Mourne and Down were in fuel poverty– defined as one that needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth.

- The local housing market is slowly recovering following the economic crash in 2007 and affordability in the council area has much improved. However, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who continue to have difficulties in securing mortgages.
- Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements.
- Rural housing continues to contribute to overall housing supply. The challenge for the Plan is to allocate an appropriate level of housing for the rural area and a planning policy to manage it.

5.4 Education and Skills

5.4.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Education and skills takes account of learning from primary to third level education and vocational training. Good educational and skills outcomes support people to succeed economically, have better life chances and opportunities for better health.

Low educational attainment and low skills levels significantly constrain life chances and increase the risk of poverty and poor health. Significant inequality in educational attainment exists within Northern Ireland. Access to high quality education and skills training can be increased through cooperation between statutory agencies and other institutions. Overarching policies recognise that the education and skills levels of the population must improve in order meet the needs of communities and businesses. This will allow businesses to make use of opportunities for regional and global trade, and help create conditions for increased high quality employment.

Education is one of the most significant investments in developing the individual, society and the economy and the overall vision of the Department of is to see “every young person achieving to his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development”.

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

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

The Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020 identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District area. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.

The Department of Education (DE) has overall responsibility for education policy and the Education Authority (EA) oversees the delivery of education, youth and library services. EA, in partnership with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, Controlled Schools' Support Council, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Governing Bodies Association, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Catholic Schools' Trustee Service and the Further Education sector publishes an annual action plan to identify area planning solutions within each Council.

Within a land use planning context, LDPs should allocate sufficient land to meet the anticipated educational needs of the community, and should recognise town centres as important hubs for a range of uses which include education. Within a rural context, policy requires that people who live in the countryside also have opportunities to access high quality education.

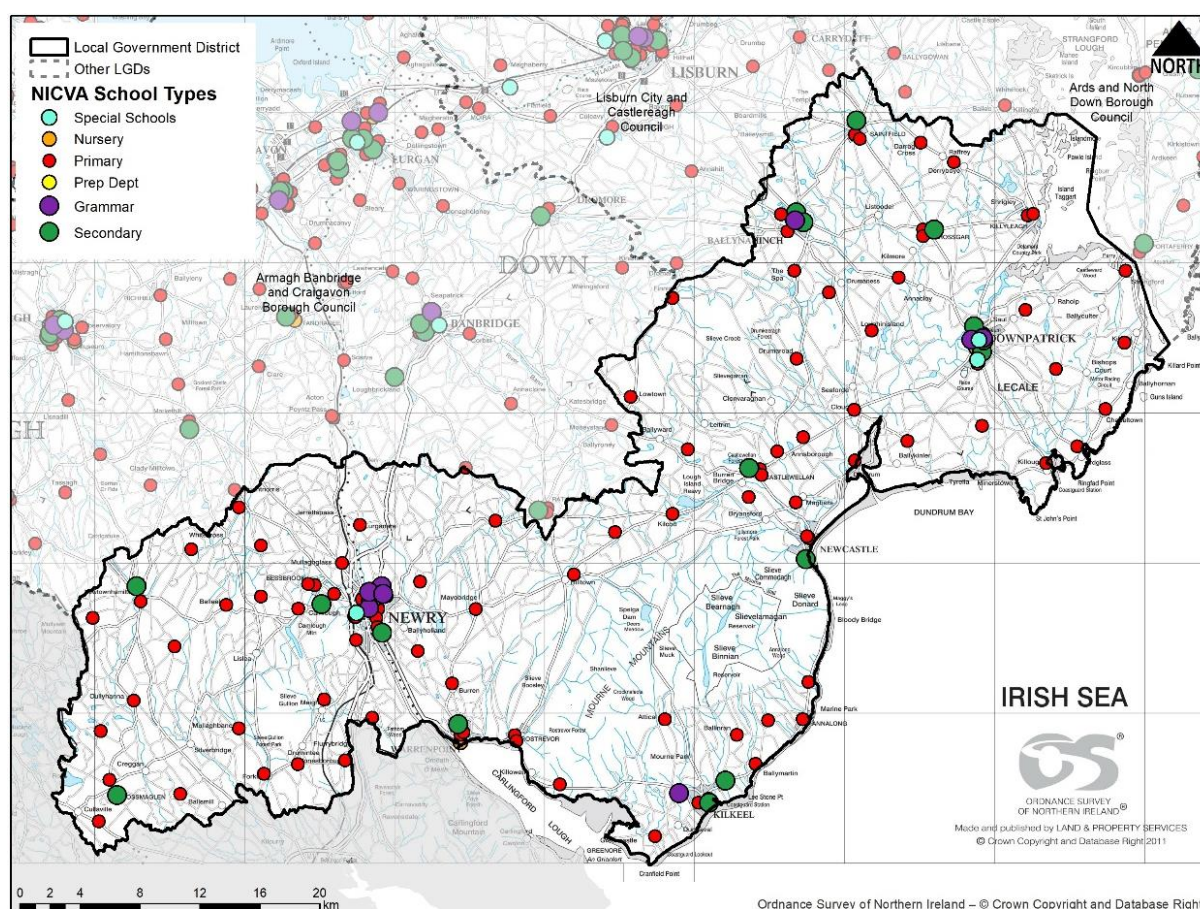
Newry Mourne and Down Community Plan aspires to ensure that everyone in the district ‘gets a good start in life and fulfils their lifelong potential’. The level of educational attainment and skills base within the district will be a measure of how successful the Council is in achieving this aspiration.

5.4.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the paper Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies – Preparatory Studies: Paper 14: Education, Health and Community Facilities.

Figure 5.4.1 presents the spatial distribution of schools in the council district. Primary schools appear to be distributed throughout much of the district, in both urban and more rural locations. The figure also shows a clustering of secondary and grammar schools in Newry and Downpatrick, and a number of secondary schools in some of the smaller local settlements. Special school provision is only in Newry and Downpatrick.

Figure 5.4.1: Spatial distribution of education establishments in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area.



Source: Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, School Locations/Types

Pre-school Education

In 2015/16 the district's 10 nursery schools offered a total of 390 places with 6 of these places being unfilled. For the same period another 832 places were provided through 21 nursery units attached to primary schools with no unfilled places. Additionally, a total of 1088 pupils were enrolled at 52 voluntary/private/preschool education centres.

Primary School Education

There are a total of 102 primary schools in the district, consisting of 10 Controlled, 78 Maintained (including 2 Irish Medium Schools) and 5 Integrated Primary Schools. Some schools have a high proportion of unfilled places, particularly those in Ballynahinch and Kilkeel where 39% of primary school places are unfilled.

Post Primary Education

There are 26 post primary schools in the district. This consists of 6 Controlled schools, 18 Maintained schools and 2 Grant Maintained Integrated schools. Maintained schools account for 69% of the schools in the district with 23% being controlled and 8% being integrated.

In 2015/2016 there were 17,134 approved post primary places within the district, with 2,402 of these places being unfilled. Of the unfilled spaces 26% were within the controlled sector, 63% within the maintained sector and 11% within the integrated sector.

The High School Ballynahinch, St Columban's College, Kilkeel and Blackwater Integrated College, Downpatrick had more unfilled places than enrolment in 2015/2016. Seven of the 26 post primary schools in the district were at full capacity.

There is potential for school closures, amalgamations, increased partnership and a new build within the district in the future. Future provision of post primary education remains under review by the Education Authority.

Further Education

Southern Regional College has six campuses located across Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Newry, Mourne and Down. There are three campuses in the district located at Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Southern Regional College plans to expand its partnerships with schools and has invested in the three campuses in the district with the completion of new buildings in 2011.

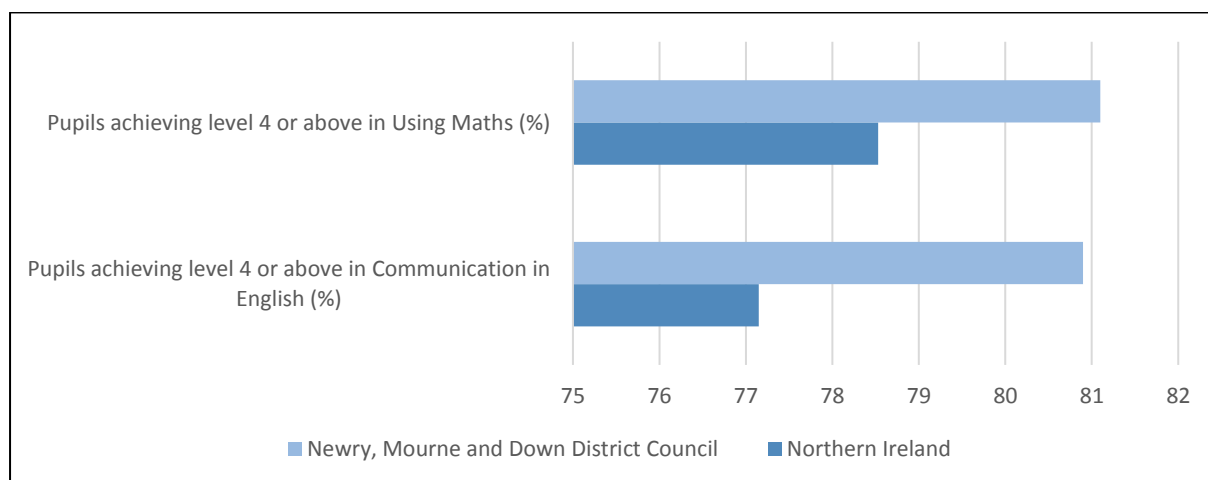
Special Education

There is special school provision within the district at Ardmore House and Knockevin. Ardmore house special school provides education for key stage 3 pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Knockevin has two sites located at Downpatrick and Dundrum and caters for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties.

Educational Attainment

The figure below shows the primary school Key Stage 2 attainment results for 2012. This is the main primary school attainment measure. It shows that Newry Mourne and Down District Council was above the Northern Ireland figure for both Communication in English, and in using Maths.

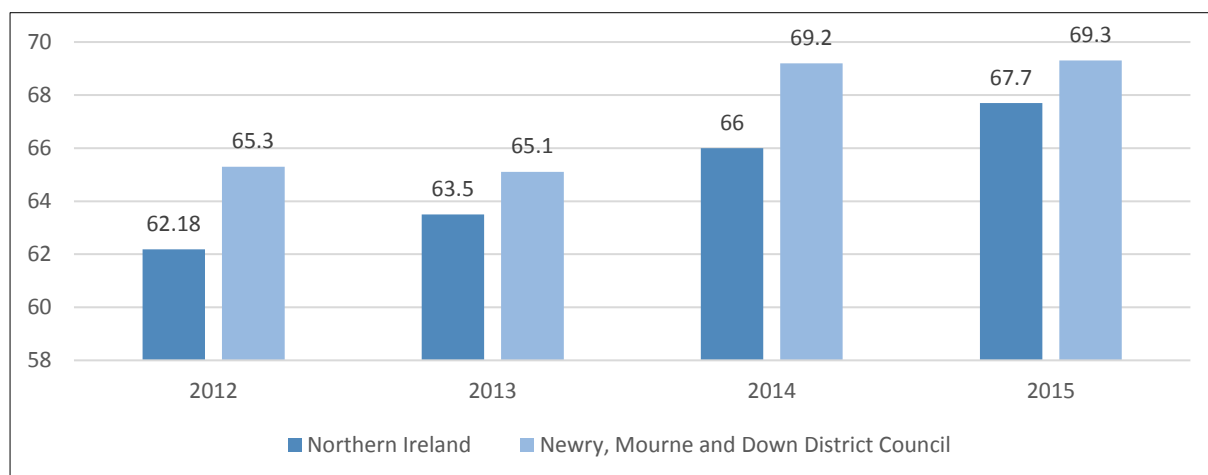
Figure 5.4.2: Percentage of primary school children reaching level 4 in Key Stage 2 Assessment at Primary School in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Northern Ireland in 2012.



Source: NISRA

When we consider post-primary attainment the figure below demonstrates that between 2012 and 2015, schools in the Council area showed an increase in the percentage of students attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A*-C including Maths and English over the period all of which are above the Northern Ireland average.

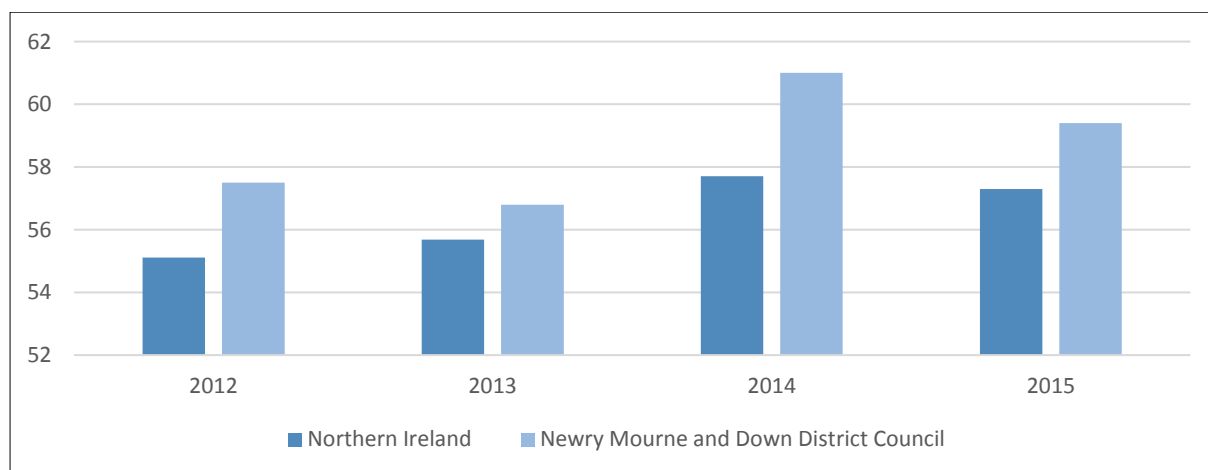
Figure 5.4.3: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 5 GCSEs including Maths and English between 2012 and 2014, in Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Northern Ireland.



Source: NISRA

Attainment at A level is also shown in Figure 5.4.3. A-level attainment between 2012 and 2015 is well above the Northern Ireland average and continued to rise until 2014.

Figure 5.4.4: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved at least 2 A Levels between 2012 and 2014 in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Northern Ireland.

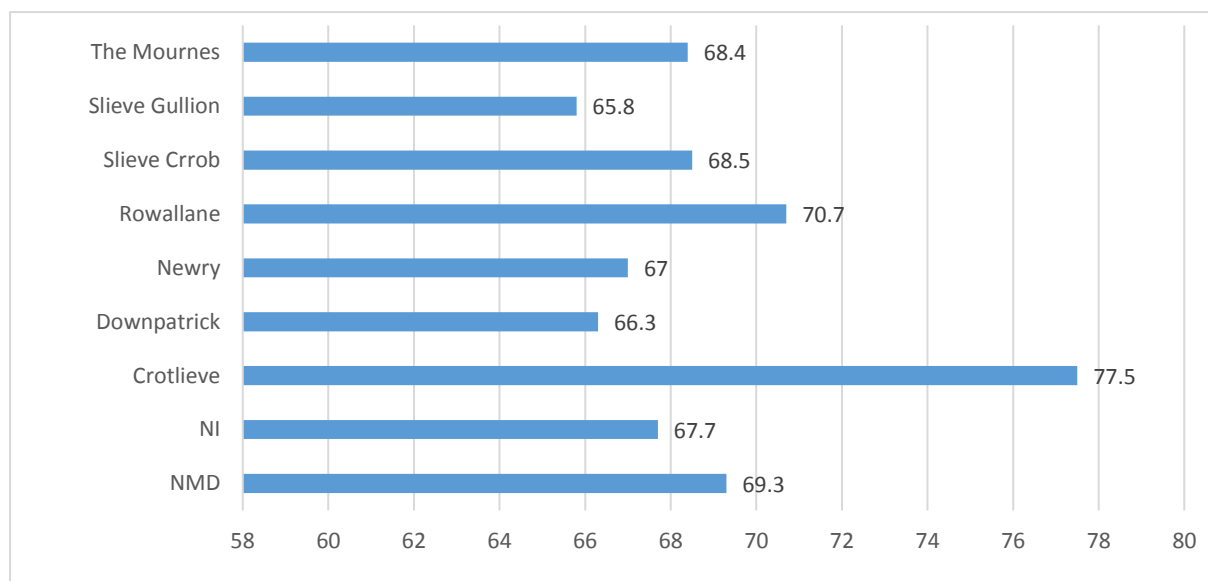


Source: NISRA

Attainment variation

Our Council area has overall demonstrated a good level of achievement in post-primary qualifications. However if we consider the data for GCSE attainment, by individual DEA as presented in table we see variation across the district. For 2015/2016 although 69.3 % of school leavers achieved % or more GCSEs at grade A*-C (including for English and Maths), the DEA's of Downpatrick, Newry, Slieve Croob, Slieve Gullion and The Mournes all achived a result below this level. Crotlieve achieved a rate higher than the Northern Ireland average by almost 10%.

Figure 5.4.5: Percentage of school-leavers who achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths % in 2015/2016 for DEAs in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

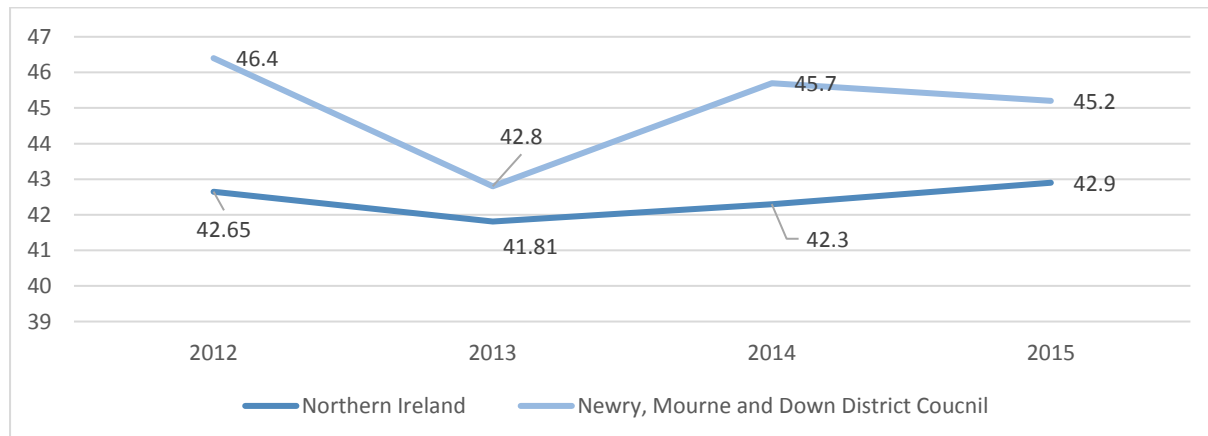


Source: NINIS Interactive Maps School-leaver's 2015/16

Higher Education Enrolments

Figure 5.4.5 shows an overall decrease in higher education enrolments between 2012 and 2015, and a sharp decrease in 2013, however this level has recovered to some extent.

Figure 5.4.5: Percentage of school-leavers who entered higher education after post-primary school in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Northern Ireland.

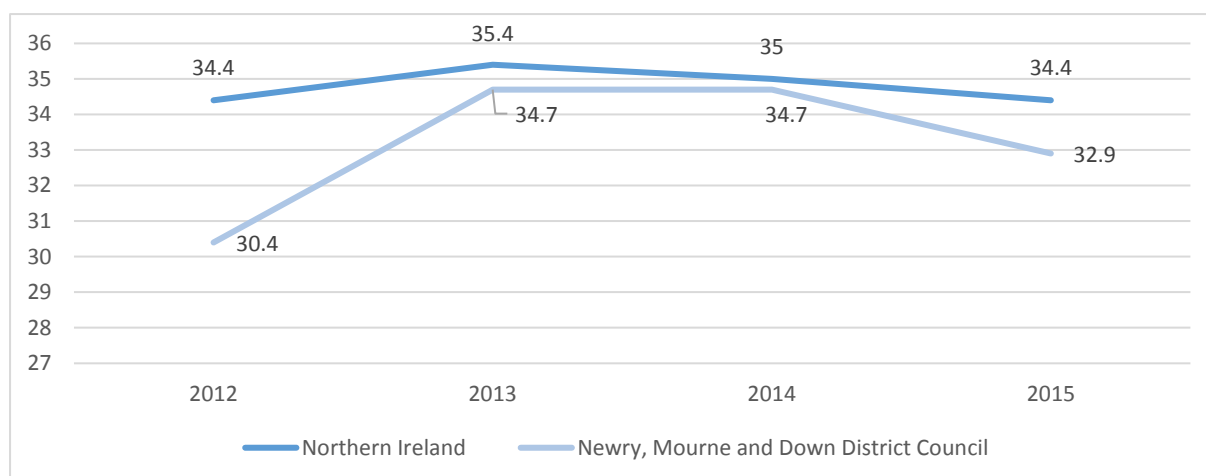


Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Further Education Enrolments

Figure 5.4.6 shows that Further Education enrolments rose between 2012 and 2014, but fell slightly in 2015. It followed a similar trend to the percentage for Northern Ireland, although at a lower level.

Figure 5.4.6: Percentage of school-leavers who entered further education after post-primary school in Newry and Mourne District Council and Northern Ireland.

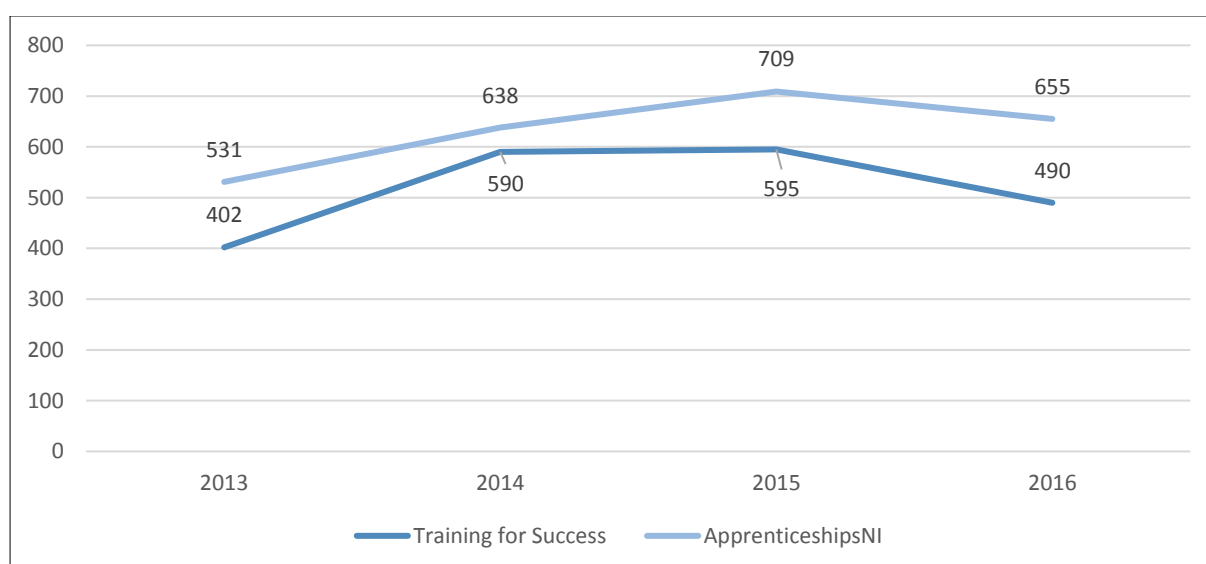


Source: Department of Education Northern Ireland

Skills Enrolments

Training for Success is a skills programme which focuses on the extra learning which participants may need to gain the skills and the confidence to find employment. It is designed for young people aged 16 - 17, with extended age eligibility for young people with a disability up to age 22 and up to age 24 for those from an in-care background. The apprenticeships NI figure is compiled within the Labour Market Statistics. In Northern Ireland the program offers training across a wide range of apprenticeships to people aged 16 and over. Apprentices are placed in a Northern Ireland-based company and also receive 'off-the-job' training, usually on a day-release basis with a training provider, to work towards achieving vocational qualifications and Essential Skills qualifications. Figure 5.4.7 below shows that there is a good and relatively consistent level of take up of Training for Success and Apprenticeships within the Borough.

Figure 5.4.7: Participants in Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI in Newry Mourne and Down between 2013 and 2016.



Source: NINIS Participants on Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI and Labour Market Statistics

5.4.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a plan there is risk that existing policies are not responsive to changes within the education sector. There is potential surplus land / sites within the district due to closures and

amalgamations over the plan period. Lack of a plan could mean there is less potential to consider /future use of sites and similarly there is no opportunity to plan for new builds. Lack of planning may affect the Community Plan's potential to deliver desired outcomes in relation to education.

5.4.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Education and Skills

- In some parts of our council area, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.
- Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
- There is a level of further education enrolment that is below the average level for Northern Ireland.
- This is a level of higher education enrolment that is above the average level for Northern Ireland.
- Consistent level of take up within the council area for Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI programmes.

5.5 Economy and Employment

5.5.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

Within current planning policy, it is recognised that planning authorities should take a positive approach to sustainable economic development and enable job creation, giving priority to large scale proposals with job creation potential, through zoning land and promoting developments in settlement hubs. Policy also refers to the importance of creating the right conditions for investment through supporting urban and rural renaissance, ensuring that settlements remain vital. In terms of regional policy there is a recognition that accessible land should be made available to promote job creation and to promote sustainable economic growth at key locations. The Tourism Strategy for Newry, Mourne and Down, 2017-2021, sets out the Council’s objectives for developing and managing tourism in the district.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Corporate Plan 2015-2019 states that ‘we want to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time and helping them to lead fulfilling lifestyles’. The council’s vision includes the objective that ‘our District is, or grows to be a place’ ‘...that is attractive to visit and do business’ and is ‘...where people and communities can unlock their enterprising spirit as well as play their part in contributing to its social and economic development’. In order to achieve this, the Corporate Plan recognises that investment of money, people and time will be necessary and the Council expects to deliver the following:

- An increase in the number of visitors to the district with a corresponding increase in visitor spend;
- Support for local business to create new employment opportunities; and
- The regeneration of our towns and villages including investment in rural development.

The 2030 Community Plan ‘Living Well Together’ notes that the district has been showing signs of economic recovery after a particularly turbulent period during one of the worst recessions on record in NI. It also recognises that ‘the district is an area rich with tourism assets, natural beauty, cultural heritage and opportunities for outdoor recreation that when properly utilised, will contribute to substantial economic growth in our District.’

5.5.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers, including ‘Employment and Economic Development’ (Paper 3), ‘Town Centres and Opportunity Sites’ (Paper 4), ‘Tourism’ (Paper 7) and ‘The Coast’ (Paper 8). Data has also been sourced from Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) and the Department for Economy. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Natural Resources, Physical Resources and Historic Environment topics.

Overview

As the third largest Council area within NI, Newry, Mourne and Down comprises approximately 11% of NI's total land area. It has more than 100 miles of coastline and provides services to over 178,000 residents, (10% of the Northern Ireland population). In addition to Newry City, the principal towns within the district are Ballynahinch, Crossmaglen, Downpatrick, Kilkeel, Newcastle and Warrenpoint.

Visitor gateways and hubs are associated with Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry, Warrenpoint/Rostrevor, and the Crossmaglen area. The district lies in close proximity to the island of Ireland's two major urban centres – Belfast and Dublin – and is well served by the arterial A1/M1 corridor. The area is highly attractive to the domestic market and is one of the country's top holiday destinations for N.I. residents.

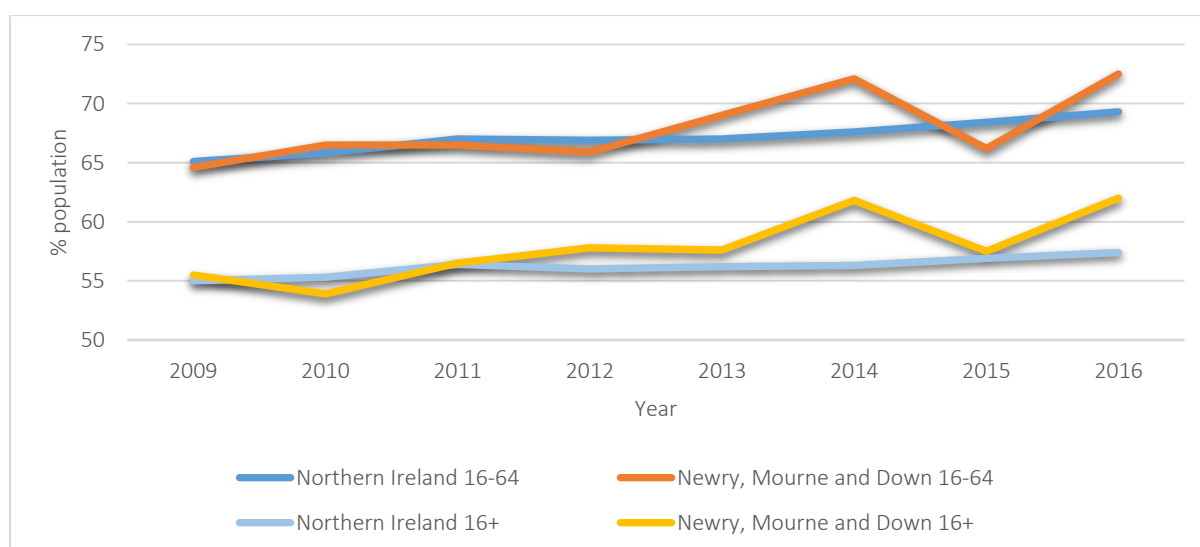
Economic Activity and Employment

The economic activity rate includes those in employment and those seeking work. In 2015, 70.4% of 16-64 year olds in Newry, Mourne and Down were economically active (NI 72.9%). This figure represents a slight decrease from 2013 and 2014, for which the economic activity rates were 74.5% and 75.1% respectively (NI 72.5% and 72.4%)¹. The LDP Preparatory Paper 'Employment and Economic Development' states that the level of economic activity in Newry Mourne and Down recorded by the Census has increased over the 30 year period between 1981 and 2011. Current non-census figures suggest that this trend appears to be continuing.

Just under 30% of the district's population aged 16-64 were economically inactive in 2015 (i.e. not looking for work or not available for work; this will include all those who are looking after a home, long term sick or disabled, students and retired). At the time of writing, the economic inactivity rate for all of NI was 27.9%² and is persistently higher than the UK average, which is 21.2%³.

Employment rates are published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) for all persons aged 16 and over and for persons of working age (16-64). From 2009 to 2012 the age 16+ and 16-64 employment rates (Figure 5.5.1) for Newry, Mourne and Down have both been generally comparable with the NI average, but since 2012 the employment rates for the district have been above the NI average.

Figure 5.5.1: Employment Rate 2009-2016 for Persons Aged 16+ and 16-64 compared with NI



Source: NISRA, Economic Activity and Qualifications (administrative geographies) 2016

¹ NINIS Economic Activity and Qualifications Working Age Activity Rate by Local Government District

² NISRA Labour Force Survey – published 17th April 2018

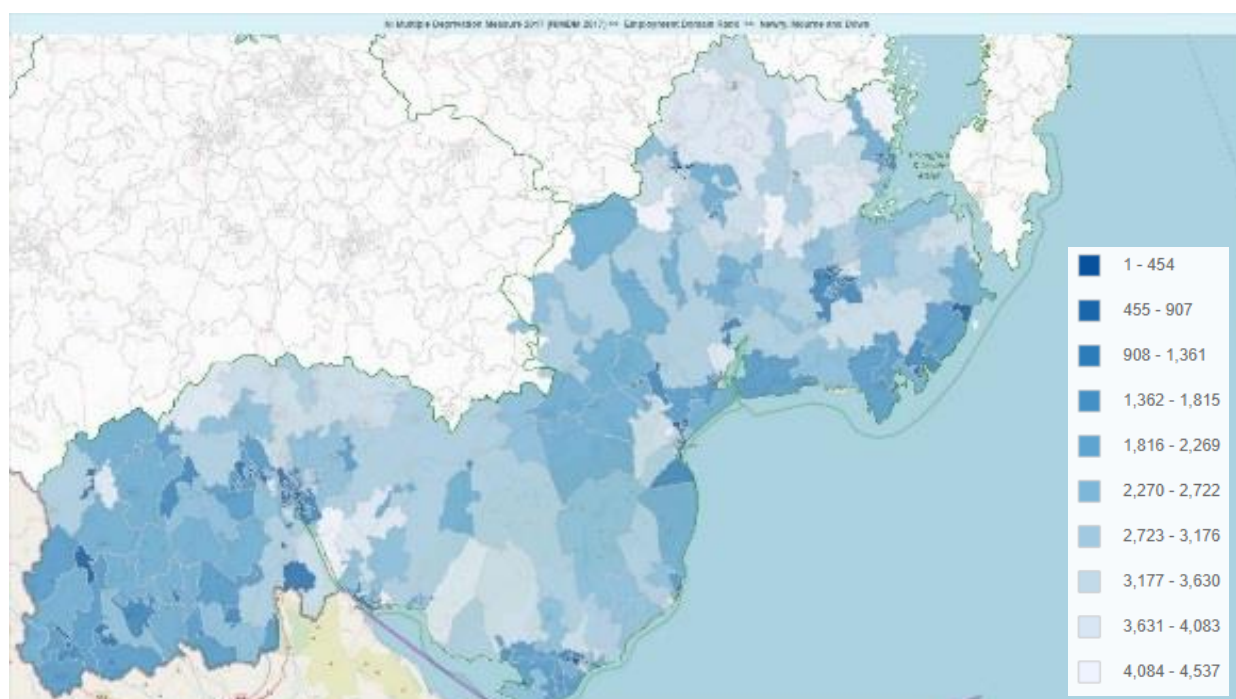
³ Office for National Statistics - Economic inactivity – release date 17th April 2018

Employment and Income Deprivation

NISRA publishes spatially linked statistics on deprivation as part of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure, the most recent of which was published in 2017 (NIMDM2017). In total, seven deprivation indicators make up the overall NIMDM, including the 'Employment Deprivation Domain' and the 'Income Deprivation Domain'. Each Super Output Area (SOA) and Small Area (SA)¹ has been ranked against all the other SOAs and SAs in NI, to determine their relative position on the scale in terms of each indicator. It should be noted that the NIMDM 2017 is a relative measure of deprivation, meaning that it is possible to say that one area is more or less deprived than another, but it is not possible to say by how much.

'Employment Deprivation' rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of working age population in the SOA or SA who are in receipt of at least one employment related benefit, and individuals who are not in receipt of the selected benefits, nor have received income from employment². Figure 5.5.2 shows the pattern of employment deprivation in the SAs across Newry, Mourne and Down from the NIMDM2017. The darkest blue colours (ranks 1-454) show the most deprived SAs in NI in terms of the employment deprivation indicator and the lightest colours are the least deprived areas of NI.

Figure 5.5.2: NIMDM 2017 Employment Domain Rank for SAs in Newry, Mourne and Down.



Source: NIMDM2017 Small Area interactive maps on NINIS

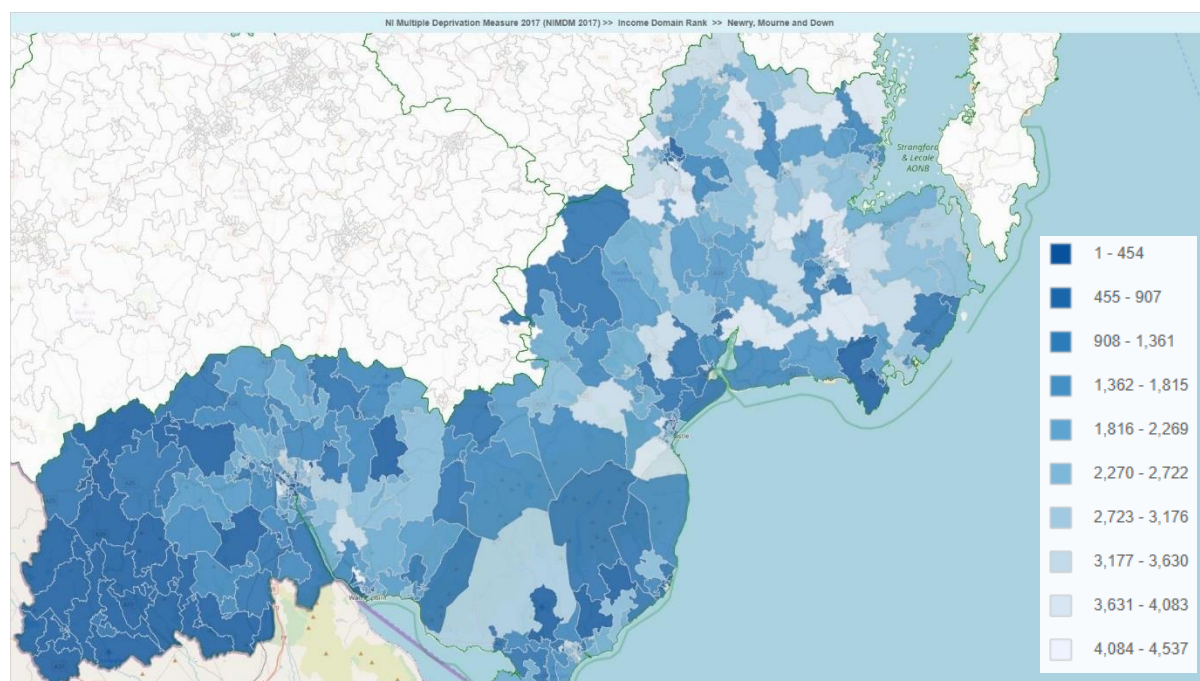
The figure shows that Newry, Mourne and Down has generally average levels of employment deprivation across the district, but there pockets of high employment deprivation centred on the city and towns and also around the border and coastal areas. Two SAs within Newry, one in Newcastle and two in Downpatrick are within the top 100 (out of 4,537) most deprived areas of NI in terms of employment. No SA in Newry, Mourne and Down has made it into the 100 least deprived areas for employment (i.e. a rank higher than 4,437), N00002685 in Derryboye is the highest ranked at 4,375.

¹ Super Output Areas (SOA) and Small Areas (SA) are statistical geography boundaries created by NISRA to allow the reporting of small area statistics. There are 890 SOAs in NI and 4537 SAs.

² NISRA (2017) Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 Description of Indicators

‘Income Deprivation’ rankings are calculated on the basis of the proportion of the population living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the NI median. Figure 5.5.3 shows the income deprivation pattern across Newry, Mourne and Down.

Figure 5.5.3: NIMDM 2017 Employment Domain Rank for SAs in Newry, Mourne and Down.



Source: NIMDM2017 Small Area interactive maps on NINIS

The figure shows that income deprivation in Newry Mourne and Down is relatively high in comparison with other LGDs, with many of the SAs shown in Figure 5.5.3 having the darkest blue colours. It can be seen that the west of the district and border area has greater income deprivation than the north of the district. There are 11 SAs in Newry, Mourne and Down within the top 100 (out of 4,537) most income deprived SAs of NI. No SA in Newry, Mourne and Down has made it into the 100 least deprived areas for employment (i.e. a rank higher than 4,437), N00002666 in Ballynahinch is the highest ranked at 4,427.

Employment Sectors

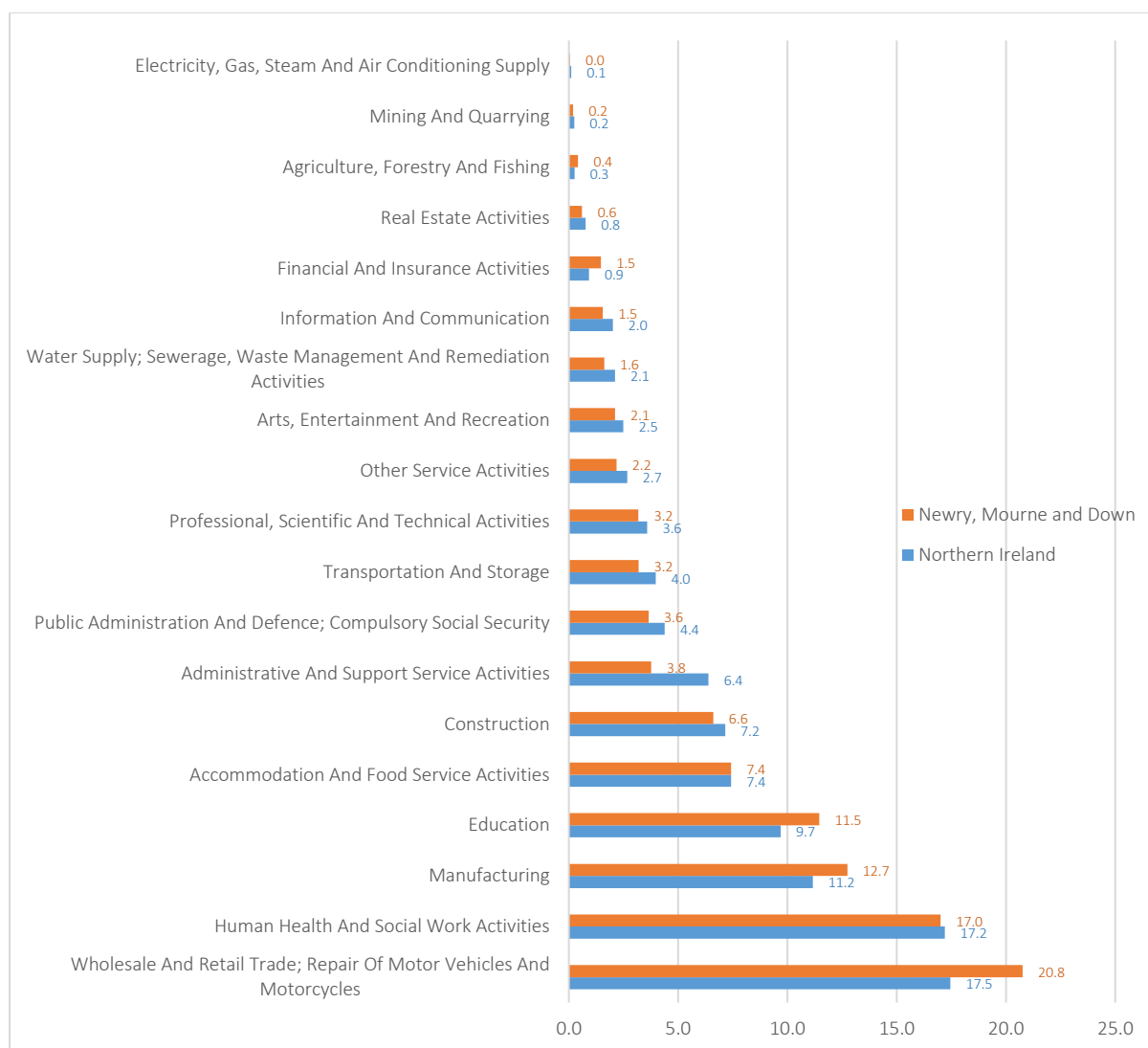
The LDP Preparatory Paper 3, ‘Employment and Economic Development’ notes that employment in Newry Mourne and Down is distributed across the primary (agriculture, forestry and the extraction of natural resources), secondary (manufacturing and processing of natural resources) and tertiary (service provision) employment sectors broadly in line with NI as a whole, although the former Newry and Mourne district has a slightly higher proportion of jobs within the secondary sector.

Figure 5.5.4, derived from the NISRA Census of Employment 2015, shows that Newry, Mourne and Down has a higher proportion of its population than the NI average employed in the Manufacturing, Education, Construction and Wholesale and Retail Trade/Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles sectors. It has considerably fewer than average employed in ‘Public Administration and Defence/Compulsory Social Security’, ‘Administrative and Support Service Activities’ and ‘Information and Communication’ sectors.

Preparatory Paper 3 also notes that the recent growth in Northern Ireland in office type industries, such as information technology and financial services, points to a need for a more flexible approach when determining the types of economic development that are acceptable in particular locations and that land zoned for economic development should be seen as supporting a whole range of uses - apart from retailing – and not just the traditional manufacturing sector.

The Preparatory Paper has estimated that between 9000 and 11,800 new jobs will need to be created over the period 2015-2030. The majority (approximately 80%) of these are expected to be provided within the service sector.

Figure 5.5.4: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Industry Sector vs NI overall (2015)



Source: NISRA, Census of Employment, Business Registration Employment Survey 2015

Note: Figures exclude agriculture but include animal husbandry service activities and hunting, trapping and game propagation.

The Census of Employment does not record the number of self-employed or those that earn their living from agriculture. In 2015 there were estimated to be 16,000 self-employed persons in the district¹, representing 22% of those in employment (NI 12%). The Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) recorded 7,615 businesses in Newry Mourne and Down in 2015, 11% of all businesses in NI². Of these, 29% were in the Agriculture sector (NI 25%). 91% of the businesses on the IDBR are micro-businesses, with <9 employees, 8% are small businesses (10-49 employees), 1% are medium businesses and 0.1% are large businesses (>250 employees).

¹ Invest NI Newry Mourne and Down Area Profile June 2017 (accessed 02/05/2018)

² The IDBR excludes smaller businesses and the self-employed who fall below the VAT registered/PAYE thresholds.

Earnings from Employment

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings¹ by Local Government Districts is published by the Department for the Economy (DfE). The 2016 (provisional) survey results gave the value for those persons living in Newry, Mourne and Down a median gross annual salary of £19,769 (down from £20,209 in 2015), which is fourth lowest of all the LGDs. The median gross annual salary for all of NI in 2016 was £20,953. The median gross annual salary in 2016 for those working in the district was £18,981, slightly lower than for those living in the district. This discrepancy in earnings between those living and working in the district is due to a tendency for workers to commute out of the district for higher earning employment.

Business Start-ups and Success

The Office for National Statistics publishes an annual bulletin of Business Demography² which presents the number of active enterprises and charts the births of new enterprises, and deaths of enterprises. The number of enterprises active in Newry, Mourne and Down in 2015 was 6,360, an increase of 235 over the previous year but 100 less than in 2010³. In the district, the five-year survival rate for businesses established in 2011 was 43.5% (NI 46.1%). Businesses in the former Down district (50.0%) performed significantly better than those in the former Newry and Mourne district (37.0%). In 2016, 690 new business start-ups were recorded, the highest number for all Council areas outside Belfast and a significant increase on the five previous years which averaged around 484. Enterprise deaths, which peaked at 605 in 2010, have decreased to 495 in 2016, having averaged 511 over the previous five years.

In general, business start-up rates for Northern Ireland are relatively low in comparison to other parts of the UK. The Corporate Plan has amongst its aims 'to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time'.

Innovation

It is widely recognised that improving the ability of the economy in NI to be innovative is a key factor in improving economic growth and employment. The most recent innovation figures are published in the UK Innovation Survey (UKIS) 2017⁴. These show that in 2014-16, fewer NI businesses were innovation active than in 2012-14. 40% of enterprises in NI were estimated to be innovation active in the three year period 2014-16 (down from 45% in 2012-14). This is lower than the equivalent UK figure of 50%, which has also decreased from 53% in 2012-14. NI remains among the least innovation active regions of the UK. Across the UK, large enterprises with 250 or more employees are currently reported as being more likely to engage in some sort of innovation activity, with 63% innovation active, as opposed to 49% of Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Internal R&D and investment in computer software were the main factors driving innovation in the UK as a whole for the most recent survey period 2014-2016.

Competitiveness

No data is available at Council level on levels of competitiveness. Total external sales by companies in NI to markets outside of NI were estimated to be worth £24.1 billion in 2016⁵, representing an increase of 4.2% (£1 billion) from 2014. These figures are broken down as £18.8 billion (78.0%) for goods (an increase of 2.9% on 2015) and £5.3 billion (22.0%) for services (an increase of 9.1% over 2015). These figures exceed the previously recorded peak in 2014 (£22.7 billion), and external sales are therefore at their highest level since 2011. External sales account for just over a third (34.9%) of all sales by companies in NI in 2016 (£68.9 billion).

¹ Department for the Economy Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings by NI geographies, by place of work and place of residence, 2016 (provisional) and 2015 (revised) (accessed 31/10/2017)

² Office for National Statistics 'Business demography, UK: 2016' (published 21 November 2017)

³ Pre 2015 ONS figures are published under the two former local government district areas of Newry & Mourne and Down.

⁴ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy The UK Innovation Survey: Headline Findings 2014 to 2016 (published 18/04/2018)

⁵ NISRA Northern Ireland Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES): Goods and Services Results 2016 – published 22 March 2018

Retailing

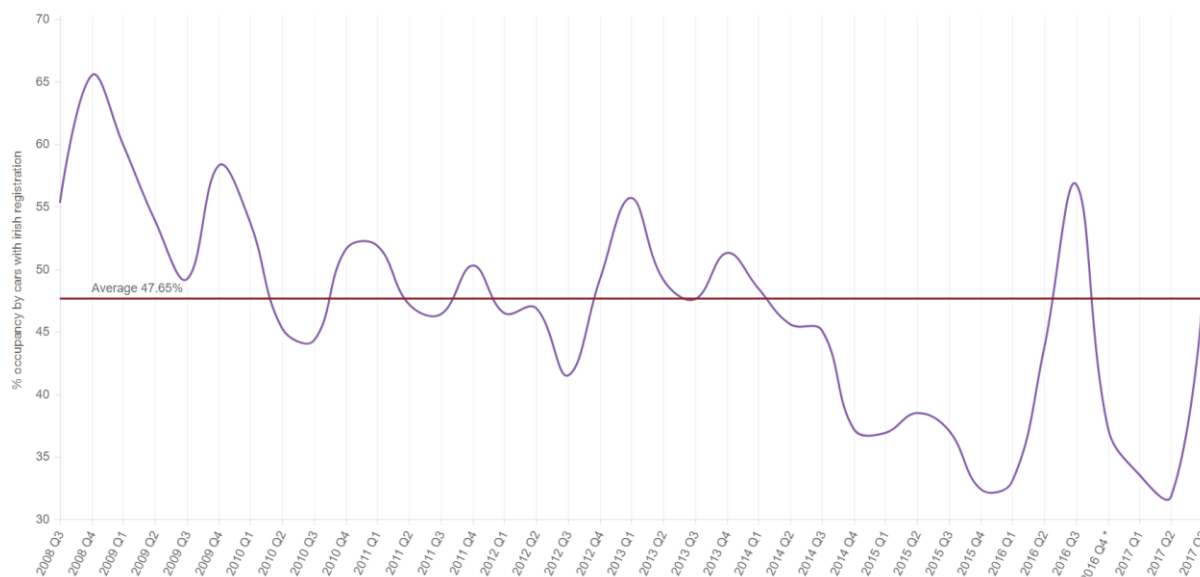
The Council has a hierarchy with Primary Retail Cores at Newry, Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle. Smaller centres are identified at Crossmaglen, Kilkeel, Newtownhamilton and Warrenpoint. Chapter 6 of the 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Preparatory Paper summarises the results of surveys carried out on the city and town centres in 2014. The town centres display a strong presence of independent retailers and service providers which helps provide an attractive alternative to national operators and contributes to the local distinctiveness of each centre.

The paper notes that the proportion of 'other' town centre uses is notably higher in NI than the UK average. The 'other' category includes transport services, employment and commercial activities, religious buildings, wholesale trade, civic and unclassified buildings. Having a range of other uses within town centres should be considered a positive attribute, which confirms town centres are performing as a hub for a range of activities thereby contributing to overall vitality and viability.

The district's main settlement, Newry, has a diverse selection of national and international multiples, independent and more traditional traders spread throughout the city. In addition to its retail centre (Hill Street), it has two shopping centres and one retail park.

The district shares a border with Counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland. Newry's position on the M1-A1 Belfast-Dublin corridor means that it is well placed for cross-border trade. Intertrade Ireland publishes data from carpark surveys at NI border town shopping centres as an indicator of cross-border shopping activity¹ (Figure 5.5.5). These surveys show that the highest percentage of Irish registered cars (67%) was seen at the end of 2008 and that increased cross-border shopping activity usually occurs around the Christmas period. Intertrade Ireland also notes that cross-border shopping trips are driven largely by economic factors, such as price differentials and exchange rate fluctuations. Distance from the border also matters with households from the border counties being much more frequent cross-border shoppers than those living further afield. The uncertainty surrounding 'Brexit' and related fluctuations in exchange rates may add to the challenges experienced in towns along the border area.

Figure 5.5.5: Percentage of Irish-registered cars in NI border-located shopping centre car parks



Source: Intertrade Ireland (April 2018)

There is only one notable out-of-centre retail park (Damolly Retail Park) in the district. The 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Preparatory Paper notes that out-of-centre retailing (which may

¹ Intertrade Ireland All-Island Trade Statistics - 'Cross Border Shopping' (accessed 30/04/18)

include out-of-centre retail parks outside the district) is one of the main weakness/threats to town centres in Newry, Mourne and Down.

The 'Town Centres and Opportunity Sites' Preparatory Paper reports that vacancy rates in 2013 were around the median level for NI in Downpatrick and Newry and Newcastle had among the lowest vacancy rates. With the changing and dynamic scale and nature of retailing, a comprehensive up-to-date Retail Capacity Study will be required for the LDP.

Ports and Harbours

Ports and harbours are important economic generators and are essential to the operation of a range of different marine and coastal industries.

Warrenpoint Harbour is NI's third largest port after Belfast and Larne, in terms of overall traffic and the second largest in terms of freight. In 2016, 1,072 thousand tonnes of goods were imported through the harbour and 491 thousand tonnes exported¹. The harbour has 300 metres of quay with two deep water berths and modern Ro-Ro (Roll on - Roll off) berthing facilities. The harbour incorporates a 53 acre plot which includes covered storage facilities and a 100 tonne mobile crane. It employs more than 200 people and is able to accommodate fully laden feeder container vessels and other cargo ships of up to 10,000 tonnes. Seatruck, the port's largest customer, operates a twice daily service to Heysham in England and the port also has links with Cardiff and Bristol. The port has experienced strong growth in recent years and investment continues, with a new £2.5million hub for the export of cement being opened in 2017. Warrenpoint has relatively limited land holdings and storage areas in comparison with other commercial ports and consequently one of the challenges faced by the port is to keep goods moving in order to prevent congestion at the quays and storage². The RDS has identified Warrenpoint (along with Newry) as the 'South Eastern City Gateway' – a strategically important transport interchange.

In addition to commercial shipping, Warrenpoint harbour is also able to accommodate cruise ships, with two such vessels visiting in 2017.

Northern Ireland's sea fishing sector, in terms of catching, employs 859 people in NI, 708 of whom are full time and 151 part time³. Newry, Mourne and Down encompasses the two most important fishing ports in NI, Kilkeel and Ardglass, which together landed 7,800 tonnes of fish and shellfish in 2016, with a value of £17.16 million⁴. Kilkeel is also home to a number of fish and seafood processing facilities and other industries which link in with the fishery harbour. The fishing industry in Kilkeel believes that harbour improvements would allow a major expansion of this industry, and could turn Kilkeel into a major north European marine hub with the potential to support more than 2,000 jobs and a local 'marine skills academy'.

Commercial fish are also landed at Warrenpoint (worth £1.2m in 2016) and smaller landings principally in respect of pot fishing (i.e. lobster, crab and some shrimp) were recorded in 2016 at Annalong (£193k), Greencastle (£8.4k), Killough (£3.3k), Killyleagh (£10.9k), Newry (£10k) and Strangford. There are five shellfish cultivation areas in Newry, Mourne and Down, at Carlingford Lough, Dundrum Bay, Killough Harbour, Skate Rock and Marlfield Bay (shared with Ards and North Down District Council).

¹ NISRA Ports Traffic Publication 2016 Table 1 – tonnage of goods through the principal ports in NI (published 22 November 2017)

² Warrenpoint Port 'About the Port' <https://warrenpointport.com> accessed 1 May 2018.

³ Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service Briefing Paper: 'Northern Ireland's fisheries sectors – background and possible 'Brexit' considerations' published 8th September 2016.

⁴ UK Government UK Sea fisheries annual statistics report: 2016 Supplementary Table 2012 to 2016 UK fleet landings and foreign fleet landings into the UK by port

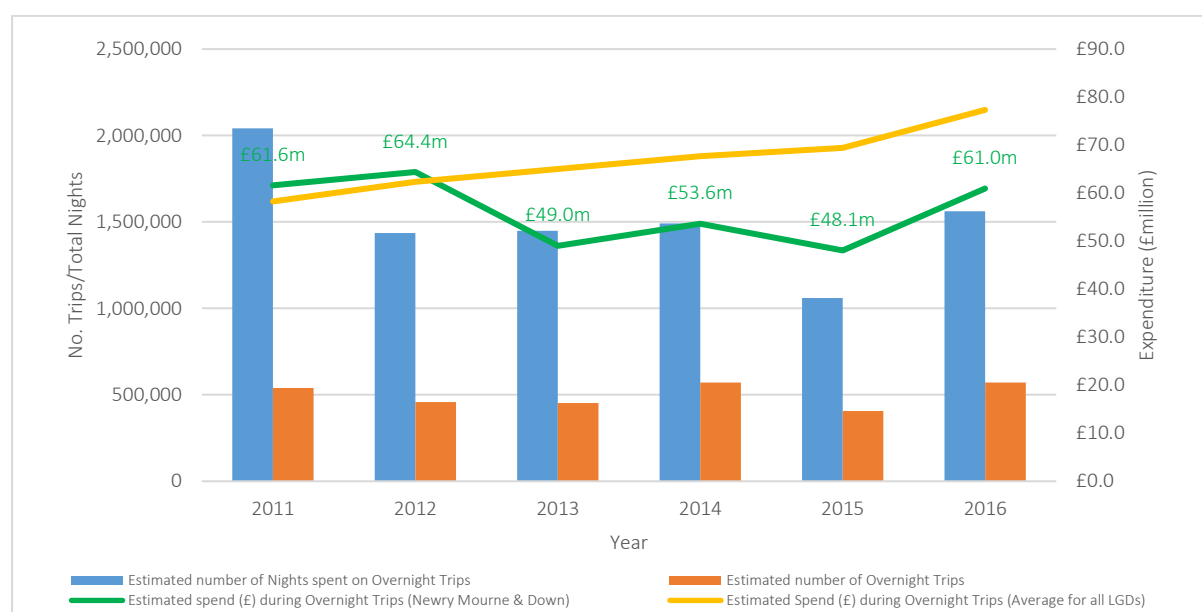
Two local passenger and vehicle ferry services also operate from Newry, Mourne and Down. The Portaferry – Strangford ferry service crosses Strangford Lough at its narrowest point on a half hourly basis all year round and is operated by Transport NI. The service reduces the 47 mile journey (which typically takes up to an hour and a half) between these villages to around 8 minutes. The ferry is used by around 550,000 passengers (with 180,000 vehicles) annually¹ and is an important transport link in the local economy, carrying commuters and schoolchildren in addition to tourists.

The Greencastle – Greenore scenic ferry commenced operation in July 2017 and connects the south eastern Mournes region with the Cooley Peninsula. The hourly service is operated by Frazer Ferries and runs year-round. This ferry service aims to establish itself as a year-round commuter service, but also has a strong ambition to establish itself as a tourism asset, as a scenic transport link between the Mournes, the Ring of Gullion and the Cooley Peninsula and ‘Ireland’s Ancient East’ in Ireland.

Tourism

Investment in tourism brings new facilities to our city, towns, villages and surrounding landscapes and makes a vital contribution to the district in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our waterways, landscapes and historic environment. There are also health benefits to be gained by a more active resident population who are motivated to be out and about exploring more of Newry, Mourne and Down’s tourism assets.

Figure 5.5.6: Estimated overnight Trips, Nights and Expenditure 2011 -16 for Newry, Mourne and Down



Source: NISRA, Local Government District tourism statistics publications (additional tables) (published 6 July 2017)

Newry, Mourne and Down is among the most visited of NI’s LGDs as an overnight tourism destination. The district has the third highest quantity of available tourist accommodation of all the NI LGDs, with 4,332 bed spaces in 2016, but is some distance behind Causeway Coast and Glens (11,129) and Belfast (11,596).

Excluding day visits, tourism to the district in 2016 was worth around £61m from overnight expenditure, up 27% from 2015 and around 7% of the NI total of £850m. Tourism-related employment supported 4,953 jobs in the district in 2015, around 9.3% of all employment².

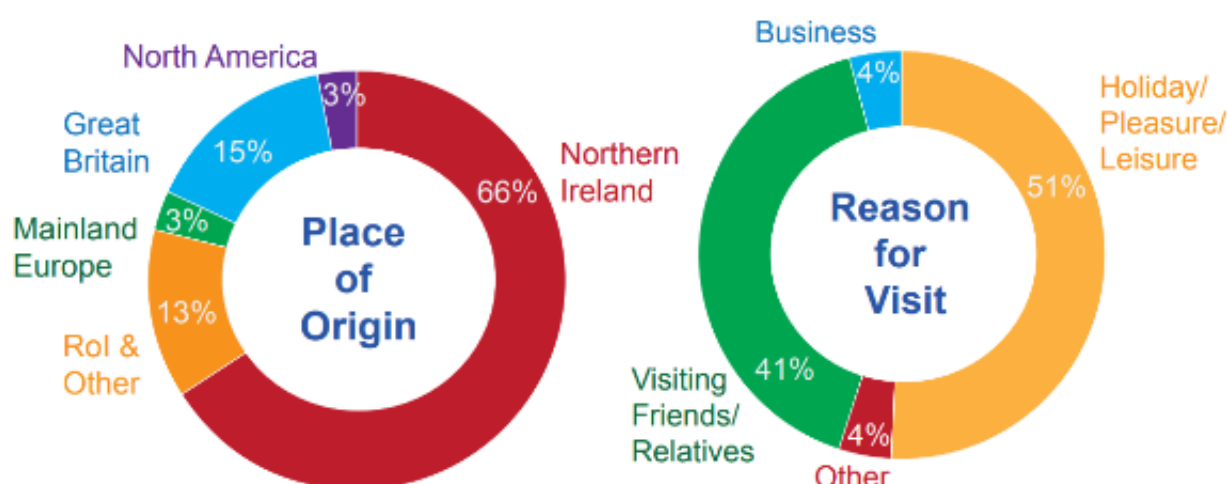
¹ The Irish News, 10th March 2016 “Strangford ferry costs an average of £1.5m a year to run” (accessed 02 May 2016)

² NISRA, Local Government District tourism statistics publications (additional tables) (published 6 July 2017)

Between 2012 and 2016, overnight visitors to the district have typically stayed in Newry, Mourne and Down for less time than when visiting other areas in NI, with the average number of overnights per trip in 2016 being 2.7 (NI 3.2). This perhaps reflects the fact that a particularly high proportion of overnight visitors to Newry, Mourne and Down travel there from elsewhere in NI and RoI (66% from NI and 13% from 'other' which includes RoI). These figures are the highest among all LGDs. Correspondingly, in comparison with the other LGDs, Newry, Mourne and Down had the lowest proportion of overnight visitors originating from GB, mainland Europe and North America.

Figure 5.5.7 shows that more than half of overnight stays in Newry, Mourne and Down for the period 2014-16 were for holiday/leisure/pleasure. This proportion is the second highest of all the LGDs behind Causeway Coast and Glens (NI 47%). Only 3% of overnight visits were for business; a lower proportion than for any other local government district (NI 9%).

Figure 5.5.7: Overnight Visits - Place of Visitor Origin and Principal Reason for Visit (2014-2016)



Source NISRA Local government district tourism statistics infographics (Date published: 06 July 2017)

The estimated tourism expenditure per night averaged around £39 in 2016, which was significantly lower than the average nightly spend across NI (£56). Relative to other Councils, overnight tourism expenditure in the district appears to have fallen since 2012. Room occupancy rates for B&Bs, guest houses and guest accommodation in 2016 were 17%, the lowest of all LGDs (NI: 34%) however annual occupancy rates for self-catering accommodation were 43%, the fourth highest of all LGDs (NI: 36%).

In 2016 Slieve Gullion Forest Park, Castle Ward House & Demesne, Kilbroney Park and Newry Cathedral were the most popular visitor attractions in Newry, Mourne and Down. Slieve Gullion Forest Park was the fourth most visited park in NI, with an estimated 388,000 visitors.

Activity Tourism was identified by the NI Tourism Strategy as a key target market. It is estimated to be worth £90-100million per annum in revenue for NI tourist businesses. The district is well-placed to develop these aspects, with 11 golf courses, excellent angling waters and harbours with access to sea angling, hiking, walking and mountain biking trails and 100 miles of coastline with beaches and watersports facilities.

The Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 has identified a number of initiatives it wishes to develop to enhance the district's ability to stand out in a crowded market. It notes that the accommodation base has inherent weaknesses relating to the type, quantity, quality and location of accommodation. It also states a number of access challenges, including the condition and carrying capacity of rural roads, parking, public transport and signage. The Strategy acknowledges the need for a joined up approach to address challenges and create a focus on promoting the district as a destination experience.

5.5.3 Likely Evolution of baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without a new LDP in place, the opportunity to make plans for growth in line with recent evidence and to develop a plan-led system may be missed. The absence of a LDP to address local needs could disadvantage those on lower incomes in terms of enabling access to places of work. Opportunities to develop the south eastern gateway of Newry and Warrenpoint may be missed. The Council would be unable to facilitate sustainable tourism growth to adequately reflect the needs and assets unique to Newry, Mourne and Down.

5.5.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Economy and Employment

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land for development is a vital part of creating the right conditions to create and sustain economic activity that meets local employment needs whilst considering opportunities for regeneration.
- In selecting land for development, it is important to provide sites with quality environments that are readily accessible to the key transport corridors.
- Proposed new employment locations should be readily accessible by active travel and/or public transport.
- The district has seen a decrease in primary sector and manufacturing jobs in recent decades. National and regional trends indicate an ongoing shift towards tertiary sector jobs. The Council and relevant statutory bodies should work with local providers of education and training to identify and address any local skills shortfalls and develop tailored learning to ensure its population has the skills and training to meet future demand.
- There is a need to ensure that the district is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people, by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of town centres and the wider area.
- Within the district there is a vibrant rural entrepreneurial spirit within the villages and open countryside. It is important that the Plan provides policy that can facilitate sustainable rural businesses.
- Kilkeel and Warrenpoint harbours are important contributors to the local economy. The RDS has identified Warrenpoint (along with Newry) as the 'South Eastern City Gateway' – a strategically important transport interchange. Connectivity is a key aspect in the support, growth and development of the harbours.
- The diversity, vibrancy and vitality of town centres can be supported and enhanced through the new LDP.
- Tourism in Newry, Mourne and Down is a potentially important contributor to growth of the regional economy. The needs of tourists and the tourism industry should be balanced with protecting the assets of the destination.
- Newry, Mourne and Down has a number of natural assets which are particularly suited to activity tourism (golf, angling, hiking/walking, cycling/mountain biking, beaches and other water-based activity). It also has a strong built and cultural heritage foundation for cultural tourism.

5.6 Material Assets

5.6.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

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

'Living Well Together' the Councils Community Plan identifies the level of broadband connectivity as a key indicator to ensuring that 'All the people in Newry Mourne and Down District get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential'. Another outcome of the Community Plan is to ensure 'all people in Newry Mourne and Down benefit from a clean and sustainable environment'. A key indicator of achieving this outcome will be the level of sustainable energy use within the district.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019, has eight strategic objectives. These prioritise the Council's role in attracting investment and creating jobs; leading in urban and rural regeneration; and empowering communities. Sustainable management of material assets will be central to achieving these outcomes.

5.6.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in a number of LDP Preparatory Study Papers including Public Utilities, Landscape and Minerals. This topic also overlaps with the Physical Resources and Climate Change topics of this report.

Telecommunications

In 2017, mobile data services covered 76% of the landmass of Northern Ireland with the 4 main network providers offering 3g and 4g coverage. 4G services covered 60% of the landmass area with only 44% of premises receiving indoor 4g coverage.

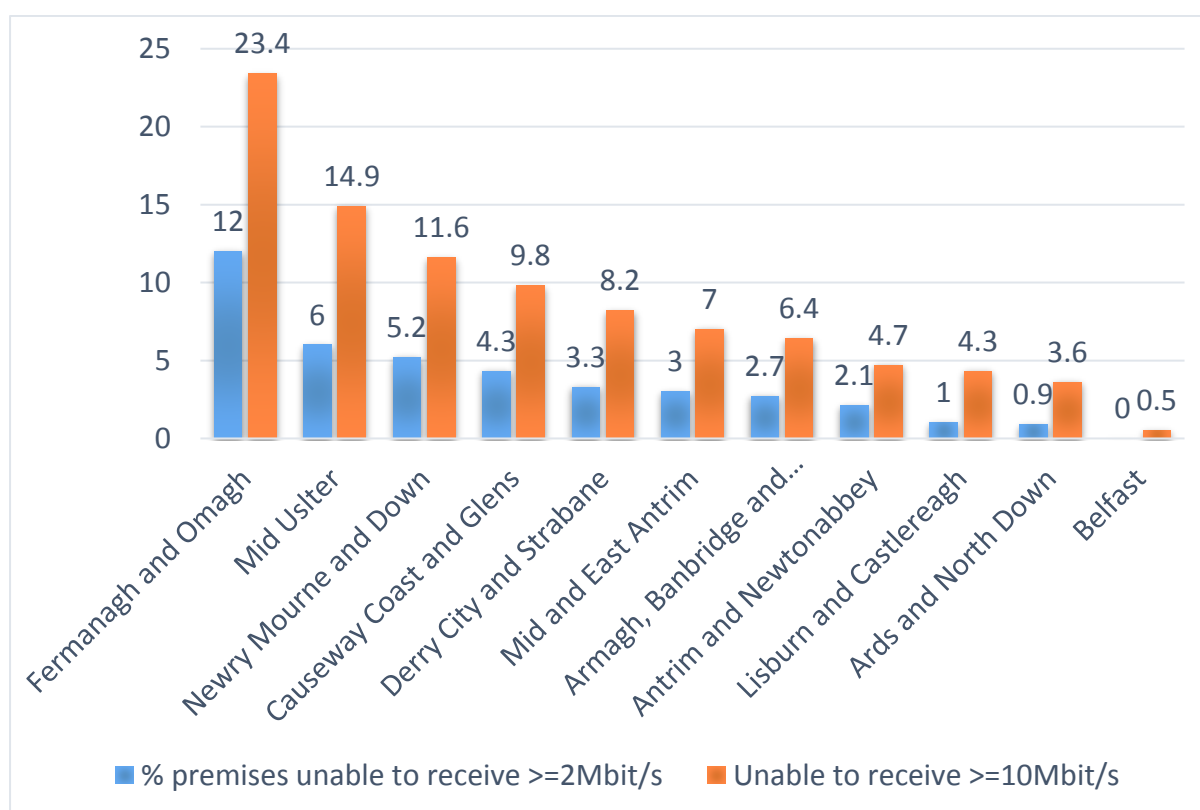
At district level 48% of premises in Newry Mourne and Down had indoor 3G coverage whilst only 25% had indoor 4G coverage. Evidently coverage is stronger within urban areas of the district than coverage within rural areas which is consistent regionally.¹

More information on network coverage can be found at: www.ofcom.org.uk.

Broadband

Northern Ireland has recently seen the completion of a superfast broadband roll out scheme which will increase the number of premises which receive higher broadband speeds. In 2017, 85% of all premises in Northern Ireland had access to superfast broadband and 57% of all rural premises had access to superfast broadband. At district level around 75% of premises in Newry Mourne and Down had access to superfast broadband speeds with 55% of rural premises having access superfast broadband. Broadband Speeds of 10Mbit/s or above are considered to be 'decent' by Ofcom the telecoms regulator. In 2017, 11.6 % of premises in Newry Mourne and Down were unable to receive broadband speeds of 10Mbits whilst 5.2% of premises in the district were unable to receive speeds of 2Mbit/s².

Figure 5.6.1 Percentage of premises with less than 'decent' download speeds per local authority 2017



Source: Ofcom analysis of operator data

Energy Supply & Distribution/Electrical Infrastructure

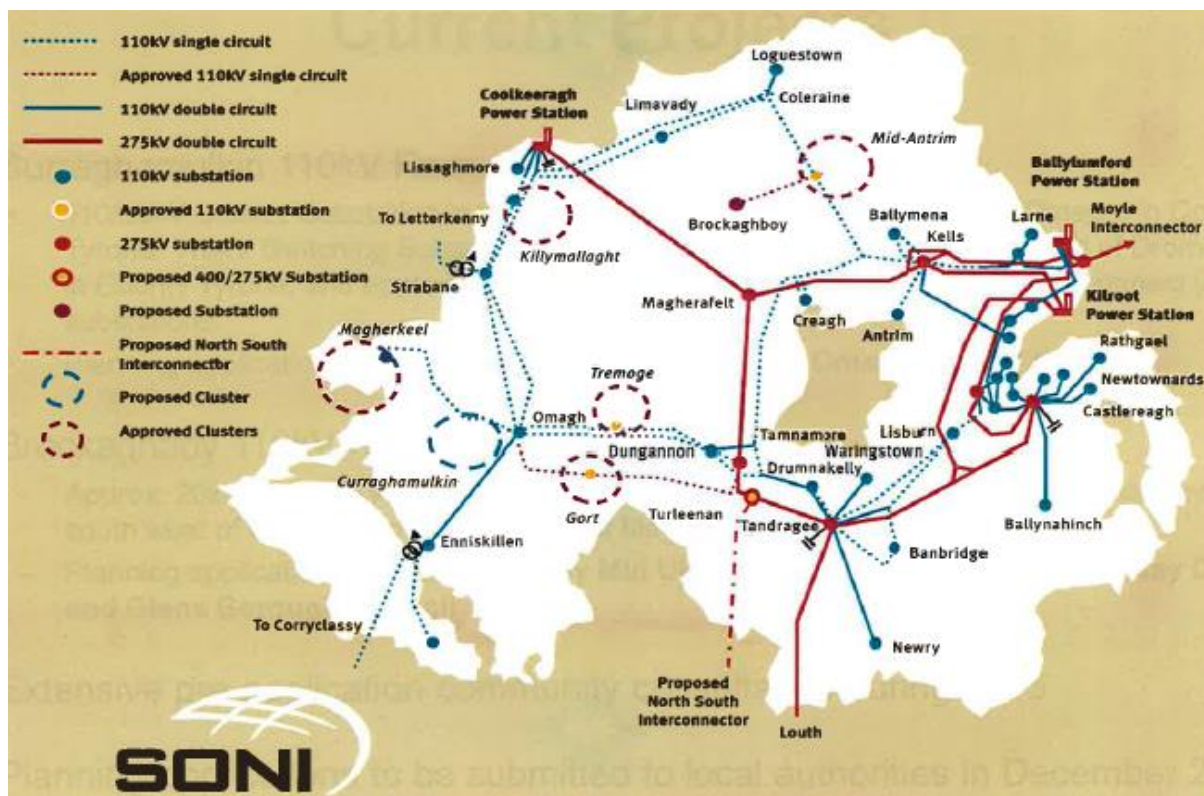
The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) manages the large-scale electrical transmission infrastructure across the country. It is the independent Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and operates 1500km of transmission power lines and 45 000km of distribution power lines. SONI presents a live link www.soni.ltd.uk to the current energy sources for Northern Ireland including connected sources of renewables. Currently all users are connected to the distribution network for their electricity³.

¹ Ofcom: Connected Nations 2017, Northern Ireland

² Ibid

³ Northern Ireland Electricity: Briefing on Grid Capacity in Northern Ireland in the context of enabling Economic Growth April 2015

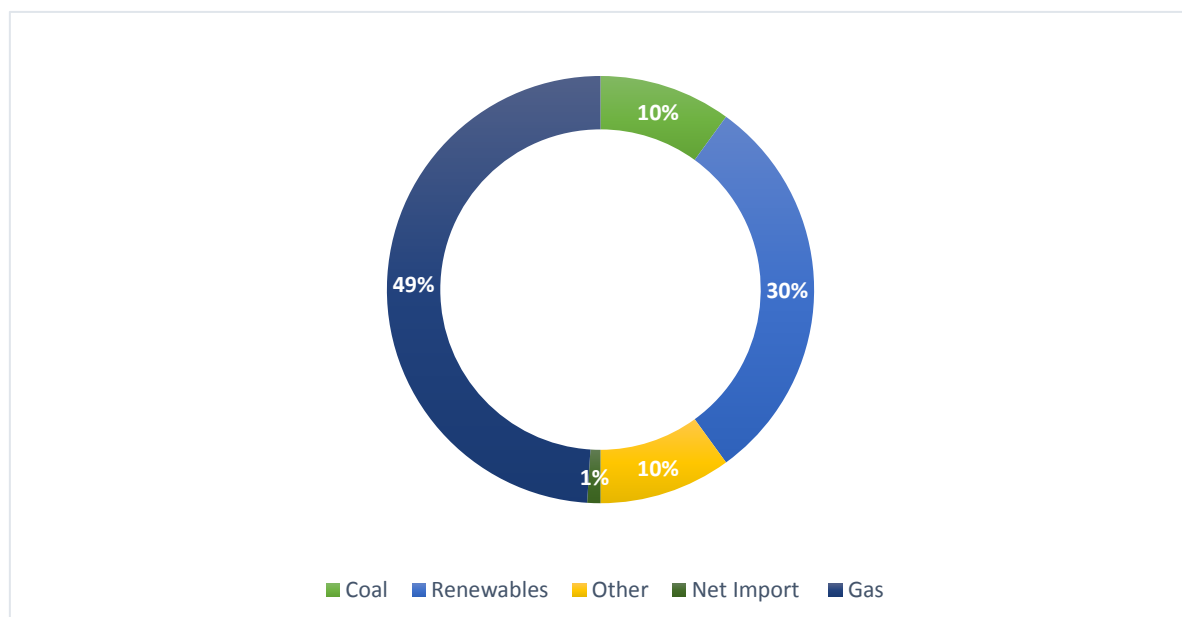
Figure 5.6.2 NI Transmission Network



Source: SONI

Northern Ireland is primarily dependant on fossil fuels for energy supply. There are three major gas and coal/oil power generating sites located at Ballylumford, Coolkeeragh and Kilroot. The region is also connected to the Scottish grid via the Moyle interconnector and to the Republic of Ireland via North South tie-lines.¹ A tie-line is an interconnection line between areas.

Figure 5.6.3 NI average fuel mix May 2018



Source: EirGrid,

¹ DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

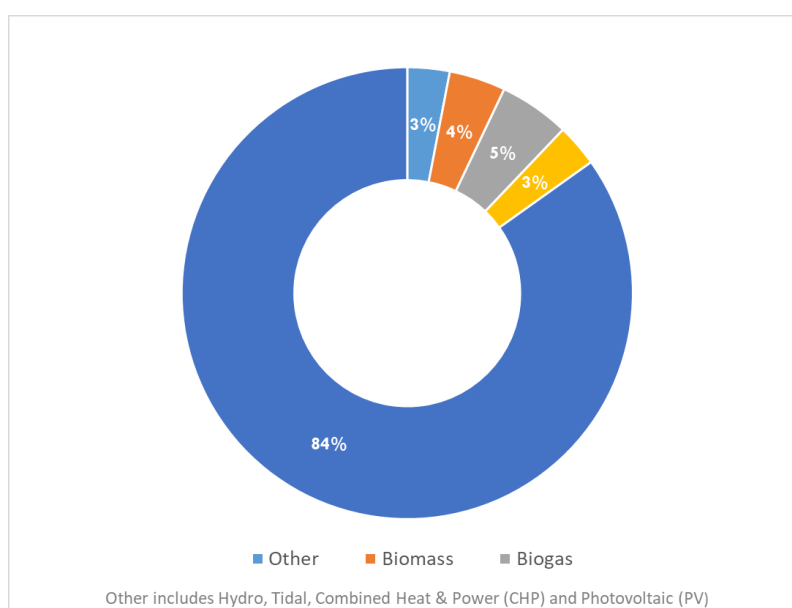
The future security of supply in Northern Ireland is dependent on its capacity to generate, transmit and distribute energy efficiently. It is anticipated that Northern Ireland will fall into a generation supply deficit in 2021 due to uncertainties regarding the future of Kilroot and Ballylumford power stations, and the limited capacity of the existing transmission lines¹.

Northern Ireland is part of the Single Electricity Market which is currently served by the North South tie-lines located between Tandragee and Louth, Strabane and Letterkenny and Enniskillen and Corraclassy. A new North South Interconnector between Tyrone and Cavan was approved in January 2018. This should increase the capacity and efficiency of the electric network and improve security of supply.²

Renewables

The Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland set a target to achieve 40% of electrical consumption from renewable sources by 2020.

Figure 5.6.4 Renewable Electricity Generation by Type of Generation (April 2016 to March 2017)



Source: NISRA

In December 2017, 38.1% of total electricity consumption in Northern Ireland was generated from renewable sources located in Northern Ireland with wind power accounting for 84.3% of renewable energy production³.

There are 126 wind farms with planning approval in Northern Ireland, none of which are located in Newry, Mourne and Down. The number of applications approved for single turbines in the district was 321 - between 2002 and 2015. It should be noted that these figures do not reflect the number of single turbines or wind farms in operation⁴. The most popular renewable applications in the district have been for single turbines but solar is also evident. The district has also had one tidal project in Strangford Lough. The number of applications for renewable energy projects are referred to in LDP Preparatory Paper 9, and are presented below in figure 5.6.5.

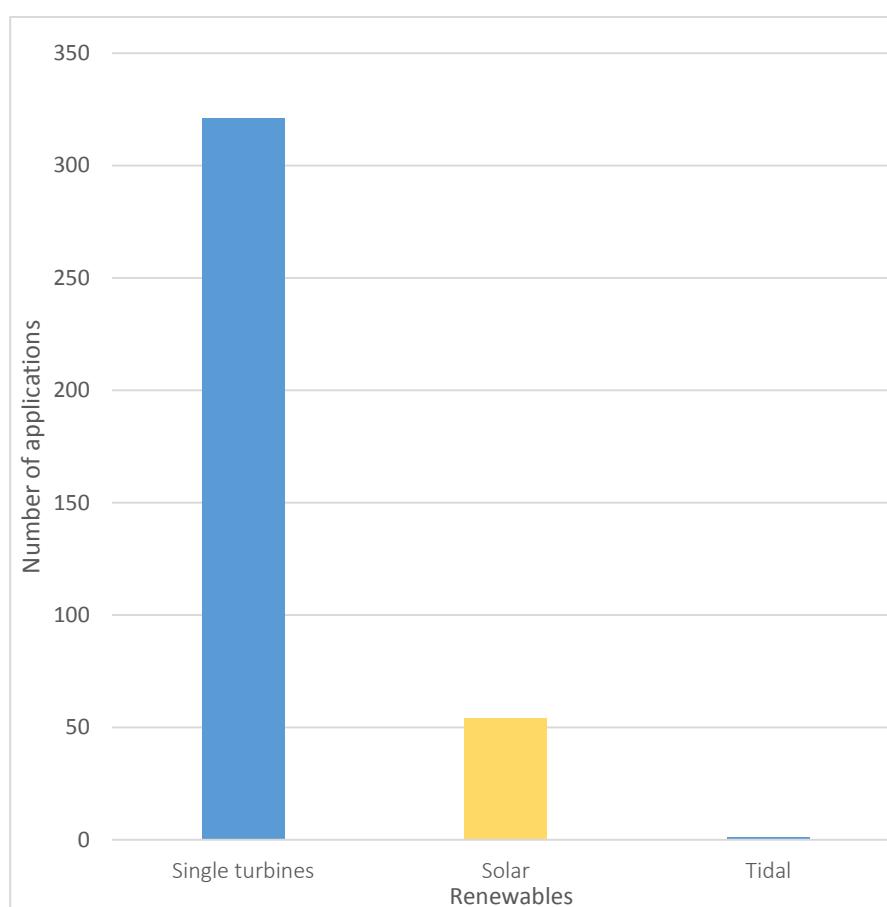
¹ Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Electricity Sector in Northern Ireland, 2017

² DETI: Energy in Northern Ireland 2016

³ Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Electricity Consumption and renewable generation in Northern Ireland; Year Ending March 2017

⁴ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities

Figure 5.6.5: Renewable Energy Applications in Newry, Mourne and Down.



Source: Local Development Plan Preparatory Study Paper 9: Public Utilities January 2017

Energy supply within the district is not a current issue however, the future potential growth of renewables, is partially dependent upon the capacity of the grid to support new connections. Lecale, Slieve Croob and Newtonhamilton have been identified as being at saturation point in terms of the capacity to facilitate small scale renewable connections. Further investment in the existing infrastructure is required to improve capacity within the district and ensure the grid is fit for purpose¹.

Northern Ireland Electric's business plan 'Investing for the Future 2017-2024' states that planned investment will be taking place to improve network assets across the region which could see improvements in the district. This could create potential for new overhead power lines and power installations within the district.

The Renewable Integration Development Plan, Network 25 and Generation Cluster Infrastructure projects will see improvements within the region to enable the connection of renewables generation however at present there are no planned projects within the district that would enable commercial scale renewables connection.

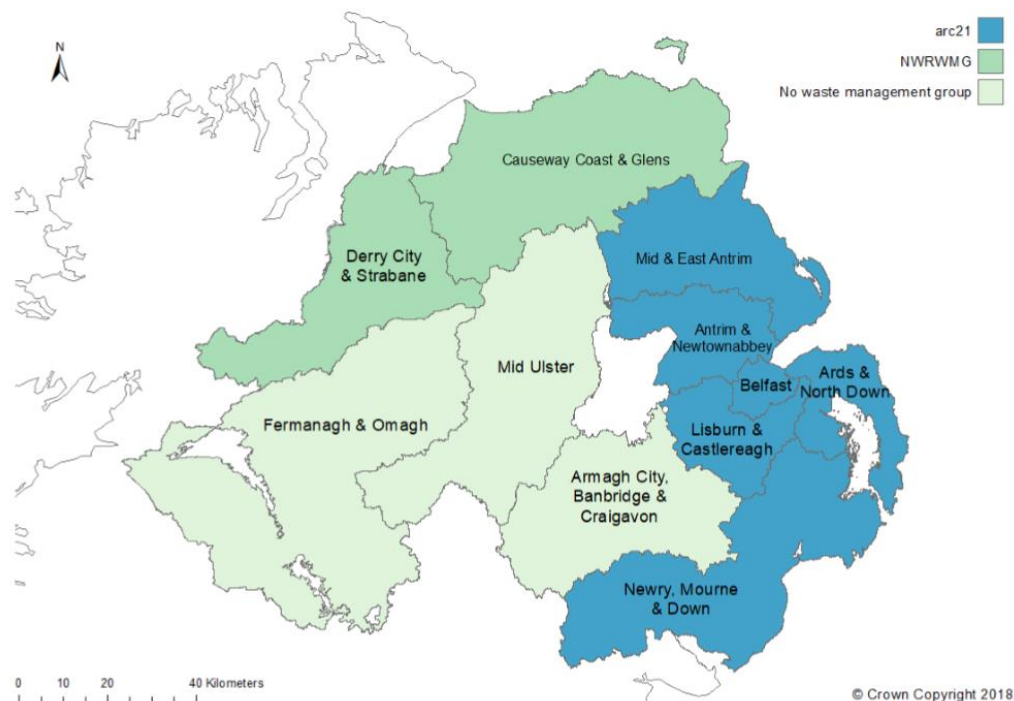
There is potential within the district for hydroelectricity, tidal, heat, biomass and biogas. Whilst potential for these types of renewable development is likely to be limited or small scale it is noted that the potential for tidal power may be much greater than previously assumed.

¹ Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities

The SeaGen generator, the first large scale commercial tidal stream generator of its kind in the world was installed in Strangford Lough in 2008, however it has recently been decommissioned. The district has also received applications for small-scale hydroelectric schemes in Newry and South Armagh¹.

Waste management

Figure 5.6.6 Map of councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland, 2017



Source: DAERA

Newry Mourne and Down forms part of the ARC21 Waste Management Group (WMG) which comprises of 6 of Northern Ireland's councils and is responsible for the preparing, monitoring and reviewing the groups Waste Management Plan. Arc21 account for 59% of the region's population making it the largest WMP.

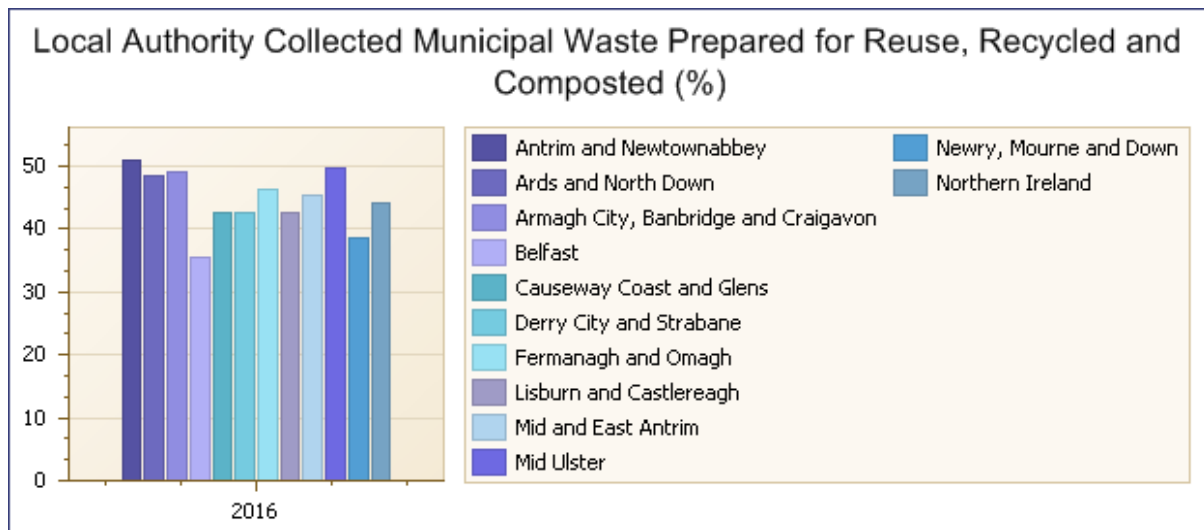
The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy supports sustainable development, the waste management hierarchy and resource efficiency. At its core is to reduce waste; and then reuse, recycle or recover, before any consideration of landfilling.

In 2016, the amount of municipal waste collected and prepared for reuse, recycling and composting was 38.5%. This is below the Northern Ireland average of 44% and well below the top performing Council rate of 51%. Newry, Mourne and Down has the second lowest reusing/recycling/composting rate relative to other Councils.

Our district's position in 2016 for the reuse, recycling and composting of municipal waste is shown below in figure 5.6.7 and Figure 5.6.8 shows the same figure for the Council relative to the average for NI.

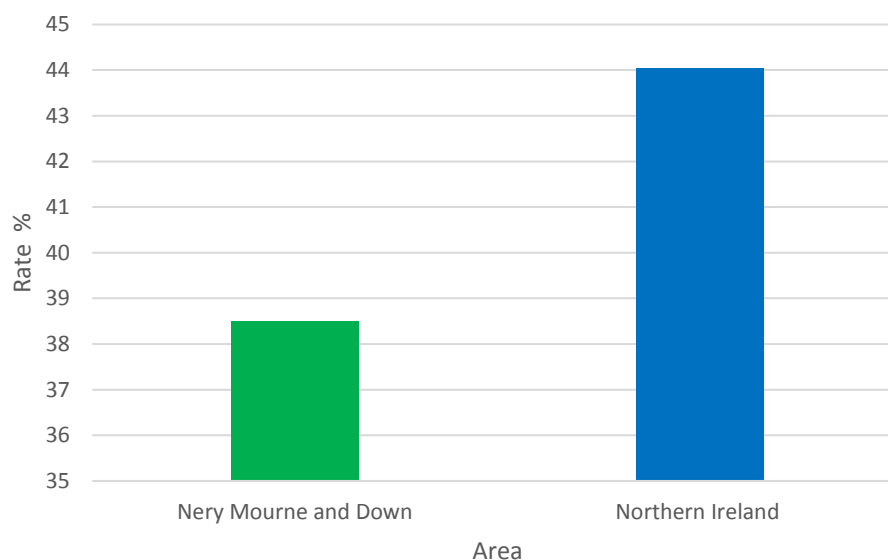
¹ Ibid

Figure 5.6.7: Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Prepared for Re-use, Recycled and Composted (%)



Source: NINIS

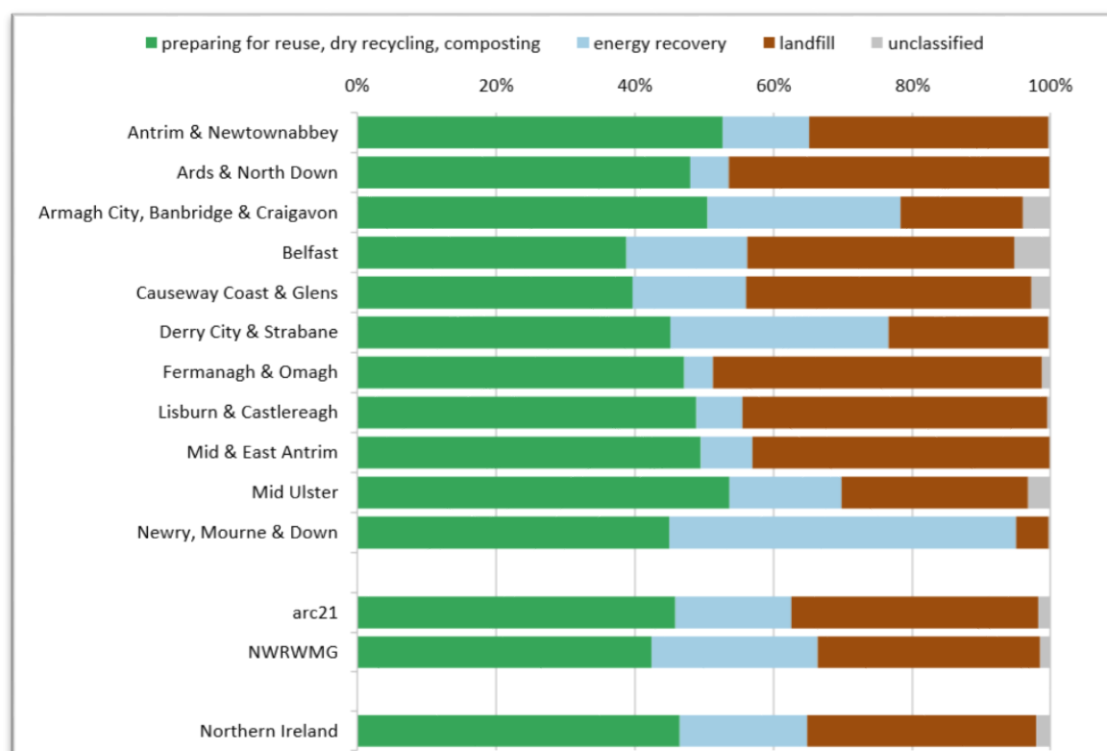
Figure 5.6.8: Rate (%) of municipal waste reused/recycled/composted in District Council in 2016



Source: NINIS

Figure 5.6.9 presents the breakdown of our district's treatment of municipal waste in 2017. It shows a lower proportion of waste sent to landfill but a higher proportion sent for energy recovery.

Figure 5.6.9: LAC municipal waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill rates by council in Northern Ireland, 2017



Source: DAERA

From October to December of 2017, Newry Mourne and Down was recorded to have the smallest quantity of LAC waste per household, it also had the highest rate of energy recovery from municipal waste. It was reported that there was 99kg of household waste per person within the district and had a waste energy recovery rate of 50%¹.

The district has two main landfill sites located at Aughnagon and Drumnakelly however these ceased to be used for the purpose of household waste in 2015 and 2016. There are 10 recycling centres located across the district with permission granted for a modern facility at Killough Road Downpatrick. Permission has also been granted for a waste transfer station at Drumnakelly².

5.6.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a plan, opportunities may be missed to ensure development makes best use of existing utility infrastructure and development or could be constrained where infrastructure is deficient. Lack of up to date land information may also inhibit potential to address poor network coverage in relation to telecommunication infrastructure. Potential to support renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure whilst protecting sensitive landscapes could be an issue without adequate planning. Without the LDP there could be missed opportunities to spatially consider the sustainable location of material assets. In terms of waste management, lack of consideration in relation to waste facilities could be overlooked.

5.6.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Material Assets

- Improving infrastructure across rural areas for the needs of rural communities, rural services and rural businesses is a strategic priority.

¹ DEARA, Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management, quarterly provision October to December 2017

² Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities

- It is important to support renewable wind energy development whilst also safeguarding areas that are considered to be of particular scenic value and also reducing potential impacts on neighbouring properties.
- There are concerns regarding the proliferation of single turbines and resulting visual intrusion, safety and the increasing size and massing of turbines.
- New private forms of renewable energy development are likely to increase in use in the Newry, Mourne and Down area over the plan period.
- Grid reinforcement is required to facilitate the growth of renewable energy generation.
- The district's location provides opportunities to create physical links to the electricity network in the Republic of Ireland.
- The impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities should be considered when zoning land for development and ensuring incompatibility of adjacent land uses is avoided.
- The district has comparatively low recycling rates.
- The Council should take account of the potential effects of new telecommunications development, and any necessary enabling works, on visual amenity and environmentally sensitive features and locations.
- The district's coast has potential to support a range of renewable energy types. Any form of renewables development should be approached with respect to protecting and conserving the environment including the landscape.

5.7 Physical Resources

5.7.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

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

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

Through its Corporate Plan 2015-2019 the Council aims to make best use of the resources at its disposal and deliver a range of actions aimed at improving the lives of local people and communities. Its aims include developing clean and attractive places with an increase in biodiversity and renewable energy sources and lower energy costs. A sustainable approach to the management of physical resources will help to achieve these priorities and the overall vision of the Council.

The Council's Community Plan, 'Living Well Together' recognises that beyond the large number of protected sites in the district, the land in the wider Countryside is managed for agriculture, some of which will be under agri-environment scheme agreements. These are designed to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly management practices which can have great benefits for our biodiversity.

5.7.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Papers on Minerals Developments (Paper 11) and Countryside Development Pressure Analysis (Paper 12). This topic also overlaps with the Housing, Material Assets, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this scoping report.

Minerals

The Department for the Economy's (DfE) LDP consultation response on Minerals¹ indicates that in 2011, 21 quarries in Newry, Mourne and Down submitted annual mineral returns, plus another six quarries were known to the Department. The more recent DfE quarry data on Spatial NI, dated 2016, indicates 29 quarries operating throughout the district. Preparatory Paper 11 notes that small-scale unlicensed sand extraction has been a problem in coastal areas, such as Tyrella.

The 2016 Annual Minerals Statement² published by the DfE shows that Newry, Mourne and Down is a fairly important contributor to the overall supply of sandstone in NI. In 2016, over 18% of the total NI output, with a value of more than £3.5million was from the district. Its output in terms of other quarry products is fairly low, as presented below.

Table 5.7.1 Summary of Mineral production in Newry, Mourne and Down (2016)

	2016 NMD quantity produced (tonnes)	2016 Total NI quantity produced (tonnes)	2016 NMD % of NI total (tonnes)
Basalt and Igneous Rock (excluding Granite)	105,368	4,215,787	2.5
Sandstone	911,211	5,042,618	18.1
Limestone	0	2,146,172	0
Sand and Gravel	11,415	2,353,892	0.5
Other	5,486	1,264,407	0.4

Source: DfE Annual Minerals Statement 2016

The DfE's LDP consultation response on Minerals also indicates that the high value, high specification sandstone produced in the district has potential for export to the wider European market.

The Ards & Down Area Plan 2015 has identified 'Areas of Constraint on Minerals Development' (ACMD) however the Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 did not identify any ACMDs. In February 2017 there were 18 mineral prospecting licences and mining licenses within Newry, Mourne and Down, with 16 of these for prospecting. The land covered under these licences is shown in the LDP preparatory studies paper on Mineral Developments. Of the 1,681km² encompassed by Newry, Mourne and Down, 790km² (47%) of the district is currently covered by an ACMD designation. The designation of ACMDs may restrict the future opportunities to pursue minerals development.

Census 2011 data showed that the minerals industry employed 184 people from the district, which represents around 0.25% of all employment at that time. In 2015, the Quarry Products Association published information indicating that 252 people were employed by the industry within Newry, Mourne and Down and that £25 million is generated to the area's economy.

There were 47 ROMP sites identified in Newry, Mourne and Down by the Department of the Environment in their 2014 Review of Old Mineral Applications, equating to 10% of the total number of ROMP sites in NI (470) (see Figure 5.7.1). The majority of these (24) were for the extraction of sand and gravel, alongside 22 sites for hard rock and one for clay. The sand and gravel sites are concentrated around Kilkeel, while the hard rock sites are distributed across the district. In the future,

¹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Minerals Development - DfE Response (Date published: 23 October 2017) <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/newry-mourne-and-down-district-council-minerals-development-dfe-response>

² Department for the Economy Annual Minerals Statements (Date published: 21 February 2018) <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-minerals-statements>

it may be feasible to restore some of these sites for recreational/educational use and/or as green/blue infrastructure.

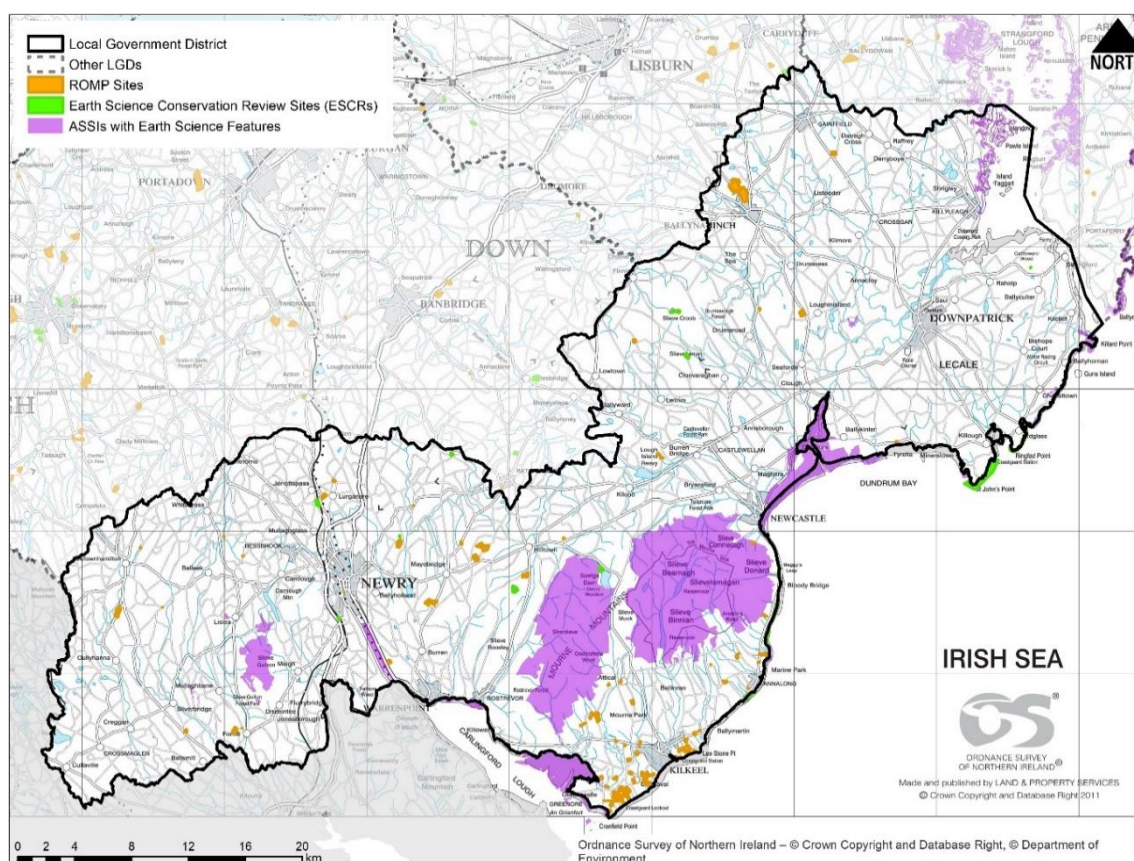
The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) maintains a database of former mine workings, shafts and adits and has an associated webviewer¹. An extract is also shown in Appendix 8 of the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 12. This shows that in the 1800s, copper, lead and iron were prospected and mined for at several locations across the district. Land within the vicinity of former mine workings may be at risk of instability and subsidence, which should be taken in to consideration when planning new development. The areas from Armagh and Newtownhamilton south to the border are licensed for minerals exploration, and while exploration for all minerals is within the terms of the licence, it is understood that the targets are base and precious metals including silver and gold. To date no economic deposit has been identified.

There are no energy minerals (coal and lignite) in the district, nor any potential for hydrocarbons (oil and gas).

Earth Science

There are 17 Earth Science Conservation Review sites (ESCRs) across Newry, Mourne and Down, Figure 5.7.1. These are recognised for various geological features and are located in disused quarries, streams, road cuttings and coastal areas. These are mostly located along the coastline, but there are also several sites located in the Mourne Mountains and the surroundings of Newry.

Figure 5.7.1: ROMP sites, Earth Science Conservation Sites and geological ASSIs



Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

As discussed further in section 5.11, there are 62 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) in Newry, Mourne and Down, of which 26 have earth science selection features. These sites are protected for

¹ GSNI Geoindex http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoindex/home.html

their geological value, but they can also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to maintain local biodiversity. For example, Carlingford Lough is an important site for breeding and wintering birds but is also recognised for its Carboniferous stratigraphy and Pleistocene deposits. Murlough Bay is recognised for its coastal processes and record of sea level history, while also being an important site for plants and invertebrate assemblages, including the marsh fritillary butterfly. There is a direct link between the geology and the geomorphology of an area and its physical character and natural heritage. There is overlap between some of the ESCRs and ASSIs. There are 190 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) in the district, some of which are likely to have a geological importance.

The GSNI published a Geodiversity Charter in 2017¹, which aims to inform decision makers of the importance of geodiversity to the economy and the environment in NI.

The Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 has identified the application for designation of the Mourne AONB and the Ring of Gullion AONB as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Global Geopark as a 'Catalyst Project' – a designation which has the potential to be 'game changing' in terms of growing the tourism economy.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are established under the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) of UNESCO and are areas of international geological significance that are holistically managed for sustainable tourism, education and conservation. As stated in the IGGP 'Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks', they must respect local and national laws relating to the protection of geological heritage (such as ASSIs and SACs). The UNESCO Global Geopark designation should not place a restriction on economic development.

The Tourism Strategy indicates that the Council, in conjunction with the GSNI, intends to prepare a new dossier for submission to UNESCO by the end of 2019.

Geothermal Energy

Naturally occurring heat is stored in ground layers ranging from core depths to shallow layers. It can be used as a source of heating for buildings and possible electricity. This naturally occurring ground heat is called 'geothermal energy'. Geothermal energy is low carbon, renewable (without fluctuation) and is viable with existing technology. It could become a sustainable part of the future energy mix, if investment and the necessary infrastructure were provided. The DfE has advised that the underlying geology of Newry, Mourne and Down is such that most of the Council area would be suitable for the deployment of closed loop ground source heat pump systems to provide heating for domestic and non-domestic buildings. The glacial outwash sands and gravels of the Mourne Plain near Kilkeel may be suitable for the deployment of open loop systems that abstract the heat energy directly from the shallow groundwater aquifer using dual abstraction and injection boreholes. The potential for a possible deep geothermal energy resource within the Mourne has also been identified².

Consideration of the installation and integration of geothermal heating systems is recommended at an early design stage alongside other infrastructure. With further development of the technology, geothermal energy could help to meet the 2020 target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan refers to ground heat and the Strategic Energy Framework discusses shallow geothermal energy.

The DfE's LDP consultation response on Minerals has noted that there may also be potential for pumped energy storage within Newry, Mourne and Down. The idea was first suggested in the 1970s

¹ DfE / Geological Survey of NI: Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter - Safeguarding Northern Ireland's Rocks and Landscape

² Ture, M.D., Reay, D.M., Muller, M.R., Yeomans, C.M. and Ayres, L.A., 2016 'Geothermal potential of granitic rocks of the Mourne Mountains' in M.E. Young (ed.), *Unearthed: impacts of the Tellus surveys of the north of Ireland; Newry, Mourne and Down LDP Preparatory Paper 11: Mineral Developments* February 2017

and the strategic importance of energy storage in helping to meet fluctuating energy demand from variable renewable energy sources has been recognised in recent years.

Land

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

Figure 5.7.2 shows a simplified version of the Corine land use classifications for Newry, Mourne and Down. The detailed land use categories can be arranged into the four general categories of 'Built on', 'Green urban', 'Farmland' and 'Natural'. Newry, Mourne and Down currently has around 77% of its land cover classified as farmland and a further 19% as natural land cover, both of which are broadly average for NI. Only 3% of the Council area is classed as 'built on' and around 1% is 'green urban'.

The Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007 found that the main changes in land cover over time were the loss of semi natural habitats to agricultural grassland and rural buildings. The trend for natural land conversion to improved grassland and curtilage was observed in the 1998 survey. Building was mostly on neutral or improved grassland, indicating pressure on agricultural land but semi natural habitat losses were also recorded. The loss of semi natural habitat in lowland areas, where this habitat is already scarce, is a biodiversity issue. In the district, development pressure on land is evident from types of development such as single rural dwellings in the countryside.

Figure 5.7.2 Land Cover Map of Newry, Mourne and Down, derived from Corine (2012)



Produced by the University of Leicester, The Centre for Landscape and Climate Research and Specto Natura and supported by Defra and the European Environment Agency under Grant Agreement 3541/B2012/R0-GIO/EEA.55055 with funding by the European Union.

Rural Housing

Preparatory Studies Paper 12 notes that (at the 2011 census) 16% of the population live within the existing development limits of Newry city, 24% live in the seven existing towns, 20% in the villages and 5% in small settlements. This means that 35% of the household population in Newry, Mourne and Down is currently in the open countryside. Between 2002 and 2016, more than 14,000 single houses in the countryside were granted planning permission in the district. The paper remarks that the introduction of PPS21 in 2010 notably reduced the rate of rural housing approvals.

Renewable Energy

In comparison with other LGDs, Newry, Mourne and Down does not experience as much pressure on land use from wind and other renewables. There are no wind farms or solar farms currently operating in the district. Preparatory Studies Paper 12 reports that 305 single wind turbines received planning approval between 2002 and 2014 (with locations shown in Figure 6 in that paper). NINIS¹ reports that 78 applications for single wind turbines between 2014 and 2017, of which 13 were pending at January 2018. It has not been possible to obtain data on how many of the approved single turbines have actually been constructed and are operational in the district but, as has been discussed in section 5.6, obtaining a connection to the grid is a major constraint to development of renewables.

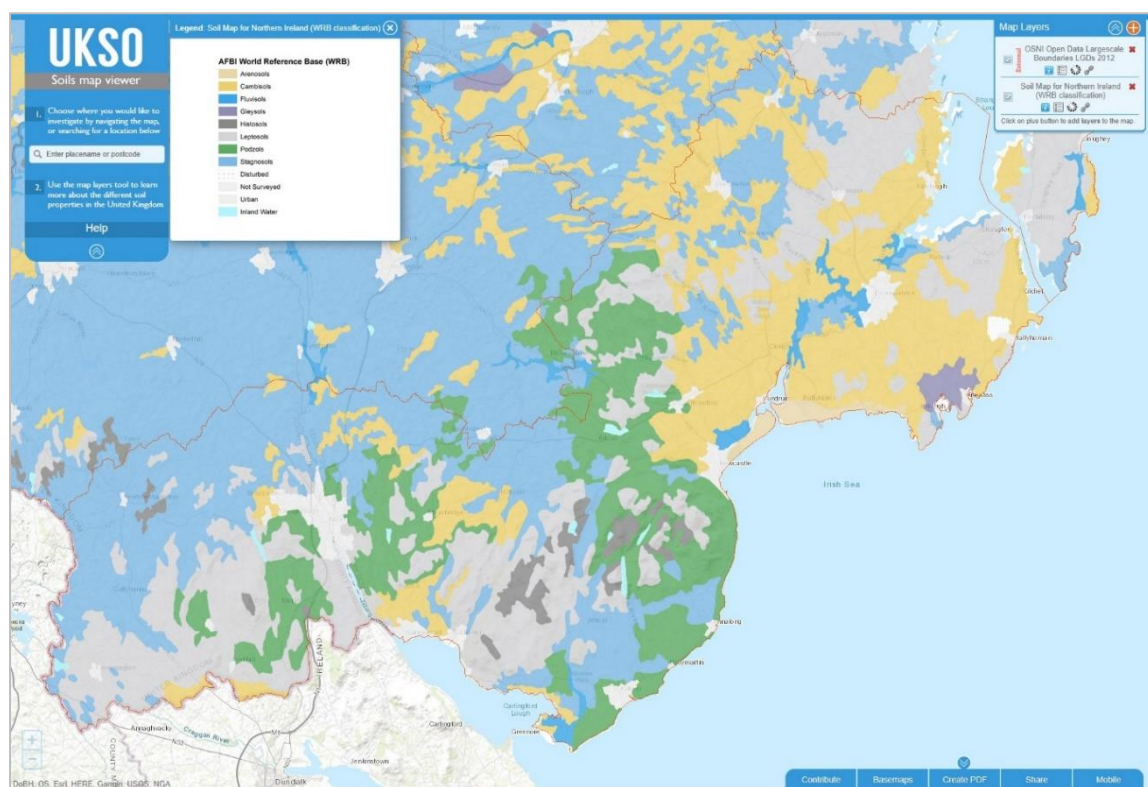
Soil

Soil quality is not currently protected under any specific legislation in NI, but it is a fundamental physical resource. It acts as a store for - and source of - gases like oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. It also filters water and provides a base for biodiversity and raw materials. A properly functioning soil should be less vulnerable to erosion, reduce flooding, filter pollution and store essential nutrients that can support plants and animals. Development can affect soil quality through pollution and erosion. Figure 5.7.3 shows the UK Soil Observatory World Reference Base Soil Map for covering Newry, Mourne and Down. The dominant soil types in the council area are:

- Cambisols (sand colour on figure 5.7.3) - relatively young soils, with little or no profile development.
- Leptosols (grey colour on figure 5.7.3) - Shallow soil over bedrock, calcareous material or a deeper soil that is gravelly or stony.
- Podzols (green colour on figure 5.7.3) – soils set by Fe/Al chemistry, common in coniferous forests.
- Stagnosols (pale blue colour on figure 5.7.3) – Soils with stagnating water.

¹ <https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/InteractiveMaps/People%20and%20Places/Planning/Single%20Wind%20Turbine/atlas.html>

Figure 5.7.3: Soils Map of Newry, Mourne and Down



Source: AFBI NI / UKSO Soils Map Viewer¹

5.7.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be less opportunity to spatially plan and sustainably manage existing and future physical resources so that reserves are safeguarded, and environmental damage avoided. It may become more difficult to respond to and manage development pressures on the district's physical resources and to avoid inappropriate development, pollution and erosion.

5.7.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Physical Resources

- Minerals should be protected from inappropriate development and a proactive approach taken to safeguard the future of mineral development in the district.
- There may be scope for mineral development within Areas of Constraint providing key sites are avoided and development would not unduly compromise the integrity of the area.
- Small-scale sand extraction has been a problem in coastal areas such as Tyrella and highlights the need to control the extraction of sand/gravel from within the coastal zone.
- The district has a number of adits, shafts and working mines that should be given appropriate consideration when planning the location of future development, particularly where these are located in proximity to settlements.
- Where mineral deposits exist across administrative boundaries consideration should be given to neighbouring authorities proposed approach to mineral development.
- The mineral prospecting licences presently issued within the Council area indicate potential for silver and gold operations.
- There is potential for extraction of precious metals within the area, however, resources these remain untouched.
- The Mourne mountains have been identified as an area where there is potential for geothermal energy located in the deep granitic igneous rock.

¹ <http://www.ukso.org/soilsofni/soilmap.html>

5.8 Transport and Accessibility

5.8.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Overarching regional planning policy for transport, aims to deliver a balanced approach to transport infrastructure. Integral to this is an underlying drive to improve transport connectivity, accessibility, efficiency and social inclusivity. Regional policy also aims to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate and adapt to climate change whilst improving air quality. Some measures to achieve this are directly linked to transport and include reducing emissions from transport, improving energy efficiency and protecting Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

Encouraging people to use public transport and to consider active travel options like walking and cycling is key to achieving regional policy outcomes. This is reflected in the policy objectives for transport in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement along with objectives for adequate parking facilities and road safety. The LDP will be fundamental to promoting and enabling sustainable transport but a behavioural shift within society is also required, both at home and in the workplace.

The draft Programme for Government (dPFG) has 14 strategic outcomes. One is based on connecting people and opportunities through infrastructure, which links to providing a sustainable transport system. Improving transport connections, increasing the use of public transport and active travel, increasing environmental sustainability and improving air quality are four indicators to measure progress on this strategic outcome.

In the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019, we are committed 'to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable'. Our vision includes supporting sustainable growth, helping the district to be a place that is attractive to visit and do business, that facilitates and encourages healthy lifestyles and that offers access to a range of modern services. Our Council's strategic priorities include becoming one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland, attracting investment and supporting the creation of new jobs and leading the regeneration of our urban and rural areas. Sustainably approaching our transport system and how people can best access services and facilities, tourist attractions and the natural environment, will be key to achieving the strategic objectives.

In our Community Plan, Living Well Together, connectivity is recognised as important: 'Underpinning development and wellbeing, connectivity is key to supporting access to services and employment for our communities, diversification and expansion of the business sector, access by tourists etc. Internal connectivity is a problem, in terms of roads, transport and communications (broadband and mobile) infrastructure.' The indicators proposed to measure delivery of the plan include level of infrastructure, travel times and congestion levels.

5.8.2 Baseline Information

Relevant baseline information is presented in the LDP Discussion Paper 5 on Transportation and the Community Plan evidence papers. Data has also been sourced from NISRA and the Department for Infrastructure. This topic also overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Air Quality, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Landscape sections of this report.

Transport Emissions

In Northern Ireland, the most common greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Other emissions are evident but CO₂ was reported in the DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 as accounting for 68% of total GHG emissions. The transport sector is the second biggest emitter of GHGs in Northern Ireland and contributes 21% of total GHG emissions. The emissions are a by-product from the burning of fossil fuels and the transport sector has not shown a declining trend.

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is also generated from road traffic and records of urban levels show no declining trend in emission levels. Since 2004, levels have more or less increased and the annual mean limit (40ug/m³) set by the UK Air Quality Strategy has been exceeded¹. GHG emissions are linked to a warming climate and the transport sector has a responsibility to reduce emissions. This can be achieved through the planning of transport routes that enable shorter journeys and the integration of public transport and active travel options.

A number of main road routes in the district experience congestion, and more information is presented in the community plan evidence papers and summarised below:

- The Dublin Road in Newry has experienced a significant increase in traffic since 2010 although there has been a slight decrease between 2013 and 2014.
- The Rostrevor Road, Warrenpoint has seen a significant increase in traffic between 2010-2014.
- On the north of the border section of the Newry to Dundalk Road there was a considerable decrease in traffic flow between 2010-2011 and the flow fluctuated year on year since but with an increase between 2013-2014.
- The Belfast Road from Downpatrick at Quoile experienced a significant decrease in traffic flow between 2010-2011, followed by a considerable increase over 2012-2013. The level of traffic flow on this road decreased again between 2013-14.
- The traffic flow on the Belfast Road, Ballynahinch peaked in 2010 and has since shown a steady decline until 2013 where the traffic has again increased.
- The Dundrum to Clough Road has overall shown continuous increase since 2012.
- The Newcastle to Annalong Road at Bloody Bridge showed decrease from 2010-2012 but has been increasing steadily since.

Transport Routes

Within the council area, the A1 linking Newry with Belfast and Dublin is identified as a Key Transport Corridor within the Strategic Transportation Network (STN). Two routes have been identified as 'Link Corridors'. These are the A7 section linking Downpatrick to Belfast and the A28 section linking Newry with Armagh. Several trunk roads are located within the district. These are the A2 section linking Newry to Warrenpoint, the A27 linking Newry to Portadown and the A2 and A24 travelling north from Newcastle to Ballynahinch and then to Belfast. It is noted in LDP Paper 5 that the STN, whilst serving a number of the district's main settlements, is better for journeys into and out of the district than for journeys between the main settlements in the district.

There are no motorways and the A1 and A2 (Newry to Warrenpoint Road) form the only sections of dual carriageway in the council district. The remaining routes within the Council area are single carriage A roads, B roads, or minor roads both classified and unclassified.

Several of the roads within the district have been identified as Protected Routes. A proposed improvement to the STN within the district is the Ballynahinch Bypass and a number of other potential future schemes including the Narrow Water Bridge project, Downpatrick Eastern Bypass, Rathfriland Link Road Newry and the proposed Irish Street to St Patricks Avenue link in Downpatrick.

Car Use

According to the continuous household survey², 86% of households in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council had access to one or more vehicles in 2016/17. There remained a significant number of households at 14%, without access to any vehicle and therefore reliant on public transport, active travel and lift shares.

¹ NIEA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report Issue 8 March 2016

² Continuous Household Survey 2016/17

Public Transport Options

Public bus services for Newry, Mourne and Down are provided primarily by Translink/Ulsterbus. There are three main Ulsterbus Stations in the Newry, Mourne and Down District, offering a variety of facilities, and several sub-depots located throughout the district.

Regular services operate to the main towns and villages though many are limited to school time requirements. Within the urban areas there are several services within the main settlements.

A number of Express Goldliner services operate to destinations within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, including services between Belfast, Newry and Dublin Airport, Downpatrick and Belfast, and Newry and Downpatrick.

Several rural rambler services also operate throughout the district supported by the Rural Transport Fund. Other than public transport buses, several private coach operators provide scheduled services within the district. These include services connecting Newry to Dublin Airport, and Dundalk, and services linking Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and Newry to Belfast and the Queens University and University of Ulster campuses.

The Census in 2011 identified that in our district, 106,630 people were of primary school ages and over, in full time education, or aged 16 to 74 in employment and currently working. The census indicated that within this group, 13.7 % travelled to work or place of education using bus or rail. If we exclude those under 16 or in education, this figure dropped to 3.14%.

When the total travelling to work or full time study is considered, we find that in total 20% of this population travel 20 kilometres (km) or over to place of work or study. It is also worth noting that in this set of figures the level of home working was 12%, and overall the level of lift share, (car and van pooling and travelling as a passenger), was 16%.

Distance travelled to work or place of study

Figure 5.8.1 presents the distance travelled to place of work or study. Over half of workers and students travel at least 10 km, and in total the percentage with over 5km to travel to work/study is 64%. There is a relatively high rate of people who work at or from home at 12%. In total 24% of people work or study within 5km of home.

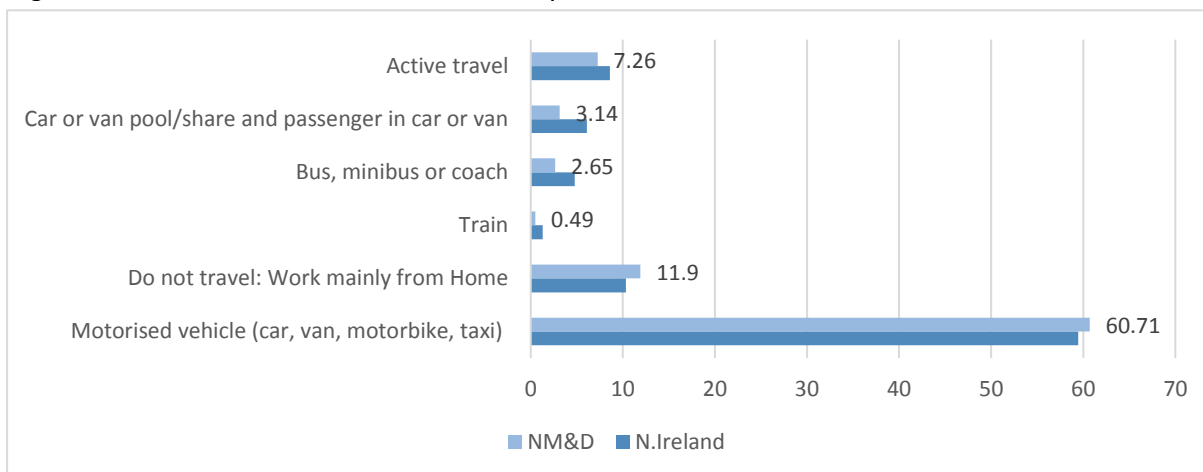
Figure 5.8.1: Newry Mourne and Down Distance Travelled to place or work or study



Source: NI Census 2011 Key Statistics Summary Report

Figure 5.8.2 shows that 7.26 % of the population use active travel. This presents an opportunity for the future. More information on active travel is below. As shown in Figure 5.8.2, the majority of workers/students rely on the private car or van, taxi or motorbike. There are a significant percentage of workers that car share or car pool (16.66%) as well as work from home (11.9%) and this helps to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.

Figure 5.8.2: Modes of travel to work for Newry, Mourne and Down



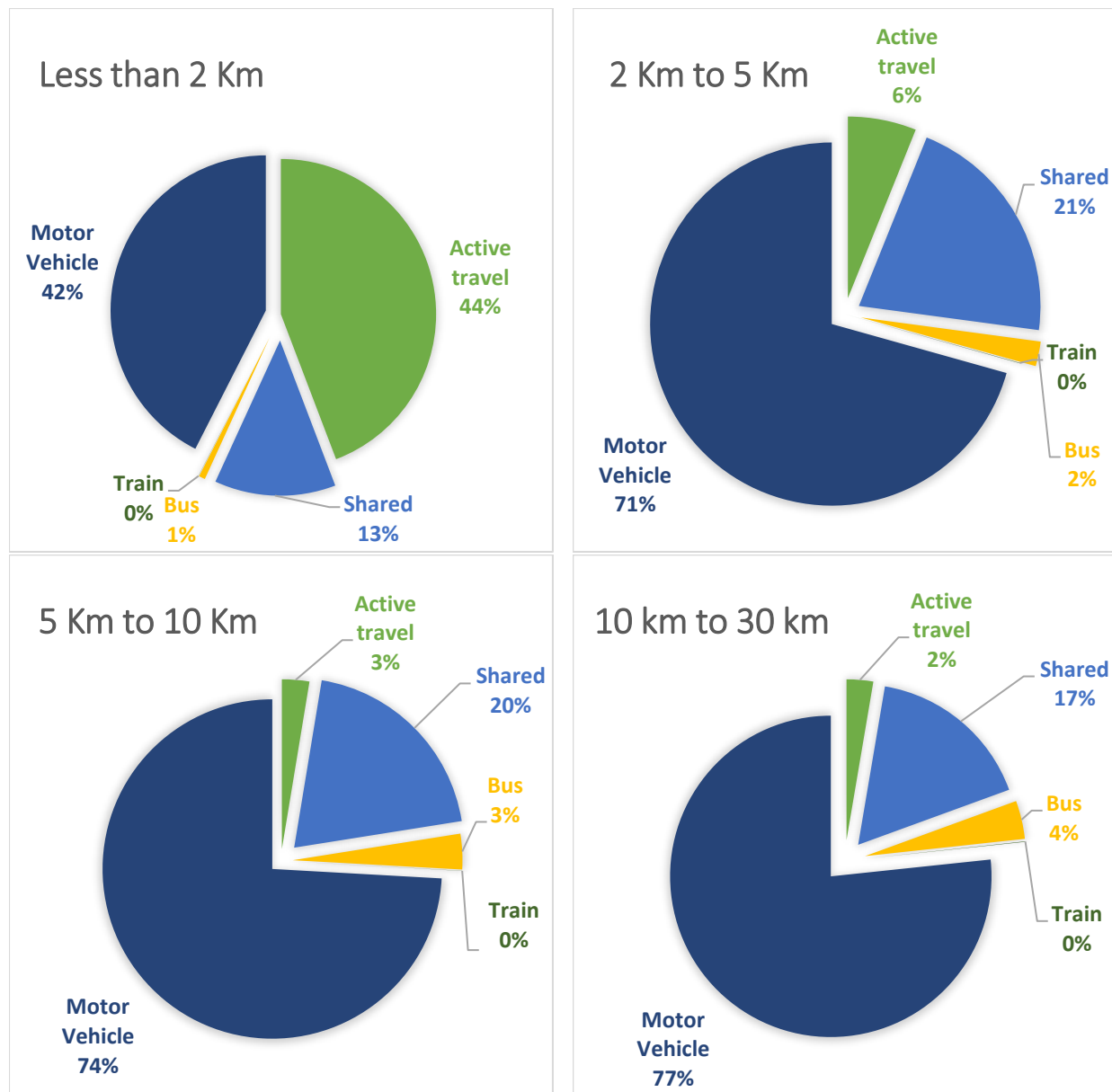
Source: NI Census 2011 Key Statistics Summary Report

If we look at this information in a little more depth, as shown in Figure 5.8.3 below we can identify:

- At short distances, there the highest proportion journeys made using active travel although motor vehicle use is very high.
- Car use is the most frequently used mode of transport in all the graphs at all distances and from 5km up, 74% plus of commuting journeys use the car.
- 77% of those travelling between 10 and 30 km for work use the car.
- Travel using the train remains at a very low frequency across all of the distances, and only becomes measurable in the set of data that covers 10 to 30 km travelled. Bus use does not get to over 5% and its use increases with distance.

- The use of shared transport arrangements ranges from 13-21 % of journeys, and peaks in the 2-5 km distance.

Figure: 5.8.3: Method of travel to work by distance travelled: All usual residents aged 16 to 74 (excluding students) in employment and currently working

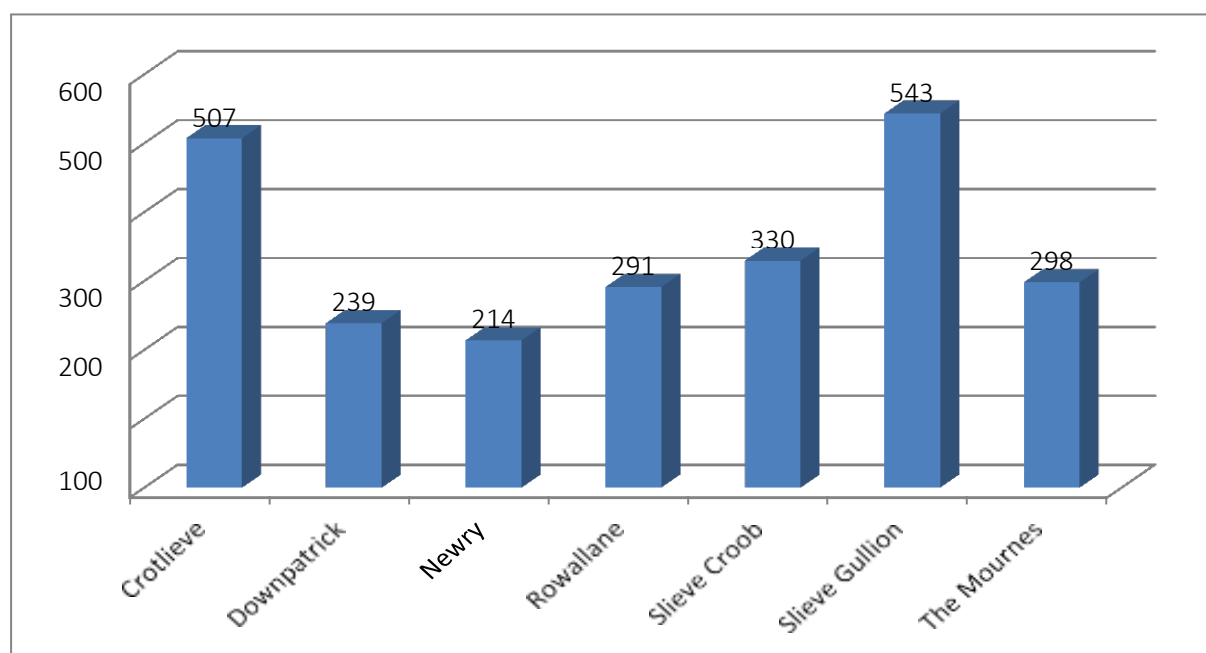


Source: NISRA Census 2011

The Creating Places¹ guide indicates that no residents should have to walk more than 400 metres (m) from their home, and the majority of residents should walk no more than 200m from their home to a bus stop. Evidence presented for the Community Plan baseline demonstrates that Downpatrick and Newry District Electoral Areas (DEAs) have the shortest distance to their nearest bus stop on average. Although all of the DEAs have an average distance of over 200m to their nearest bus stop. Due to their rural and remote location, Crotlieve and Slieve Gullion are the DEAs with the longest distance to travel to their nearest bus stop on average from their home at 507 m and 543 m respectively. When we consider this information at ward level, we find that residents of Newtownhamilton have an average 966m, and those in Crossmaglen have 774m to walk to the nearest bus stop.

¹ https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary_guidance/guides/creating-places.pdf

Figure 5.8.4: Average distance to nearest bus stop by District Electoral Area (DEA)



Source: Community Plan: Level of Connectivity outcome 1, indicator 3.

Park and Ride/Share facilities

Car parking provision is important to help enable car sharing and access to public transport for general travel and to key tourist destinations. Parking is managed across statutory agencies and the private sector. Planning for parking needs to take account of public transport services and routes, as well as walking and cycling networks.

Facilities exist at the Newry train station for parking before travelling on using the train. Park and ride provision is provided at a limited number of sites within the district. These are at 3 locations - Newcastle/Clough Road Roundabout (which has a connecting bus service to Belfast); Sheepbridge on the A1; and Cloghogue, Newry.

Electric Charge Points

There are already a number of electric car parking spaces with charge points in the Council. These are shown in the LDP Transportation Paper 5 and are mostly located in the main towns but also in Strangford, Crossgar, Castlewellan, Ballynahinch, Kilkeel and Warrenpoint. In the future, with the switch from combustion engines to hybrids and 100% electric vehicles, there is likely to be a need for additional electric charging points. Currently there are 22 charging points mostly on public sector controlled sites.

Ferry Services and Ports

Our Council also supports three ferry points at Warrenpoint and Greencastle. Warrenpoint Harbour, located on Carlingford Lough, is the second busiest cargo port in Northern Ireland and the fifth busiest on the island of Ireland. It operates daily roll-on roll-off services to Heysham in Lancashire and Container Services to Cardiff and Bristol. Warrenpoint Harbour received its first visit from a cruise ship in 2014 and again in 2017 and it is envisaged that the port will see further growth for cruise and recreational purposes through its Marina facility.

Two local passenger and vehicle ferry services also operate from Newry, Mourne and Down. The Portaferry to Strangford service is operated by Transport NI and crosses Strangford Lough at its narrowest point on a half hourly basis all year round. The service reduces the 47-mile journey between these villages, (which typically takes up to an hour and a half), to around 8 minutes.

Annually the ferry is used by around 550,000 passengers with 180,000 vehicles¹ and is an important transport link in the local economy, carrying commuters, schoolchildren as well as tourists.

The Greencastle to Greenore service commenced operation in July 2017 and connects the south eastern Mourne region with the Cooley Peninsula. The hourly service is operated by Frazer Ferries and runs all year. It aims to establish itself as a year-round commuter service but also has a strong ambition to establish itself as a tourism asset, as a scenic transport link between the Mourne, the Ring of Gullion and the Cooley Peninsula and 'Ireland's Ancient East' in Ireland.

Active Travel - Accessibility and Connectivity

Active travel routes are a way to connect communities to facilities and services, as well as to areas of open and green space. The SPPS recognises the impact this aspect of planning can have on people's travel choices, local biodiversity, and health and well-being. The concept of active travel should enable people to easily access places without using a vehicle. According to information in the district Council's LDP Economic preparatory paper, 8% of commuters walk or cycle to work (active travel) and 3% use public transport; leaving at least 75% of people using vehicles. These figures reflect the trends for modes of travel to work from the 2011 census data, shown in Figure 5.8.2 above. The LDP could help to encourage active travel by developing and connecting walkways and cycling routes. This could help to improve connectivity across the district as well as local air quality and people's health and well-being.

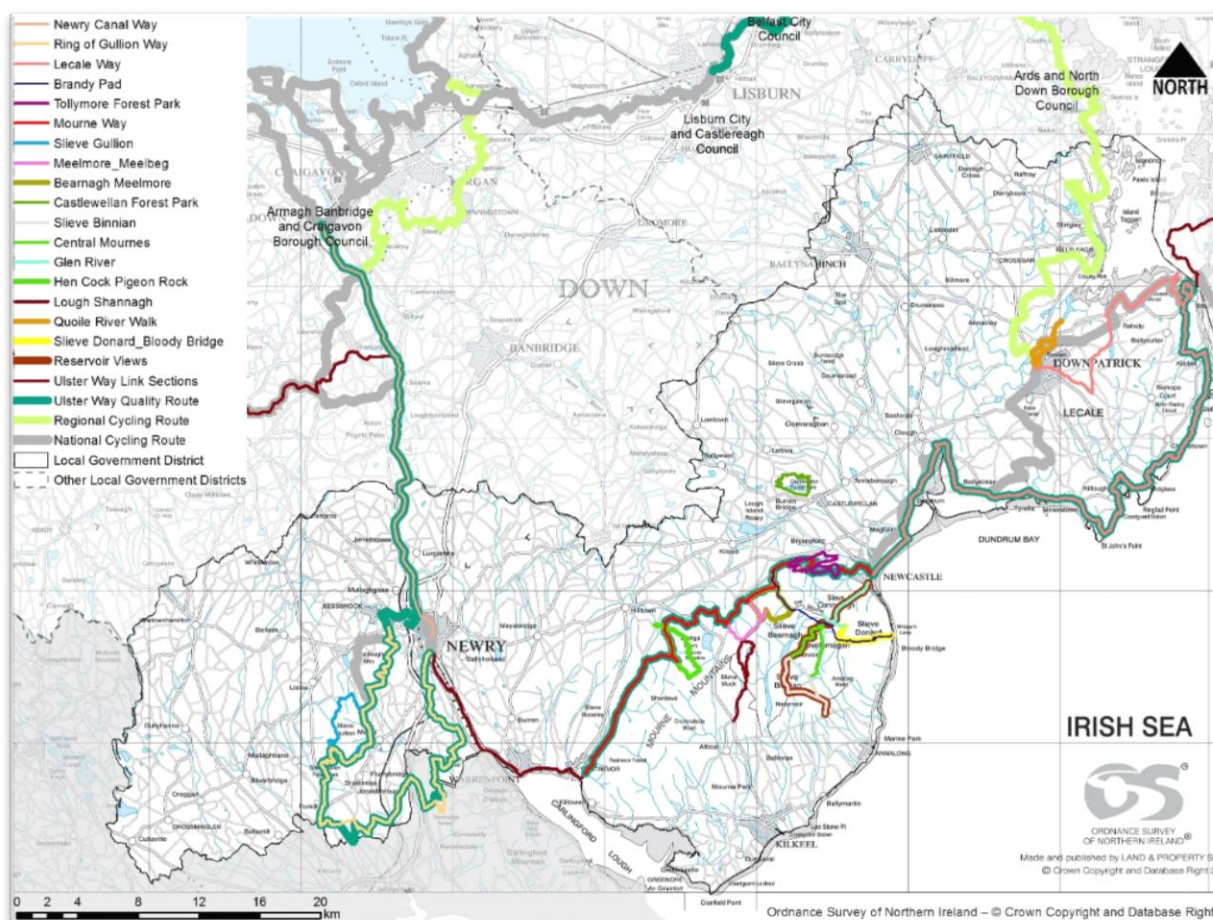
Urban walkways and cycle lanes can enable people to be self-reliant for their travel needs and may include paths, lanes and rights of way. Some examples are referred to in the LDP Transportation Paper 5. The district has an existing greenway route from Newry to Portadown/Craigavon that follows the canal towpath for 32km. The Carlingford Lough Greenway is in a phased development and due to be completed in 2019. This will link to the Carlingford to Omeath Greenway. Future phases could also link the district Council up to the Great Eastern Greenway. The district Council is also investigating five further greenways and a coastal path route. The greenways are located from Downpatrick to Comber; Downpatrick to Newcastle; Downpatrick to Ardglass; Newry to Bessbrook, and Newry to Omeath; totalling 78km of local greenways. The Downpatrick to Comber route is in conjunction with Ards and North Down Borough Council. Partnership working is also evident in the Mourne and Strangford Lough Coastal Path proposal from Portavogie to Greencastle. It would follow the coastline and pass through three fishing villages of Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie².

In total, there are 21 established long and medium length walking routes. (More information on walking routes including shorter distances can be found at the WalkNI website.) The majority of these walking routes are shown in the figure below. Routes are located throughout the wider countryside and are mostly recreational however, some routes are also near urban areas and green/blue infrastructure like forests, rivers and canals. The Ulster Way can be walked through the district from Strangford Lough in the east, along the coast at Lecale, behind the mountains of Mourne and on towards Newry via the canal network and then northward to Portadown. The majority of the route located in the district is a 'quality' route meaning it is mostly off road and waymarked with views of the district's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

¹ The Irish News, 10th March 2016 "Strangford ferry costs an average of £1.5m a year to run" (accessed 02 May 2016)

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Economic Preparatory Paper

Figure 5.8.5: Cycling Routes and Long or Medium Length Walking Routes in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



Source: Sustrans, WalkNI and DAERA

National and regional cycling routes (99 and 9) are also present within the district providing access to the wider countryside and some of the main towns. These routes follow the western flank of Strangford Lough, to the north of Downpatrick and then south towards Newcastle. The north and west of Newry is also accessed. There could be potential to improve route connectivity across the district. More information on the cycling routes can be found from the Sustrans website¹.

When planning for active travel, it is recommended to spatially consider the existing walking and cycling routes to help to enhance and develop the active travel network across the district.

Greenways

The Department for Infrastructure published a strategic plan for greenways in 2016² in Exercise – Explore – Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways. It identifies 1000km of greenway routes made up from potential primary and secondary networks, with much of the disused railway network used to connect people and places. There are 10 disused railway routes through the district that could be considered including routes that go through Downpatrick, Newcastle and Newry. A third tier of community greenways is also feasible that could help further connect local communities to facilities and services; to local green and open spaces; and with neighbouring communities.

¹ <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/northern-ireland/our-work-northern-ireland>

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Economic paper

Figure 5.8.6: Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes



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

5.8.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, emissions from the transport sector are likely to continue to increase, as it would become more difficult to integrate efficient public transport routes and facilities to enable people to reduce their reliance on the private car. Without current spatial information, there would be an increased risk of missing key opportunities to integrate active travel routes. Development of land, based on older information, is unlikely to be able to consider the most sustainable development of land in terms of journey times, route linkages and accessibility, as well as provision of alternative modes of sustainable and active travel options.

5.8.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Transport and Accessibility

- A number of main road routes in the district experience congestion.
- The A1 linking Newry with Belfast and Dublin is the only road in the council area identified as a key transport corridor within the Strategic Transportation Network for Northern Ireland. There are no motorways within the council area.
- Almost four-fifths of householders own a car or van, and road travel is the dominant mode of transportation.
- Almost one in five households in the council area did not own a private vehicle in the Census of 2011. The availability of public transport and active travel options is particularly important for access to key services and facilities for less able people, the elderly and communities in areas of deprivation.
- 77% of journeys to work place and place of study use the road network.
- Over one fifth of residents travel 20 km or more to their place of work.
- A significant proportion of the district's population live outside the main hubs. This creates challenges for connectivity.

- Three main park and ride sites are available in the district at Newcastle/Clough, Sheepbridge, Newry and Cloghogue, Newry.
- There are already a significant number of people car sharing and car-pooling as well as working from home, which helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport and maintain air quality.
- There is expected to be an increase in electric vehicles and demand for electric charging points across the Council.
- Bus services are essential for children who travel to school.
- Downpatrick and Newry DEAs have the shortest distance to walk to their nearest bus stop on average. By ward, Newtownhamilton and Crossmaglen have the longest distance to their nearest bus stop.
- Very low level reported use of public transport, particularly rail.
- Warrenpoint Harbour located on Carlingford Lough is the 2nd busiest general cargo port in Northern Ireland and the fifth on the island of Ireland.
- It is important for the Council to consider local transport links, including sustainable and active travel links, and good access provision to key tourist attractions.
- It is important to plan a transport system with routes and travel options that will help to reduce GHG emissions by reducing journey times and integrating public and active transport options.
- A spatial approach to the provision of public transport and active travel options could help to ensure adequate provision in the most deprived areas where the households are less likely to have access to own private vehicles.
- Measures such as park and ride/share facilities, accessible greenways and active travel networks, are needed to help people shift their reliance away from the private car and on to other modes of travel like public transport, walking and cycling.
- Parts of the National Cycle Network run through the district including on-road sections and some traffic free sections for example from Scarva to Newry along the canal.
- There is an existing greenway linking Newry and Craigavon and a number of potential routes within the district including a Carlingford Lough route that could link up with the Great Eastern Greenway. There are plans for a Mourne and Strangford Lough Coastal path, which is being developed in partnership with Ards and North Down Borough Council.
- There is potential to link local level active travel routes to local and regional recreational routes, including the Ulster Way, and to develop strategic level networks for both walking and cycling.

5.9 Air Quality

5.9.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

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

Overarching regional planning guidance highlights agriculture, transport and energy supply as the three sectors contributing most to a warming climate in Northern Ireland. Agricultural land makes up a significant amount of land cover in Northern Ireland; we remain heavily reliant on private car use for journeys; and we are mostly dependent on fossil fuels for our energy supply. All these sources emit air pollutants including greenhouse gas emissions.

In the draft Programme for Government (dPFG), there are several outcomes that can be linked to good air quality. These include outcomes to live and work sustainably; to live healthy and active lives; and to create a place that people want to live, work and visit. Air quality does not have a specific planning policy but under the SPPS, it can be a material consideration. Maintaining good air quality is an important aspect of sustainable development as it is fundamental to the quality of our environment, society and the economy. The dPFG has set improving air quality as an indicator of achieving its outcomes.

In the District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019¹, the commitment to 'improving the lives of local people and communities' is clear. The Council's mission 'is to lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable'. To help achieve this, the District Council has eight strategic objectives, which include becoming one of the premier tourism destinations to visit; support for improved health and well-being outcomes; protection of the natural and built environment; and regeneration of our urban and rural areas. All of these have actions that can lead to reduced air emissions with potential to help improve local air quality.

The Community Plan 'Living Well Together'² provides a framework up to 2030 so that everyone can help, 'make life better for local people'. The Plan aims to achieve goals on the, 'big issues that matter to people like health'; and has five strategic outcomes to help do this. Maintaining good air quality will be fundamental in achieving two of these; that all people can enjoy good health and well-being and all people can benefit from a clean and sustainable environment. The District Council is one of the best performing in the country with over half of all citizens in very good health.

5.9.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is in the Local Development Plan Preparatory Study Papers on Transportation, and the Countryside – Development Pressure Analysis. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-

¹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019: Proud of our past. Building our future together.

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan to 2030 'Living well Together'

being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Climate Change, Natural Resources and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

Air Quality Management Areas

There are currently two active Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the district. The first is located in Newry (Urban Centre) and is for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)¹. It covers Bridge Street, Mary Street, Canal Street, Water Street, Kilmorey Street and Sandy Street, and dates from August 2009. NO₂ is primarily from burning fossil fuels (traffic sources) and can be a severe respiratory irritant. Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) can readily mix with other chemicals to form acid rain, or other pollutants like ground level ozone, that also acts as a respiratory irritant. The second AQMA is in Newry, Canal Street and is for particulate matter (PM₁₀)². It covers part of Canal Street, which is in the AQMA for NO₂. The Canal Street AQMA dates from April 2013. Air quality monitoring in 2014 also found exceedances of the annual mean for NO₂ in Market Street, Downpatrick. A detailed assessment was planned for Downpatrick. Information on the district's current air quality, AQMAs and monitoring can be accessed at www.airqualityni.co.uk. Traffic and congestion are the sources of emissions at these AQMAs.

Air Quality Monitoring Stations

There are two automatic air quality monitoring stations (AQMSs) in the district. The AQMS located in Newry monitors PM₁₀, and the AQMS located in Downpatrick monitors NO₂³. Monitoring across the council area showed an increasing trend for NO₂ although some sites did show a reduction. It is important to acknowledge that other factors can affect air quality, including local weather conditions and changes in local pollution sources⁴. However, traffic is the source of emissions at these locations.

Smoke Control Areas

Newry City is a smoke control area (SCA) within the district. These have been created to help improve local air quality by reducing air pollutants like smoke, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and PM₁₀ from the burning of fossil fuels. Any new developments in the SCA are required to comply with the need for authorised fuels⁵.

Human Health

There is an important link between air quality and human health. It is estimated that in the United Kingdom, life expectancy is shortened by eight months because of poor air quality⁶. Recent Departmental figures for Northern Ireland indicate that 553 deaths can be attributed to PM₁₀, and 330 to NO₂. PM₁₀ can cause respiratory issues and carcinogenic risks whilst NO₂ can also cause respiratory issues. PM₁₀ pollution is composed of fine particles from natural and man-made sources - pollen, sand, dust, road traffic, coal burning and construction work, are all potential sources⁷.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) records respiratory death rates for men and women under the age of 75. All rates for the district are below the Northern Ireland average⁸.

Transport Sources

The district has several important transport routes through it, including a key transport corridor (A1), two link corridors (A7, A28), and two trunk roads (A2 & A24)⁹. The Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA) presents travel and transport related information, which also helps to show the importance of the district's geographical location with the presence of A, B and C roads, and a significant number of unclassified routes. The district has one of the highest amounts of dual and

¹https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/images/aqma_maps/Newry.jpg

² https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/images/aqma_maps/993_Newry%20Canal%20Street%20AQMA.jpg

³ http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/assets/documents/dc-reports/Newry_Mourne_Down_2015_USA.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ DAERA presentation for draft Programme for Government Air Quality Stakeholder Consultation, August 2016

⁷ www.airqualityni.co.uk

⁸ <http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>

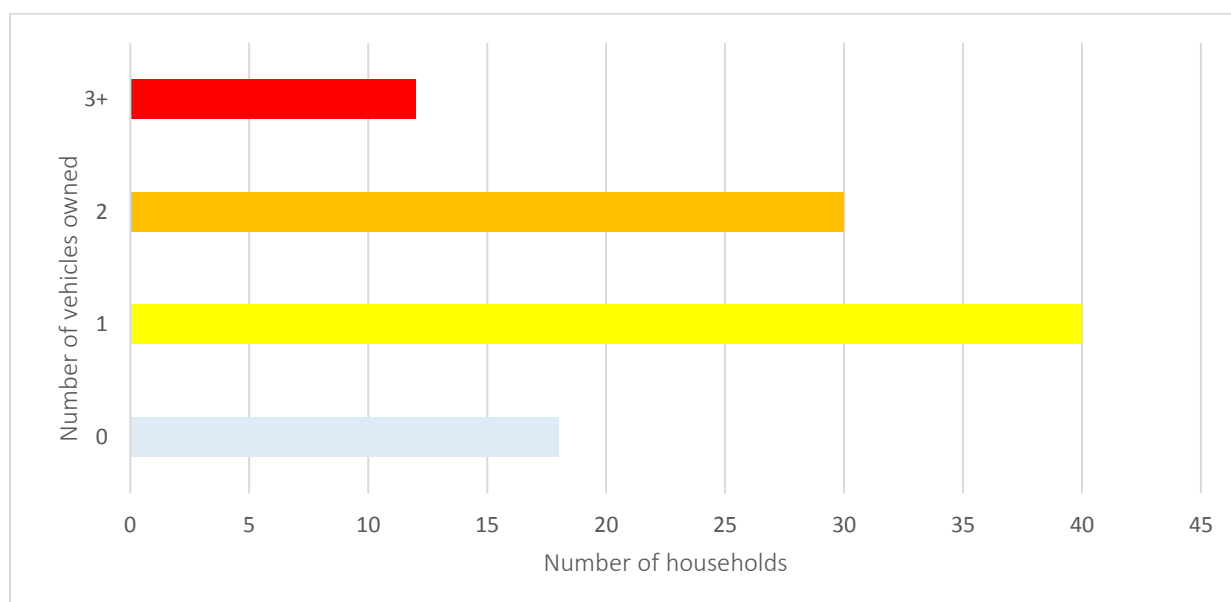
⁹ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Economic paper 2017

single carriageway A-roads, totalling 351 kilometres (km); and the fourth highest amount of unclassified road at 1,814.8km. In total, there are 3,060.5km of road across the district, the fourth highest amount of all the Councils.

Road traffic contributes to NO₂, PM¹⁰ and ozone levels. The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 states that the, ‘average annual mean concentration of NO₂ across Northern Ireland’s urban background areas has remained relatively stable over the past thirteen years.’ No clear decreasing trend has been reported for NO₂. In the same report, the annual mean concentration for PM¹⁰ in urban areas has been reported as more than double that in the rural background site but since 2003, urban sites have shown a clear decreasing trend. Ozone levels in urban sites have shown variability with no clear decreasing trend. The planned phase out of diesel and petrol vehicles by 2040 should help to significantly reduce air pollutants and improve air quality¹.

Car ownership in the Council is relatively high, with 40% owning one vehicle, 30% owning two vehicles and 12% owning three or more vehicles². The amount of licensed cars in the district is just over 91,370; the third highest of all the Councils. More information is in the Transport and climate Change sections of this report.

Figure 5.9.1: Level of Vehicle Ownership



Source: NINIS Census 2011

Agricultural Sources

Ammonia is an air pollutant usually associated with the agriculture sector. Ammonia is not included as an objective in the Air Quality Regulations but it can be linked to the deterioration of habitats. In Northern Ireland, ammonia emissions were reported as 93% from livestock and 7% from the application of fertilizers³. Since 2001, ammonia emissions from livestock have increased by nearly 3% as the number of cattle, pigs and poultry has increased. This contrasts with the rest of the UK, which has seen a declining trend in emissions and a decrease in the number of livestock. Ammonia

¹ Climate NI website

² NINIS Census 2011 data

³ DAERA (2017): Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 Issue 9

emissions from fertilizer use has reduced since 2001 by 33% but overall ammonia emissions have only reduced by 1.2%. More information is in the Climate Change section of this report.

Energy Sources

In Northern Ireland, there has been a rise in the use of natural gas for residential heating and a move away from oil and coal for domestic heating purposes. Electricity from renewables has also increased every year since 2001¹. However, in the district, a significant proportion of the population remain dependent on oil for central heating². Diversification in our energy use means that pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and carbon emissions from fossil fuel combustion have been reducing. More information is in the Material Assets and Climate Change sections of this report.

5.9.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there may be the risk of decreasing air quality through inappropriately located development. There may be fewer opportunities to spatially influence development that could help to maintain or improve local air quality.

5.9.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Air Quality

- The District Council has two Air Quality Management Areas that date from 2009 and 2013 - Newry (Urban Centre) AQMA for Nitrogen dioxide, and Newry, Canal Street AQMA for particulate matter (PM10).
- Some parts of the district are smoke control areas, where authorised fuels must be used.
- To help reduce reliance on vehicles, access to public transport and active travel options are needed.
- It is important to spatially consider future air quality when planning the location of new developments or transport routes alongside existing or proposed land uses, particularly where air quality may already be an issue, or likely to impact on residential areas.
- Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector could help improve air quality in certain rural areas.
- Support for renewables in appropriate locations could help reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion, as well as help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

¹ DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

² NINIS Census 2011 data

5.10 Climate Change

5.10.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The typical weather conditions of an area are based on natural variabilities that create the climate. These variabilities can cause extreme weather events but also normal or expected conditions. Several factors that affect our climate include how near to the sea and how far from the equator we are, as well as local topography, wind direction and ocean current. During the last few decades, it has become more and more accepted that human activity has also affected usual weather patterns and climate, on a global level.

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

The Regional Development Strategy recommends we reduce our carbon footprint, adapt to climate change and deliver a sustainable and secure energy supply. Reducing GHG emissions is the only way to mitigate climate change. In the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), climate change is viewed as a central challenge to achieving sustainable development. The SPPS promotes the planning system as a tool to shape new and existing developments to help combat climate change by promoting sustainable patterns of development and transport, renewables, energy efficiency and the use of the natural environment as green/blue infrastructure.

The first UK National Adaptation Programme (UK NAP) was published in July 2013. Northern Ireland's NAP was launched in 2014. The SPPS details mitigation and adaptation for climate change and was informed by the Northern Ireland NAP. The second Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) (2018-2023) will provide local level evidence with targeted local adaptation information. Flooding has been identified as "potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks"², to NI.

The NI Executive's draft Programme for Government (dPFG) includes 14 strategic outcomes including living and working sustainably whilst protecting the environment; to have an innovative and creative society; and to connect people and opportunities through infrastructure³. There are 42 indicators to help indicate progress on these outcomes, one of which is to 'increase environmental sustainability'. This will be measured using GHG emissions with actions taken by Departments reported on.

In the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019, its mission states that as a Council, Newry, Mourne and Down will 'lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable.' One of the Council's strategic priorities is to protect both the natural and built environment, and one of its core values is to be sustainable. The Council has a duty to deliver on these commitments all of which can help to underpin the Council's resilience to climate change. Tackling a subject as complex as climate change is not easy but by ensuring sustainable development there is an opportunity to help reduce GHG emissions and integrate adaptation strategies.

The Community Plan 'Living Well together' aims to help manage future risks and opportunities that communities within the Council will face up to 2030. There are 7 aims and 8 guiding principles and although 'climate change' is not referred to, the challenges and priorities facing communities are, as

¹ UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis Report 2016

² Department of Environment (2014): Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

³ Northern Ireland Executive's Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021

too is improving people's well-being. Preventing climate change and supporting approaches to help people and businesses adapt to climate change will be fundamental to sustainable development and achieving the outcomes of the both the Community and the Corporate Plan.

5.10.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Study Paper on The Coast. This topic also overlaps with the Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Water, Natural Resources and the Historic Environment sections of this report.

International context

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

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

In 2016, the UNFCCC met in Paris to discuss strengthening the global response to climate change. With the support of 196 countries, the Paris Agreement was made. It aims to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C or less on pre-industrial levels. Ambitious GHG reductions from 2020 in Nationally Determined Contributions are requirements of this agreement. In total, 174 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, including the UK and Ireland³.

UK Context

The UK was the first country to have a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions with the UK Climate Change Act 2008.⁴ It led to the formation of the independent body, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), and the CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee. These advise the UK and devolved administrations on carbon budgets and preparing for climate change. The devolved administrations of

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

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

³ <https://twitter.com/rarohde?lang=en>

⁴ Defra 2012: A Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland

the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to contribute to the reductions stated in the Climate Change Act, which means by 2050 an 80% reduction of GHG emissions based on 1990 levels should be evident. The latest projections published by DAERA¹ in December 2017 indicate that GHG emissions will be 31.2% lower in 2030 than in 1990, which is close to the target. The 2008 Act also requires the UK to produce a report every five years on the risks and opportunities from climate change. The first Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) was produced in 2012.

The second CCRA Evidence Report was due to be presented to Parliament in 2017. An interim report, The UK Synthesis Report 2017, helps to detail the priorities for the UK for the next five years with six key areas of climate change risk. The six key areas are:

- flooding and coastal change
- impact of high temperatures in the built environment
- risks to natural capital
- risks of future water shortages
- impacts on the global food system, and
- risks arising from new and emerging pests and diseases².

NI is expected to respond with its own follow up National Adaptation Report.

The most recent land and marine climate projections for the UK (UKCP09) were published in 2009. New projections will be available soon.

Northern Ireland context

NI Climate Scenarios

According to the UKCP09, by the 2050s, winters and summers will both be warmer; winters will have more precipitation but summers will have less; sea level rise will be 14.5centimetres higher than 1990 levels; and extreme weather events will be more likely³. Queens University Belfast manages nine climate-monitoring stations across NI for temperature and precipitation. Climate projections informed by this monitoring predict that average temperatures will increase and become progressively warmer toward the end of the 21st century. Temperature increase will occur in all seasons, with inland areas showing a larger degree of warming than coastal areas. Summers will be drier and winters wetter but overall precipitation will fall slightly⁴. The NI Environmental Statistics Report 2017 also predicts an increasing average temperature for NI and a trend for increasing levels of rainfall in winter months.

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

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

Threats and opportunities for all of these were presented in the NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Some adaptation activities on these themes include works to reduce the risk of flooding at water treatment works; reviews by Departmental bodies into the resilience of their buildings in

¹ DAERA Statistics and Analytical Services Branch Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Projections Update published 15/12/2016

² Committee on Climate Change UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report 'The CCRA at a glance'

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

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

⁵ DAERA Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2014)

extreme weather events; and a partnership approach to wildfire management in the Mourne Mountains.

The vision of NI's Adaptation Programme is for "A resilient NI which will take timely and well informed decisions that are responsive to the key risks and opportunities presented by climate change." To help achieve this vision, four primary areas for action have been targeted. These are:

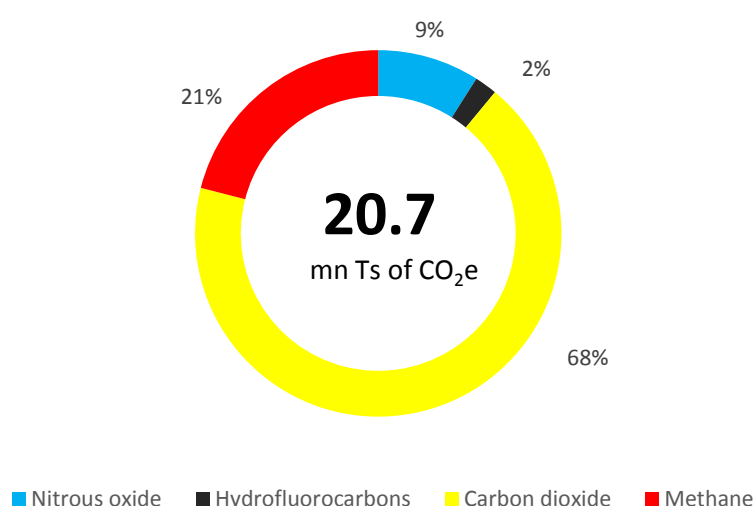
- Flooding
- Water
- Natural Environment, and
- Agriculture and Forestry

In total, 130 risks and opportunities were identified within these four primary areas. Climate change is expected to exacerbate threats to all of these. Objectives and adaptation principles for each theme are needed to help fulfil commitments under the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The Adaptation Programme identifies Councils as, "particularly well placed to raise awareness and provide leadership through their responsibilities", on climate change issues. The next Climate Change Adaptation Programme for NI is due in 2019.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2015, NI accounted for 4.2% of UK GHG emissions. These were estimated to be equivalent to 20.7 million tonnes of CO₂. CO₂ emissions accounted for 68% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. It was the most common gas emitted from most sectors but not agriculture, or waste management. Methane was a more significant GHG from both of these sectors because of livestock and landfill. Nitrous oxide was the other significant GHG emission from the agriculture sector. This is a difficult GHG to both measure and reduce. NI accounts for a much larger share of the UK's emissions of these gases due to the economic importance of agriculture in NI¹. Overall, there was an increase in GHG emissions compared to 2014 but the longer-term trend shows a decrease of 17.8% compared to the 1990 base year².

Figure 5.10.1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Northern Ireland 2015



Source: DAERA 2017, Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

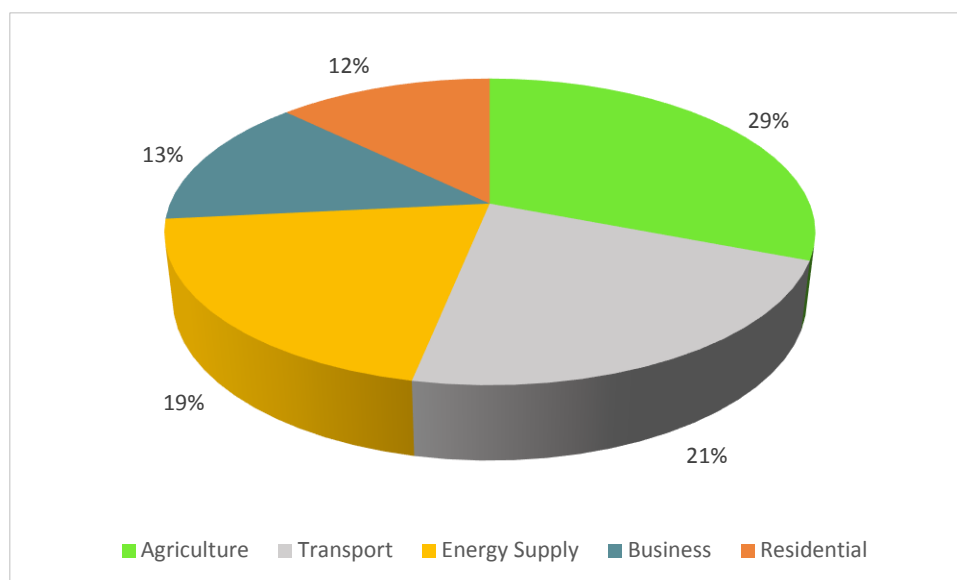
The largest GHG emitting sectors in NI are agriculture (29%), transport (21%), energy supply (19%), business (13%) and residential (12%). GHG emissions from these sectors are by-products from

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

² DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

farming practices, vehicle emissions and the general burning of fossil fuels for energy/electricity or heating. Most sectors have shown a long-term decreasing trend in emissions since the base year, with the largest decreases in the energy supply, residential and waste sectors. However, between 2014 and 2015, emissions increased from the transport (2.1%) and agriculture (1.3%) sectors.

Figure 5.10.2: Largest Contributors of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Northern Ireland 2015



Source: DAERA 2017, Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

Four other sectors are also accountable for GHG emissions. These are industrial processes, land use change, public and waste management. The land use change sector has shown a 19% increase in emissions from the base year. This reflects losses in semi-natural land cover to developed land¹.

Greenhouse Gas Emitting Sectors

Agriculture

In 2015, the agriculture sector continued to be the main contributor of GHG emissions in Northern Ireland, totalling 29% of all emissions. Although emissions have reduced since the baseline year (1990) by 3.3%, the sector remains the biggest contributor of GHG emissions. Livestock and nitrogen fertiliser are two sources and account for 93% and 7% of all ammonia emissions². The agriculture sector is also the main source of CH₄ and N₂O, accounting for 85% and 90% of total emissions. Although the sector emits a relatively low amount of CO₂, it emits N₂O to a significant level. N₂O emissions from the agriculture sector are difficult to estimate. Farming is an important part of NI's economy and in the district the agricultural industry supports more than a quarter of its workforce (27%)³. More information is in the Physical Resources section of this report.

Transport

The transport sector accounts for 21% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland. GHG emissions increased between 2014 and 2015 and the sector shows an increase in emissions of 30% from the 1990 baseline year. This reflects the reliance people have on motorised vehicles in NI. It is a significant contributor of CO₂ but nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is also emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels. NO₂ can cause respiratory issues and is partly why in the UK from 2040, all vehicles will be electric or

¹ DAERA Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2015 Statistical Bulletin

² DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

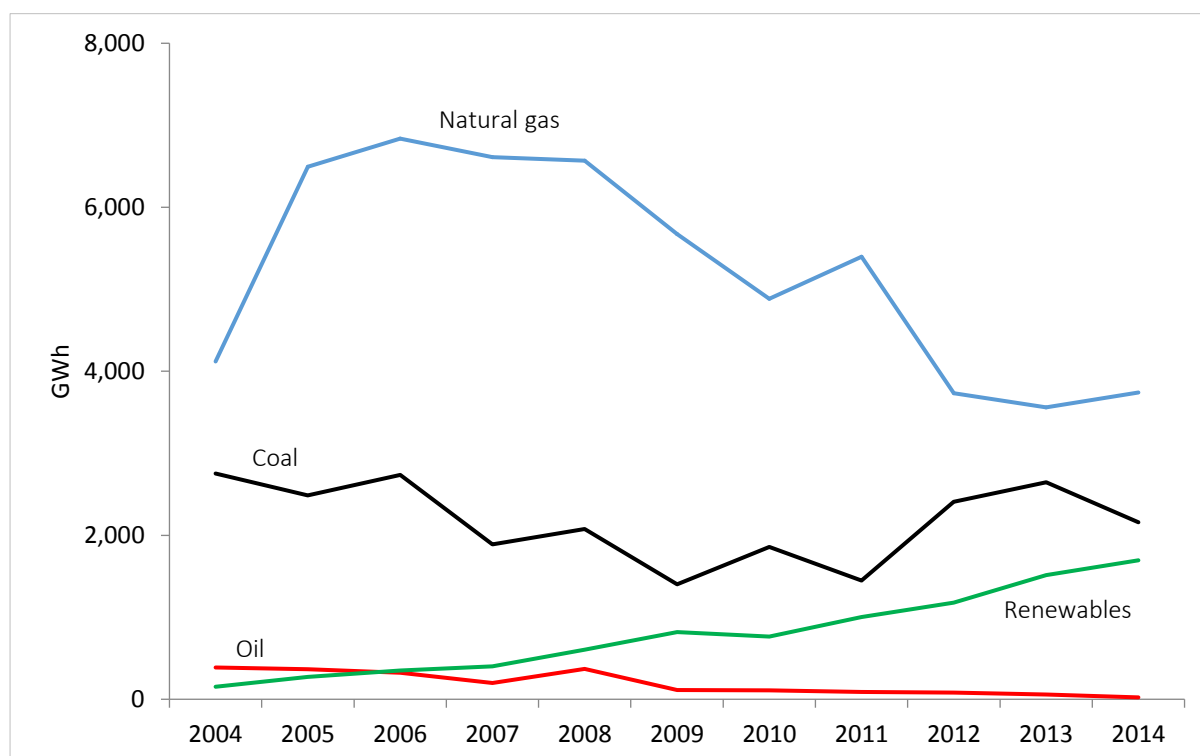
³ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan Living Well Together 2030

hybrid, as diesel and petrol vehicles will be banned¹. More information is in the Transport and Air Quality sections of this report.

Energy Supply

The energy sector (energy generation and heat production) has been one of the main contributors to reductions in GHG emissions from 27.8% in 1990 to 19% in 2015. The energy supply sector in NI has had the largest reduction in GHG emissions of all the sectors. This is due to the switch from coal and oil to natural gas; improved energy efficiency and the uptake in renewables².

Figure 5.10.3: Electricity generated by fuel type



Source: DAERA, Carbon Intensity Indicators 2016

There are two gas power stations in NI. The change from coal and oil has helped to reduce GHG emissions from the sector. Gas is less carbon intensive and more energy efficient so preferred to other fossil fuels in terms of both GHG emissions and efficiency. As policy directs the energy market toward reduced GHG emissions and a low carbon future, changes in sources and production will have to occur. These include more types of renewables, battery storage and carbon capture projects, and a grid that can enable multiple renewable connections including for prosumers i.e. small-scale producers. More information is in the Material Assets section of this report.

Renewable Energy

Renewables are not reliant upon fossil fuel combustion and they can help reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector because they use natural energy and have a low or zero carbon footprint. The NI Executive endorsed a target of 40% of electricity consumption to be from renewables by 2020 whilst the UK has a target to reduce GHG emissions from 1990 baseline levels by 80% by 2050 (UK Climate

¹ www.climateinthernireland.org

² DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2016 Issue 8 March 2016

Change Act). In 2015/16, 25.5% of NI's electricity needs were from renewables¹ and the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group believes that the 40% target can be delivered². Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) has classified land within the district with limited potential for generation export, without investment³.

The district has a mix of renewables – wind, hydro, solar and biomass and 'seeks to support the further development of renewables' but without significant negative effects on the environment – particularly in sensitive coastal locations; on society; or on the economy⁴. Other sources can include air/water/ground heat, biomass and biogas⁵. The district's coastal location could provide potential for offshore, wave and tidal technologies, which could help to increase the diversity of renewables available. The Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Plan 2012-2020 (ORESAP) identified the most suitable locations for appropriate renewable energy projects. A site for offshore wind was identified just off the district's east coast and a tidal site at the mouth of Strangford Lough⁶. Although the SeaGen tidal turbine operated in Strangford Lough from 2008-2016⁷ and an offshore windfarm application was being surveyed for⁸, neither have so far led to an operational site. More information is in the Material Assets and Physical Resources sections of this report.

Residential

The residential sector accounts for 12% of all GHG emissions in Northern Ireland and is a significant contributor of carbon dioxide⁹. Northern Ireland remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels for home heating but in recent years, there has been a transition away from coal and oil to gas for heating purposes. However, according to the Census 2011 survey, 71% of households in the district use oil heating and 3% use gas¹⁰. Further measures will be required to help reduce GHG emissions from this sector such as new gas infrastructure, access to renewables and energy efficient new builds.

Waste Management

The waste management sector is responsible for 3% of GHG emissions and has seen a 68% decrease in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2015. Methane is the dominant GHG emitted from the waste management sector due to landfill practices¹¹. Landfilling of waste releases methane, which is a powerful GHG. There has been a decreasing trend in emissions from the sector since the 1990 baseline year due to the closure of landfills – two in the district have closed; and the increase in reusing, recycling and recovery of waste. There are 10 recycling centres in the district, which enable a 38.57% rate for reuse/recycling/composting of municipal waste¹². This is below the NI average of 44.03% but permission has been granted for two new waste management facilities which should help to increase rates for the district. More information on waste is in the Material Assets section of this paper.

¹ Ibid.

² <http://www.renewableuk.com/page/NIRIG>

³ www.nienetworks.co.uk

⁴ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 8: The Coast February 2017

⁵ Newry, Mourne and Down's Local Development Plan preparatory Economic Paper

⁶ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 8: The Coast February 2017

⁷ <https://www.atlantisresourcesltd.com/2015/04/29/acquisition-of-marine-current-turbines-limited-from-siemens/>

⁸ <https://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/first-flight-wind-united-kingdom-uk88.html>; Newry, Mourne and Down's Local Development Plan preparatory Economic Paper

⁹ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

¹⁰ NINIS Local Government Districts (2014): 100 people and 100 households

¹¹ DAERA Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report – March 2017

¹² NINIS Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Recycling (administrative geographies) 2016

Impacts of Climate Change

Flooding

Increased incidences of flooding is one of the predicted impacts of climate change. This is expected due to increased levels of precipitation, flash storm events and higher sea levels. It has been identified as 'potentially one of the most significant and urgent risks' to NI¹. Flooding can occur near waterbodies but also from excess surface water and along the coast. Some areas are likely to be more vulnerable than others. Climate NI has reported that one in ten homes in the UK is in a flood risk area². Development in flood risk areas not only places it at risk but can increase flood risk on adjacent sites as well as downstream and increase pressure on natural floodplains. More information on areas at risk of significant flooding – Newry, Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Downpatrick; areas of further study – including Rostrevor; Flood Risk Management Plans; and flood modelling; is in the Water section of this report.

Coastal Flooding and Erosion

A quarter of NI's coastline is located in the district and totals just over 100 miles³. The entire coastline is conserved under various landscape and environmental designations. It is predicted that climate change will exacerbate coastal flooding from higher tides, higher sea levels, increased storm events and coastal erosion. Any areas already affected by erosion or land instability will be more vulnerable. There is a very real risk of biodiversity loss because of climate change. In 2006, the DoE prepared a report to help achieve sustainable coastal management called 'Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for NI 2006-2026'. This sought to bring together all users of the coast and those involved in coastal development or management. More information is in the Biodiversity section below and the Natural Resources section of this report.

Biodiversity Loss

Climate change is expected to impact on local biodiversity, as changing climatic factors will cause habitats to alter and species to move. In certain locations, these changes may enable non-native species to thrive and native species to relocate in an attempt to stay within their preferred climate. Local biodiversity will need green/blue infrastructure and buffer zones around nature conservation sites to help aid any future movement because of climate change.

5.10.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be fewer opportunities to apply land use planning to help reduce GHG emissions by integrating sustainable development patterns. It could become increasingly difficult to locate renewable energy projects in the most sustainable locations in relation to both infrastructure and users. There may be fewer opportunities to integrate measures such as sustainable drainage systems, green/blue infrastructure and public transport options. Likewise, the area could be less attractive to investors who wish to promote their sustainability credentials.

5.10.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Climate Change

- Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.
- A strategic and spatial approach to the location of appropriate renewables could be developed to support commitments made under the UK Climate Change Act and to help increase the diversity of renewables to help improve security of supply.
- There is a need for the district to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy and climate change policies.
- There is a need to increase active and sustainable travel options across the Borough to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce GHG emissions.

¹ DAERA Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2014

² www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk

³ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies Paper8: The Coast February 2017

- Planning should encourage efficient building design, well-connected developments that can reduce GHG emissions from transport and adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- The waste management hierarchy and the proximity principle could continue to be used to guide waste management facilities and practices based on the principles of sustainable development.
- Any potential development in flood risk areas needs to be carefully considered against the likely impact of flooding but also the likely impact of the development on adjacent areas.
- An increased risk of pollution from runoff in urban and rural areas with the increased rainfall and storm events.
- It is important to protect habitats, including coastal areas, floodplains and peatlands, which can act as natural adaptation measures for climate change, as well as providing habitat for local biodiversity.
- Provisioning of buffer zones around nature conservation sites could help enable movement of species in a changing climate.

5.11 Water

5.11.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water (drinking water protected areas);
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species (these are areas designated under the former Freshwater Fish and Shellfish Directives);
- Recreational waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC);
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas (comprising nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC); and

- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species (Natura 2000 sites) under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). These also include Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention).

The Water Framework Directive includes coastal waters; marine policies are also considered under the 'Natural Environment' topic in this scoping report.

Every six years, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) produces a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for each River Basin District within NI. The second and current RBMP cycle extends from 2015 – 2021. The WFD requires action to meet good ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. Each RBMP therefore sets out the current state of our water environment and the measures to be put in place to achieve further improvements to the water environment over their six year period. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council extends across two of the three River Basin Districts, the North Eastern and the Neagh Bann and therefore two RBMPs are relevant.

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

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

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

The Floods Directive, transposed through The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) in 2009, has led to the identification of 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) in NI and the preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). The FRMPs have been developed to align with the six year cycle of the WFD and a separate FRMP has been prepared for each River Basin District. Each FRMP highlights hazards and risks in the SFRAs from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The FRMPs identify the measures that will be undertaken over their six year period to address flooding and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together with communities to reduce the flood risk. Newry, Mourne and Down is therefore covered by two separate FRMPs.

The fundamental policy message arising from the SPPS is that the most effective means of managing flood risk is to avoid the risk, by locating new buildings and infrastructure outside flood risk areas. The

LDP should ensure that land identified as being at risk of flooding is not zoned for development. Such development would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding, may cause flooding elsewhere and may impair the natural function of the floodplain in storing flood water. The Council should adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land through the LDP process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or climate change flood risk.

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 includes protective measures for water such as:

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

The Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) also encourages the incorporation of measures to ameliorate the impacts of development on water quality and flow.

Our Corporate Plan includes the vision of ‘a protected natural environment that can be enjoyed today, but in a way that is also sustained for future generations’.

Our Community Plan recognises that ‘while social and economic development are key to supporting the wellbeing of our communities, we must also ensure our unique natural environment and built heritage is enhanced and sustainably managed’. The level of rich, diverse, natural environment is among the indicators for success of the Community Plan, with water quality being one of the measures. The Plan states that ‘the natural environment ... provides us with essential goods and services (ecosystem services) that we couldn’t live without, such as the oxygen we breathe, water we drink and the food that we eat. A healthy, rich environment leads to healthy communities’.

5.11.2 Baseline information

River Basin Management Plans

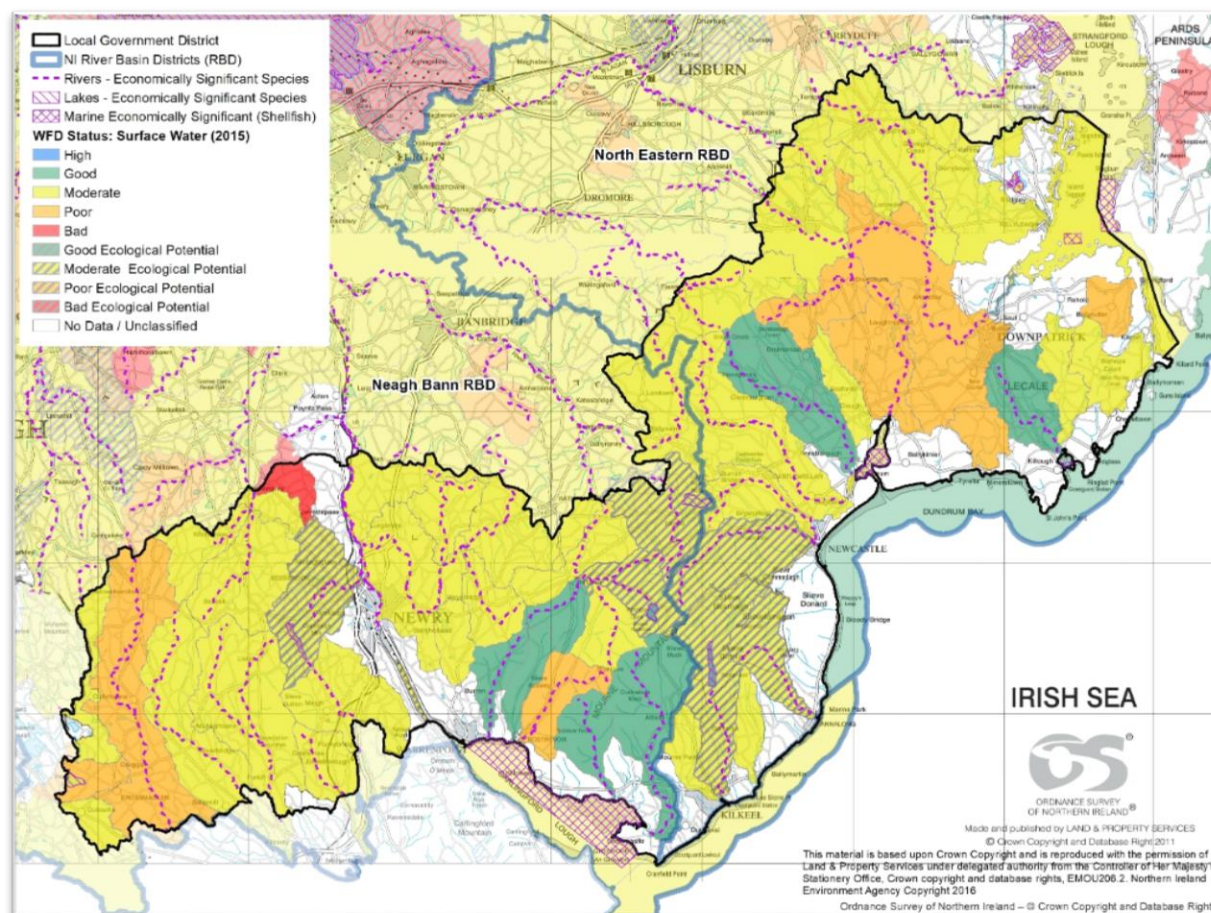
The WFD requires action to meet ‘good’ (or better) ecological and chemical status and prevent deterioration of our water bodies by 2027. ‘Good’ status is assessed using a broad range of parameters for water quality (such as nutrients and oxygen levels); aquatic biology (including plants, aquatic insects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

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council falls under two of the RBMPs published for Northern Ireland, i.e. the North-Eastern and the Neagh Bann (RBDs). The boundaries of the RBDs are shown in blue in Figure 5.11.1.

Within Newry, Mourne and Down (shown outlined in black in Figure 5.11.1) the principal river systems are:

- The Ballynahinch, Quoile, Blackstaff, Moneycarragh, Shimna and Kilkeel Rivers and also an area of the Upper River Lagan in the NE RBD; and
- Parts of the Upper Bann and Cusher Rivers, the Newry River and Newry Canal, the Clanrye, Bessbrook, Forkhill and Fane Rivers, all in the NB RBD.

Figure 5.11.1: Water Framework Directive overall classification, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

A small portion of the catchment of the River Lagan is also within Newry, Mourne and Down. In total there are 63 river waterbodies and six lake waterbodies (including artificial and heavily modified waterbodies) in Newry, Mourne and Down.

Figure 5.11.1 shows the overall ecological status classification of the river and lake waterbodies within Newry, Mourne and Down at the conclusion of the first WFD cycle in 2015. These results are summarised below in Table 5.11.1.

The Kilkeel River is one of eight river catchments in NI identified as being at risk of acidification from forestry activities. Relevant best practice for forestry is therefore necessary in this catchment, in accordance with published guidance on 'Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments'¹.

¹ Forestry Commission (2014) Practice Guide - Managing forests in acid sensitive water catchments

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

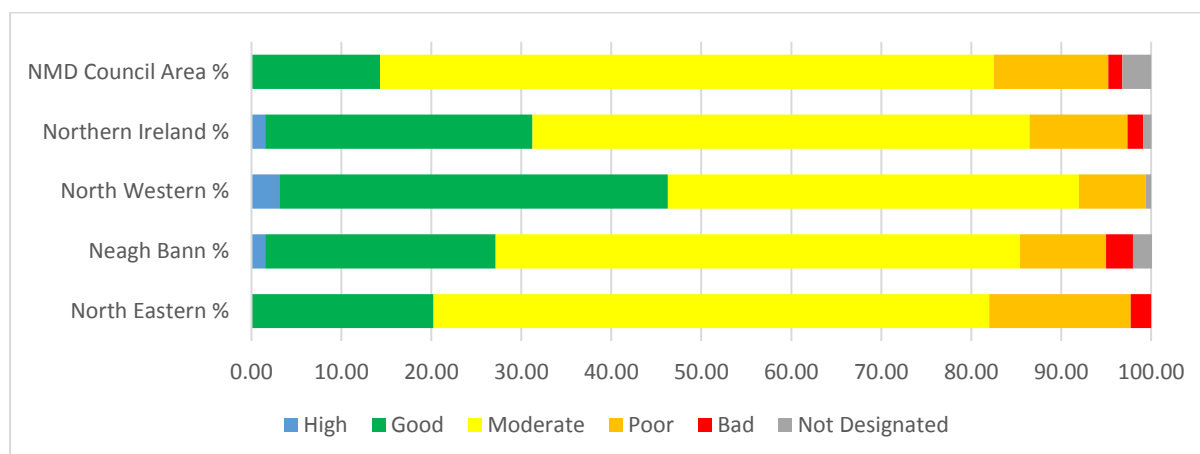
River Water Bodies		Lake Water Bodies		Heavily Modified Water Bodies*	
56	Total Number of RWB	2	Total Number of LWB	11	Total Number of HMWB
0	High Eco. Status	0	High Eco. Status	2	Good Eco. Potential
9	Good Eco. Status	0	Good Eco. Status	8	Moderate Eco. Potential
36	Moderate Eco. Status	2	Moderate Eco. Status	1	Poor Eco. Potential
8	Poor Eco. Status	0	Poor Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Potential
1	Bad Eco. Status	0	Bad Eco. Status		
2	No data / unclassified				

*includes river and lake waterbodies

Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

Newry, Mourne and Down had poorer river water quality in 2015 than the overall Northern Ireland average (Figure 5.11.2). 'Good' status was 14%, compared to 31.22% for all river water bodies in Northern Ireland. No rivers in Newry, Mourne and Down achieved 'high' status. 68% of river waterbodies in Newry, Mourne and Down were classified as 'moderate', 13% as 'poor' and 2% as 'bad' status. 86% of the river waterbodies in the district are therefore failing to meet the required standard.

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



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

There are eleven heavily modified river and lake waterbodies in Newry, Mourne and Down (four lakes and seven rivers). There are also two transitional (estuarine) heavily modified waterbodies. Only two of the heavily modified water bodies have achieved 'good' status and one, Cam Lough, was classified as 'poor' status.

Newry, Mourne and Down also adjoins six coastal waterbodies and two transitional water bodies. These are listed below in Table 5.11.2:

Table 5.11.2: Summary of 2015 overall classification of coastal and transitional water bodies

Waterbody Name	Status (2015)	RBD
Ards Peninsula	Good	North Eastern
Dundrum Bay Inner (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Moderate	North Eastern
Dundrum Bay Outer (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Good	North Eastern
Strangford Lough South (contains two designated Shellfish Areas)	Moderate	North Eastern
Carlingford Lough (contains one designated Shellfish Area)	Moderate	Neagh Bann / NI International
Mourne Coast	Moderate	Neagh Bann

Quoile Pondage (transitional water body - heavily modified)	Moderate Potential	North Eastern
Newry Estuary (transitional water body – heavily modified)	Moderate Potential	Neagh Bann

Only two out of the six coastal waterbodies, Ards Peninsula and Dundrum Bay Outer (which contains a designated Shellfish Area) have achieved 'good' status. Dundrum Bay Inner, Strangford Lough South and Carlingford Lough achieved 'moderate' status and contain designated Shellfish Areas. Mourne Coast has also achieved 'moderate' status.

As part of the River Basin Planning process, a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of measures aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment. The most significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies in this area from achieving 'good' status are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs), urban wastewater and development and industrial discharges. Nutrient enrichment has been identified in both RBDs as a principal reason for failure in lake, transitional and coastal waterbodies as it is linked to failures in diatoms, macrophytes and soluble reactive phosphorus, which have occurred in many waterbodies either individually or in combination.

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

Three European funded (Interreg VA) projects are currently active which have the objective of improving water quality and include catchments and waters within Newry, Mourne and Down:

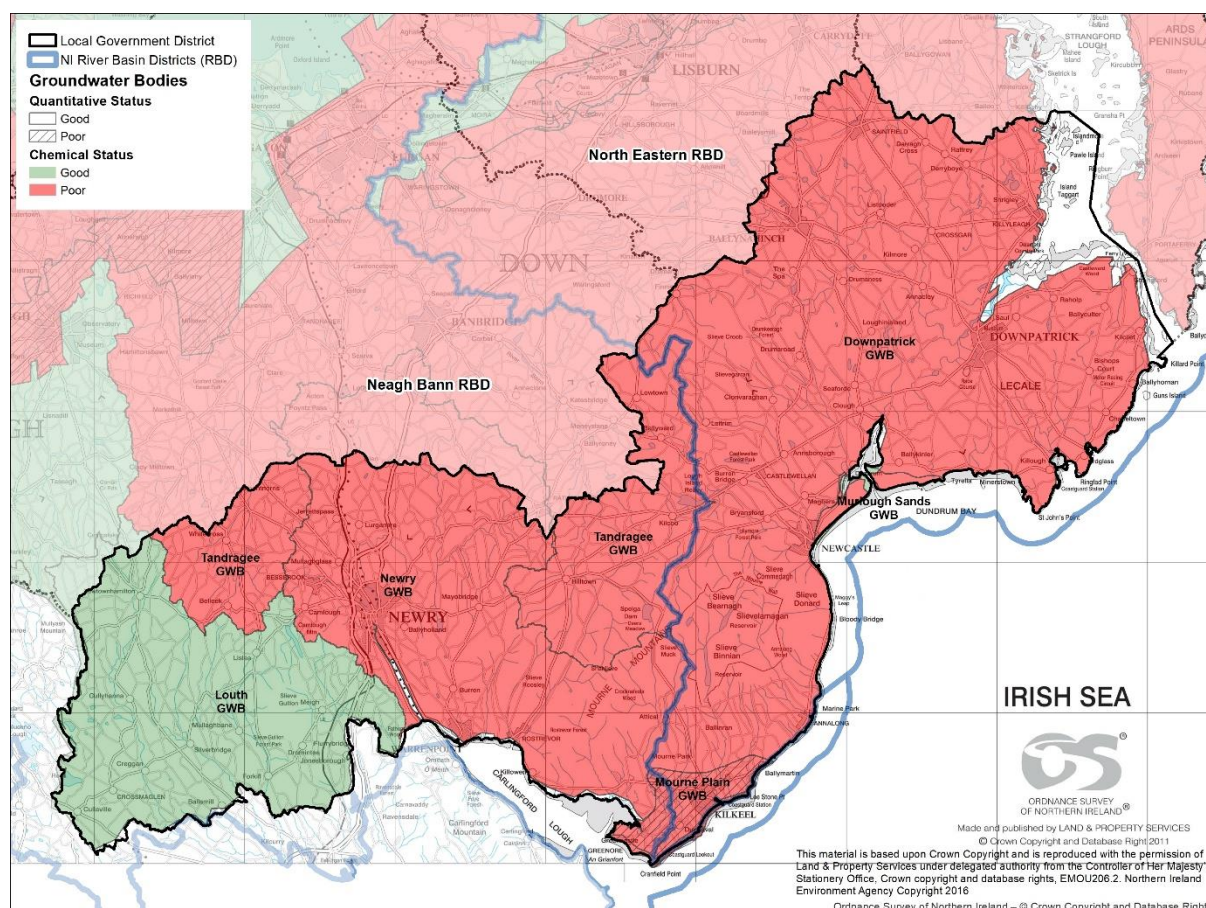
- 'System for bathing Water quality Modelling (SWIM)'. The total budget for the project is around €1.1million and the lead partner is University College Dublin. The SWIM project will enable short-term pollution to be predicted, through the development of a bathing water quality prediction model. From this, the ability to inform the public through a series of media channels including text alerts and automatic web updates, and real-time communication via alert services delivered through electronic signage installed strategically at beach entrances will be developed. This will help to protect public health, significantly improve communication to members of the public, and in doing so will contribute to promoting tourism.
- CatchmentCARE (Catchment Actions for Resilient Eco-systems), led by Donegal County Council, which has a budget of almost €14million and will take place at specific locations throughout the province. The aim of CatchmentCARE is to establish three water quality improvement projects in the Finn, Blackwater and Arney Catchments and install 51 boreholes across the region. This will be achieved through 3 policy actions, six catchment actions and three community actions which were selected based on three critical criteria; measurable impact on water quality; transferable beyond the three catchments; and contribute to a project legacy. The actions selected will address water quality issues related to hydromorphology, point and diffuse sources of pollution, farm nutrient management practices, characterisation and monitoring of groundwater quality, lag times in response to the implementation of measures and an economic analysis of the cost of achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive in the three catchments.
- The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) incorporates a wide range of partners, including Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, and encompasses 25 separate sites across NI, RoI and Scotland. The project will help improve the condition of protected habitats and priority species found within Northern Ireland, the border region and western Scotland. The protection of these habitats and species will allow the region to meet targets set by the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives, along with realising the benefits of the many ecosystem services provided by these areas, including carbon storage, alleviating flooding and visual and cultural landscapes.

Groundwater

There are six groundwater bodies intersecting Newry, Mourne and Down (Figure 5.11.3). Of these, two were classified as overall 'good' status in 2015 and four were classified as having 'poor' status.

The main pressure in the Downpatrick, Newry and Tandragee groundwater bodies is diffuse phosphorus which in turn contributes to phosphorus loading in surface water because of groundwater baseflow contributions. Possible sources include agricultural or septic tanks. The Mourne Plain groundwater body is also at poor status because of saline intrusion where chloride concentrations have exceeded threshold values and show a statistically significant rising trend.

Figure 5.11.3: Groundwater Status, 2015



Source: DAERA WMU Digital Dataset Downloads (Accessed 02/03/18)

Drinking Water Protected Areas

There are six drinking water protected areas for surface water catchments used for the abstraction of drinking water and supplying Water Treatment Works (WTW) in Newry, Mourne and Down:

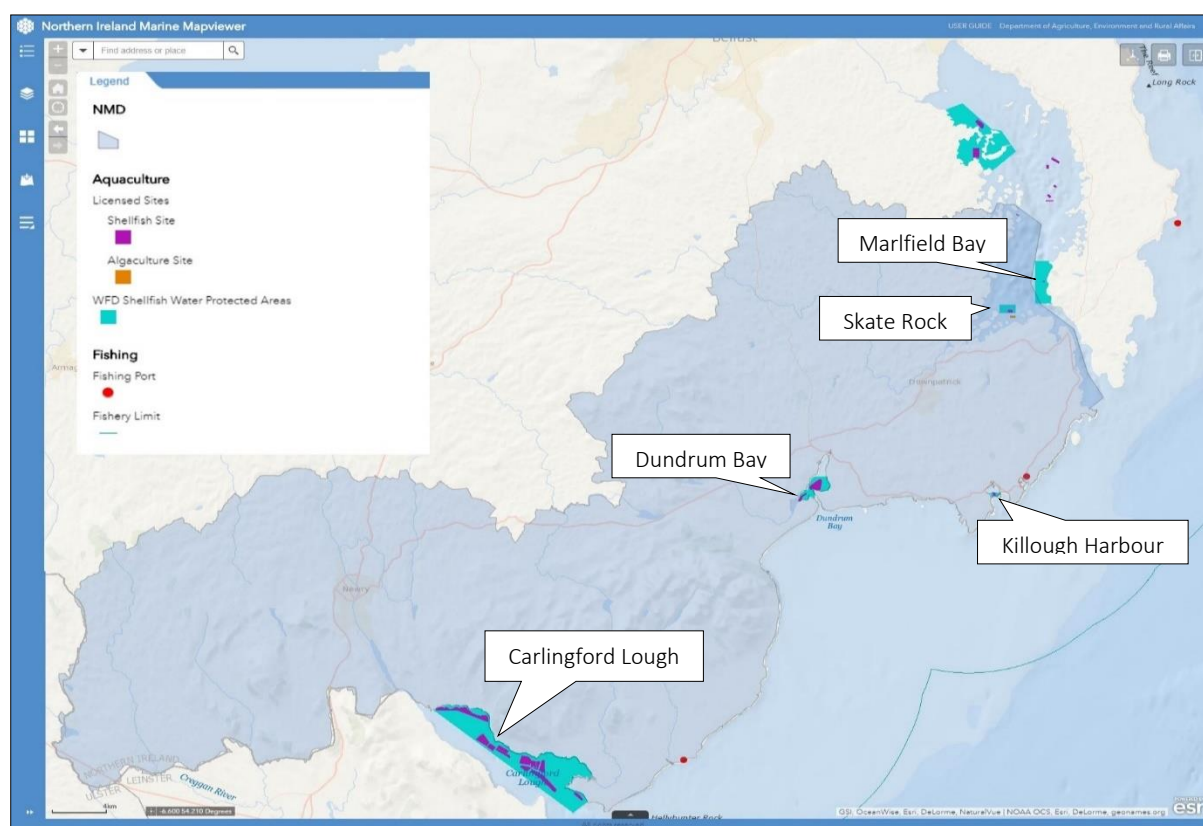
- NE RBD – Drumaroad, Fofanny, Lough Island Reavy WTW Catchments
- NB RBD – Carron Hill, Fofanny, Lough Island Reavy WTW Catchments

All groundwater bodies in Newry, Mourne and Down are also on the Register of Protected Areas.

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Shellfish

There are five Shellfish Water Protected Areas in Newry, Mourne and Down, shown below in Figure 5.11.4. Of the 20 aquaculture sites licensed in Newry, Mourne and Down for the cultivation of mussels and oysters, 19 are located inside the Protected Areas with the majority (15) located in Carlingford Lough.

Figure 5.11.4: Aquaculture & Shellfish



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

Shellfish Water Protected Areas have a guideline microbiological standard for shellfish flesh which is set in the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. This guideline standard requires that 75% of samples contain ≤ 230 E. coli per 100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid. Monitoring for the microbiological shellfish classification is carried out by the Food Standards Agency in NI. It can be seen from the figure below that shellfish from the Carlingford Lough, Marlfield Bay and Skate Rock shellfish waters achieve the required standard (with the exception of Carlingford Lough in 2016), however shellfish from Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour have not been able to achieve the required microbiological standards in any of the past five years. Skate Rock is the only production area in NI to have been awarded 'A' class (the highest rated) microbiological status for 2018.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Carlingford Lough					
Dundrum Bay					
Killough Harbour					
Marlfield Bay		*	*	*	
Skate Rock					

*No data for Marlfield Bay 2014, 2015, 2016

Met Guideline Biological Standards

Did not meet Guideline Microbiological Standards

Sources: Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015¹, NI Environmental Statistics Report 2017², Food Standards Agency³ Pollution Reduction Programmes⁴ were published in 2015 for Carlingford Lough, Inner Dundrum Bay, Killough Harbour and Strangford Lough. E-coli from wastewater has been a particular issue for

¹ DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015

² DAERA Northern Ireland environmental statistics report 2017

³ Food Standards Agency Biototoxin and phytoplankton monitoring, Northern Ireland Results (accessed 16/05/2018)

⁴ DAERA Pollution Reduction Programmes 2015 <https://www.dera-ni.gov.uk/publications/pollution-reduction-programmes-2015>

shellfish production at Dundrum Inner Bay. An upgrade of Dundrum WwTW is anticipated to commence construction in Summer 2018 which it is hoped will help enable Inner Dundrum Bay to meet its objective under WFD and the requisite shellfish classification within the context of the designation of Inner Dundrum Bay as a Sensitive Area under the UWWTD.

The Killough Harbour Pollution Reduction Programme (2015) states that no improvements or upgrades have been identified for Coney Island or Killough WwTWs in NI Water's PC15 funding programme which runs to 2021, however monitoring of all combined sewage overflows within 2km of Shellfish Water Protected Areas is to be introduced by NI Water during the PC15 period.

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

Economically Significant Aquatic Species – Freshwater Fish

Newry, Mourne and Down has approximately 817km of rivers on the protected areas register for freshwater fish. These include the Upper Bann, Annalong, Ballynahinch, Burren, Newry, Quoile and Shimna Rivers. There are also six lakes in Newry, Mourne and Down on the protected areas register (Cam Lough, Clea Lakes, Island Reavy Reservoir Lough, Ross Lough, Silent Valley and Spelga Dam). Only 6 out of the 19 (32%) river waterbodies in the NE RBD that are monitored for fish population or habitat achieved 'good' or 'high' status for this element over the first WFD planning cycle. In the NBRBD the figure was 13 out of 37 (35%). Failures in fish ecology can indicate a wide range of pressures, such as from physical modifications and abstraction and flow regulation.

Nutrient Sensitive Areas

A total territory approach has been adopted in Northern Ireland for the Nitrates Directives. There are seven Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive sensitive areas in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- NE RBD – Inner Dundrum Bay; Dundrum Bay catchment; Newcastle Bathing Water; Newcastle Bathing Water Catchment; Quoile Catchment and Quoile Pondage; and
- NB RBD –Newry River Catchment.

There has been a trend toward significant reductions in mean nitrate concentrations in groundwater. Long-term trends show that average nitrate concentrations in rivers in Northern Ireland are predominantly decreasing or stable over the 20-year period, 1992-2012, which may be attributed to the measures implemented through the Nitrates Action Programme so that levels are well within EU standards.

Bathing Waters

Newry, Mourne and Down currently has four beaches designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive. Designated beaches are monitored through the bathing season and a bathing water profile is published annually to allow the public to make an informed choice before bathing. DAERA maintains an interactive NI Beach Water Quality Map which reports on beach water quality and from which the bathing water profile for each beach can be accessed. Each Profile gives detailed information on the physical characteristics of each bathing water and describes their pollution risk.

Threats to bathing water quality for bathing waters are broadly divided into three categories waste water (sewage) treatment works discharges, waste water systems in urban areas and rural source pollution, including agriculture. Other threats include dogs, horses, litter and fly tipping. The bathing water results from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 seasons are summarised below in Table 5.11.2.

Table 5.11.2: Bathing Water Quality Overall Classifications 2015 – 2016

	2017*	2016	2015
Tyrella	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Murlough	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Newcastle	Sufficient	Sufficient	Good
Cranfield	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

*Provisional result

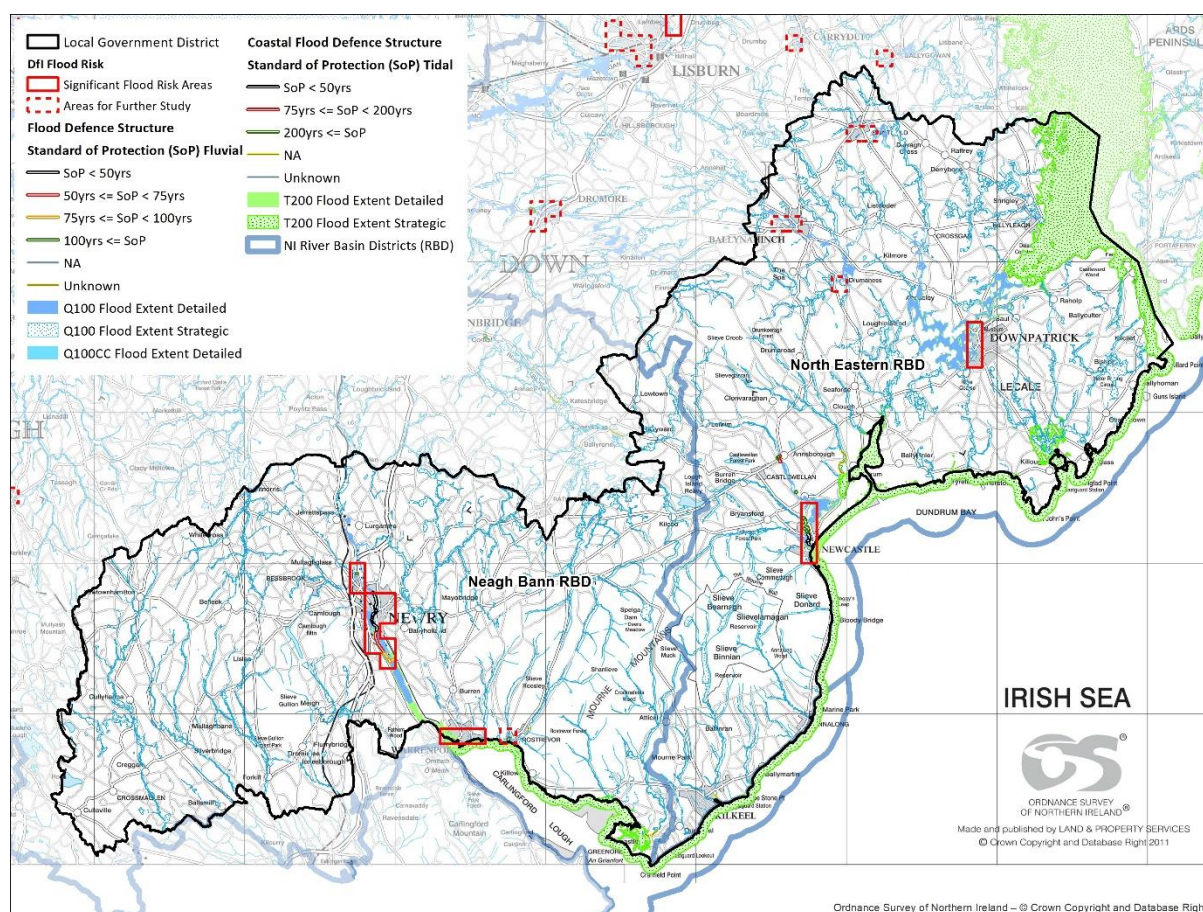
Source: DAERA Bathing Water Profiles, May 2017 and NI Direct 'Bathing water quality'

The 2017 Review of Bathing waters in NI has put forward a proposal for two new bathing waters in Newry, Mourne and Down, at Kilclief Beach and Ballyhornan.

Flood Risk

The implementation of the EU "Floods Directive" (2007/060/EC) has resulted in strategic flood risk assessment and mapping being carried out for all of NI and the publication of detailed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps¹ for the areas determined to be at potential significant flood risk. These maps are continuously updated and are accessible from the DfI website.

Figure 5.11.5: Significant Flood Risk Areas and Areas for Further Study with River & Coastal Flood Plain



Source Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) - Flood Maps (NI) (accessed 02/03/2017)

There are four settlements in Newry, Mourne and Down which have been identified as SFRA (Figure 5.11.5). They are Newcastle and Downpatrick in the NE RBD and Newry and Warrenpoint in the NB RBD. Fluvial flood risk is further discussed in the Council's 'Public Utilities' Preparatory Studies Paper 9 and Coastal flood risk in Preparatory Studies Paper 8, 'The Coast'.

¹ Flood Maps (NI) is accessible through the DfI Mapping Portal <http://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Four settlements, also shown in Figure 5.11.5, were identified in the PFRA as having a moderate risk of flooding and have been classified as Areas for Further Study. These are:

- Ballynahinch, Drumaness and Saintfield in the NE RBD; and
- Rostrevor in the NB RBD.

The Floods Directive aims to manage flood risk by:

- **Prevention:** avoiding construction of houses and industries in flood-prone areas; by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding; and by promoting appropriate land-use, agricultural and forestry practices.
- **Protection:** taking measures, both structural and non-structural, to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods.
- **Preparedness:** informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood. The Bryansford Avenue / Shimna Road area of Newcastle and the Bridge Street / Cleary Crescent area of Newry have been identified by DfI Rivers as being suitable for inclusion in a programme of community engagement to deliver flood warning and informing initiatives to help increase Community Resilience against flooding.

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

Flood alleviation works undertaken by DfI in recent years include the Shimna Park Back Drainage scheme in 2011/12 and the construction of 315m of flood walls and banks in Annsborough in 2013. Settlements within Newry, Mourne and Down that currently have coastal and/or flood defences include Annsborough, Downpatrick, Dundrum, Greencastle, Kilkeel, Killough, Newcastle, Newry and Rostrevor.

The Capital works programme published in the FRMPs includes the following works planned in Newry, Mourne and Down for the current FRMP cycle:

	Stage	Planned Implementation
Drainage Infrastructure		
Newry - Greenbank Upgrading	Feasibility Stage	2015/2016 - 2020/2021
Flood Alleviation		
Newry – Review of Flood Protection	Feasibility Stage	2015/2016 - 2020/2021
Newcastle - Shimna River Flood Alleviation	Feasibility Stage	2018/19 - 2020/21
Newry - Greenan Road	Feasibility Stage	2019/20
Mayobridge	Feasibility Stage	2015/16 – 2017/18

In the next FRMP cycle, DfI Rivers has indicated that capital projects will be looked at in the Warrenpoint and Downpatrick Significant Flood Risk Areas.

Increasingly, reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage. Alone, such systems may not cope with the demands made by new development, in addition to the more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. It is preferable that a range of SuDS solutions be employed as these are more sustainable and often less costly than using traditional piped infrastructure. They also offer multiple benefits such as biodiversity and amenity provision. Examples include localised source control measures such as green

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

roofs, permeable paving and soakaways, or larger passive treatment areas such as ponds and wetlands which can be incorporated into wider green-blue infrastructure (see Section 5.8).

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)¹ has noted that, based upon projected sea level rise, the frequency of coastal flooding events is expected to increase significantly. At Portrush, for example, a sea level with a current return period of 100 years (1% probability) will have a return period of less than 10 years if mean sea levels increase by 0.25m, which is approximately the Medium Emissions Scenario of the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) for the 2080s.

The DfI Rivers has indicated that it is beginning a programme of modelling and updating the coastal flood risk mapping for NI to accommodate UKCP09 climate change sea level rise projections.

Water Supply

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

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▪ ZN1101 Clay Lake Keady | ▪ ZS0901 Camlough Newry West |
| ▪ ZS0601 Drumaroad Ballynahinch | ▪ ZS0902 Fofanny Dromore |
| ▪ ZS0602 Drumaroad Downpatrick | ▪ ZS0904 Fofanny Mourne |
| ▪ ZS0810 Castor Bay Tandragee | ▪ ZS1001 Carran Hill Crossmaglen |

Source : NI Water Annual Report on Water Quality. Appendix 3 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (2016)

Four Water Treatment Works (WTW) are located within Newry, Mourne and Down; Carran Hill, Camlough Derry Beg, Drumaroad and Fofanny.

Significant investment in water treatment works, service reservoirs and mains distribution has resulted in improvements in compliance across NI with the drinking water standards, from 99.22% in 2004 to 99.86% in 2016². The most recent Drinking Water Annual Quality Report (2016) lists 24 Capital Works Programmes affecting Newry, Mourne and Down. These include pipe replacement programmes, water mains rehabilitation and works to improve resilience to pressures on supply, such as drought and freeze-thaw events.

In 2016 NI Water completed the £6m Ballydugan to Newry Trunk Main and overall Water Improvement Scheme, which was a major investment to upgrade the water storage and supply network for customers in Newry city and surrounding areas. The project involved essential upgrade work at a number of sites including Camlough Water Treatment Works (WTW), Newry West Service Reservoir and Camly Service Reservoir, Newtownhamilton.

In 2017, NI Water completed a £3million programme of work at Camlough Reservoir. The project included strengthening the reservoir embankment to provide extra security in the event of heavy rainfall and the construction of a valve tower to control flows from the lake. These works will improve the facility and provides an amenity with enhanced recreational and tourism potential for the future.

NI Water and its partners / stakeholders the RSPB and the NIEA have developed a SCaMP (Sustainable Catchment Management Planning) NI strategy to improve the quality and reliability of the water received at NI Water's raw water abstraction points. In addition to improving water quality, SCaMP also focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. One of the SCaMP projects currently under way is in the Eastern Mournes, where NI Water, the Mourne Heritage Trust, the NI Environment Agency and the NI Fire & Rescue Service are working together to develop expertise and

¹ DEFRA UK 2012 Climate Change Risk Assessment - A climate change risk assessment for Northern Ireland

² <https://www.niwater.com/drinking-water/> (accessed 15 May 2018)

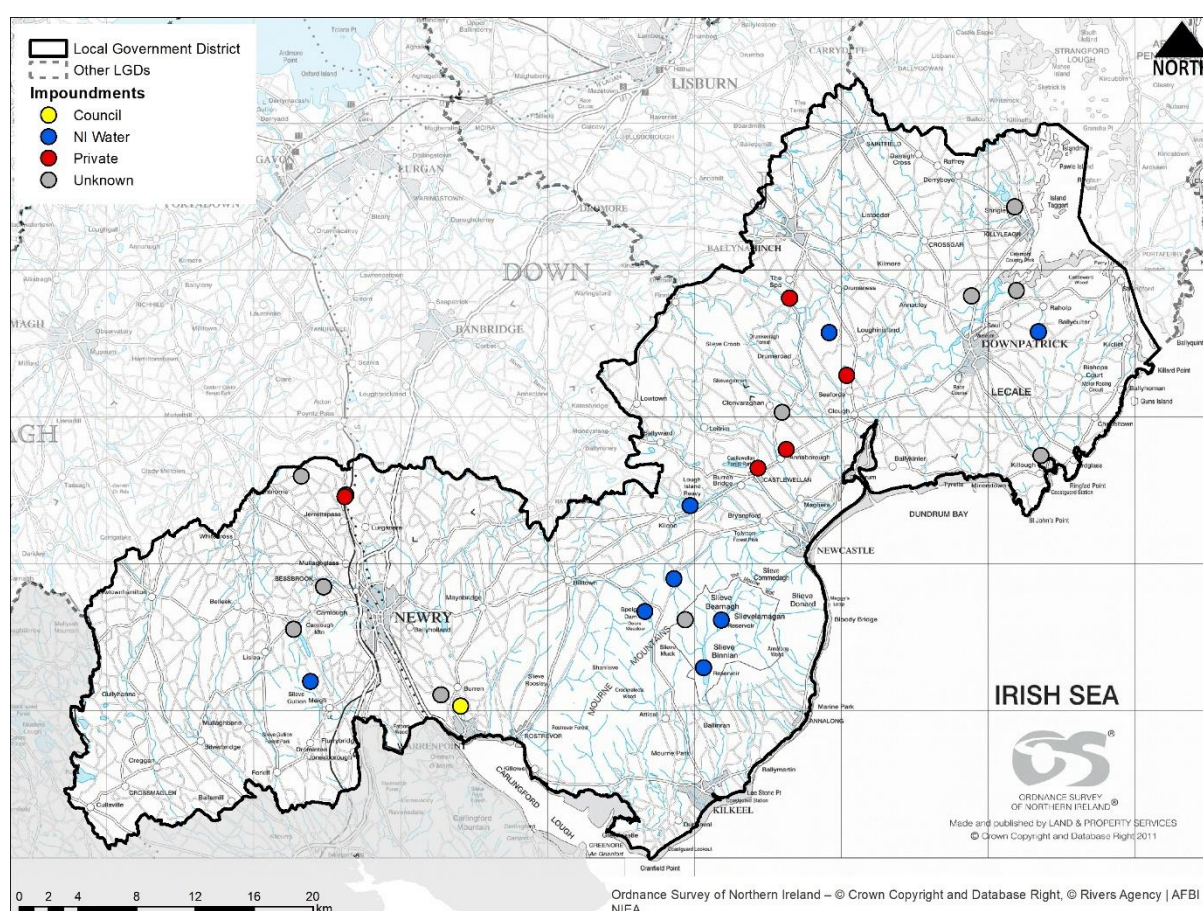
knowledge to manage wildfire risk and form a collaborative response to wildfires. Wildfire events have a detrimental effect on water quality and result in high chemical costs in water treatment. The project aims to protect the drinking water supply, protect the heathland and preserve the Mourne landscape for generations to come.

This catchment management approach, adopted previously by water companies in England, has proven to be more sustainable and more cost effective than dealing with water quality issues at the treatment works.

Reservoirs

There are 25 impoundments and reservoirs in Newry, Mourne and Down, of which many are “controlled reservoirs” (i.e. an impoundment $\geq 10,000$ cubic metres). These are detailed in the table below. Most of these reservoirs are in, or close to, rural settlements. Flood mapping of controlled reservoirs for emergency planning has been carried out by DfI (Rivers)¹.

Figure 5.11.6: Water Impoundments in Newry, Mourne and Down



Source: Rivers Agency (NI) Hydrography (INSPIRE View Service)

Wastewater Treatment

The provision of wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) in the Plan Area is also the responsibility of NI Water. NIW has provided the Council with information on the current capacity of WwTWs serving the district as well as an estimate of future capacity based on applying a settlement growth factor of 10%, 20% and 25%. As of January 2018 there are 72 settlements in the district served by ‘large’ WwTWs. Of these, 34 settlements have capacity available and new connections permitted. Nineteen

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

settlements have limited capacity and restrictions are in place on new connections. Nine settlements have no capacity and new connections are refused. No data is available for ten settlements.

Table 5.11.3: Capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works

	Current	Estimation of Capacity based on Growth Factor		
		+10%	+20%	+25%
Works has 'Reasonable Capacity'	34	28	22	20
Works 'At or reaching Capacity'	19	22	23	22
Works has 'Insufficient Capacity'	9	12	17	20
N/A	10	10	10	10
Total	72	72	72	72

Source: NI Water

It can be seen in the table above that, in the absence of any works being undertaken to increase capacity, with a 25% settlement growth factor applied the estimated number of settlements with 'Reasonable Capacity' will reduce to 20. The number of settlements with 'Insufficient Capacity' for new development will more than double to 20.

The Council will continue to work closely with NI Water in its LDP production as the capacity of waste water treatment works may have an influence on the distribution of proposed development in towns and villages. NI Water operates a six year business plan called a Price Control. The current Price Control, known as PC15, spans the period 2015/16 to 2020/21. NI Water's business planning activities for the next Price Control, PC21 (2021/22 to 2026/27) will start during 2018/19.

In 2016, NI Water completed a major £8m investment in Newcastle WwTW, enabling it to deliver an improved standard of discharge to local bathing waters in line with future European Directives. A £5m upgrade of Ballynahinch WwTW was also completed in 2015, which has more than doubled the capacity of the existing treatment works, allowing it to accommodate future development in the town and enabling improvements to the water quality in the local Ballynahinch River. In 2017, £1.5million was invested into improvements at Newpoint Pumping Station, at Newry's Warrenpoint Road. These upgrades will help reduce the likelihood of out of sewer flooding and bring about environmental benefits in the area, such as improving water quality in the Newry River.

The SWELL project (Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy) is conducting research on water quality in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle. This research, which is being carried out by AFBI, in collaboration with water companies in NI and ROI, will inform investment in appropriate waste water treatment strategies that will contribute to the improved water quality of these important shared loughs.

5.11.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan there will be less certainty about the need for supply or treatment of water therefore infrastructure may not be developed in the most efficient manner. There is a risk that cumulative effects from development will counteract the goals of plans such as the 2015 River Basin Management Plans to achieve good ecological status. While planning policies address issues such as flood risk, the opportunity to take a more strategic approach would be missed. There is a risk that taking decisions in the absence of an up to date plan could result in development that does not make the most sustainable use of infrastructure or which subsequently requires further measures to address knock on effects.

The plan will enable space for surface water management to be identified when zoning land. LDP policy could require, either generally or for specific zonings, that schemes are put in place at design stage so as to minimise surface water runoff.

5.11.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Water

- River water quality is significantly lower than the NI average in Newry, Mourne and Down. Just 14% of river waterbodies in the Council area met 'good' water quality status (NI average 31.2%).
- All of the shellfish production areas in Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour failed to meet Water Framework Directive microbiological targets in 2017. Six out of seven areas in Strangford and Carlingford Lough achieved the target.
- Marine water quality at Strangford Lough, Carlingford Lough and the Mourne Coast is not meeting 'good' standard.
- Bathing water quality is excellent at three out of four of the Council's bathing beaches. Newcastle's bathing water rated only 'sufficient' in 2016 and 2017 ('good' in 2015).
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site. However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause water pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Newry, Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Downpatrick are identified as significant flood risk areas and there are four other settlements at moderate risk of flooding.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding, particularly coastal flooding, will be increased by climate change.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because legal requirements relating to impounded water have not been fully implemented in legislation. There are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- The larger wastewater treatment works generally have good capacity. There are some constraints on WWTW provision for small settlements. This may limit or delay potential for development.

5.12 Natural Resources

5.12.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

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

This topic has interactions with some other topics, as natural resources can play a significant positive role in shaping our quality of life and our experience of the local environment. Protection of sites important for natural resources can interact with the topics covering well-being, physical resources, water, air, landscape and climate change.

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

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

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

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

The Corporate Plan 2015-2019, recognises the "beautiful, natural environment" of the district, as one of its many assets. The Council has a mission, "to lead and serve a District that is prosperous and healthy, as well as sustainable from an economic, environmental and social perspective". This will be achieved by following eight core strategic objectives, one of which aims to protect the natural environment. Part of the vision for the district is to be an attractive location to visit and do business that enables healthy lifestyles and protects the natural environment for people to enjoy now and in the future. Careful consideration of the natural environment in the LDP will be important to achieving all of these aims. The Council itself also has a statutory duty to 'further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any functions' under The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011.

In Newry Mourne and Down's Community Plan, 'Living Well Together', part of its vision is to ensure that 'everyone has a good quality of life'. It aims to, 'improve the well-being of people in Newry, Mourne and Down'. It highlights how the natural environment is an asset that must be, 'enhanced and sustainably managed'. Careful consideration of the district's natural heritage will be fundamental to achieving the outcomes of the Community Plan and the Corporate Plan.

5.12.2 Baseline Information

Relevant information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers particularly the papers on Environmental Assets, the Countryside - Landscape Character Assessment and Development Pressure Analysis and The Coast. This topic overlaps with the Health and Well-being, Material Assets, Physical Resources, Transport and Accessibility, Air Quality, Climate Change, Water, Landscape and Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage sections of this report.

Nature Conservation

The Newry Mourne and Down District Council encompasses an extensive area totalling 11% of land in Northern Ireland and 100 miles of coastline¹. There is a variety of habitats present including wetlands, grasslands, heathlands and coastal. This natural diversity is protected using International, European, regional and local level nature conservation designations. These sites help to protect the most important areas in the district for nature conservation.

In total, there are three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), either wholly or partially within the district. The AONBs cover an extensive area of land as well as the entire coastline of the district. There are also nature conservation sites of International, national and regional importance across the Council. These include four Ramsars, five Important Bird Areas (IBAs), three Special Protection Areas (SPAs), eleven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 62 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). Many of these designations are on the coast and add to the AONB protection.

The importance of the marine environment for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is also evident through the number of designations. These include two Inshore Marine Conservation Zones, two proposed Marine SPAs, and the North Channel candidate SAC. Aughnadarragh Lough SAC and some of the marine designations and Strangford Lough designations are located across Council jurisdictions. All designated sites are in the Figure below.

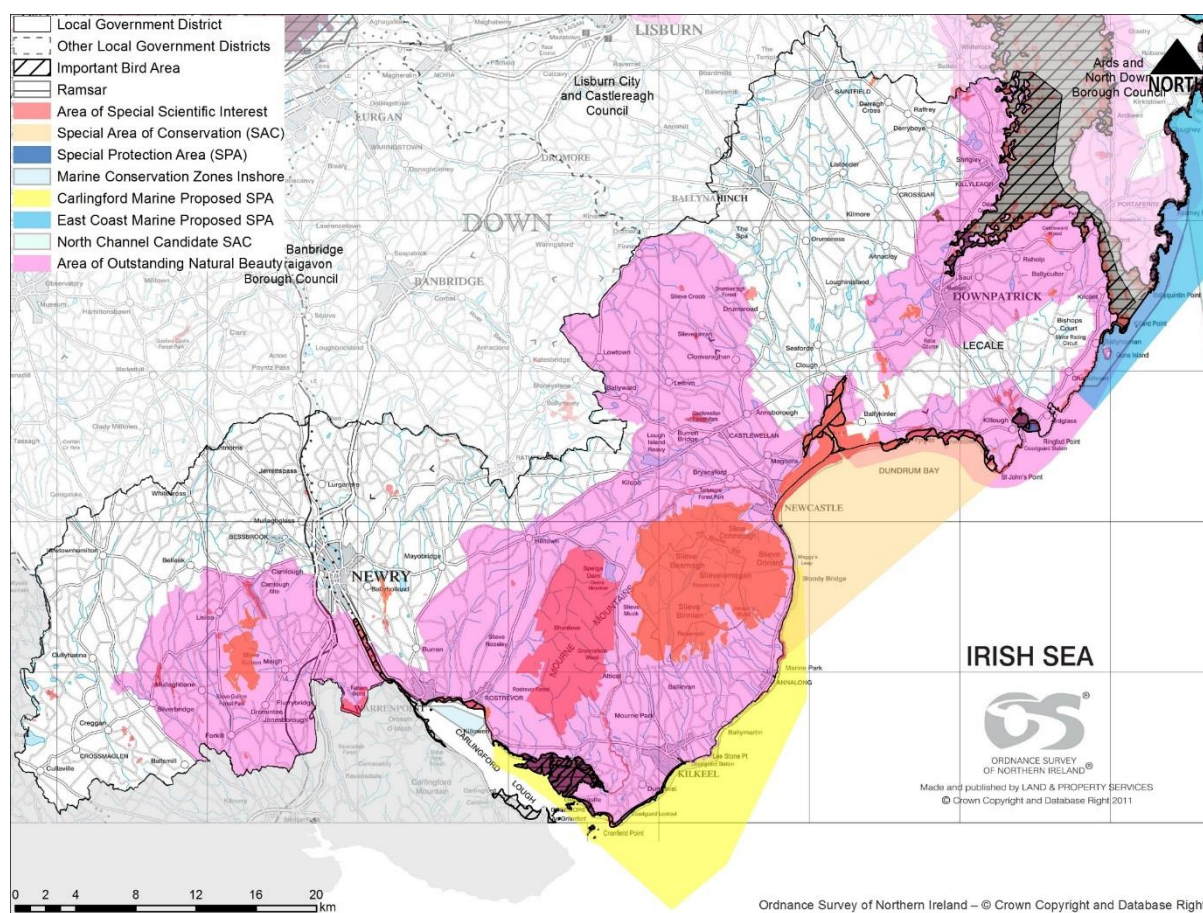
At over 100 miles, the coastline is of particular importance to the district as a significant natural heritage asset that supports species and habitats, whilst also providing amenity, recreational and educational value to citizens and visitors. It also contributes to adaptation to coastal flooding and change. Coastal change including erosion is a feature of much of the district's coastline². The effects of these can lead to health and safety, and financial issues for the district to manage. There is potentially more of an issue in the Mournes area, where development pressure for the likes of single rural dwellings exists alongside confirmed or probable land erosion/ stability issues³. More information on this is in the Climate Change and Landscape sections of this report.

¹ Newry, Mourne & Down Community Plan to 2030 'Living Well Together'

² Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Plan Preparatory Studies Paper 12 (Part 2): Countryside – Development Pressure Analysis April 2017

³ Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Environmental paper

Figure 5.12.1: Designated Sites for Natural Heritage in the Newry, Mourne & District Council

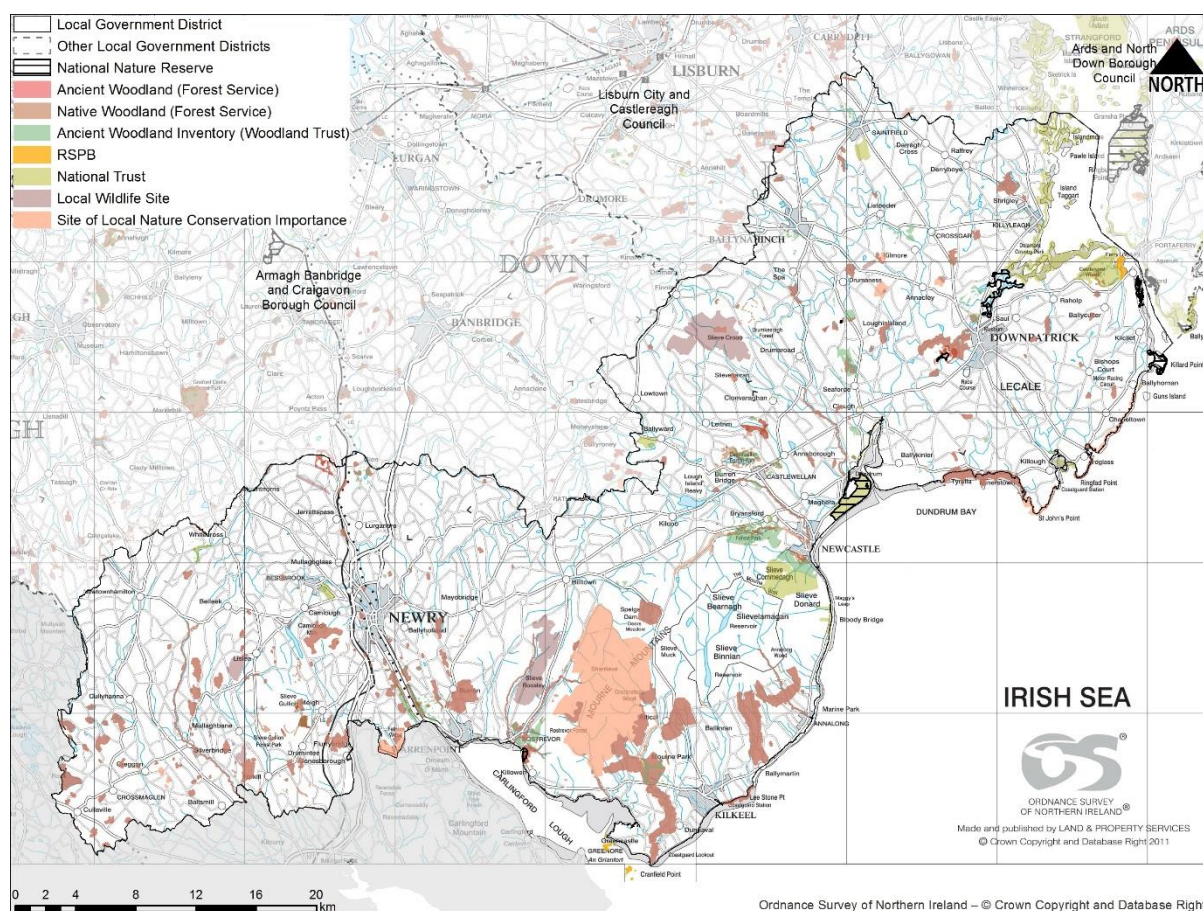


Source: DAERA

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are located throughout the interior of the district, in rural and urban areas and along the coastline. In total, there are 187. Seven Nature Reserves help to conserve the natural heritage of the district and most are located in coastal areas near to Carlingford Lough, Dundrum Bay and Strangford Lough. People and wildlife also benefit from additional sites managed by the National Trust (NT). The larger NT sites are located in the north eastern Mournes and around the shores of Strangford Lough. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) also manages two Reserves for nature conservation at Strangford Lough and in Carlingford Lough. Ancient woodland habitat is in the district, particularly around Newcastle, Rostrevor, Castlewellan and Downpatrick. Ancient woodland is a unique habitat with a rich biodiversity formed over hundreds of years. It covers only 2% of land in the UK¹. Native woodland is also present in similar locations and although the tracts are relatively small and dispersed, they still maintain local biodiversity. Four Forest Parks are popular with people for recreation but they are also a productive resource. Forest Parks in the district include Tollymore, Castlewellan and Slieve Gullion. All of these sites help to maintain and enhance the natural heritage of the district. All local level sites and reserves are in the Figure below.

¹ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/ancient-woodland-restoration/ancient-woodland/what-is-ancient-woodland/>

Figure 5.12.2: Local Level Natural Heritage Sites and Reserves for Natural Heritage in the Newry, Mourne & District Council



Source: DAERA, Forest Service NI, Woodland Trust NI, National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Biodiversity

The draft Newry, Mourne and Down Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2017-2022, helps to deliver the NI Biodiversity Strategy 2020 by ensuring local action for priority species and habitats. All Councils also have a duty to help conserve biodiversity within their functions¹. LBAPs and Biodiversity Implementation Plans are appropriate measures to help achieve this and halt the loss of biodiversity.

The District Council's LBAP aims to protect, maintain, enhance and restore biodiversity, whilst promoting understanding of it. The LBAP has identified six broad habitat types and twelve species for local action. The priority habitats include coastal/marine, grass/arable, peatlands, urban/gardens, wetlands, and woodlands/hedgerows. DAERA provides information on local wildlife sites which are also in Figure 5.12.2 above. Many of these represent priority habitats including fens, peatlands, woodlands, heathlands, grasslands and lakes.

The priority species identified for the District Council's LBAP include breeding waders, fish species, juniper, marine mammals, red kite and red squirrel. Threats to local biodiversity continue from both global and local sources, with habitat fragmentation and climate change two likely examples. Several sites and areas of interest overlap or are adjacent to one another but many are isolated units that remain ecologically disconnected from one another.

¹ The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011

Green/blue Infrastructure

In the SPPS, green/blue infrastructure (G/BI) is promoted as a means to connect together natural features, habitats and open space across landscapes. All green and blue features can be classified as G/BI. The sites shown in the figures above are all accountable as G/BI but other examples exist outwith of these sites. Examples can include ponds, gardens and allotments but also Sustainable Drainage Systems and canals. When G/BI is protected and planned for, it can help maintain and enhance local biodiversity by conserving, creating or adding to wildlife corridors. Likewise, its consideration can help to strengthen natural infrastructure that may act as floodplain, coastal defence, a carbon or a water store. G/BI is often multifunctional land where walking, cycling, or established greenway routes may become integrated. More information on active travel is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

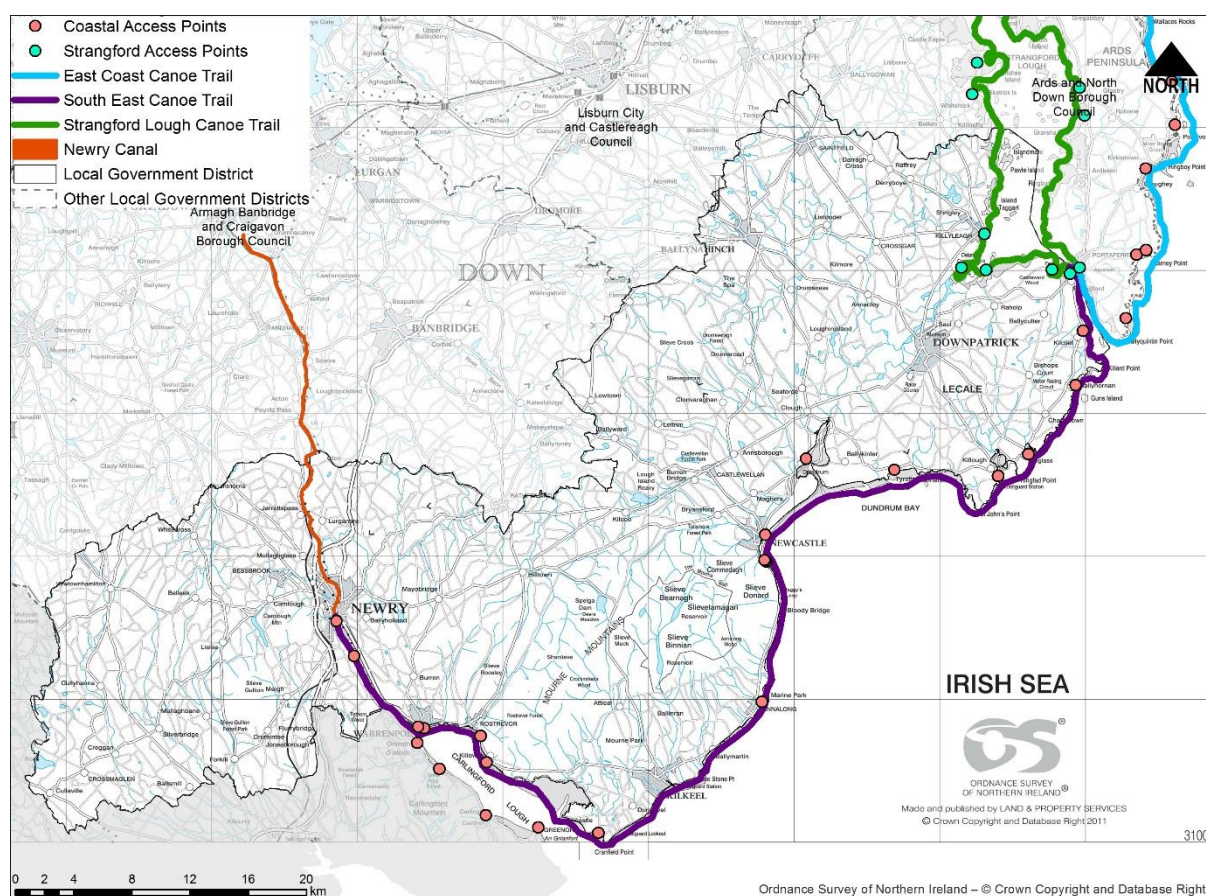
Canal Network

The Newry Canal within the district can be considered BI. There are plans to reopen sections of the canal network across the whole of the island of Ireland. This could potentially enhance BI across the whole of the country. More information is in the Transport and Accessibility section of this report.

Canoe NI

Canoe NI is part of Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) and promotes Northern Ireland's canoe trails. They help to ensure that canoe trails can exist and access to them is feasible. Canoe trails within the district are shown in the Figure below. These include a coastal route from Newry to Strangford, and a route on Strangford Lough.

Figure 5.12.3: Canal Network and Canoe Trails in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



Source: CanoeNI

Ecosystem Services

In recent years, the natural environment has become increasingly recognised for the range of beneficial services that it provides. These include providing food and materials; regulating the physical environment through water and carbon storage; supporting processes such as the water cycle; and meeting other needs for people such as recreational and spiritual. The provision of these benefits is 'ecosystem services' (ES) and is referred to in the SPPS as environmental processes that produce essential resources such as food, water and clean air.

There are several ES projects in Northern Ireland. These focus on more sustainable approaches to managing land that provide positive benefits for stakeholders like reduced costs. Some examples have involved bog restoration in upland areas¹ whilst others have restored wastewater sludge lagoons into wildflower meadows².

The Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT) manages land in the district that is mostly located in the uplands and the Eastern Mournes. The MHT's approach to land management is at the landscape scale. They align actions to suit measures under Sustainable Catchment Action Management Plans (SCAMP) that are used by Northern Ireland Water (NIW). MHT operate under three main areas of work; a wildfowl management strategy, a heathland regeneration programme and an erosion management plan. They work in partnership with NIW and private landowners over a substantial area of land but site specific habitat management occurs in nine sites. Their work helps to conserve biodiversity and the natural capacity of the land to store water and carbon, whilst also helping to improve water quality.

There are four popular Forest Parks within the district under Forest Service management. These can be viewed as ES resources as they provide sources of timber, locations for recreational and leisure facilities, habitat for priority species, as well as carbon sequestration.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) manages a landscape-scale conservation project that covers the Lough Neagh basin and includes wetlands and waterways connected to the source of the River Bann in the district³. There are no site-specific projects but the RSPB are working with 70+ farmers on a project called 'Working together with Nature' that aims to support seed eating birds to help maintain and enhance biodiversity.

5.12.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without a Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there is the risk that development may occur in inappropriate locations and negatively affect the natural heritage resource of the district. It may become increasingly difficult to manage development pressure; the impacts of climate change on habitats, particularly in coastal areas; and spatially manage the Council's local biodiversity. It could become increasingly difficult to protect, enhance and develop G/BI. With a new LDP in place, up to date information on the district's natural heritage resource would be available and protection and enhancement of it as a key asset would be more feasible.

5.12.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Natural Resources

- There are 92 formally designated sites for nature conservation within the district⁴ reflecting the importance of the Council's natural heritage as a key asset.
- The District Council has a long and varied coastline, which is protected under numerous designations to conserve its coastal and marine habitats, species and features.
- The coast needs to be protected from inappropriate development, particularly in areas already prone to erosion or likely to be in the future.

¹ https://www.climatenorthernireland.org.uk/cmsfiles/ClimateNI_RSPBFINAL.pdf

² <https://www.ulsterwildlife.org/news/2016/08/25/former-sewage-lagoons-be-transformed-wildlife-haven>

³ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/landscape-scale-conservation/sites/lough-neagh-basin/>

⁴ 4 Ramsars, 5 Important Bird Areas, 3 Special Protection Areas, 11 Special Areas of Conservation, 62 Areas of Special Scientific Interest, 3 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2 Inshore Marine Conservation Zones, 2 proposed Marine SPAs and 1 North Channel candidate SAC

- The coast should be considered in the context of climate change in that it acts as a natural defence and will likely need to deal with increased pressure from storm events, higher sea levels and coastal flooding due to the effects of climate change.
- The District Council has a draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) that has identified priorities for biodiversity conservation as well as 6 priority habitat types and 12 priority species for action.
- There are a significant number of local level sites of nature conservation interest, including SLNCIs, nature reserves, ancient woodland and local wildlife sites but not all of these are connected which presents opportunities for wildlife corridors and green/blue infrastructure networks.
- Local development pressure is evident in some parts of the district and likely to affect areas important for nature conservation including wetlands and coastal habitats.
- The LDP may help identify the numerous areas that are providing ecosystem services and any opportunities that there may be to help maintain and support these.

5.13 Landscape

5.13.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

Landscape protection in Northern Ireland is evident at the regional level with a key aim in the RDS to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake. The environment in Northern Ireland is seen as one of its greatest assets and regional policy encourages protection of natural heritage assets and landscape character.

The SPPS recognises the importance of the countryside as a significant asset. It aims to avoid inappropriate development and provide a high standard of landscape protection that also reflects regional and local differences. Protection of landscape as a consideration is evident within several subject policies including development in the countryside, minerals, open space, sport and outdoor recreation, renewable energy, telecommunications and other utilities.

If areas of a unique landscape or amenity value are present, then the new LDP could include designated policy areas such as Special Countryside Areas (SCAs) or Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) to conserve landscape character at a local level. This is in keeping with the aims of the European Landscape Convention, which encourages countries to consider protection of everyday landscapes.

Much of what is valued in a landscape is a blend of natural features and social and cultural history. It is the viewer's perception that provides an intrinsic value. This can help to define a region and provide a sense of place. Landscape is increasingly being realised in economic terms as an asset for tourism but also as a motivator to encourage people to purchase a home or to invest in a new location. To help conserve the district's landscape all three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) have Action Plans; The Mourne Mountains Landscape Conservation Action Plan; the Strangford Lough and Lecale AONB Action Plan 2013 – 2018; and the Ring of Gullion AONB Action Plan 2017 - 2022. All plans aim to deliver positive outcomes for residents and visitors.

'Living Well Together' The Newry Mourne and Down Community Plan identifies a number of outcomes for the district including the outcome to ensure that 'All people of Newry Mourne and Down will benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment'. The plan recognises the value of the districts rich and varied landscape as an important biodiversity resource and key component in people's quality of life and potential in attracting visitors to the district.

The Councils Corporate plan seeks to maximise the tourism potential associated with the district's three AONBs and coastline. The first strategic objective of the Councils Corporate Plan 2015-2019 is to make the district 'the premier tourism destination on the island of Ireland'. The protection of natural and built environment and the regeneration of urban and rural areas are also identified as strategic objectives within the Corporate Plan.

5.13.2 Baseline Information

Detailed baseline information on landscape has been provided in the Local Development Plan Preparatory Papers 12: Countryside – Landscape Character Assessment and Countryside – Development Pressure Analysis; and Paper 6: Environmental Assets.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The district has a distinct and beautiful landscape with a significant proportion of the district subject to some form of landscape designation. The district contains 3 AONBs which cover 57% of the district, these are:

- The Mournes
- Strangford Lough & Lecale, and
- The Ring of Gullion.

The Mourne Mountains Landscape Conservation Action Plan sets the context for protecting and enhancing the Mourne AONB. It is significant in addressing environmental management challenges and promoting best practice. It is central to achieving The Mourne Mountain Partnerships mission for the AONB, which is 'To reconnect the people of the Mourne area with their mountain heritage and share this inheritance with the wider world'. The Strangford Lough and Lecale Action Plan 2013 -2018 has three key aims and a number of associated objectives. The aims are to conserve and engage people with their built and natural heritage; to use this heritage to promote the health and well-being of local people and visitors; and to build prosperity and facilitate research and development through the environmentally sustainable use of the heritage. The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2017-2022 also outlines a number of outcomes and aims to create a quality visitor experience, improve outdoor recreation opportunities, enhance the historic environment and promote community involvement.

Figure 5.13.1 Newry, Mourne and Down District AONBs



Source: DEARA

Notably a major restoration project has been announced for the historic Mourne Wall located in the Mourne AONB. The 22 mile long dry stone wall was completed in 1922 and is a significant feature of the landscape¹.

Landscape Character Areas

There are 25 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the district. All are noted to have varying levels of vulnerability to change. A number of these are shared with neighbouring Councils - Armagh,

¹ NI Water: Press release, NI Water to Commence Major Restoration Project for the Mourne Wall, May 2017

Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; and Ards and North Down Borough Council.

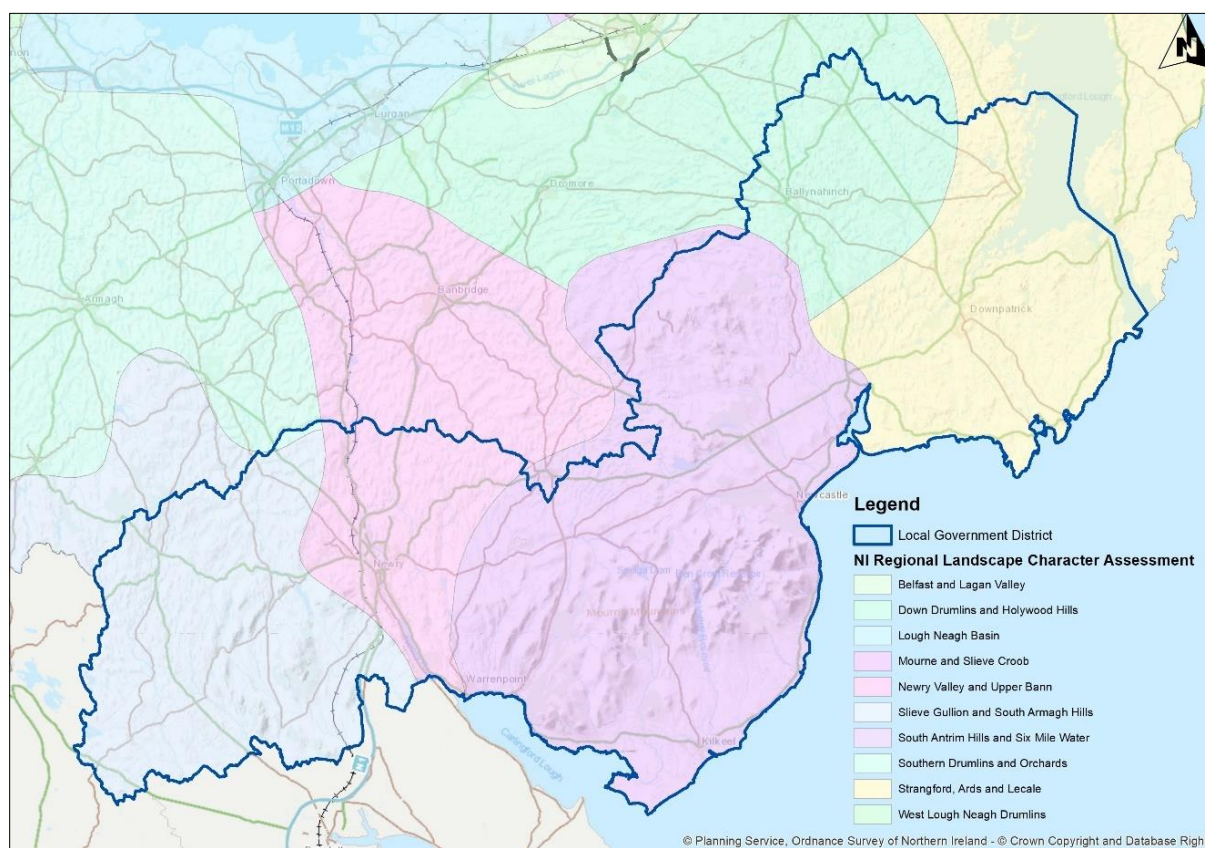
Of the 25 LCAs identified, 13 fall within the high sensitivity wind energy rating which accounts for 66% of the total area of the district. The wind energy rating is determined by the landscapes sensitivity to wind turbines taking account of its scale, landform, enclosure, complexity of land cover and features¹.

Regional Landscape Character Areas

The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) 2000 divided the country into 26 distinct areas known as RLCAs. The assessment identified 5 RLCAs for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council². These are listed below:

- North Down Drumlins and Holywood Hills
- Newry Valley and Upper Bann
- Slieve Gullion and South Armagh Hills
- Mourne and Slieve Croob
- Strangford, Ards and Lecale

Figure 5.13.2: Newry Mourne and Down Regional Landscape Characters Areas



Source: DEARA

Each RLCA has its own distinct character and ‘sense of place’ that is intrinsically linked to the district’s identity. All 5 RLCAs are shared with neighbouring Councils and range in character from rugged uplands to distinctive low drumlins and intricate coastline. More information can be found on the DAERA website.

¹ LDP Paper: Paper 12 (Part 2) Landscape Character Assessment

² LDP Paper: Paper 12 (Part 2) Landscape Character Assessment

Seascape Character Areas

The district contains an extensive coastline that spans 100 miles. It stretches from Strangford Lough around the coast to Carlingford Lough and forms a critical part of LCAs. Almost the entire coastal region is within either the Mourne AONB or the Strangford and Lecale AONB. The coastline is also biologically diverse and contains a number of designated nature sites. More information on these sites is in the Natural Resources section of this report¹.

Newry, Mourne and Down also contains 7 Regional Seascape Character Areas. These are listed below:

- Strangford Lough
- Lecale Coast
- Dundrum Bay
- Mourne Coast
- Carlingford Lough
- Newry Estuary
- Irish Sea (South Down)

More information can be found on the DAERA website.

Coastal Policy Area

The district's coastline was previously defined in the Coastal Policy Area (CPA) detailed in the draft Banbridge, Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015. The CPA divided the coastline into 3 sections:

- Newry City to Rostrevor
- Rostrevor to Kilkeel, and
- Kilkeel to Plan boundary.

Extensive sections remain undeveloped and a number of nature conservation designations including Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites can be found along the entire coast. It not only supports fishing and related businesses but also local tourism based on its amenity and nature conservation value. The Council's Draft Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 highlights the tourism potential associated with the coast. The Council has also identified economic opportunities in the form of a Mourne and Strangford Lough coastal walking path and Killkeel harbour expansion. The LDP preparatory paper on The Coast also highlights the potential for the district to support a range of renewable energy types².

Development Pressure

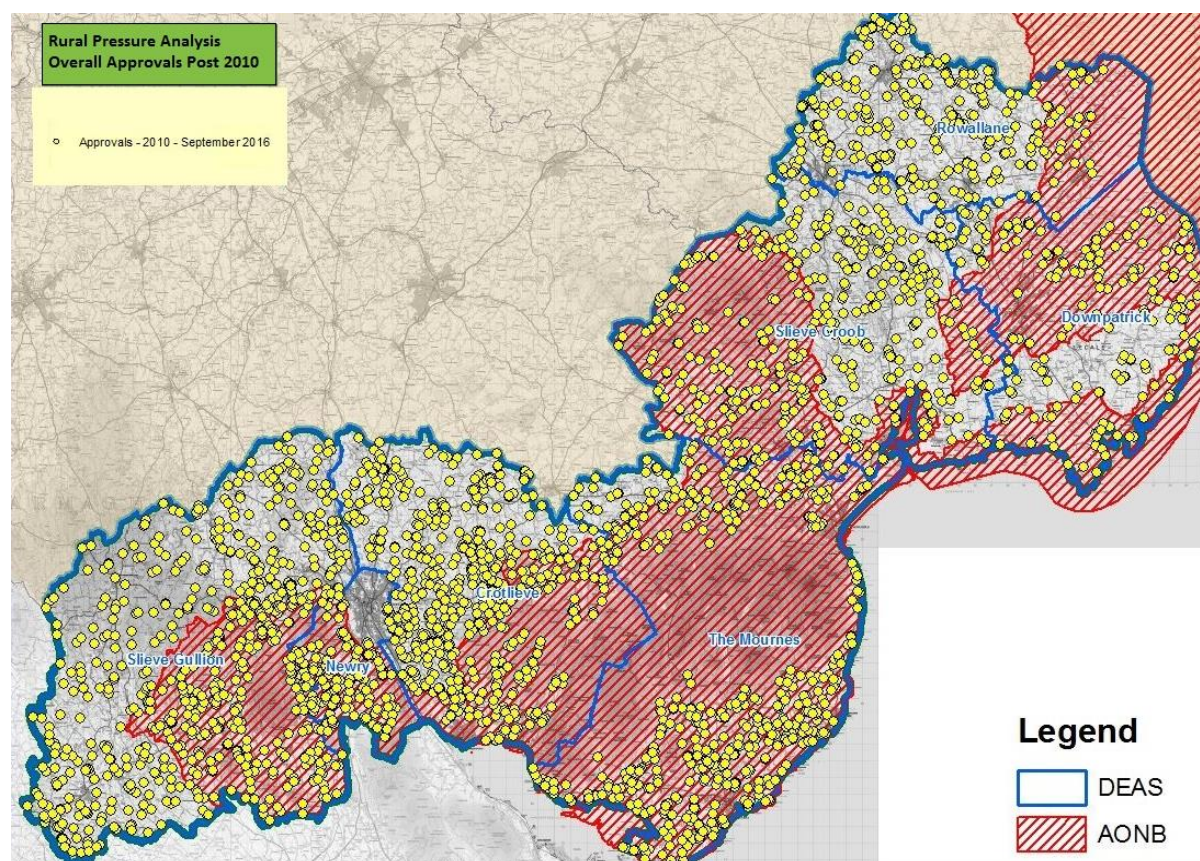
The district has experienced a general downward trend in the number of applications for single rural dwellings with the number of applications dropping significantly in the past 10 years. Since the introduction of PPS21, applications for replacement dwellings and farm dwellings have become the most common type of application in the countryside³.

¹ LDP Paper: Paper 8 The Coast

² Ibid

³ LDP Paper: Paper 12 (Part 2) Countryside Development Pressure Analysis

Figure 5.13.3 Rural Pressure Analysis Overall map of the District



Source: LDP Paper 12, Countryside Development Pressure Analysis

Despite the general downward trend, there is some evidence that localised pressure exists along the coastal section of the Mournes DEA and the Mournes foothills despite the added protection of being located within an AONB¹.

Between 2002 and 2015 there were 321 planning approvals for single turbines of varying sizes across the district. Whilst the district has seen a downward trend in the number of wind energy applications received, the potential for piecemeal development still exists. The concentration of turbines varies across the district with the highest concentration of turbines being located around the periphery of the locality of The Ring of Gullion LCA².

5.13.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

In the absence of a new plan, there could be an increased risk of negative impacts on the district's intrinsic landscape character from the cumulative impacts of piecemeal development. Development pressure from single turbines and single dwellings may become increasingly difficult to manage in areas already more sensitive to change. Without an up to date plan there could also be a higher risk of missing opportunities including the potential to consider coastal policy and balance the district's future development with the protection of its environmental assets.

5.13.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Landscape

- Approximately 35% of the districts population live within open countryside.
- The Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area contains 3 AONB's which cover 55.7% of the district. These landscapes have been recognised as being of regional or local importance.

¹ Ibid

² Ibid

- The district has a variety of landscapes including 25 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), some of which are shared with neighbouring council areas. There are 5 Regional Landscape Character Areas and 7 Regional Seascape Character Areas. The district is also home to a number of Areas of High Scenic Value.
- Areas identified as being vulnerable to change within the district include; all of the Mourne AONB, in particular the high Mourne, the entirety of the Ring of Gullion AONB and the southern portion of the Strangford and Lecale AONB.
- Development pressure exists in regards to rural dwellings with development pressure most prevalent along the coast and Mourne foothills to the north despite the added protection of being located within an AONB.
- The district has been subject to an increase in turbine applications in recent years and as a result has led to piecemeal development of single wind turbines in some areas.
- Large parts of the coast are designated nature sites, due to their productive and biologically diverse ecosystems – such as mudflats, sand dunes, reefs and cliffs and therefore protection of this resource must be given careful consideration.

5.14 Historic Environment and Cultural Resources

5.14.1 Review of Policies, Plans, Programmes and Strategies

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe 1992 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987 (known respectively as the Valetta Convention and the Granada Convention) place responsibility on member states to consider the conservation of archaeological resources and to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) aims to contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings. In the regional context PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, along with its addendum, sets out planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and built heritage features. Supplementary planning guidance in the form of booklets incorporating local policies, design guides and baseline audits are published for Conservation Areas.

Overarching policy recognises that townscape, built heritage, archaeology and cultural heritage form an important part of the character and appearance of our cities, towns, villages, small settlements and countryside. They are also part of our culture and can contribute to our quality of life. Historic and Cultural resources have the potential to benefit our community and our economy in terms of tourism and regeneration. They contribute to the sense of place in our towns, villages and smaller settlements and are part of what is unique about places in our district.

Regional guidance recognises that quality natural assets, interesting architecture, and built heritage can contribute to a feeling of being somewhere unique, which contribute to the tourism offer. Reuse of both listed and locally important buildings can contribute to urban and rural renaissance, which can help vitality and footfall in settlement centres, supporting the local economy.

The policy objectives in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) include:

- Secure the protection, conservation, and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage.
- Promote Sustainable Development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage.
- Encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019 includes eight strategic objectives the Plan aims to have achieved by 2019. These include 'protected our natural and built environment' and 'led the regeneration of our urban and rural areas'. The Corporate Plan recognises that 'to complement our outstanding natural assets, we are also home to a number of significant built heritage assets including Struell Wells in Downpatrick, Dundrum Castle and Bagenal's Castle in Newry City'.

The 2030 Community Plan '*Living Well Together*' recognises that the historic environment of Newry, Mourne and Down not only makes a wonderful landscape in which to live, but also creates a very distinctive sense of place that is attractive to those visiting. It also notes that the sustainable management and enhancement of built heritage and our unique natural environment helps to support the wellbeing of communities.

5.14.2 Baseline Information

A detailed baseline of information is presented in the LDP Preparatory Studies Discussion Papers including 'Paper 6: Environmental Assets' and Paper 7: 'Tourism'. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of the Department for Communities (DfC) has also published its digital datasets of the historic

environment online¹ and has created a Historic Environment Map Viewer². This topic overlaps with the Economy and Employment and Landscape topics.

Overview

The historic environment in Newry, Mourne and Down includes built heritage and artefacts from all periods of human settlement in Ireland from around 7,000BC to the 20th century. Some of the premier examples of monument types in Northern Ireland are located here; these include the pre-historic Ballynoe Stone Circle, the Neolithic King's Ring and Court Tomb in Clontygora, the late medieval Narrow Water Castle in Warrenpoint and the 14th Century Ringhaddy Church. Notable Early Christian monuments include perhaps the earliest dated inscribed stone in Ireland at Kilnasaggart and one of the most important early convents at nearby Killevy. The mysterious lengths of linear earthwork at the Dorsey have suggested links with the world-renowned complex of Bronze and Iron Age monuments focussed on Navan Fort. The district's historical and archaeological assets, strong cultural heritage and its connections with St Patrick creates strong potential to become a key tourism centre of regional significance. With this comes the need to protect and conserve it for our own and future generations to enjoy.

Listed Buildings

There are a total of approximately 1,416 Listed Buildings¹ in the district, 16 of which have been assigned Grade A status. These include Castleward House, Downpatrick Cathedral, Craigmore Viaduct, Killyleagh Castle and Narrow Water Castle. These are documented in the LDP Preparatory Paper 6: Environmental Assets. A further 203 (approx.) buildings are listed, but are 'record only' or have not yet been allocated a grade.

The district's largest listed building is the Mourne Wall (category B1). Commenced in 1904, the wall defines the boundary of the 90,000 acre catchment area for the Silent Valley Catchment. It is 22 miles long, crosses 15 peaks across the Mourne range and took 18 years to be completed. The wall has suffered significant degradation in certain parts, due to lightning strikes and more generally from its harsh environment. It is currently the subject of a restoration plan, the first phase of which commenced in May 2017. Local experienced stonemasons are carrying out repairs to the wall using traditional techniques, with advice and guidance from Mourne Heritage Trust (MHT). In some areas, helicopters have been used to transport larger stones and other materials to sites where insufficient stone was available onsite to reconstruct the wall. The restoration and improvement of the damaged areas of the wall helps preserve the cultural heritage of the wall's construction and the landscape of the site, while providing environmental protection and is an important tourism asset in this scenic area.

Buildings at Risk

The Ulster Architecture and Heritage Society in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), has compiled an online list of Built Heritage at Risk in Northern Ireland (BHARNI)³. The BHARNI register contains a selection of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other historic structures, ranging from dwellings to large industrial complexes, which are may not have a sustainable future without intervention. It highlights the vulnerability of our historic built environment and will act as a catalyst for its restoration and reuse. Within the district there are a total of 133 'buildings at risk', of which 125 are listed. Forty one 'buildings at risk' have been saved but 34 have been assigned a 'critical' level of risk. Some examples of buildings at risk include: Greencastle Pier, parts of the Downe Hospital, Bessbrook Mill and the gatehouse of the New County Gaol at Downpatrick.

¹ Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 01 March 2018)

² <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

³ Department for Communities Buildings at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (accessed 13/10/2017)

Sites and Monuments Record

Newry, Mourne and Down has a rich record of archaeological sites and historic monuments. Scheduled sites are archaeological and historic sites and monuments that are afforded protection under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and there are 292¹ such Scheduled sites in the district (Figure 5.14.1). Two further sites, Clough Castle and Greencastle Castle are currently proposed for scheduling. The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) of the DfC lists a further 1,708¹ unscheduled Sites and Monuments located across the district. The Record includes assets such as battle sites, Cashels (stone forts), Crannogs (island forts) Megalithic Tombs, Earthworks, Ecclesiastical Sites, Tidal Mills and more modern features such as World War II pillboxes. More sites may potentially be discovered through archaeological work, during development operations or through agricultural activity. The district has 42 Monuments in State Care, which are listed below:

Annadorn Dolmen	Jordan's Castle	Quoile Castle
Audley's Castle	Kilclief Castle	Raholp Old Church
Audleystown Cairn	Kilfeaghan Dolmen	Ringhaddy Castle
Ballykeel Dolmen	Killevy Churches	Ringhaddy Church
Ballymacdermot Cairn	Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone	South Cairn, Clonlum
Ballynoe Stone Circle	Legananny Dolmen	St Maccartan's Chapel
Cailleach Bearas House	Lisbanemore Cashel	St. John's Church
Clough Castle	Lisdoo Cashel	St. Nicholas' Church
Cowd or Choud Castle	Maghera Church	Strangford Castle
Dunnadroma, Dundrum Castle	Mound of Down	Struell Wells
Giant's Grave, Dunnaman Court Tomb	Moyry Castle	The Black Castle, Annaghmare Cairn
Goward Dolmen	Narrow Water Castle	The King's Ring, Clontygora Cairn
Greencastle Castle & Well	North Cairn, Clonlum	Walsh's Fort, Drumena Cashel
Inch abbey, Inniscourcy	North Cairn, Slieve Gullion	Woodgrange Rath and Tower House

Source: NI Sites and Monuments Record DfC Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 01 March 2018)

Areas of Special Archaeological Interest

There are three Areas of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI) in the district, at Downpatrick, Dundrum and The Dorsey (Figure 5.14.1).

The town of Downpatrick, affiliated with Ireland's best known saint, St Patrick, is a settlement where complex and extensive below ground archaeological remains as well as historic fabric incorporated into later structures, are known to exist².

Dundrum Castle is set high on a hill overlooking Dundrum Bay. Its place name, Dundroma, means "fort of the ridge", which suggests there may have been an early Christian fort in the area. Beginning with works by John de Courcy in around 1180, the castle was progressively strengthened and altered over a period of 450 years, ending in the 17th century. It forms part of a chain of castles running up the East coast, including at Carlingford, Greencastle and Carrickfergus.³

The Dorsey forms a large enclosure or double set of earthworks thought to be part of Ulster's defences in the Iron Age and possibly controlling access along an important route to Navan Fort, near Armagh. 'Dorsey' is derived from the Gaelic, Na Doirse, which means 'the Gateways'⁴.

¹ Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 01 March 2018)

² HED Consultation response to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, 18th December 2017.

³ Department for Communities - Dundrum Castle: Information For Teachers (published 14 February 2018)

⁴ Experience Gullion - Archaeology in the Ring of Gullion <https://www.ringofgullion.org/archaeology/> (accessed 24/04/2018)

The settings of these features within the landscape forms an important part of their character and heritage value. Two new candidate ASAs, at Greencastle and at Slieve Gullion, have been identified by HED and are currently under consideration for designation.

Area of Archaeological Potential

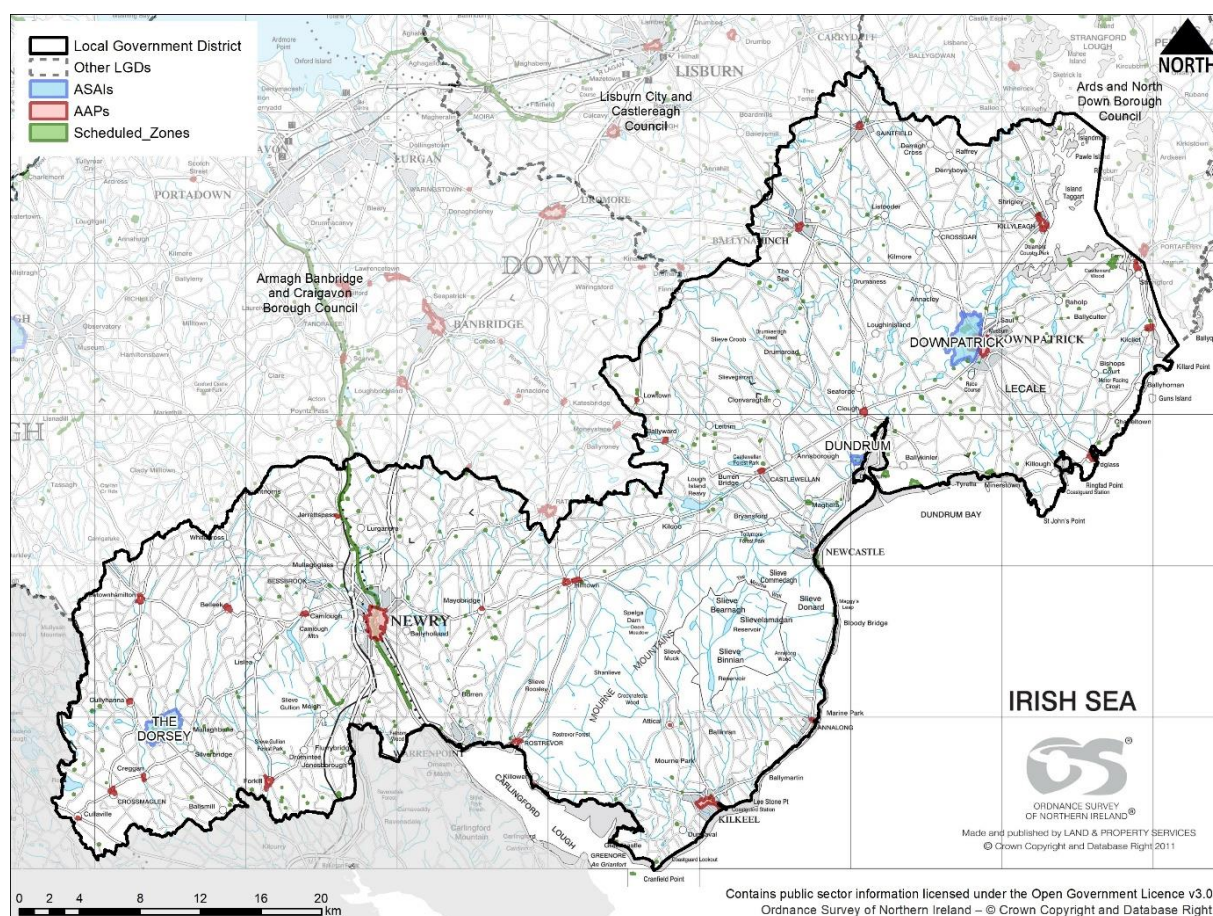
There are 30 settlements in Newry, Mourne and Down with identified Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP). These are:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ■ Annalong | ■ Crossmaglen | ■ Kilkeel |
| ■ Ardglass | ■ Cullaville | ■ Killowen |
| ■ Attical | ■ Cullyhanna | ■ Killyleagh |
| ■ Ballynahinch | ■ Dechomet | ■ Mayobridge |
| ■ Ballyward | ■ Downpatrick | ■ Newcastle |
| ■ Belleek | ■ Forkhill | ■ Newry |
| ■ Camlough | ■ Greencastle | ■ Newtownhamilton |
| ■ Castlewellan | ■ Hilltown | ■ Rostrevor |
| ■ Clough | ■ Jerrettspass | ■ Saintfield |
| ■ Creggan | ■ Kilclief | ■ Strangford |

Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 01 March 2018)

There are various existing policies for Areas of Archaeological Potential and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest within the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 and the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015.

Figure 5.14.1: Historic Environment: ASAI, AAP and Scheduled Zones



Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 01 March 2018)

The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements is the result of a program of work within the DfC to identify historic settlement centres and from these, in some cases, identify new AAP or modify existing AAP. The draft Gazetteer includes 88 entries within the district, of which 32 do not have an existing AAP associated. These include areas of Burren, Drumaness, Loughinisland and The Spa. The new LDP will consider the designation of new ASAI and AAP through consultation with the DfC.

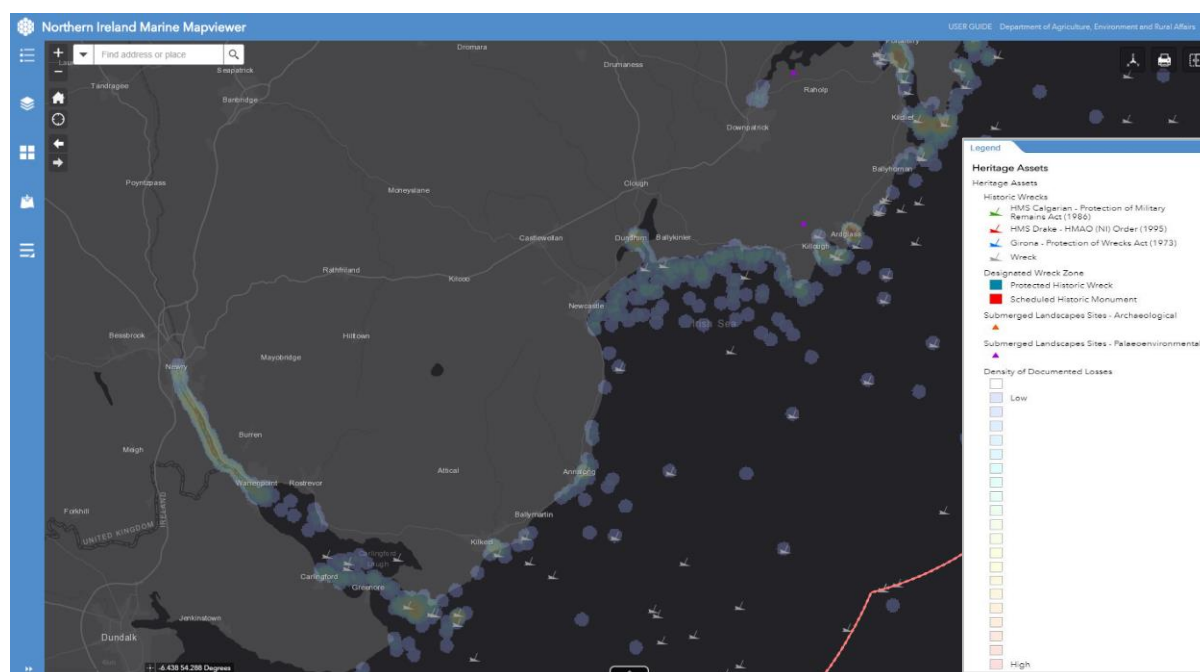
Marine Historic Environment

The nature of our coastline has resulted in several areas with high densities of documented marine losses (see Figure 5.14.2), in particular at the Newry River, Cranfield Point, Dundrum Bay, Ardglass and Kilkeel.

Around 45 historic shipwrecks are known to be located within 2km of our coastline and in the tidal portions of the Newry River, however several hundred more documented shipwrecks remain unlocated. Historic shipwrecks may receive protected status the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973) while the wreckage of military aircraft and designated military vessels may be protected via the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986). Wrecks may also be designated as a Scheduled Historic Monument under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order (1995). As yet, none of the wrecks in the waters offshore from Newry, Mourne and Down have received protected status.

Submerged Landscape Sites include palaeoenvironmental peat artefacts dating from around eight to nine thousand years before present which were discovered at Killough and submerged tree stumps at Ballintogher, Strangford. Submerged archaeological finds dating from the Stone Age (8,000 years before present) have also been discovered at Dunsy Island on the western side of Strangford Lough. Intertidal or offshore development, such as undersea cables, offshore wind farms or tidal/wave energy arrays, has the potential to discover new evidence of the marine historic environment.

Figure 5.14.2: Marine Historic Environment – Shipwrecks and Submerged Archaeology



Source: DAERA Northern Ireland Marine Map Viewer

Industrial Heritage

The district also contains a wealth of remains from the industrial past, which are reminders of the economic as well as the social development of the area. Sites of industrial heritage can be found not only in the city and main towns, but also in rural locations. They include many remnants of the

former flax and linen industries, corn mills, tanneries, windmills and gasworks. There are numerous bridges, tunnels and other engineering features remaining from the former Great Northern and Belfast and County Down Railways and also the localised narrow gauge hydro-electric tramway built in the late 19th century to transport passengers and freight between Newry and Bessbrook. The Newry Canal, which has bridges, locks, customs houses and other features associated with it, has been designated as a Scheduled Monument and is protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 from its entry point at Carlingford Lough to where it meets the river Bann south of Portadown. As discussed in section 5.8, parts of these former railway and canal routes are under consideration for the development of new greenways.

Defence Heritage

Newry, Mourne and Down contains many defence heritage assets, largely associated with World War II, many of which are focused around the coast and along the route of the Newry Canal and Portadown- Newry railway. Defence heritage assets include former airfields, pillboxes and observation posts. The remains of a cold war radar station are located at Killard Point. Trench systems used in training soldiers during World War I were rediscovered in 2016 in Ballykinler and these are being considered for restoration as a historical and educational resource. These trenches, along with a WWII pillbox at Newcastle, have also been granted protected status as Scheduled Monuments. Many of the assets on the defence asset database are in very poor condition or have already been destroyed. The majority of former airfields in the district are now derelict, some have been reused or altered (e.g. part of the former RAF Bishops Court is now a motor racing track), and others are in a state of decay or have been demolished.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes reflect planned and managed landscape enhancement carried out since the 17th Century. Newry, Mourne and Down has a total of 29 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes on the Register which are considered to be of exceptional importance within Northern Ireland. These include 481 hectares (ha) at Tollymore Park, 436 ha at Mourne Park, 422 ha at Castlewellan Castle and 416 ha at Finnebrogue House. A further six supplementary sites have also been identified as having a high level of interest and are included as an appendix to the main Register.

Register

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Ballyedmond | ▪ Finnebrogue House | ▪ Ringdufferin |
| ▪ Ballytrim | ▪ Green Park | ▪ Rostrevor House |
| ▪ Ballyward Lodge | ▪ Killevy Castle | ▪ Rowallane |
| ▪ Castleward | ▪ Killyleagh Castle | ▪ Saintfield House |
| ▪ Castlewellan Castle | ▪ Monalto House | ▪ Seaforde House |
| ▪ Crossgar House (Tobar Mhuire) | ▪ Mount Panther | ▪ The Lodge (Kilbroney) |
| ▪ Delamont | ▪ Mourne Park | ▪ Tollymore Park |
| ▪ Derrymore House and the Wood House | ▪ Myra Castle | ▪ Tyrella House |
| ▪ Dromantine House | ▪ Narrow Water Castle | ▪ Warrenpoint Park |
| ▪ Drumbanagher* | ▪ Rademon | |

Supplementary

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| ▪ Ballee House | ▪ Ballymoyer | ▪ Forkhill House |
| ▪ Ballydugan House | ▪ Church Hill | ▪ Hawthorn Hill |

*Drumbanagher Estate is partly within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
Source: DfC Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 02 August 2017)

Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area deemed to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance, as designated under Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. Newry, Mourne and Down has a total of ten Conservation Areas. They are:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| ▪ Ardglass | ▪ Killough | ▪ Rostrevor |
| ▪ Bessbrook | ▪ Killyleagh | ▪ Saintfield |
| ▪ Castlewellan | ▪ Newry | ▪ Strangford |
| ▪ Downpatrick | | |

The locations of these Conservation Areas are shown on Figure 6 of the LDP Preparatory Studies paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'.

Great importance is attached to the preservation of the existing character and appearance of such areas allied to the promotion of their economic well-being.

Areas of Townscape Character

Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently 27 Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) within Newry, Mourne and Down. Their names and locations are given in section 4.9 and Figure 6 respectively of the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'. There are currently no designated Areas of Village Character (AVC) in the district. As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing ATC designations will be reviewed and any additional ATCs or Areas of Village Character will be identified.

Local Landscape Policy Areas

The features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) are specific to individual settlements and differ from place to place. Within Newry, Mourne and Down's extant area plans (Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 and the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015), there are 216 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within and adjoining the majority of the settlements. These are listed in section 4.10 and illustrated in Figure 7 of the LDP Preparatory Studies Paper 6: 'Environmental Assets'. As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing LLPA designations will be reviewed and any additional LLPAs identified.

5.14.3 Likely Evolution of the Baseline without the Local Development Plan

Without the LDP in place, the RDS, the SPPS, extant Area Plans and PPSs would all still be applied. Stakeholder consultation would also continue to inform decisions. However, in the absence of a new plan, opportunities to consider the historical and cultural assets in future growth plans and place-shaping may be missed.

There are a very large number of strategic heritage assets in the Newry, Mourne and Down, dating from Prehistoric and Mesolithic periods through to World War II. Without a new LDP in place, opportunities to designate new areas of special archaeological interest and areas of archaeological potential in the LDP might also be missed. Opportunities might also be missed to take advantage of the potential that archaeological, industrial, and defence heritage assets have as part of our tourism and visitor offer, leading to reduced economic benefit for local communities.

The protection, conservation and regeneration of historic places can contribute to well-being in society through providing people with enjoyment, inspiration, learning opportunities, mental and physical health benefits, and a sense of place and identity.

It has been recognised that there is evidence of incremental erosion of historic/architectural character and appearance within some of the designated conservation areas. In the absence of a LDP the 'setting' of historic assets or places, which may extend far beyond the boundary or curtilage of the

site, may not be taken into consideration. A new LDP is an opportunity to consider the reasons for these issues and identify the positive role that planning can play.

5.14.4 Key Sustainability Issues for Historic Environment and Cultural Resources

- The Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage plays a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- The historic environment and cultural heritage play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- The historical and archaeological interest connected to St Patrick is of regional significance for tourism.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted.
- The district's rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.
- The district contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage features and recognising their value extends beyond listing and enforcement. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features, along with the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The district has an immensely rich archaeological heritage. This could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The setting and landscape of the ASAs and any potential new ASAs should be preserved. Many archaeological settings are associated with particular landscapes, such as hill tops, ridges and drumlins.
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- Regionally important historic buildings, such as Castle Ward, are set in a natural environment. The natural and built environment can add value to each other.
- The district has a rich industrial heritage through cereals milling, flax production and tanning, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World Wars I & II.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.
- Conservation Areas in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry, Rostrevor, Saintfield and Warrenpoint are in areas designated as Significant Flood Risk Areas/Areas for Further Study and parts may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change.
- There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries.
- Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment.

6. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainability objectives have been identified through consideration of intentional, national, regional and local policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives; baseline information at regional and, where available, at local level and apparent trends.

The following Sustainability Objectives are informed by the topic review and key sustainability issues identified in Chapter 5. The rationale for selecting each is outlined. The prompts used to assess plan options against the Sustainability Objectives are presented in the Sustainability Appraisal Guide in Appendix 5.

6.1 The Sustainability Objectives

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 minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles 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

minimize 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 car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by 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 resources.

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

6.2 Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

A comparison has been drawn between all of the sustainability objectives to identify any conflicts between them and is presented in Appendix 3. No sustainability objectives were considered to be incompatible with the rest of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. In some cases, however the effect is uncertain.

6.3 Next Steps

This scoping report provides the Sustainability Appraisal Framework that has been used to appraise the Preferred Options Paper and prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report. The Scoping Report will be reviewed and updated where necessary at each subsequent step of plan preparation to reflect new context and baseline information where necessary.

6.4 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Scoping Report

With the establishment of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in 2015 and the new statutory Community Planning duty there has been a great deal of data collection for a variety of purposes including the Community Plan. It has not always been possible to align all of the evidence used for this scoping report with other evidence as timeframes and purpose for which data was collected may differ. The scoping report evidence will be reviewed and updated, where necessary, before publication of the Sustainability Report at Plan Strategy.

Predicting effects and trends always involves an element of uncertainty or a need for assumptions to be made. The ability to predict effects accurately is also limited by gaps in the baseline and understanding of future trends. In some cases information is either not available at Council level or there is not a series of data to inform trends.

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 Scoping Report or the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report is identified.

Requirement	Location
1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	An introduction to the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan (LDP) is presented in Chapter 3. Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies.
2. The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Baseline information is presented in Chapter 5, under topic sections and each section highlights the likely evolution of the baseline without the LDP.
3. The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	The environmental characteristics of Newry, Mourne and Down are outlined in Chapter 5. More detail will be added to this at Plan Strategy stage.
4. Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(9) and the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 5 identifies environmental problems and Appendix 4 of the Interim Report outlines sites to which the Directives apply and potential pathways and effects that could arise from development.
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.	Appendix 4 outlines the relationship with other plans, programmes and policies. Each section of Chapter 5 outlines the main policy themes for that topic.
6. The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as – (i) biodiversity; (ii) population; (iii) human health; (iv) fauna; (v) flora; (vi) soil; (vii) water; (viii) air;	These issues are all covered in the 14 sustainability objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the options and reported in Appendix 5 of the SA Interim Report. Interrelationships are covered in Chapter 2 and Appendix 3 of the SA Interim Report.

Requirement	Location
(ix) climatic factors; (x) material assets; (xi) cultural resources, including cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage; (xii) landscape, and (xiii) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (i) to (xii).	
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.	This is considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report Chapter 3 and in the matrices presented in Appendix 5.
8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 2 of the SA Interim Report considers this in general and Chapter 3 and Appendix 5 provide more detail on the options appraised and assumptions and limitations encountered in the appraisal.
9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 16.	Not required at this stage
10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.	A non-technical summary is provided at the opening of this report.

APPENDIX 2: SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIP TO SEA TOPICS

The objectives for sustainable development are to...	SEA Directive Topic
1...improve health and well-being.	Population Human Health
2 strengthen society.	Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage Population
3...provide good quality, sustainable housing.	Population Human Health
4...enable access to high quality education.	Population
5...enable sustainable economic growth.	Population Human Health
6 manage material assets sustainably.	Material Assets
7...protect physical resources and use sustainably.	Material Assets Soil
8...encourage active and sustainable travel.	Human Health Population Climatic Factors
9...improve air quality	Air
10...reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	Climatic Factors
11...protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	Water
12...protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	Biodiversity Flora, Fauna
13...maintain and enhance landscape character.	Landscape
14... protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural resources.	Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage Landscape

APPENDIX 3: COMPATIBILITY OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Sustainability Objectives	1 Improve health and well-being.	2 Strengthen society.	3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	4 Enable access to high quality education.	5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	6 Manage material assets sustainably.	7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	9 Improve air quality.	10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.
1 Improve health and well-being.														
2 Strengthen society.	✓													
3 Provide good quality, sustainable housing.	✓	✓												
4 Enable access to high quality education.	✓	✓	✓											
5 Enable sustainable economic growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓										
6 Manage material assets sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓									
7 Protect physical resources and use sustainably.	✓	0	0	0	✓	✓								
8 Encourage active and sustainable travel.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0	0							
9 Improve air quality.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓						
10 Reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	✓	0	?	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11 Protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.	✓	0	✓	0	?	✓	✓	0	✓	✓				
12 Protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.	✓	✓	0	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
13 Maintain and enhance landscape character.	✓	✓	0	0	✓	?	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓		
14 Protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.	?	✓	?	0	✓	0	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Compatible ✓ No relationship 0 Uncertain relationship ? Incompatible *

APPENDIX 4: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

This is a list of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Strategies that have been considered in scoping the sustainability appraisal. It will be updated at each stage of plan preparation. Some additional documents, including local plans, may be referred to in the plan evidence papers or the body of the Scoping Report and these will be incorporated in this table in the updated scoping report which will accompany the draft Plan Strategy.

A number of cross cutting publications are presented first. Following that the publications are listed according to the most relevant topic however some may be apply to two or more topics. Year is the year of publication and scale indicates the spatial area it applies to. The lead is the department or organisation currently responsible for the publication and was not necessarily the one responsible for preparation of the publication.

For each publication a summary of the key objectives, requirements or advice is given with emphasis on what is most relevant to the LDP. A short comment is included on the implications of these for the LDP and/or how they will be addressed in plan preparation.

Acknowledgement is given to work carried out by Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and the Strategic Planning Division of the Department for Infrastructure which formed part of the source information for this review of plans, policies and programmes.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT					
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2015	Inter-national	UN	Seeks to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. It also aims to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. Expressed through 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP seeks to contribute to these goals where they are within the scope of development planning.
Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Cohesion Policy 2014-2020	2014	Europe	EC	Almost 70% of the EU population lives in an urban area, and these areas generate more than two thirds of the EU's GDP. However, they are also the places where persistent problems such as unemployment, segregation and poverty, as well as severe environmental pressures, are concentrated. Measures concerning physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.	The principles of integrated sustainable urban development.
General Union Environmental Action Plan (2020)	2013	Europe	EC	This will guide European environment policy until 2020 but has a longer term vision: "In 2050, we live well, within the planet's ecological limits. Our prosperity and healthy environment stem from an innovative, circular economy where nothing is wasted and where natural resources are managed sustainably, and biodiversity is protected, valued and restored in ways that enhance our society's resilience. Our low-carbon growth has long been decoupled from resource use, setting the pace for a safe and sustainable global society." It identifies three key objectives: to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy; to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.	The LDP should support the 4 key areas of work set out in the EAP.
The Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	2004	Europe	EC	The Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) has the objective of making operators of activities which cause environmental damage financially liable for that damage (the 'polluter pays' principle). It imposes duties on operators of economic activities to take immediate steps to prevent damage if there is an imminent threat, and to control damage which is occurring so as to limit its effects.	The LDP will take account of this Directive and local relevant legislation.
Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	2001	Europe	EC	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive at the national level. Requirements of the Directive will be addressed through the Sustainability Appraisals.
A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European	2001	Europe	EC	A framework for a long-term vision of sustainability in which economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection go hand in hand and are	This Strategy aligns with many of the objectives of the LDP including those related to transport and natural

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Union Strategy for Sustainable Development				mutually supporting. Particular environmental protection objectives include increasing the use of clean energy and natural resources to combat climate change, reducing noise and air pollution through promotion of sustainable transport, and conserving and managing the overall use of water and air.	heritage, as well as renewable energy. In applying the policy requirements of the SPPS the LDP will also contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.
Securing the Future - delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 Strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities. The five guiding principles are: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. Four agreed priorities are sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities.	The SPPS has a strong sustainable development theme, which aligns with the priorities of this Strategy, most notably in terms of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, waste management etc. In complying with the SPPS and carrying out sustainability appraisal the plan will support this.
Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy (May 2010)	2010	NI	DAERA	Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy, aims to put in place economic, social and environmental measures to ensure that we can continue to grow our economy, improve our society and communities and utilise our natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Strategy also intends to strengthen the framework to address global issues such as climate change and sets out the following six principles: living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; using sound science responsibly; and promoting opportunity and innovation.	Plan objectives largely support the strategy and the sustainability appraisal will help shape proposals to be sustainable.
DOE Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS): Planning for Sustainable Development	2015	NI	DfI	Sets out the Department's regional strategic policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland. Planning authorities should pursue social and economic priorities alongside the careful management of our built and natural environments in order to achieve sustainable development. The SPPS sets out five core planning principles: Improving health and well-being; Creating and enhancing shared space; Supporting sustainable economic growth; Supporting good design and positive place making; and Preserving and improving the built and natural environment.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.
Regional Development Strategy 2035	2012	NI	DfI	This document provides an overarching strategic planning framework influencing spatial development for the Region up to 2035, facilitating and guiding the public and private sectors. Taken into account are key drivers such as population growth and movement, demographic change, increasing number of households, transportation needs etc. It addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The eight aims of the RDS are to: Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of NI; Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Derry/Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; Support	The LDP will support the RDS as part of the wider Government policy framework and should therefore be closely aligned with its objectives.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. The RDS contains a Spatial Framework and Strategic guidelines.	
Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021	2016	NI	NI Executive	The PfG contains 14 strategic outcomes which touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress. In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy.	The LDP is required to support delivery of the Programme for Government. How it achieves this will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal.
Focus on the Future - Sustainable Development Implementation Plan	2011	NI	NI Executive	While this implementation plan has expired some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. DHSSPS committed to liaise with DOE Planners on the benefits of Health Impact Assessments and their potential to assist in encouraging the development of Healthy Urban Environments. DOE proposed to make legislation to enable the designation of National Parks by 2012.	The health impact assessment approach is not a statutory requirement but will be considered if there is development on this during plan preparation. Health and well-being is considered through sustainability appraisal.
Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Requires departments and district councils to exercise their functions in the manner they consider best calculated to promote the achievement of sustainable development.	Implementing sustainability appraisal throughout plan preparation will help achieve this requirement.
Sustainable Kilkeel 2020 -Your Town, Your Future	2011	Local	Invest NI	Sustainable Kilkeel 2020 Vision is the result of a collaborative pooling of Invest NI Innovation Vouchers. Nine local companies came together and pooled their resources to enable a major scoping study to be developed, looking at how Kilkeel could develop, to maximise opportunities from the Renewable Energy Sector. The following companies took part: Kilkeel Development Association (lead partner) Rockall Seafoods, Kilhorne Bay Seafoods, Henning Bros, Copas Technologies, Ian Newell Boat Building & Repair, Anglo North Irish Fish Producers, Cunningham Butchers, Kilmorey Arms Hotel. This was the largest research project being undertaken on the island of Ireland into Renewable Energy & Sustainability.	It is unclear what stage of development this strategy has reached. The aims of Sustainable Kilkeel should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP could help to support some of the aims of the strategy.
OTHER CROSS-CUTTING					

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	1999	Europe	EC	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Through the influence of the sustainability appraisal the LDP should make a contribution towards fulfilling the goals of the ESDP.
Aarhus Convention - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998	1998	Europe	UNECE	The Aarhus Convention and its Protocol empower people with the rights to access easily information, participate effectively in decision-making in environmental matters and to seek justice if their rights were violated. They protect every person's right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. Ratified in UK in 2005. Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: The right of everyone to receive environmental information; The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making; The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general.	The plan will achieve this through the consultation process, as outlined in the Statement of Community Involvement. Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. This should be reflected in the Statement of the Community Involvement
Our Passion, Our Place - Northern Ireland Environment Agency Strategic Priorities 2012 to 2022	2012	NI	DAERA	The plan outlines the strategic direction for NIEA. Four priority areas: healthy natural environment, people and places, sustainable economic growth and using resources well with a series of strategic goals. In respect of development planning NIEA will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to its regulatory activities. Provide timely and authoritative input to strategic planning and development projects. Adopt an ecosystems approach in the advice it provides.	The majority of the sustainability appraisal objectives can be linked to the strategic aims of this document. NIEA advice and evidence will be used to inform plan preparation.
The Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended)	2009	NI	DAERA	Implements the Environmental Liability Directive in Northern Ireland and introduces financial liability on the 'polluter pays' principle for environmental damage which has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining favourable conservation status of species and natural habitats protected under EC legislation; damage that significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters falling within the scope of the water framework directive; land contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of direct or indirect introduction in, on or under land of substances, preparations, organisms and micro-organisms. Note subject to amendments.	Development arising from the LDP will be subject to these regulations with the operator being responsible for liability should damage within the terms of these regulations occur.
Framework for Co-operation Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland	2010	NI & RoI	DfI	This document examines the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and discusses the potential for co-operation in spatial planning. It sets out a framework for cooperation at different levels within the public sector which should result in mutual benefits. These benefits can be at the local border area level and at the wider level. Four priority areas for cooperation are: Enhancing Competitiveness, Competitive Places (i.e. linked cross-border cities), Environmental Quality and Spatial Analysis.	At the local level it will be important that the guidance in the RDS and [Irish] NSS is incorporated into regional planning guidelines, development plans, community plans and regeneration schemes and that there is support for cross border projects and initiatives for both urban and rural areas. Integrated planning processes at the local level, where agencies and authorities in both jurisdictions work together on a cross border basis,

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
					are essential in enhancing the potential and quality of strategic places on the island, that straddle such cross border locations.
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	DfI	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs, the following transitional arrangements shall apply.
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	2011	NI	NI Executive	Part 2 of the act details the requirements of local development plans and Section 5 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires those who exercise any function in relation to local development plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development. Sections 8(6) and 9(7) of the 2011 Act requires an appraisal of sustainability to be carried out for the Plan Strategy and Local Policies Plan, respectively.	The LDP will take account of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This scoping report forms part of the SA process.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Equality of opportunity	1998	NI	NI Executive	Section 75 promotes 'equality of opportunity' which means that everyone in society should be able to compete on equal terms. All government departments, agencies and councils must also give the nine key groups consideration when creating a policy. These are people with different religious belief, people of political opinion, people of different racial groups, people of different ages, people of different marital status, people of different sexual orientation, men and women generally, people with a disability and people without, people with dependants and people without	The council is required to ensure that their local development plans are prepared in accordance with Section 75 statutory obligations. Consequently, a council will have to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to determine if there will be any potential impacts upon Section 75 groups as a result of the policies and proposals contained in their local development plans.
Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022	2010	RoI	NWRA	The Guidelines are prescriptive in setting out a long term planning framework for the proper planning and development of the Region, and have been closely aligned with the National Spatial Strategy and National Development Plan in Ireland, and the Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland. The key aim of the Guidelines is to provide a good quality of life for the Region's population, through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments, and improving water quality.	This applies to all the border counties in Ireland. There is potential for both synergies and conflicts between the LDP and this document as well as the potential for complementing each other.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Strangford Lough and Lecale Action Plan 2013 - 2018	2013	Local	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	The landscape, built heritage and natural environment of Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are fundamental to the well-being and vibrancy of local communities. They attract and interest visitors, and they generate wealth for local and wider economies. For these reasons, as well as for their intrinsic value, we must work together to protect and enhance our heritage, while fostering appropriate human activities and developments. AIM 1: To conserve and engage people with the built and natural heritage. AIM 2: To use heritage to promote the health and well-being of local people and visitors. AIM 3: To build prosperity and facilitate Research and Development through the environmentally sustainable use of the heritage.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Environment and Spatial Development Thematic Delivery Plan	2017	Council	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Environment and Spatial Development is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the district will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the district to benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
HEALTH & WELL-BEING					
Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise (the Environmental Noise Directive (END))	2002	Europe	Council of Europe	The END is the main EU instrument to identify noise pollution levels and to trigger the necessary action both at Member State and at EU level. It focuses on three action areas: (1) the determination of exposure to environmental noise (2) ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public (3) preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good	The Directive applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at work places or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Noise Policy Statement for Northern Ireland	2014	NI	DAERA	Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise the Noise Policy aims to: (1.) Avoid or mitigate significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; (2.) Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and (3.) Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.	These LDP can help with applying the shared principles that underpin the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy: Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy, just and equal society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Using sound science responsibly - Promoting opportunity and innovation - Promoting good governance.
Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Recreation, 2009-2019	2009	NI	DfC	The Strategy's vision is "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and quality, quantity and access to places for sport is a key development input to the two primary development outcomes of increased participation in sport and physical recreation and improved sporting performances. In particular, the Strategy will ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities. The Strategy outlines a broad Government commitment to sport and physical recreation. Its vision is for "...a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport...." It sets key strategic priorities for sports and physical recreation over the 10 year period; informing future investment by all stakeholders across the public, private and community/voluntary sectors underpinning three areas: Participation, Performance and Places. The successful delivery of the Strategy requires stakeholders to reflect the Strategy in their business and development plans. At the core of the Strategy is to ensure that every person in Northern Ireland has access to a range of new, improved and shared world-class and locally available sports facilities.	This is supported by the inclusion of Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation in the Subject Policies list for the SPPS which must be taken into account.
Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	Sets out the plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. Objectives include: improving health and wellbeing, increasing access to greenways, improving safety, improving social inclusion, economic development.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways	2016	NI	DfI	This is the base report for 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic plan for Greenways'. It presents a strategic approach and overview to the development of a shared greenway network which is planned at a regional level and allows people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel.	Greenways can produce both environmental and social benefits, because they are easily accessible and can bring nature and people together. The development of traffic free infrastructure, particularly greenways, can also have a positive impact on social inclusion and encouraging new and harder to reach groups to take up cycling and walking. The LDP can help to support these objectives.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (No.2) Regulations (NI) 2015	2015	NI	Dfi	The Regulations transpose Directive 2012/18/EU (The 'Seveso III Directive') on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances in respect of land-use planning in Northern Ireland.	The LDP must take account of the aims of the Directive in planning policies and decisions, including maintaining appropriate safety distances between major hazard sites (referred to as establishments”) and other development and protecting areas of natural sensitivity.
Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020	2011	NI	Dfi	Sets out the vision and presents measures for improving road safety in Northern Ireland up to 2020, including targets for reductions in deaths and serious injuries to be achieved over that period. Key Challenges include: Continuing to reduce the numbers of road deaths and serious injuries; Focusing specifically on improving safety on rural roads; Working particularly to protect young drivers and motorcyclists; Reducing inappropriate and illegal road user behaviours; and improving our knowledge and understanding of, and broadening involvement in, solving road safety problems.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing the challenges in its transport, infrastructure and rural development policies.
Planning Policy Statement 8 Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (DOE 2004)	2004	NI	Dfi	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.	Retained however six policies are incorporated in SPPS.
A fitter future for all - Outcomes framework 2015 - 2019	2015	NI	DoH	Following a review of the first years of the plan an updated framework has been published for 2015-2019.	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.
Making Life Better: A Whole Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013-2023 Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (June 2014)	2013	NI	DoH	The strategic framework for public health designed to provide direction for policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of people in Northern Ireland and to reduce health inequalities. The framework is not just about actions and programmes at government level, but also provides direction for work at both regional and local levels with public agencies, including local government, local communities and others, working in partnership. Through strength of coordination and partnership, the framework will seek to create the conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for Northern Ireland where all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health and well-being potential.	Many aspects are directly relevant for example promoting age friendly environments and Quiet Areas.
Connected Health Economy	2013	NI	DoH	Developing a connected health economy: the economy and jobs initiative included a number of measures to help support economic growth, including a commitment to establish a Task and Finish Group under the remit of the Connected Health and Prosperity Board, to exploit the economic opportunities from the health and social care (HSC) sector.	This may inform future economic investment in the health and social care sector.
A Fitter Future For All: Framework for Preventing and	2012	NI	DoH	Fitter Future for All is a framework to help reduce the harm related to overweight and obesity. This framework aims to: empower the population of	Creating a safe environment to encourage and promote increased physical activity.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland				Northern Ireland to make health choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet. New outcomes to aid implementation of the framework over the 2015-19 period have been developed.	
Transforming Your Care Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety	2011	NI	DoH	Twelve major principles for change including: providing the right care in the right place at the right time; population-based planning of services; ensuring sustainability of service provision; incentivising innovation at a local level. 99 separate proposals for change across the range of health and social care services. There is a Strategic Implementation Plan and Population Plan for each Health Care Trust.	Can inform where facilities may be required to improve access to and quality of health services.
Transforming your Care: Strategic Implementation Plan	2013	NI	HSCNI	This Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP): Describes a planned approach for the delivery of the TYC proposals over the next 3 to 5 years (starting from 2011/12 baseline). Sets out the key commitments and the major changes which will drive service transformation in Section 4.2. Presents the big themes for each of the Programmes of Care over the next 3 to 5 years across the 5 Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas (Section 4.4). At the heart of this are the 5 local Population Plans, which provide the building blocks for this SIP. These set out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for each of the 5 local areas. In terms of the changes in capital infrastructure needed to fully implement TYC, the Population Plans will require a detailed working up of the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Identifies need for infrastructure including for community care.
The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	2006	NI	NI Executive	Transposes into NI legislation the requirements of the European Noise Directive (END). The three main actions that the END requires of Member States are to: (1) determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping (2) make information on environmental noise and its effects available to the public (3) establish Action Plans based on the mapping results. The END requires that noise mapping and action planning be completed every five years. The END also requires Member States to 'preserve environmental noise quality where it is good' through the identification and protection of designated Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density).	Existing 'quiet areas' must be preserved. Further areas could be identified and designated. Zoning of residential areas should have regard for existing noise generators such as roads, rail, airports and industry.
Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	2014	NI	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity.
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	Regional	SEHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.

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				on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	
Southern Health and Social Care Trust Population Plan	2013	Regional	SHSCT	This sets out in detail the service transformation initiatives for delivery of the TYC proposals for this trust area. It includes the capital implications and requirements over the 3 year planning period. There will be continuing focus on reducing delayed discharge from hospital with investment in community infrastructure.	Although expired may inform unmet infrastructure requirements.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Health and Wellbeing Thematic Delivery Plan	2017	Council	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Health and Well-being is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to enjoy good health and wellbeing. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
COMMUNITY					
Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	DAERA	The Act received Royal Assent in May 2016 and once commenced in 2017 will place a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services. It also requires public authorities to provide information to DAERA on how they have fulfilled this duty on an annual basis to be published in a monitoring report to be laid before the Assembly.	Rural needs have been fully considered in plan preparation, assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal and appropriate provisions are or will be included in the plan.
Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing	2015	NI	DAERA	The objective is to ensure robust consideration and integration of rural issues at the outset of the policy making process. It should help to ensure fair and equitable treatment for rural areas through the development of policies which are proportionate to need.	Objective (a) (iii) seeks To provide for vital and vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live by accommodating sustainable growth within the countryside proportionate to the extent of existing rural communities
Rural White Paper Action Plan	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out the vision for NI's rural areas and the actions which Departments will take in support of achieving that vision and to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas. The vision includes vibrant and strong	Policies are proposed in relation to sustainable development in the countryside, transport and land use. Planning policy will promote sustainable

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				rural communities; improved infrastructure, transport and key services; strong community infrastructure which can avail of economic, social and cultural opportunities; and better linkages between rural and urban areas.	development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas. There does seem to be a focus on town centres and city centre vitality, which could take attention away from rural issues. The LDP objectives support this. It sets out to support vibrant rural communities, facilitate development of new, accessible, community facilities, and improve connectivity between/within settlements in terms of telecommunications and transport infrastructure in particular. The Plan will promote sustainable development, well-being and economic development which are aligned with the vision for rural areas.
Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation	2012	NI	DAERA	This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to help target the root causes of social isolation and help those in poverty in rural areas. In addition it aims to provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people/groups in rural areas, develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation and complement/add value to existing government strategies intended to tackle these issues.	Plan preparation includes consideration of the needs of those living in small settlements and the countryside to ensure that they have access to suitable and affordable housing as well as facilities. The Sustainability Appraisal incorporates Rural Proofing.
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	DfC	<p>This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. <p>It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector 	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. The two documents are thus aligned in many areas even though the SPPS does not specifically refer to regeneration. The LDP objectives broadly aligns with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP will indirectly support this aim by accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'.

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Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	2010	NI	DfI	PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	16 policies which allow for development in the countryside in tightly defined circumstances. Many of these are carried forward through the SPPS. The LDP will have to comply with these and other regional policy in any variation of these policies.
Community Safety action plan 2015 to 2017	2015	NI	DoJ	The action plan includes an action for the DOE and councils: to support a sense of pride and ownership within neighbourhoods, to address the disorder (graffiti, litter, vandalism) that acts as a signal for ASB by contributing to the development of legislative framework to deal with the growing amenity problems associated with dilapidated or unsightly buildings and neglected sites.	The LDP may have scope to contribute to addressing this through place shaping.
Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities: A Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017	2012	NI	DoJ	Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities' sets the direction for reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Northern Ireland over the next five years. It builds on the positive progress made in recent years in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, both by continuing to focus on what works, as well as a stronger emphasis on the guiding principle that prevention is better than cure. This Strategy provides the overall direction for community safety in Northern Ireland, and will help guide the work of a range of stakeholders including the Executive, local government, the voluntary and community sector and local communities.	The LDP will take account of this Strategy. It aligns with listed objective (a) (vii) to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.
The Child Poverty Strategy	2016	NI	EO	The four high-level outcomes are, that: Families experience economic well-being; Children in poverty learn and achieve; Children in poverty are healthy; and Children in poverty live in safe, secure and stable environments. Indicators of success against these outcomes include those relating to employment levels in households with children, levels of obesity, hospital admissions for accidents at home or on the road and number of homeless families. Some of the most relevant actions to spatial planning are: Create jobs; Upskill the workforce and support young people and their family members into higher skilled, more secure and better paid employment; Reduce living costs; Ensure childcare is accessible and affordable; Promote health and well-being; Promote child, road, home and community safety.	Promotion of employment opportunities, provision for housing, increasing accessibility and creating safer environments will contribute to the objectives of this strategy.
Together: Building a United Community 2016/17 Update Report	2016	NI	EO	The Strategy outlines how we in Government, in communities and as individuals will work together to build a united community and facilitate change in the key priorities of: Our children and young people; Our shared community; Our safe community; and Our cultural expression.	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.
Together: Building a United Community	2013	NI	EO	The strategy outlines how government, community and individuals will work together to build a united community and achieve change against the following key priorities: our children and young people; our shared community; our safe community; and our cultural expression. Its vision is 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and	By creating and shaping places spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all the plan will support this strategy. In some areas there will be specific requirements to address Interface Barriers.

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				reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'. Includes a commitment to Create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers including an Interface Barrier Support Package	
Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education, supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.
Social Investment Fund	2011	NI	EO	The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2020 and all funding has been committed to projects prioritised by local Steering Groups. Some funding will capital support to enhance or create community and employment facilities.	Will however inform existing and proposed facilities that should be considered in plan preparation.
Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland	2006	NI	EO	As part of the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to tackling poverty and social exclusion this document outlined what would be done by the Northern Ireland departments and the Northern Ireland Office in working towards its overall objectives of: working towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020; and halving child poverty by 2010 on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020. The strategy is structured into four key life stages – Early Years (0 – 4), Children and Young People (5 – 16), Working Age Adults and Older Citizens. Each of the life stages is expressed in terms of an overarching goal followed by a series of long-term targets that will work towards achieving the goal. This strategy overlaps with some more recent strategies but continues to be reported on.	Identifies the conditions for bringing people out of poverty including fuel, employment, older people and those in the rural community and for promotion inclusion for all. LDPs proposals and policies consider these needs and support delivery against them.
NIHE Good Relations Plan	2007	NI	NIHE	The Housing Executive commits to Respond quickly and effectively to the needs of people in danger as a result of community conflict; Work in partnership with others to address the complex housing needs of a divided society; Respect the rights of people who choose to live where they wish; Facilitate and encourage mixed housing as far as this is practicable, desirable and safe.	This plan aligns with objective (a) (vii) to accommodate cultural differences between Catholic and Protestant communities whilst promoting "shared spaces" to bring people together with equality and opportunity.

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NIHE - Race Relations Policy	2006	NI	NIHE	The five Race Relations Policy themes can be summarised as follows; Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues in policy development; Racial harassment and intimidation; Promoting black and minority ethnic social inclusion; Community participation and development; Migrant worker issues	This broadly aligns with listed objective (a) (vii) which 'seeks to bring people together with equality and opportunity'.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism Strategy 2017-2021	2017	Council	NMD	The draft strategy aims to build upon the strengths and opportunities of the district and overcome the challenges by: (1) developing EPIC (Experiential, Personalised, Iconic and Immersive and Creative) moments, (2) Building a unified and entrepreneurial industry that is customer focused, (3) Ensuring the development of tourism is undertaken sustainably and contributes to the enhancement of social, cultural and environmental values.	The LDP, in line with the SPPS, will contain policies to safeguard tourist assets, together with policies for tourism development such as tourism accommodation, amenity facilities, and holiday parks, and the criteria for consideration of such proposals. It can also give consideration to identifying potential growth areas. In accordance with the RDS 2035 the LDP will promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure to conserve, protect, and where possible enhance the District's natural environment and built heritage.
Living Well Together' A Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030	2017	Council	NMD	The Plan represents a vision of how public services can be better planned and delivered, and has five key outcomes which we hope will improve the quality of life for all residents in Newry, Mourne and Down.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Safety and Good Relations Thematic Delivery Plan	2017	Council	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	<p>Safety and Good Relations is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to benefit from respectful, safe and vibrant communities. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. <p>Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.</p>	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
HOUSING					
Northern Ireland Empty Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	NI	DfC	The Empty Homes Strategy is to ensure that the number of empty properties is kept to a minimum and to identify new opportunities to encourage owners to bring them back into use.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.

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Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 -2017	2012	NI	DfC	Government has three main roles in relation to housing: Helping to create the right conditions for a stable and sustainable housing market that supports economic growth and prosperity; Providing support for individuals and families to access housing, particularly the most vulnerable in society; and Setting minimum standards for the quality of new and existing homes and for how rented housing is managed. This strategy sets out how we intend to fulfil these roles over the next five years. The strategy also envisages housing playing a fourth role in driving regeneration within communities, particularly those suffering from blight and population decline.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) 'To provide for 10,950 new homes by 2030 via a range of housing to meet the needs of families, the elderly, and disabled'. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the LDP may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan Update September 2015	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan includes 33 actions relating to the supply and quality of housing across all sectors.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) 'To provide for 10,950 new homes by 2030 via a range of housing to meet the needs of families, the elderly, and disabled'. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the LDP may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.

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Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland Action Plan	2012	NI	DfC	The action plan includes 33 actions. This is an update on progress.	This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed SPPS, namely sustainable development, economic development, quality residential environments, etc. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the SPPS, such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the SPPS may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions. This strategy aligns with a number of aspects of the proposed LDP, namely objective (a) (iv) 'To provide for 10,950 new homes by 2030 via a range of housing to meet the needs of families, the elderly, and disabled'. The strategy may put pressure on the environmental aspects of the LDP such as natural heritage, archaeology, flood risk, etc. Similarly, the LDP may inhibit house building due to environmental or design constraints. A balance will need to be found through considered planning decisions.
Design and Access Statements - A guide for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	The following planning applications must be accompanied by a D&AS: An application which is a major development; or where any part of the development is in a designated area, development consisting of – (i) the provision of one or more dwelling houses, or (ii) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space created by the development is 100m ² or more.	Provides for early consideration of the need and provision for open space, access and landscaping and addressing external factors such as noise and traffic safety.
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas	2010	NI	DfI	This document is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 7 (Addendum): Residential Extensions and Alterations	2008	NI	DfI	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

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				housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	
Planning Policy Statement 12 Housing in Settlements	2005	NI	DfI	PPS 12: Housing in Settlements Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' has been prepared to assist in the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy to guide the future pattern on housing by managing future housing growth and distribution, support urban renaissance and achieve balanced communities. Development management policy for affordable housing is still contained within Planning Policy Statement 12 'Housing in Settlements' (PPS 12), published in July 2005. Under transitional arrangements, until a Plan Strategy is adopted, PPS 12 is still a material consideration for deciding planning applications. PPS 12 contains a development management policy, Policy HS 2, which "will be applied where a need for social housing is established through a local housing needs assessment and the development plan for the area has not provided for it."	Regional planning policy on housing with specific policies on residential use at business premises; social housing; travellers accommodation; and housing type and size with the need for a mix of types where
PPS 7: Quality Residential Environments	2001	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans with a requirement for a Concept Master Plan for large developments.	This requires that all residential development is of good quality and sustainable and does result in unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality or residential amenity of these areas. The process of sustainability appraisal will help ensure this.
Creating Places: Achieving Quality in Residential Developments incorporating guidance on layout and access	2000	NI	DfI	Aims to promote: More sustainable patterns of living, working and travelling, more effective integration between land-use planning and transport, the creation of attractive places in which people are happy to live, work and take their leisure.	Supplementary planning guidance - the creation of attractive residential environments with a genuine sense of place is a prerequisite to achieving sustainability.
Delivering Sustainable Healthy Homes in Northern Ireland, NIHE, TPCA, Belfast Healthy Cities (March 2016)	2016	NI	NIHE	Guidance and good practice on how planning, health, housing and energy professionals can use new planning powers and responsibilities for community planning to support integrated local approaches to sustainable homes and communities, for energy and health and wellbeing.	Taken into account in preparation of the LDP.
Social Housing Development Programme, Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus	2016	NI	NIHE	The prospectus provides information for housing associations and developers in respect of locations where there is unmet social housing need or shortages of development sites contained in the published SHDP. These are locations where the Housing Executive would consider suitable proposals/schemes.	This informs potential requirements for social housing which can inform the LDP.

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NIHE Social housing Development Programme (SHDP) - 2015/16 – 2017/18	2015	NI	NIHE	The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme of planned social housing construction and provision. The SHDP is split into three individual programme years and is a mechanism used by the Department to inform social housing funding investment decisions. The SHDP is the outcome of a formulation and assembly exercise undertaken by Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. The 3-Year SHDP is published together with an Unmet Social Housing Need Prospectus. The Prospectus is an integral part of the SHDP formulation process, which recurs on an annual basis. The Prospectus document highlights areas throughout Northern Ireland with the greatest level of un-met housing need and a current shortage of acquired development sites. The Housing Executive would welcome development proposals for these areas.	The LDP will take account of ongoing annual reporting and the prospectus will inform social housing zonings within the plan area.
Housing Executive Environmental Policy	2015	NI	NIHE	Includes commitments to prevent pollution of air, land and water; support initiatives to develop sustainable local communities; and enhance and protect biodiversity cross all Housing Executive landholdings.	The LDP can help to support these commitments.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Regional Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Identification of housing requirements across Northern Ireland; Objective 2 Investing in homes and neighbourhoods; Objective 3 Improving People's Homes; Objective 4 Transforming people's lives; Objective 5 Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy	2015	NI	NIHE	Vision: ... to give residents a real say in making their neighbourhoods better places in which to live.	Opportunity to cooperate in place shaping.
Housing Executive Corporate Plan - Landlord Services	2015	NI	NIHE	Objective 1 Delivering quality services; Objective 2 Delivering better homes; Objective 3 Fostering vibrant communities	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 - 2017	2012	NI	NIHE	In response to the statutory duty (the Housing (NI) Order 1988 as amended) to produce a homelessness strategy, our strategic approach remains focused on addressing the issues that lead to homelessness as well as meeting the temporary and permanent accommodation needs of those who present as homeless.	In enabling housing need to be addressed the LDP will contribute to delivery of the objectives of this strategy.
Housing Investment Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	NIHE	NIHE has prepared four year Housing Investment Plans for each Council to provide a long term, holistic, cross tenure look at local housing markets. The Housing Investment Plans set out ten outcomes under five themes, which performance can be measured against. The themes are Identify and meet housing need and demand; Improving People's homes; Transforming people's lives; Enabling sustainable neighbourhoods; Delivering quality services.	The HIP is an important evidence base for the LDP and will help facilitate discussion on housing issues within each district. In addition, a purpose of the HIP is to inform Councils on the various programmes and initiatives the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are developing to meet local housing needs.
Northern Ireland Housing Market Areas	2010	Council	NIHE	This report commissioned by NIHE presents the findings of a study into the structure of housing market areas (HMA) across Northern Ireland. A housing market area is defined as a geographical area where most people both live and	Movement patterns to work inform housing need. Reports for each HMA were prepared in 2011-2013 and are available on the home page.

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				work and where most people moving home (without changing job) seek a house. HMA can overlap, and often do not marry well with local authority boundaries. Moreover, they are dynamic and HMA boundaries can change over time. 11 major HMAs were identified as operating across Northern Ireland: Belfast, Craigavon, Newry, Ballymena, Coleraine, Derry, Strabane, Omagh, Mid-Ulster, Dungannon and Enniskillen.	
EDUCATION					
Department of Education Annual Business Plan 2016/2017	2016	NI	DE	Corporate Goal 1: Improving the Well-Being of Children and Young People – includes rights, play and participation. Corporate Goal 2: Raising Standards for All – includes early years and childcare. Corporate Goal 3: Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality – includes Special Education Needs; youth work and sustainable schools. Corporate Goal 5 is Improving the learning environment – making sure that strategic investment supports the delivery of the area plans; that the premises in which young people grow and learn are safe, fit for purpose and conducive to learning; and that the environment provides opportunities for sharing and for building a more cohesive society. This Corporate Goal supports the draft PfG Indicator 13: Improve the quality of education.	This is a short term plan that is relevant to the facilities required for e.g. childcare, early years, primary and secondary school, special educational needs and youth. There is no current Corporate Plan for the Department. DE has agreed to provide a comprehensive list of all regional policies, programmes, strategies and action plans which may be influenced and supported by spatial planning by councils, these will be added to the register.
Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement	2009	NI	DE	Mainly focused on delivery of quality education meeting needs of pupils. Recognises that school premises are a resource that could be better used by local communities and that providing for increased community use of school premises can be an effective way of building links between schools and their local communities. Legislation already provides for schools to make their premises available to outside groups and the Department wants to encourage more community use of school premises. Commits to identifying and disseminating good practice with a particular focus on community use of schools to help schools in building stronger links with their parents and local communities.	Creates the conditions for increased use of schools for community benefit which should be considered in planning for communities.
Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools	2009	NI	DE	The policy has as its vision an estate of educationally sustainable schools planned on an area basis, with focus on sharing and collaboration. It provides a framework for early consideration of emerging problems and possible remedial action to address questions of viability. The primary objective of the policy is to ensure that all children get a first class education in fit for purpose facilities, regardless of background or where they live. The policy sets out six criteria to be considered in assessing a school's educational viability, as follows: quality educational experience; stable enrolment trends; sound financial position; strong leadership and management; accessibility; strong links with the community.	The LDP should enable development/expansion of school facilities where required to meet the needs of the policy.

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Development Control Advice Note 13: Crèches, Day Nurseries and Pre-School Play Groups	1993	NI	Dfi	The purpose of this Advice Note is to give general guidance to intending developers, their professional advisors and agents. It is designed to provide advice on the Planning criteria to be applied when an application for this form of development is being considered. It is not a specific statement of Departmental policy but rather one of advice and guidance.	If this is the most up to date advice on the topic it should be considered in LDP preparation however noting that there may be changes in the sector that also need to be taken into account.
Providing Pathways - Strategic Area Plan for Schools 2017-2020	2017	NI	Education Authority	The plan identifies the challenges for the education system throughout each Local Government District (LGD) area. The challenges include reducing or increasing the number of available places in schools, matching provision to population trends, addressing school provision which is not sustainable and improving the quality of provision. In some areas of Northern Ireland there are too many school places for the size of the population, while in other areas, there are not enough places. Area planning aims to establish a network of viable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place, and have a focus on raising standards. Therefore, the aim of area planning is to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in sustainable, fit-for-purpose schools.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
Education Authority Annual Action Plan 2017-2018	2017	NI	Education Authority	The Education Authority Action Plans will provide details of the proposed actions to be taken to address key strategic issues in local areas and at local schools, all of which will be subject to detailed consultation. This Annual Action Plan covers the period April 2017 to March 2018 and identifies those schools for which developments are proposed. The Annual Action Plan includes schools where sustainability is now an issue but, also, includes some schools that are sustainable, as it is these schools who may form part of the solution to sustainability issues in other schools or areas.	The Action Plans can help inform the LDP on the areas where sustainability of schools is an issue and areas where there are insufficient places available to accommodate the local population.
ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT					
Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.

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Europe 2020 Economic Strategy	2010	Europe	EC	Europe 2020 is the European Union's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. It was launched in 2010 to create the conditions for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Five headline targets have been agreed for the EU to achieve by the end of 2020. These cover employment; research and development; climate/energy; education; social inclusion and poverty reduction and targets are set for each for example on energy efficiency.	LDP objectives and supporting policies are likely to be support delivery of this strategy.
Going for Growth - a strategic action plan	2014	NI	DAERA	In May 2012, DARD and DETI appointed the industry led Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB) to make recommendations in respect of the growth targets, strategic priorities and actions to be included in that Plan. The report, Going for Growth, includes more than 100 recommendations aimed at accelerating the growth of farming, fishing and food and drink processing in Northern Ireland to 2020 and beyond. In response the NI Executive has agreed an action plan, outlining actions to be progressed across relevant Departments and Agencies.	Committed to centralised and more streamlined processing for poultry house planning applications while DOE was the planning authority. Commitment to supporting Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter loan scheme may address some of the environmental effects of pig and poultry production and also lead to new development.
Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework	2013	NI	DfC	This Policy Framework sets out the Department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development in Northern Ireland for at least the next decade. It will provide a clear strategic direction for the Department and inform its partners in central and local government and in the voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets out four Policy Objectives that will form the basis of any future policy or programme development in urban regeneration and community development: 1. To tackle area-based deprivation. 2. To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities. 3. To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity. 4. To develop more cohesive and engaged communities. It also contains a set of four Supporting Actions: 1. We will maximise the potential of regeneration and community development by supporting an evidence- based policy environment. 2. We will maximise the resources available to regeneration and community development by supporting an innovative financial environment. 3. We will support the development of skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in regeneration and community development. 4. We will promote an effective and efficient voluntary and community sector.	This Policy Framework is wide-reaching in terms of the subjects it covers, for example Policy Objective 3 contains key actions relating to environmental improvement, protection and improvement of (historic) buildings and open spaces and developing an integrated transport network, whilst other Objective actions include development of commercial sites. The two documents are thus aligned in many areas even though the SPPS does not specifically refer to regeneration. The LDP objectives broadly aligns with this framework, in particular strengthening the hubs, improving connectivity and facilitating community development. The LDP will indirectly support this aim by accommodating development for disadvantaged groups, such as the elderly and disabled, with emphasis on 'sustainable growth', facilitating new community facilities and promoting 'shared spaces'.
Economy 2030: an Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland [DRAFT]	2017	NI	DfE	Sets out a plan to turn Northern Ireland into one of the world's most innovative and competitive small advanced economies. "Our ambition to build a globally competitive economy will be based around the following five priority pillars for growth: Accelerating Innovation and Research; Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability; Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth; Succeeding in Global Markets; Building the Best Economic Infrastructure.	The LDP can help support opportunities that are most likely to lead to strong and sustained economic growth

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DETI (2010) Draft Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy	2010	NI	DfE	The original 2010 draft is not available. The vision was to: create the new NI experience; get it on everyone's destination wish list; and double the income earned from tourism by 2020. The draft strategy, had the aim of providing the strategic direction for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020. An updated draft strategy, is currently being developed by The Department for the Economy and is due for consultation by the end of 2016.	By encouraging sustainable development, the LDP may also indirectly support development that enables tourism e.g. visitor centres, attractions, services, transport etc. As with any development, environmental considerations will need to be considered.
A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2010	NI	DfE	To provide strategic direction and targets for the development of NI's tourism experience to the year 2020 and a targeted Action Plan to deliver it. At the core of the strategy was the intention to grow income from visitor numbers with tourist revenue increased from £536 million in 2010 to £1 billion by 2020.	The Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 identified nine key tourism destinations. The LDP can indirectly support development that enables tourism.
Planning Policy Statement 16 Tourism	2013	NI	DfI	Policies in relation to tourism and safeguarding tourism assets.	Retention of some or all of these policies will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 4 – Planning and Economic Development (DOE 2010)	2010	NI	DfI	Policies for sustainable economic development and stipulates how these can be brought forward in development plans.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland	1993	NI	DfI	In seeking to protect the environment and encourage sustainable development the PSRNI set out policies to meet the development needs of the rural area. The majority have been superseded by PPSs and SPPS however Strategic Policies 2, 3, 4 and 18 still apply relating to Towns, Villages, Regeneration of Rural Settlements and Design in Towns and Villages.	The remaining provisions of 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' will be cancelled when all eleven councils have adopted a new Plan Strategy for the whole of their council area. However, to ensure that there is continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions whilst councils bring forward operational policies tailored to local circumstances within new LDPs transitional arrangements shall apply.
Delivering Social Change framework	2012	NI	EO	The DSC framework was established to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities. A Delivering Social Change Fund was established to support The Social Investment Fund; The Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes; Childcare. The six initial Signature Programmes included support for Family Support Hubs; Nurture Units, Social Enterprise Hubs. Three new Signature Programmes announced in 2014 include support for people with dementia and their families and carers; early intervention services for young families and expansion of shared education,	The programme has resulted in some new and proposed community facilities that should be considered in plan preparation. It may identify needs for new facilities. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.

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				supporting schools to share resources and people. The Social Investment Fund is under a separate entry in this register.	
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Northern Ireland Economic Strategy: Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity. Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	Sets out how the Executive plans to grow a prosperous local economy over the short, medium and longer term to 2030. The economic vision for 2030 is: 'An economy characterised by a sustainable and growing private sector, where a greater number of firms compete in global markets and there is growing employment and prosperity for all'. There is an emphasis on redressing a dependency on the public sector through the following: stimulate innovation, R&D and creativity so that we widen and deepen our export base; improve the skills and employability of the entire workforce so that people can progress up the skills ladder, thereby delivering higher productivity and increased social inclusion; compete effectively within the global economy and be internationally regarded as a good place to live and do business; encourage business growth and increase the potential of our local companies, including within the social and rural economies; and develop a modern and sustainable economic infrastructure that supports economic growth.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Economic Strategy Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity - Building a better Future	2012	NI	NI Executive	The overarching goal of this Strategy is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. In order to achieve this, we are committed to strengthening our competitiveness through a focus on export led economic growth. This means we are prioritising the need to deepen and diversify our export base in order to increase employment and wealth across Northern Ireland. The key drivers of this will be innovation, R&D and the skills of our workforce.	The LDP can support this strategy by enabling economic growth and shaping an environment with sustainable infrastructure that attracts investment and supports innovation.
Building a better future The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-2021 (ISNI)	2011	NI	NI Executive	The Investment Strategy sets out the forward programme for investment in public infrastructure. It identifies priority areas for investment in sustainable 21st century infrastructure and is intended to assist government and private sector partners to plan ahead. The 'Procurement Pipeline' identifies 197 infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.	The 'Procurement Pipeline' available on the home page identifies infrastructure projects across networks, environment, health and education and when they are anticipated to be procured.

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Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 - 2024.	2014	NI	Outdoor NI	This strategy aims to generate approximately £25 Million to the local economy per annum as a direct result of mountain biking by 2024.	Informs a potential source of outdoor recreational activity and tourism opportunity.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism Strategy 2017-2021	2017	Council	NMD	The draft strategy aims to build upon the strengths and opportunities of the district and overcome the challenges by: (1) developing EPIC (Experiential, Personalised, Iconic and Immersive and Creative) moments, (2) Building a unified and entrepreneurial industry that is customer focused, (3) Ensuring the development of tourism is undertaken sustainably and contributes to the enhancement of social, cultural and environmental values.	The LDP, in line with the SPPS, will contain policies to safeguard tourist assets, together with policies for tourism development such as tourism accommodation, amenity facilities, and holiday parks, and the criteria for consideration of such proposals. It can also give consideration to identifying potential growth areas. In accordance with the RDS 2035 the LDP will promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure to conserve, protect, and where possible enhance the District's natural environment and built heritage.
Living Well Together' A Community Plan for Newry, Mourne and Down to 2030	2017	Council	NMD	The Plan represents a vision of how public services can be better planned and delivered, and has five key outcomes which we hope will improve the quality of life for all residents in Newry, Mourne and Down.	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019	2015	Council	NMD	The Corporate Plan will guide the activities of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and how they allocate the resources at their disposal. The ambition of the Council is to see the District becoming one of the most desirable places on the island to live, work and visit.	The LDP can help to support these objectives.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Plan: Environment and Spatial Development Thematic Delivery Plan	2017	Council	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Environment and Spatial Development is one of four thematic delivery groups created to help achieve two of five key outcomes for the Community Plan. The first outcome is that everyone in the District Council will get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential. The second outcome is for everyone in the District Council to benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment. These Thematic Delivery Plans have been developed to help deliver the five key outcomes of the Community Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •All people in Newry Mourne and Down get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential •All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing •All People in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from prosperous communities •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment •All people in Newry, Mourne and Down live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities. 	This strategic plan will complement the LDP and the two plans will work in tandem towards the same vision.

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				Altogether there are 21 indicators to help gauge the delivery of the Thematic Delivery Groups and the Community Plan.	
The Destination Strangford Lough Management Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	Local	Ards and North Down Borough Council	Strangford Lough is one of the 9 designated destinations within Northern Ireland. Each destination determines its own priorities and projects, in line with the (draft) 2020 Tourism Strategy and Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Priorities for Growth. Thus Ards Borough Council and Down District Council, working with the tourism trade, can decide what the best offers to visitors are, maximising revenue and opportunity locally, while also contributing to the 2020 targets for NI.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
South East Coast Masterplan	2013	Local	DfC	The Masterplan will provide guidance on the future strategic development of the South East Coast as well as specific guidance on the location and form of development in the Town Centres of Newcastle Kilkeel and Warrenpoint over the next 20 years. In particular, it will help to direct public and private investment to those areas that will most benefit local people and, support local business and commerce and contribute to the long term viability and vitality of the Town Centres.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
Newry City Centre Masterplan	2011	Local	DfC	This Masterplan for Newry City Centre is about positively shaping that future. How can the city's retail and commercial activity be sustained and diversified, bringing benefit to all those who live and work there? Where should the buses, lorries and cars go and how can Newry's streets be better shared with people? How can the city's older buildings be brought back into meaningful use and what about the canal; can it be reawaken to play a role in the city again? This document sets out a vision that answers such questions, capitalises on Newry's clear potential and importantly, maps out how its transformation can be realised. It is founded on an in-depth understanding of the city and developed with the participation of its people.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
Downpatrick Town Centre Masterplan	2010	Local	DfC	This document represents a shared vision for the future of Downpatrick. It will serve to guide development and investment decisions by the public, private and voluntary sectors in a manner that maximises the regeneration benefits for the Town.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.
Ballynahinch Town Centre Masterplan	2014	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	The role of the Masterplan is to inform regeneration and development decisions relating to Ballynahinch Town Centre. It will therefore be a key reference to all those with an interest in the future of the town, including local and central government departments, private businesses including developers, the community and voluntary sectors and members of the public.	This plan will be considered in preparing new LDP policies.

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The Destination Mourne Mountains Management Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Mourne Mountains is one of the 9 designated destinations within Northern Ireland. Each destination determines its own priorities and projects, in line with the (draft) 2020 Tourism Strategy and Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Priorities for Growth. Thus Banbridge, Down and Newry and Mourne District Councils, working with the tourism trade, can decide what the best offers to visitors are, maximising revenue and opportunity locally, while also contributing to the 2020 targets for NI. The destination comprises the Mourne and Ring of Gullion AONBs, Slieve Croob, Newry City and surrounds.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Camlough Lake Masterplan	2011	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Masterplan for the future development of Camlough Lake and its surrounding area as a visitor attraction so that its potential for tourism can be fully realised. The Lake has undergone rehabilitation works which were completed in 2017.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
MATERIAL ASSETS					
Renewable energy Directive 2009 EC2009/28/EC2	2009	Europe	EC	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote cleaner transport. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	2008	Europe	EC	Establishes the five tier hierarchy of waste. This waste hierarchy aims to encourage the management of waste materials in order to reduce the amount of waste materials produced, and to recover maximum value from the wastes that are produced. It encourages the prevention of waste, followed by the reuse and refurbishment of goods, then value recovery through recycling and composting. Waste disposal should only be used when no option further up the hierarchy is possible. Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.	The LDP will reflect the Waste Hierarchy approach to Waste management. The LDP will provide for appropriate waste management facilities. The LDP will bring forward policies in regards of renewable energy including biomass. The LDP should make appropriate actions reflecting the need to manage wastes according to this directive.
Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	1999	Europe	EC	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The objective of the Directive is to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular on surface water, groundwater, soil, air, and on human health from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. The Landfill Directive defines the different categories of waste (municipal waste, hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and inert waste) and applies to all landfills, defined as waste	The LDP will take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPSS.

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				disposal sites for the deposit of waste onto or into land. Landfills are divided into three classes: landfills for hazardous waste; landfills for non-hazardous waste; landfills for inert waste.	
Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste	1994	Europe	EC	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	The LDP will take account of the Directive.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan for the United Kingdom	2010	UK	BEIS	Aims to provide a framework which enables the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy. Focus is on assisting meeting targets for renewable energy production at a regional, national and EU level in a balanced and sustainable way. Other key objectives of the development include energy security, emissions reductions and wider economic advantages.	Policies relating to renewable energy are proposed, helping to meet the objectives of this plan. Design and sustainable development policies should also encourage renewable energy as part of these developments. Planning decisions will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy	2009	UK	BEIS	This UK Roadmap shows where we are now; analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, together with separate estimates of the market's view of the potential; and the actions required to set us on the path to achieve the deployment levels anticipated in our analysis. While renewable deployment across all technologies will be important, the Roadmap focuses in particular on the technologies that have either the greatest potential to help the UK meet the 2020 target in a cost effective and sustainable way, or offer great potential for the decades that follow. These are Onshore wind, Offshore wind, Marine energy, Biomass electricity, Biomass heat, Ground source and air source heat pumps and Renewable transport.	Evidence that informs future energy needs and renewable provision.
The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy "Delivering Resource Efficiency"	2013	NI	DAERA	The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets the policy framework for the management of waste in Northern Ireland, and contains actions and targets to meet EU Directive requirements and the Department's Programme for Government commitments. It builds on and retains the core principles of the 2006 Strategy, and places a renewed emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy. The new Strategy moves the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management, with landfill diversion as the key driver, to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment.	The SPPS supports this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. Waste management is one of the Subject Policies. The economic considerations of the SPPS will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment. Paper 1 objective (c)(ii) recognizes the need to 'accommodate investment in waste management' As stated In Para 6.8 of Paper 8 Utilities, the local development plan (LDP) have regard to the new Waste Management Plan for Mid Ulster, which is currently being prepared. The proposed focus of the LDP is therefore likely to support this strategy, namely with development making sustainable use of available

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					resources and having a sustainable approach to waste designed in. The economic considerations of the LDP will support 'green jobs' and ensure that the economy will benefit from planning decisions. Improved waste management will be good for the environment.
Renewable Energy in the Land Based Sector A way forward. Interim Renewable Energy Action Plan 2013/14	2013	NI	DAERA	Follow up to the Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010. Strategic aim to Promote sustainable farming and forestry practices to deliver greater resource efficiency and reduced environmental impact, by supporting the sector to make a contribution to and benefit from renewable energy opportunities. Focus on enabling the land based and rural sectors to realise the potential opportunities in the development of renewable energy through capacity building, research and promotion of opportunities.	LDP preparation will have to balance need for renewables with environmental concerns and it may be that the need for renewable developments is outweighed by environmental protection.
Ireland's second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan	2014	Rol	DCCAE	Ireland's third National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020. The Department has reviewed, updated and replaced certain actions from the first Plan as appropriate to ensure it remains on track to meet national and EU targets, Sets a clear vision for each of the six areas covered by the Action Plan: Public Sector, Residential, Business, Transport, Energy Supply, and Cross Sectoral.	Delivery of renewable energy may benefit cross border areas if energy generated was supplied there.
Strategy for Renewable Energy: 2012-2020	2012	Rol	DCCAE	The strategy outlines how it is planned that sustainable power, when developed, is maximised as it is returned to the State. Five strategic goals are set out in the document, these include increasing on and offshore wind, building a sustainable bioenergy sector, fostering R&D in renewables, growing sustainable transport and building out robust and efficient networks.	There is little information on whether renewable energy generation and networks will focus on use within NI or whether cross-border outcomes will also be sought.
Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) for Ireland	2010	Rol	DCCAE	The OREDPA identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources and sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. Three high level goals have been identified for the OREDPA: Ireland harnesses the market opportunities presented by offshore renewable energy to achieve economic development, growth and jobs; Increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing offshore renewable energy; Offshore renewable energy developments do not adversely impact our rich marine environment and its living and non-living resources.	This plan will not affect or be affected by the LDP directly. However, developments arising under the LDP could have an impact on the capacity available in Ireland. Developments in Ireland could also affect NI resources, particularly marine or coastal environments.
A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland	2012	Rol	DECLG	This policy document sets out the measure through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste.	There may be cross border implications for e.g. recycling facilities.
Envisioning the Future: Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050	2015	NI	DfE	A vision of what might happen by 2050: the outcomes are neither a prediction nor a plan and the study does not, therefore, propose a strategy. Instead, the vision is intended to guide thinking on what can be achieved in 2050 and what	Evidence that informs future energy needs and provision.

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				early decisions and activities may be needed to support development towards 2050.	
Draft Onshore Renewable Electricity Action Plan	2013	NI	DfE	The aim of the Action Plan is to maximise the amount of renewable electricity generated from onshore renewable sources in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for Northern Ireland companies.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012-2020	2012	NI	DfE	The overall aim of the ORESAP is; to optimise the amount of renewable electricity sustainably generated from offshore wind and marine renewable resources in Northern Ireland's waters in order to enhance diversity and security of supply, reduce carbon emissions, contribute to the 40% renewable electricity target by 2020 and beyond and develop business and employment opportunities for NI companies. The associated development opportunity is for up to 900 MW of offshore wind and 300 MW from tidal resources in Northern Ireland waters by 2020.	Provision in the LDP to support delivery of this will need to align with the renewable energy subject policy of the SPPS, though it could conflict with the natural heritage and other environmental policies.
DETI (2012) Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2012-2015	2012	NI	DfE	The Action Plan aims to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Energy Framework (2010-2020). DETI set out numerous "main actions for the future" regarding renewables and other aspects of sustainable energy. Of particular relevance are the commitments to: Contribute to the growth of the NI sustainable energy sector (through Invest NI) to 8.9% of NI GVA by 2015: Work with DOE, developers, planners and those responsible for environmental consents to ensure that the need for renewable energy to address the environmental impacts of climate change is recognised, that good quality applications are made and that clear, consistent and proportionate procedures are in place for the consenting of renewable installations; Undertake "capacity studies" (including landscape capacity study, ecological study and bird migration study, with DOE and others) in order to determine with more accuracy how much development could be accommodated in different locations across Northern Ireland before significant cumulative effects start to emerge; Develop a continuous monitoring framework (with DOE and others) where the key potential cumulative effects identified from the assessment are reviewed on a regular basis in response to growth of the onshore wind industry. There are also a number of socio-economic commitments, such as supporting construction of electricity network or refurbishing schools with renewable technologies for example.	A number of socio-economic objectives are included in the Action Plan requiring the development of facilities and service infrastructure, as well as proposing funding for additional development such as renewables or farm diversification.
DETI (2010) Energy: A Strategic Framework for Northern Ireland	2010	NI	DfE	Contains goals and targets, but does not include the detail of how targets could be achieved. It does aim to ensure future access to secure, competitively priced and sustainable energy supplies for all of NI. Also it provides a direction for NI energy policy over the next ten years concentrating on key areas of electricity, natural gas and renewable energy sources. Under review in 2016.	Renewable and sustainable development policies will indirectly accord with this framework, by providing for renewable development. There may be a conflict between this framework and environmental policies (natural heritage, cultural heritage, flood risk etc.)

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					when it comes to developing gas facilities and electrical networks.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009)	2009	NI	DfI	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources. The PPS aims to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environments.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 10 Telecommunications	2002	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for telecommunications development. It embodies the Government's commitment to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. The PPS also addresses health issues associated with telecommunications development.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 11 Planning and Waste Management (DOE 2002)	2002	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the development of waste management facilities. It seeks to promote the highest environmental standards in development proposals for waste management facilities and includes guidance on the issues likely to be considered in the determination of planning applications. In addition, it explains the relationship between the planning system and authorities responsible for the regulation and management of waste.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997	1997	NI	NI Executive	Implements the European Commission (EC) Framework on Waste in NI. The Order makes a number of provisions such as: transfer of responsibility for waste regulation from the district councils to the Department of Environment (DOE), focused within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) introduction of measures designed to increase control over the processing and handling of waste including Waste Management Licensing, Duty of Care, Registration of Carriers, Special Waste and Producer Responsibility introduction of measures relating to the identification of contaminated land, designation of special sites, duties of enforcing authorities to require remediation, determination of appropriate persons to bear responsibility for remediation, liability of contaminating substances which escape to other land and contaminated land registers.	The Contaminated Land regime which is set out in Part 3 of the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order (Northern Ireland) 1997, has been enacted but is not yet in force.
arc21 Waste Management Plan	2014	Regional	arc21	This Waste Management Plan has been prepared by the arc21 Region in fulfilment of its councils' obligations under Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Under Article 23, District Councils have a duty to prepare Waste Management Plans for the forward planning of waste management requirements for collecting, recovering, treating and disposing of controlled waste within the Region. The Plan provides a framework for waste management provision and a regional network of facilities for all controlled wastes within the arc21 Region. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity and details the proposed arrangements to deal with the wastes produced in a sustainable manner.	There is a need to accommodate investment in waste management.

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PHYSICAL RESOURCES					
The Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	2006	Europe	Council of Europe	In September 2006 the Commission adopted a Soil Thematic Strategy including a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive. This originated from the need to ensure a sustainable use of soils and protect their function in a comprehensive manner in a context of increasing pressure and degradation of soils across the EU.	The commitment to sustainable soil use is in line with the Seventh Environment Action Programme, (7th EAP) which provides that by 2020 "land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway" and commits the EU and its Member States to "increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives". It also states that "The Union and its Member States should also reflect as soon as possible on how soil quality issues could be addressed using a targeted and proportionate risk-based approach within a binding legal framework".
Delivering our Future, Valuing our Soils: A Sustainable Agricultural Land Management Strategy for Northern Ireland	2016	NI	independent Expert Working Group on Sustainable Land Management	Improving the health of Northern Ireland's agricultural soils is the central focus of this strategy. Healthier soils will deliver better yields of crops and grass which are higher in quality. This will provide the raw material necessary for the increased productivity and profitability envisaged by 'Going for Growth' and will also deliver environmental improvement simultaneously.	This strategy document is mainly targeted at agricultural practitioners adopting more sustainable land use practices. It contains some information on best practice for sustainable land management which may be translatable to the use of public lands, e.g. blue/green infrastructure and enhancement of biodiversity
TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY					
Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme 2016-2020 (Draft)	2016	NI	DfI	Department is currently developing a Strategic Park & Ride Delivery Programme for the next four years which will deliver additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces	May inform policies relating to provision of park and ride facilities and connectivity between transport modes.
Northern Ireland Changing Gear: A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland	2015	NI	DfI	The Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland is the first step in achieving the Minister's vision for cycling. It aims to set out progressively how we can transform Northern Ireland into a place where travelling by bicycle is a healthy, every day activity. It will be supported by a Bicycle Strategy Delivery Plan which will outline specific time bound actions to realise this vision. It takes a 3 pillar approach: 'Build' [a comprehensive network for the bicycle], 'Support' [People who choose to travel by bicycle] and 'Promote' [The bicycle as a mode of transport for everyday journeys].	This strategy is closely linked with 'Exercise Explore Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways'. The LDP can help to support the objectives of the strategy by supporting the establishment of new or improved cycle routes and cycling infrastructure.

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Railway Investment Prioritisation Strategy May 2014	2015	NI	DfI	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for future railway investment over the next 20 years and the high level initiatives that need to be delivered to support the Strategy. Objectives include: maintain and improve passenger capacity, remove bottlenecks and assist development along TEN-T (Trans European) core network corridor; enhance or extend TEN-T comprehensive network. The Strategy will also look at new halts and opportunities to develop out-of-town rail-based park and ride at new halts.	The LDP can support aspects of the Strategy, such as the aim to build additional park and ride facilities and station upgrades/ refurbishment which include enhancing accessibility and safety features.
Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future - A New Approach to Regional Transportation.	2011	NI	DfI	How the Department will develop regional transportation beyond 2015, when the current transport plans reach their conclusion. The new approach to regional transportation complements the Regional Development Strategy and aims to achieve the transportation vision: “to have a modern, sustainable, safe transportation system which benefits society, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and everyone’s quality of life” the new approach starts with the assumption that the decision to travel has been made. It seeks to provide the infrastructure and services that will ensure that travel and transport are as sustainable as possible.	The SPPS includes seven Subject Policies specific to transport and others that address the High Level Transport Aims and Strategic Objectives of Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future so in meeting the requirements of the SPPS the requirements of this strategy will also be met. Planning to enable people to live and work near the services and facilities they require and policies that allow more people to work from home will support this strategy and the LDP will also need to consider any requirement for new or improved transport infrastructure. The LDP will support this Plan. Objective (iii) recognizes the need for improved connectivity ‘through accommodating investment in transportation to improve travel time and more sustainable modes of transport’. Objectives laid out in Paper 5 Transport & Infrastructure would also align with this approach. The need for new or improved infrastructure will need to be assessed against environmental policies, though following good design and sustainable development should achieve the best possible solutions to the need.
Sub-Regional Transport Plan (SRTP)	2007	NI	DfI	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The Sub-Regional Transport Plan deals with the transport needs of the whole of Northern Ireland with the exception of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and the rail and trunk road networks which are covered in earlier transport plans. The purpose of the SRTP is to study the needs of the designated areas in detail and to confirm a package of transport schemes, consistent with the general principles and indicative levels of spend in the RTS. This package of schemes and initiatives must aim to service the future transport demands taking account of financial allocation, planned developments and any changes in Government policy.	Although expired, the STRP may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.

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Planning Policy Statement 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005) & PPS3 clarification (DOE 2006)	2005	NI	DfI	Policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessments, the protection of transport routes and parking. Provides for a sustainable transport system which promotes road safety.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Planning Policy Statement 13 Transportation and Land Use	2005	NI	DfI	Assists in bringing forward the integration of transportation and land use as per the RDS.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan 2015	2004	NI	DfI	While this implementation plan has expired, some of the actions which have not been completed may be relevant in the future. The RSTN of Northern Ireland comprises the complete rail network, five Key Transport Corridors (KTCs), four Link Corridors, the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Corridors and the remainder of the trunk road network. The Plan consists of proposals for the maintenance, management and development of this transport network up to the end of 2015.	Although expired, the RTSN may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) for Northern Ireland 2002-2012	2002	NI	DfI	The Regional Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland 2002-2012 for identifies strategic transportation investment priorities and considers potential funding sources and affordability of planned initiatives over the strategy period.	Although expired, and replaced by 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future', the RTS may inform unmet transport and infrastructure requirements.
Translink Strategy 'Get on Board' 2016-2021	2016	NI	Translink	Translink's plan to transform public transport and support the growth and prosperity of Northern Ireland. 'Get on Board' has been developed in the context of the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and The New Approach to Regional Transportation. It aims to deliver a transformation in public transport, providing integrated services which connect people, enhance the economy and improve the environment, enabling a thriving Northern Ireland" Incorporates a number of key goals including: Making services inclusive and accessible to all; Working with all stakeholders to support social inclusion in local communities; Support modal shift toward sustainable transport; and Forging partnerships to deliver cost effective and integrated travel solutions to rural communities.	The LDP will support this strategy and will consider measures to make public transport services and sustainable transport more accessible and more integrated with other transport modes.
Network Utilisation Strategy, Translink NI Railways, (Published October 2015)	2015	NI	Translink	The Network Utilisation Strategy (NUS) seeks to find a balance between supply and demand. It sets out a long Term vision for rail in Northern Ireland for the next 30 years. It provides the evidence base to support targeted investment in infrastructure, rolling stock and services such that the network is fit for the purpose of supporting the growth of the Northern Ireland economy.	Indicates potential investment in infrastructure.
AIR QUALITY					
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)	2010	Europe	EC	The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Installations undertaking the industrial activities listed in Annex I of the IED are required to operate in accordance with a permit (granted by the authorities in the Member States). The integrated approach means that the permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the	Location of land for industrial use should be considered in relation to people and sensitive environmental receptors.

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				plant, covering e.g. emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure. For certain activities, i.e. large combustion plants, waste incineration and co-incineration plants, solvent using activities and titanium dioxide production, the IED also sets EU wide emission limit values for selected pollutants.	
Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	2008	Europe	EC	This Directive merged most of existing legislation into a single directive with no change to existing air quality objectives and added new air quality objectives for Pm ^{2.5} (fine particles). Establishes the need to reduce pollution to levels which minimise harmful effects on human health, paying particular attention to sensitive populations, and the environment as a whole, to improve the monitoring and assessment of air quality including the deposition of pollutants and to provide information to the public. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced.	The LDP should consider the implications of the LDP on air pollution and take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies contained in the SPSS.
Defra, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and DOE (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	2007	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	This updated strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues; sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved; introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. It includes the requirement, under the local air quality management, for every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area which is a statutory requirement under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. If national objectives are not met, or at risk of not being met, the local authority concerned must declare an air quality management area and prepare an air quality action plan. This identifies measures that will be introduced in pursuit of the objectives and can have implications for planning.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, and the encouragement given to sustainable transport. Therefore in plan making, it is important to take into account air quality management areas and other areas where there could be specific requirements or limitations on new development because of air quality. Drawing on the review of air quality carried out for the local air quality management regime, the LDP needs to consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller developments on air quality as well as the effect of more substantial developments; the impact of point sources of air pollution (pollution that originates from one place); and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.
CLIMATE CHANGE					
The Paris Agreement	2015	Inter-national	UN	The Paris agreement which entered into force in November 2016 provides an international framework to hold the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to keep the more stringent target of below 1.5 degrees in sight. The agreement provides a broad framework for countries to work together, share information and build experience to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.

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				change and foster climate resilience. It aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. To reach these ambitious goals, appropriate financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework will be put in place, thus supporting action by developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, in line with their own national objectives. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.	
The Kyoto Protocol Adopted 1997, came into force in 2005.	2005	Inter-national	UN	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities." The protocol looks at limiting the emission of harmful greenhouses gases. Parties committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18 percent below 1990 levels in the eight-year period from 2013 to 2020. It was updated by the Doha Amendment in 2012.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1994	Inter-national	UN	The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994 and has near-universal membership. The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of three adopted at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
2030 Framework for climate and energy	2014	Europe	EC	EU-wide targets aim to help the EU achieve a more competitive, secure and sustainable energy system and to meet its long-term 2050 greenhouse gas reductions target. The strategy sends a strong signal to the market, encouraging private investment in new pipelines, electricity networks, and low-carbon technology. Targets for 2030 are a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels; at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption; at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	Local Plans can affect air quality in a number of ways, including through what development is proposed and where, incorporation of energy efficiency, enabling renewable energy and encouraging sustainable transport.
The EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change	2013	Europe	EC	The EU Adaptation Strategy encourages all Member States to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It 'Climate-proofs' action at EU level by promoting adaptation actions which include mainstreaming of climate change (mitigation and adaptation) into EU sector policies and funds, including marine	This Strategy aligns with the climate change focus of the SPPS. Adaptation to climate change should be considered for LDP proposals.

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				and inland water issues, forestry, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure and buildings, but also migration and social issues. It supports better informed decision-making through Climate-ADAPT a platform which provides several useful resources to support adaptation policy and decision making, such as a toolset for adaptation planning and promotion of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation. Comprises a series of documents on adaption in different situations such as coastal and marine, infrastructure and rural development.	
Directive 2012 on the energy efficiency 2012/27/EU	2012	Europe	EC	Under the Energy Efficiency Directive EU countries make energy efficient renovations to at least 3% of buildings owned and occupied by central government; EU governments should only purchase buildings which are highly energy efficient; EU countries must draw-up long-term national building renovation strategies which can be included in their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU	2010	Europe	EC	Under the existing Energy Performance of Buildings Directive energy performance certificates are to be included in all advertisements for the sale or rental of buildings; EU countries must establish inspection schemes for heating and air conditioning systems or put in place measures with equivalent effect; all new buildings must be nearly zero energy buildings by 31 December 2020 (public buildings by 31 December 2018); EU countries must set minimum energy performance requirements for new buildings, for the major renovation of buildings and for the replacement or retrofit of building elements (heating and cooling systems, roofs, walls, etc.); EU countries have to draw up lists of national financial measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. In 2016 the Commission proposed an update to the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to help promote the use of smart technology in buildings and to streamline the existing rules.	The need for energy efficiency will influence the design of new and renovated buildings.
Industrial Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency Roadmaps	2015	UK	BEIS	Reports that set out potential pathways for the eight most heat-intensive industrial sectors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency. The cross-sectoral report suggests clustering as a long term strategy to deliver energy savings and more efficient use of waste and by-products.	Zoning and enabling infrastructure investments (in roads, ports, pipelines, etc.) would strengthen existing clusters and enable new ones to develop.
Climate Change Act 2008	2008	UK	UK Gov.	Covering England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland established a legislative framework to enable the <i>reduction of UK GHG emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050 and by 34% by 2020</i> . It also introduced legally binding five-year carbon budgets, which set a ceiling on the levels of GHGs the UK can emit on course to the longer-term target. The Climate Change Act 2008 covers all of the UK with targets set at the UK level. Climate Change Risk Assessment is a statutory requirement of the Act.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence	2017	NI	CCC	The objective of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) is to inform adaptation policy by assessing the current and future risks and opportunities	SPPS states that no development should take place in areas known to be at risk from coastal erosion. SPPS

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Report, Summary for Northern Ireland				posed by the impacts of climate for NI to the year 2100. The main finding is that extreme weather is still predominant among potential risks related to climate change but that other risks, such as water scarcity are becoming increasingly important. Highlights need for more strategic planning for increased water scarcity in vulnerable locations, including re-evaluation of land use options and if necessary investment in storage infrastructure to maximise use of surplus winter rainfall. Notes that land use planning is mainly based upon protecting prime agricultural land from development, on the assumption that prime land will remain in current locations into the future which may not be the case. Advises that more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. Highlights that there have been requests for new sea defence structures around the coast. There will need to be a system in place to decide which areas must be protected and where realignment is more appropriate however no shoreline management plans or other policies that assess and plan for changes to coastal communities have been developed for Northern Ireland.	promotes and encourages developers to use SuDS and also indicates that council's should continue to promote the use of SuDS through their Local Development Plans. SPDS recognises the importance of peatlands to Northern Ireland for biodiversity, water and carbon storage. The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Measures that help reduce fuel poverty will address some social impacts of cold temperatures. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.
The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act – December 2015 Update	2015	NI	CCC	In October 2015 the Northern Ireland Executive Minister asked the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to provide an update on a CCC report produced in 2011 on 'The appropriateness of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act' to inform the case for bringing forward Northern Ireland climate change legislation in the next Assembly term. The Committee concluded that the range of circumstances that are unique to Northern Ireland suggest local legislation is appropriate. However, the benefits of specific legislation only outweigh the costs if it is possible to pass local legislation without adding undue additional costs on to the Northern Ireland Executive, ministries or the wider economy.	None at present but a Northern Ireland Climate Change Act (Bill) could influence future plans.
Discussion Paper – Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation - DOE on 1 December 2015	2015	NI	DAERA	The aim of a NI Climate Change Bill which is still in development is to establish a long-term framework for future action on climate change to drive greater efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and so help ensure that Northern Ireland is better prepared to adapt to the impacts of unavoidable climate change. Proposals include: setting a long term target of 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 baseline levels); setting interim targets that are consistent with achieving the 2050 targets; placing a duty to set limits in 5-year carbon budgets on the total amounts of GHG emissions that can be emitted in NI.	The application of sustainable development principles and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will support this.
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). 2014-2019	2014	NI	DAERA	Contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated	The LDP will need to consider areas at risk from coastal erosion and vulnerable to flooding and to promote use of SuDS and protect peatlands. Some infrastructure such as clean and waste water treatment will be more vulnerable to flooding therefore may need to be modified or relocated.

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				with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. The priority areas are flooding, natural environment, water and agriculture and forestry.	
Efficient Farming Cuts Greenhouse Gases Implementation Plan 2016-2020	2013	NI	DAERA	The plan is focused on encouraging the implementation of a series of on-farm efficiency measures which can improve farm performance and reduce the carbon intensity of local food production and signposts the support available to facilitate this.	Aspects of relevant to planning are promotion of renewable energy, nutrient management including anaerobic digestion, energy efficiency and ventilation in livestock building.
Northern Ireland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Action Plan (revised 2016/17 Mitigation Plan)	2012	NI	DAERA	This document sets out a Cross-Departmental Action Plan to tackle the established strategies together, including how Northern Ireland is and will continue to reduce its carbon footprint. Specifically how the Programme for Government target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2025 will be delivered. Status is not clear as not available on any departmental website. Plan has been updated with a Mitigation Action Plan in 2016/17	Encouraging sustainable development, good standards of design, renewable energy and overall sustainability will contribute to this action plan. Though a push on economic development could inhibit a reduction in greenhouse gases, the application of sustainability principles in development will lead to more efficient infrastructure. Scope for protection of or increase of carbon sinks in soil and trees.
Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 - 2030	2015	Rol	DfE	The White Paper is a complete energy policy update, which sets out a framework to guide policy between now and 2030. Its objective is to guide a transition to a low carbon energy system, which provides secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy. It does not set out detailed proposals, which can be found in specific work programmes that are either in place or under development. It places great value on the relationship with Northern Ireland and will continue close cooperation on a range of energy matters including the regulation of the all-island single electricity market (SEM) (in which Northern Ireland and Ireland are equal partners) the development of the Integrated-Single Electricity Market (I-SEM), energy transmission and the proposed North-South transmission line.	Will influence the overall energy production requirement and may necessitate cross border distribution infrastructure.
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Building Resilience to Climate Change	2012	Rol	DHPCLG	Ireland's first National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) aims to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change. The NCCAF requires the development and implementation of sectoral and local adaptation plans which will form part of the national response to the impacts of climate change. Each relevant Government Department (or State Agency, where appropriate) is required to prepare adaptation plans for their sectors. 12 Sectors were identified in total including Transport, Flood Defence, Agriculture and Energy. The objectives are: providing the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change; promoting dialogue and understanding of adaptation issues; identifying and promoting adaptation solutions; and committing to actions to support the adaptation process.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will support this. This will result in due course to the development of sectoral and local government Adaptation Strategies in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. A National Climate Change Adaptation Framework to build on and supersede this framework is being developed for publication by December 2017 and this will also need to be considered.
Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines Ireland	2016	Rol	EPA	The purpose of this guideline is to support local authorities in the development of a local climate change adaptation strategy. In its structure and content, the guideline draws heavily on the 2013 Guidelines on Developing Adaptation	This will result in due course to the development of Adaptation Strategies in local authorities in Ireland which will also need to be taken into account to ensure

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				Strategies provided to European Union Member States by the European Commission (SWD(2013) 134 final), with the aim of fostering coherence between strategies developed at local and national scale.	that development in Northern Ireland does not conflict. May inform any approach that the council may wish to take form climate change adaptation.
The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015	2015	Rol	Irish Parliament	Ireland's national policy in response to climate change is determined, in part, by legislation. In particular, Ireland's first-ever dedicated climate change law, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, provides for the making of: five-yearly National Mitigation Plans to specify the policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and a National Adaptation Framework to specify the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change.	While the legislation is for Ireland measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI policy and strategies will also support the objectives of this legislation.
Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development - National Policy Position Ireland	2014	Rol	Irish Parliament	The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation in response to NI plans will also support this.
WATER					
Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources	2012	Europe	EC	The "Blueprint" outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU.	The Blueprint is expected to drive EU water policy over the long term. It is reflected in Sustainable Water.
Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	2007	Europe	EC	Directive aims is to reduce and manage risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity and applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. It required identifying the relevant river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding, drawing up flood maps and establishing flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness between 2011 and 2015. This has been coordinated with Water Framework Directive River Basin Planning.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive. Integrating flood risk management into development planning will contribute to compliance with this directive.
Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	2006	Europe	EC	The directive requires each country to identify its most popular bathing waters for regular testing. In Northern Ireland 23 sites are formally identified. It requires Members States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters and to inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management, through bathing water profiles.	Designated bathing waters will be taken into account in plan preparation. These sites represent assets for health and well-being and tourism.
The Water Framework Directive - EU Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)	2000	Europe	EC	Introduces 'good status', a more rigorous water quality standard. The Directive requires 'River Basin Management Plans' which should influence Development Plans and be influenced by them.	Contribute, wherever possible and appropriate, to achievement of water targets. Plan policies on the design, location of development & sustainable water

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					management to ensure that the LDP does not create adverse pressures on the aquatic environment.
Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	1998	Europe	EC	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	This is reflected in Sustainable Water, see below.
Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	1991	Europe	EC	The Directive seeks to reduce the level of water pollution caused by the run off of nitrates into waterways/ground water from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.	The LDP will take account of the Directive. The SEA will consider the likely significant effect of the plan on the aquatic environment.
Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	1991	Europe	EC	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	This is reflected in Sustainable Water, see below.
Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040)	2016	NI	DfI	The Strategy presents a framework for action which will facilitate implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering the long term vision to have a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. the following four high level aims have been developed by government to cover the key water needs within a catchment and they form the chapters of the Long-Term Water Strategy: provide high quality sustainable supplies of drinking water to households, industry and agriculture; manage flood risk and drainage in a sustainable manner; achieve the environmental requirements of the Water Framework Directive in a sustainable manner; provide sustainable reliable water and sewerage services that meet customers' needs. A strategy implementation action plan will now be prepared containing actions aimed at delivering the high level proposed measures in the Strategy.	The strategy will inform the provision of infrastructure for water supply and treatment and approaches to flood risk management and environmental protection which will all inform the spatial capacity for development. The plan will need to enable development of infrastructure for example by accommodating investment in power, water and sewerage infrastructure in the interests of public health and to support measures relating to flood risk management and environmental protection.
Planning Policy Statement 15 (Revised) – Planning and Flood Risk	2014	NI	DfI	Planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Social and environmental guidance for Water and Sewerage Services (2015-2021)	2014	NI	DfI	The purpose of this document is to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies the Minister for Regional Development expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry during the 2015-21 period. Sets out how NI Water should deliver to meet International, National and Local legislative and strategic commitments.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Flood Maps (NI)	2011	NI	DfI - Rivers Agency	Flood Maps highlights the areas throughout Northern Ireland that are prone to flooding and its potential adverse impacts. The map is designed to: help Rivers Agency and others to plan and manage our work to reduce flood risk; encourage people living and working in areas prone to flooding to find out	Provides information on vulnerability to flooding throughout Northern Ireland which informs constraints on development,

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				more and take appropriate action; inform anyone applying for planning permission if flooding is likely to be an important consideration.	
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for NI	2011	NI	Dfi - Rivers Agency	A key objective of the PFRA was to identify areas of potentially significant flood risk for which detailed flood maps would be produced. On the basis of the PFRA, it was determined that detailed flood maps should be produced for 20 Significant Flood Risk Areas and 49 Areas for Further Study and this work was completed as required by the EU Directive in December 2013.	Identifies areas of potentially significant flood risk which informs constraints on development.
Northern Ireland Message on Water	2011	NI	Dfi, DAERA	In 2011 the UKCIP (formerly UK Climate Impacts Programme) decided to create a number of messages which could be used to engage with policy makers across the UK. NI Water, NIEA and Rivers Agency worked together to help prepare a headline message for Northern Ireland focused on Water and climate impacts. This describes the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk and stormwater capacity and identifies the need for investment to provide capacity to store and transfer surface water. This includes measures to deal with surface water runoff such as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). It also considers potential effects on water quality and supply which may require the construction of more impounding reservoirs and raw water transfer pipelines.	Highlights potential long term problems and relating to water supply and flow including flooding investment needs to mitigate these.
North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts River Basin Management Plan	TBC	Rol	EPA	For the 2nd Cycle of the WFD, in the North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts a single administrative area will be established in the Republic of Ireland portion of these two IRBDs for the purpose of coordinating their management with authorities in Northern Ireland. The WFD's aims are: 1. Protect/enhance all waters (surface, ground and coastal waters) 2. Achieve "good status" for all waters by December 2015 3. Manage water bodies based on river basins or catchments 4. Involve the public.	The plan will be published during preparation of the LDP and therefore will need to be taken into account once available. Measures to protect water quality, quantity and ecological resources will support the plan objectives which derive from the Water Framework Directive.
Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016	2016	NI	NI Executive	The Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 confers a power on NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The Act also introduces new restrictions to the right to connect surface water sewers to the public sewer network. NI Water is able to take account of upstream sustainable drainage systems and is also able to refuse connection to the public sewer network if other suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water exist or could reasonably be provided. Suitable alternative means of dealing with surface water can include natural features or other arrangements known as soft sustainable drainage systems.	The overall aim of the Act is to make sustainable drainage the preferred option for dealing with surface water in all new developments, where possible. This aim should be reflected in all Local Development Plans.
Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015	2015	NI	NI Executive	The Reservoirs Act aims to ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise any risk of flooding due to an uncontrolled release of water	Reservoirs falling under this Act may require to be identified in the LDP.

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				resulting from dam failure and therefore protecting people, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The legislation will apply to reservoirs that are capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. These reservoirs will be known as 'controlled reservoirs'.	
PC 15 NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021	2015	NI	NIW	This sets out NI waters long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services customers throughout Northern Ireland. Over the 6-year PC15 period investment will include 9 water treatment works schemes and upgrades to 19 large wastewater treatment works and 45 small works.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
Our Strategy for NI Water	2014	NI	NIW	Sets out NI Water's long term strategy for providing water and wastewater services to customers in Northern Ireland. Its goal is 'to provide a range of essential services and associated contact channels which meet the rising expectations of our customers.' The strategy outlines the key challenges and opportunities facing the Northern Ireland water industry in the years to come. It outlines aspirations for customers in 2040 and priorities to 2020/21. Some of the priorities Invest available funding to minimise constraints in development caused by lack of capacity at wastewater treatment works and in sewerage networks. Prioritise investment to address issues in the sewerage system which lead to flooding from sewers. Increase the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. Invest in key water and wastewater treatment works and other critical sites to improve flood resilience. Expand use of sustainable wastewater treatment solutions which protect the environment, improve carbon efficiency and reduce operating costs. Undertake a focused programme of repair and renewal in relation to gravity sewers, CSO structures, pumping stations and syphons. Invest to improve our ability to transfer water from one area to another, remove bottlenecks and increase storage capacity.	The LDP may need to accommodate infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply and waste water treatment.
NI Water Water Resources Management Plan 2012	2012	NI	NIW	The Water Resources Management Plan explains how NIW intends to meet the drinking water needs of the population of Northern Ireland over the period 2010 to 2035. The WRMP takes into account expected demands from forecast changes in population, housing and water usage and incorporates any predicted changes to our climate. The WRMP will be complemented by the company's Drought Plan (not published) that will set out the short-term operational steps that the company will take if a drought develops which increases the risk to security of supplies and whether capital investment is needed to mitigate such events. It provides a strategic plan for managing water resources by setting the framework at the Water Resource Zone level within which investment decisions should be taken. Investment at smaller spatial scales will still need to be justified through other more local studies, such as trunk main studies, detailed zonal studies and targeted leakage initiatives.	The LDP may need to accommodate water supply infrastructure development and capacity for development may be constrained by lack of capacity for water supply.

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				Preparation of a Water Resource and Supply Resilience Plan is underway with a target for publication in 2017.	
Guidelines for Planning Authorities 20: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management	2009	Rol	OPW	The core objectives of the Guidelines are to: Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding; Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off; Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains; Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth; Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.	There are a small number of catchments where transboundary impacts may need to be considered.
North Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2015 -2021	2015	Regional	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The north eastern river basin district (NE RBD) covers an area of around 4000 km ² , including 1000km ² of marine waters. It takes in large parts of Counties Antrim and Down and a smaller portion of Londonderry. The principal river systems are the Lagan, Bush and Quoile as well as the smaller systems draining from the glens of Antrim, and the County Down Coastline. The NE RBD has an extensive coastline including Larne, Belfast and Strangford Loughs, with Lough Mourne, Clea Lakes and Silent Valley the main lakes.	The objectives of this plan will be taken into account in plan preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.
Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plan 2015 -2021	2015	Regional	DAERA	River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. This plan aims to: Provide at least good status for all water bodies; Prevent deterioration in status; Promote sustainable development; Achieve specific standards for protected areas. The Neagh Bann river basin district (NB RBD) covers an area of around 5740 km ² . It includes all of County Armagh, large parts of Counties Antrim, Londonderry, Down and Tyrone and a small area County Fermanagh. The principal river system is the Bann, with its tributaries the Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Six Mile Water and Main. The Newry river system drains into Carlingford Lough. Lough Neagh, located in the centre of the district is the main lake, with other smaller ones include Lough Fea, Portmore, Ross and Beg. This district has a limited coastline to the north where the River Bann	The objectives will be taken into account in LDP preparation so that development does not adversely affect its delivery. The siting and extent of development and measures to prevent pollution can help support delivery of the River Basin Management Plan objectives. Good water quality and aquatic habitats contribute to health and well-being and the economy.

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				enters the Atlantic and to the south where the Newry system enters Carlingford Lough.	
Pollution Reduction Programme - Carlingford Lough	2015	Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Pollution Reduction Programme - Inner Dundrum Bay	2015	Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Pollution Reduction Programme - Killough Harbour	2015	Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Pollution Reduction Programme - Strangford Lough	2015	Regional	DAERA	Pollution Reduction Programmes were established under the Shellfish Waters in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters. As the Shellfish Waters Directive has been repealed and subsumed into the Water Framework Directive, the Programme will be reviewed in 2018, in line with the midterm of the second River Basin Cycle under Water Framework Directive (WFD). All Shellfish Water Protected Areas must be managed to ensure that they meet their objectives under WFD and meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations, whilst making progress towards the WFD guideline standard.	Consider any designated shellfish waters and actions required for the pollution reduction programme.
Neagh Bann River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans 2015	2015	Regional	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as

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				activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aim to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
North Eastern River Basin Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 DARD	2015	Regional	DfI - Rivers Agency	The Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) is aimed at reducing the potential adverse consequences of significant floods on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment. There are three FRMPs which together highlight the flood hazards and risks in the 20 most significant flood risk areas in Northern Ireland from flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and reservoirs. The plans identify the measures that will be undertaken over the next 6 years and they set out how the relevant authorities will work together and with communities to reduce the flood risks.	One of the aims of the FRMP is to inform the development planning process to ensure, as far as possible, that new zonings within local development plans are located outside flood risk areas. Northern Ireland's planning policies, informed by PPS15 and the SPPS adopt a precautionary approach to development that aim to prevent future development that may be at risk of flooding or that may increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. This will be reflected in the LDP.
Camlough Lake Masterplan	2011	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Masterplan for the future development of Camlough Lake and its surrounding area as a visitor attraction so that its potential for tourism can be fully realised. The Lake has undergone rehabilitation works which were completed in 2017.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
NATURAL RESOURCES					
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Precautionary Approach Agreement	1982	Inter-national	NASCO	NASCO and its Contracting Parties agree to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Accordingly, NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.	The LDP will take account of this. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Commission Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean	1982	Inter-national	NASCO	Aims to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation.	The LDP will take account of this. DAERA is the lead authority in NI to take this forward and reports annually to the commission as to status of populations and actions taken to maintain and enhance them. Increased fisheries resource will result in increased angling opportunities in the council area with the economic and social benefits this will bring.
The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024	2016	Inter-national	Ramsar Convention	The Fourth Ramsar Strategic plan lays out a new vision under the Convention mission, with four overall goals and 19 specific targets which are designed to support the efforts of Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing,	These objectives are reflected in NI strategies and plans.

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				stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands. The strategic goals are Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation; Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network; Wisely Using All Wetlands; Enhancing Implementation.	
The Ramsar Convention. The convention of Wetland of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	1971	Inter-national	Ramsar Convention	Seeks to protect and conserve wetlands, particularly those established as a habitat for waterfowl. The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands which includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, tidal flats, and all human-made sites such as artificial coastal lagoons.	The LDP must reflect the Ramsar designations, and the need to protect and conserve them. Many Ramsar designated sites are also SACs or SPAs.
Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area	2013	Europe	EC	The strategy for the Atlantic covers coastal, territorial and jurisdictional waters of five EU Member States and focuses on: Managing human activities that must deliver a healthy and productive ecosystem, through developing fisheries and aquaculture but also forecasting future change in oceanic circulation and climate; Reducing Europe's carbon footprint through climate change mitigation, for example expansion of offshore wind farms and tidal technology in the Atlantic, but also changes in maritime transport will contribute to carbon reduction; Developing the sustainable exploitation of the Atlantic's seafloor natural resources; and Prepare for threats and emergencies in the Atlantic whether caused by accidents, natural disasters or criminal activity such as oil spills. It promotes the implementation of climate change mitigation and seeks economic and social progress in conjunction with a healthy environment.	There is potential for the LDP to support the objectives of this plan through its own coastal, marine, industrial or natural heritage policies. However, due to the interconnectivity of marine habitats, it is possible for developments or proposals arising under the LDP to have negative impacts on the wider European marine resource, its species and dependent businesses or individuals.
Blue Growth	2012	Europe	EC	Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The 'blue' economy represents roughly 5.4 million jobs and generates a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. However, further growth is possible in a number of areas which are highlighted within the strategy. The EC considers that by, for example, supporting innovative SMEs, and encouraging innovative products and solutions, Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment through traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism as well as growing and emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology.	This may inform LDP policies relating to economy and energy but has the potential to conflict with sustainable use of natural resources.
EU Biodiversity Strategy	2011	Europe	EC	The EU Biodiversity Strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU and help stop global biodiversity loss by 2020. It reflects the commitments taken by the EU in 2010, within the international Convention on Biological Diversity. The six targets to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss, and reduce the main pressures on nature and ecosystem services include	Natural heritage policies which will afford some protection from inappropriate development are included in the SPPS which informs the context for the LDP.

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				protect species and habitats, maintain and restore ecosystems and combat invasive alien species. The strategy promotes the increased use of green infrastructure. A 2015 European Parliament Resolution on the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 'notes that the 2020 targets will not be achieved without additional, substantial and continuous efforts' and among many statements 'Stresses that habitat destruction is the most important factor driving biodiversity loss and is a particular priority when it comes to addressing this loss' and 'Deplores the fact that, in Europe, around a quarter of wild species are at risk of extinction and many ecosystems are degraded, giving rise to severe social and economic damage for the EU.'	
Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)	2009	Europe	EC	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State. In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Birds Directive are implemented through the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & etc.) Regulations 1995.	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SPAs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
European Eel Regulation 2007 (EC) No 1100/2007	2007	Europe	EC	Aims to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European Eel and requires member states to prepare and implement eel management plans. As a result, eel fisheries are now managed under long-term plans drawn up by the EU countries at river-basin level.	The LDP will take account of any plan arising from the Regulations
Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	1992	Europe	EC	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. The Directive creates a network of sites in Europe for the conservation of biodiversity. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. These sites are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (collectively known as 'Natura 2000' sites).	Any development project or plan likely to have a significant effect (either directly or indirectly) on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to assessment. This will be taken into account through consideration of all SACs and by Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP.
UK Marine Policy Statement	2011	UK	Four Nations (DAERA)	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the	Any development arising from the LDP will need to be in conformity with the MPS and NI Marine Plan once the latter is adopted in order to protect the marine environment.

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				sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	
Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 Establishing a Framework for Maritime Spatial Planning	2014	NI	Council of Europe	Competition for maritime space – for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other uses – has highlighted the need to manage our waters more coherently. Aims include: Reduce conflicts between sectors and create synergies between different activities. Encourage investment – by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules. Increase cross-border cooperation – between EU countries to develop energy grids, shipping lanes, pipelines, submarine cables and other activities, but also to develop coherent networks of protected areas. Protect the environment – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space.	Identification of potential conflict areas and considering developments that have potential for connectivity with the marine area will contribute to this.
(draft) Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	2018	NI	DAERA	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area through a strategic framework with spatial elements. It will consist of a series of policy statements covering cross-cutting marine planning issues that apply to all decision making in the marine area and to relevant sectors. It will not bring forward new policies governed by other departments but will align with and contribute to the policy objectives for key marine activities as set out in the UK Marine Policy Statement and will support and complement existing plans and policies. A draft Marine Plan is proposed to be published in late 2016.	Public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions, which affect or might affect the marine area, must do so in line with marine policy documents, such as Marine Plans and the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. A public authority must explain any decision not made in line with an adopted marine plan or the MPS.
Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020	2015	NI	DAERA	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. Contains 57 actions to impact positively on the loss of biodiversity up to 2020.	Actions include: Restoring 240 hectares of ancient woodland with emphasis on an ecosystems approach. LDP proposals and policies should support delivery of actions where appropriate.
Strategy for Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Ireland Inshore Region	2014	NI	DAERA	Aims to help protect and improve ecosystems in the Northern Ireland inshore region (i.e. within 12 nautical miles) and fulfil international and national legal obligations through a network of Marine Protected Areas (SACs, SPAs, ASSIs, Ramsar sites and Marine Conservation Zones). The Department will develop, in consultation with stakeholders, recommendations for management actions and measures necessary to deliver the conservation objectives for MCZ features.	Public authorities have a duty, when carrying out their functions and when permitting others to carry out regulated activities in relation to MCZs, to ensure that such activities are undertaken in a way that furthers the conservation objectives of a site, or where this is not possible least hinders the achievement of these objectives. This will be taken into account in preparing LDP proposals.
DOE (2013) Northern Ireland Invasive Species Strategy	2013	NI	DAERA	In response to the threats posed by invasive alien species the Department of Environment published 'An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland'. The aim of the Strategy is to minimise the risk posed, and reduce the negative impacts caused, by invasive alien species in Northern Ireland.	Invasive species may be a constraint for some sites and consideration will need to be given to measures to minimise the risks caused by invasive species.
Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000	2013	NI	DAERA	The Prioritised Action Framework sets out the prioritised actions for managing the Natura 2000 network to be taken to address unfavourable conservation status of habitats in Annex I and species in Annex II of the Habitats Directive	This will be taken into account through Habitats Regulations Assessment of the LDP and planning proposals carried out under it which may have a

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				and Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These are intended to help achieve the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2000. Priorities include measures such as agri-environmental schemes and an ecosystems approach. It states that the Department will publish guidance '...to advise developers and other key stakeholders ..., especially those who regulate development, to encourage them to minimise adverse impacts on habitats and species and to provide for biodiversity where possible.'	significant effect on site selection features of European sites. Any advice from the Department will be taken into account.
Draft Northern Ireland Marine Position Paper	2012	NI	DAERA	The Position Paper set out the Executive's objectives and lead departments for the sustainable development of the marine area including energy production and infrastructure development; tourism and recreation; port development; sewerage services; flood risk management and drainage; integrated coastal zone management; climate change; coastal change; and protection of the historic environment. It was intended to identify the policy context within which a Northern Ireland Marine Plan will be developed. The status of this document is not clear.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of Marine Position Paper, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
An Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 – 2026	2006	NI	DAERA	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	LDP proposals and policies may directly support natural and cultural heritage aspects of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy, or have an indirect relationship, for example regarding outdoor recreation, access, transportation and sustainable development.
Ireland's Marine Strategy Framework Directive Article 19 Report Initial Assessment, GES and Targets and Indicators	2013	Roi	DECLG, MI	The first step in the implementation of the MSFD in Ireland was an Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters and establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for the marine waters so as to guide progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status. Each state is required to ensure they take appropriate action by 2020 to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status.	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with the objectives of the Directive.
Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter: safeguarding our rocks and landscape	2017	NI	DfE	Guidance document that sets out a clear ambition to recognise geodiversity as a vital and integral part of the economy, environment heritage and future sustainable development. This is necessary to safeguard and manage geodiversity for both current and future generations.	May inform decision making and support policy at strategic level for the conservation management of geodiversity.
Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation	2013	NI	Dfi	Policies for the conservation of natural heritage.	Incorporation of the policies in this PPS will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth - An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland	2012	Roi	MCG	The vision for this plan is 'Our ocean wealth will be a key element of our economic recovery and sustainable growth, generating benefits for all our citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.' It includes an action: Continue to foster a North/South and East/West approach in developing/enabling the marine	Should an LDP have specific proposals for its coastline, including facilitating developments that utilise the marine environment, these could be either supportive or in conflict with this plan.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				sector (e.g. grid/all-island energy strategy, marine tourism and leisure) through existing structures and bodies.	
Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 - Ireland's National Biodiversity Action Plan	2011	Rol	NPWS	This plan outlines the measures Ireland will take in preparing for pressures and losses in the level of biodiversity, and they are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 strategic objectives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment (within and outside protected areas), mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity, and increasing public awareness and participation.	Biodiversity is a cross-border objective. Developments either side of the border will have cross-border impacts. In addition, nature conservation species, in particular, will not necessarily respect this border. Therefore, the LDP may have an impact on the implementation of this plan. This may be positive or negative depending on how the LDP is implemented locally and the nature of any developments consented under relevant policy.
Forest Service - Down Plan 2015	2015	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.
Forest Service - Armagh Planning Review 2014	2014	Regional	DAERA	Forest Management plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands Forest Service looks after. Plans are currently prepared for Down, Armagh, Sperrin, West Tyrone, East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.	Relevant plans may inform land use, landscape and recreational use of forests in the plan area.
Eel management plan: North Eastern River Basin District	2010	Regional	DAERA	Measures to be carried out for the recovery of the stock of European eel including mitigation of hydropower and other barriers to passage.	May inform policies relating to hydropower and in river works.
The Destination Strangford Lough Management Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	Local	Ards and North Down Borough Council	Strangford Lough is one of the 9 designated destinations within Northern Ireland. Each destination determines its own priorities and projects, in line with the (draft) 2020 Tourism Strategy and Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Priorities for Growth. Thus Ards Borough Council and Down District Council, working with the tourism trade, can decide what the best offers to visitors are, maximising revenue and opportunity locally, while also contributing to the 2020 targets for NI.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
The Destination Mourne Mountains Management Plan 2013 – 2018	2013	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Mourne Mountains is one of the 9 designated destinations within Northern Ireland. Each destination determines its own priorities and projects, in line with the (draft) 2020 Tourism Strategy and Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Tourism Priorities for Growth. Thus Banbridge, Down and Newry and Mourne District Councils, working with the tourism trade, can decide what the best offers to visitors are, maximising revenue and opportunity locally, while also contributing to the 2020 targets for NI. The destination comprises the Mourne and Ring of Gullion AONBs, Slieve Croob, Newry City and surrounds.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
LANDSCAPE					
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	2000	Europe	COE	The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues. It covers all landscapes,	The LDP should support the aims of the convention, seeking to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas, and special, everyday and also degraded landscape. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.	
A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland	2015	Rol	AHRRGA	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape. There are six high level objectives with associated actions: the three most relevant to the LDP being: to recognise landscapes in law; to develop a National Landscape Character Assessment, to develop landscape policies. Following completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, statutory guidelines on local Landscape Character Assessments will be prepared for Planning Authorities. These regional and local landscape character assessments will inform and guide landscape policy, action plans and local authority development plans.	The council shares a boundary with Ireland therefore the LDP has the potential to impact on this strategy. The strategy and the national and local Landscape Character Assessments will be taken into account as they become available.
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	2016	NI	DAERA	The purpose of the Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) is to provide an evidence base which can be used equally by planners, developers and the public. It describes forces for change through climate change, land use, agriculture, energy and invasive species and outlines the types of ecosystem services provided in each region. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. This evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Northern Ireland's landscapes and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.	This is not policy but it provides analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes at a regional level which provides further evidence to inform the LDP.
Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment	2014	NI	DAERA	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. The Seascape Character Assessment describes these areas, their key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of the coastline.	This can inform planning of development in the coastal zone. The description and mapping of regional seascape character can provide evidence to assist in responding to the increasing demands being placed upon the related marine and terrestrial environments. This can also help to inform the planning, design and management of a range of projects taking place on and around the coastline.
Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter	2014	NI	DAERA	Invites organisations and individuals to sign the charter and commit to delivering its vision by approaches including the following: adopt and promote best practice to ensure all development works with and enhances sense of	This requires consideration of all landscapes to enhance them, respect sense of place and promote sympathetic design.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				place; ensure sense of place is central to all decision making about landscape and empower people locally to be involved.	
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment	2000	NI	DAERA	The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment subdivided the countryside into 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), each based upon local patterns of geology, landform, land use, cultural and ecological features. For each LCA, the key characteristics were described and an analysis of landscape condition and its sensitivity to change was made. While the original assessment was published in 2000 many landscape character areas have been updated more recently.	This is not policy but it provides a comprehensive analysis of all of Northern Ireland Landscapes, including their vulnerability and sensitivity to change which informs the state of the landscape, capacity for development and areas meriting protection.
Building on Tradition: A sustainable Design Guide for the NI Countryside	2012	NI	Dfi	Building on Tradition: A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside' provides assistance to all those involved with sustainable development in the Northern Ireland countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21. The guide promotes quality and sustainable building design in Northern Ireland's countryside.	This can be used to inform siting and design standards for development in the countryside to achieve better landscape integration.
Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes.	2010	NI	Dfi	The SPG provides broad, strategic guidance in relation to the visual and landscape impacts of wind energy development. The guidance is based on the sensitivity of Northern Ireland's landscapes to wind energy development and contains an assessment of each of the 130 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in Northern Ireland by referencing the characteristics and values associated with each LCA.	Informs the relative capacity for wind energy in respect of landscape.
Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan 2017-2022	2017	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	This management plan outlines an agreed set of objectives and actions for the period 2011-2016 for the Ring of Gullion AONB. The action programme identifies what needs to be done and provides details of when it will be done and who will take responsibility for leading the action. In Northern Ireland, the legislation does not provide statutory status for management plans for AONBs. Instead they are implemented through voluntary agreement. The success of the management plan relies on all of those who live, work, plan for, develop and manage the area taking its special character into account when making decisions that will affect its future.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2017-2022	2017	Local	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	This Action Plan is part of a suite of documents relating to the Ring of Gullion AONB including the Ring of Gullion Management Plan. It identifies which agencies will be responsible for / lead with carrying out actions (grouped under various outcome categories) and timescales for completion. The action plan also identifies funding requirements.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.
Draft Strangford And Lecale AONB Action Plan 2017 - 2022	2017	Local	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	This Action Plan is part of a suite of documents relating to the Strangford and Lecale AONB including the Strangford and Lecale AONB Management Plan. It identifies which agencies will be responsible for / lead with carrying out actions (grouped under various outcome categories) and timescales for completion.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				Most of the Actions in this Plan are subject to external funding from a range of sources, and as such their implementation is uncertain.	
HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Xi'an Declaration On The Conservation Of The Setting Of Heritage Structures, Sites And Areas	2005	Inter-national	ICMOS	To contribute through legislation, policies, planning processes and management to better protect and conserve the world's heritage structures, sites and areas in their settings.	LDP can assist with implementing the measures outlined in the agreement: Acknowledging the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage monuments, sites and areas; Understanding, documenting and interpreting the settings in diverse contexts; Developing planning tools and practices to conserve and manage settings; Monitoring and managing change affecting setting; Working with local, interdisciplinary and international communities for co-operation and awareness in conserving and managing setting.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	1992	Europe	COE	The new text (revision of the 1985 Granada Convention) makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological resources including potential archaeological reserves.
The European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	1987	Europe	COE	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	Consideration should be given to conservation of archaeological heritage.
Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	1986	UK	UK Gov.	Under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 all aircraft that have crashed whilst in military service are automatically protected. Maritime vessels (e.g. ships and boats) lost during military service are not automatically protected. The MoD can, however, designate wrecks lost within the last 200 years, whose position is known, as 'controlled sites', and can designate named vessels lost on or after 4th August 1914 (Britain's entry into World War I), whose location is unknown, as 'protected places'. It is not necessary to demonstrate the presence of human remains for wrecks to be designated as	This may apply to military shipwrecks and aircraft discovered in the nearshore area.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				either 'controlled sites' or 'protected places'. It also covers vessels of a foreign state e.g., German U-Boats	
UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	2001	UK	UNESCO	The Convention sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage. Amongst its main principles are an obligation to preserve underwater cultural heritage, with in situ preservation as first option, and a ban on its inappropriate commercial exploitation. While the UK has not ratified the Convention, it publicly supports the majority of its articles and has publicly recognised the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for archaeology	The Local Plan will recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the Convention as being 'best practice' for underwater archaeology.
Historic Buildings of Local Importance: A guide to their Identification and Protection	2017	NI	DfC	This good practice guide aims to assist councils achieve a consistent approach when identifying and protecting Historic Buildings of Local Importance.	One way to protect unlisted historic buildings of local importance is to include a policy in the Local Development Plan.
Regeneration: The Value of our Built Heritage. Position Paper 2017	2017	NI	DfC	This paper sets out the potential value of effective architectural regeneration throughout our villages, towns and cities. It highlights Northern Ireland's unique architectural heritage as well as the social and economic value of older building stock, and the added qualities it can bring to our communities.	Paper recommends that heritage buildings are incorporated and made a priority in new council community planning. The protection and promotion of Heritage should be integrated into community plans and new planning policy. Policy needs to be integrated and support building users.
Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate Northern Ireland Guidance February 2012	2012	NI	DfC	A document set out by the Executive explaining how departments and agencies will put their commitment into practice for caring and protecting historic estates. Includes protecting heritage assets through regular condition surveys, maintenance and renovation using appropriately experienced practitioners and working to keep buildings in active use.	This document is recommended as good practice for councils to adopt.
Study of the economic value of Northern Ireland's historic environment	2012	NI	DfC	The purpose of this study is to help make the case for investment in the Northern Ireland historic environment. The four objectives of the study are to: (1.) Determine the current value of economic activity generated by Northern Ireland's historic environment and its distribution; (2.) Gauge the level of historic environment-related employment in Northern Ireland, including indirect employment, the distribution of this employment, and its relative importance compared with other sectors; (3.) Conduct a credible analysis of the wider community benefits that Northern Ireland's historical environment provides to the economy using a series of case studies, and (4.) Make an assessment of the potential for the use of Northern Ireland's historic environment to aid sustainable growth of the economy and make recommendations as to how this could be realised.	This document can help to inform the LDP and identify areas where links can be made between the Historic Environment and other themes, e.g. community, economic development, tourism, etc.
Planning Policy Statement 23 – Enabling Development	2014	NI	DfI	PPS23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration or refurbishment of heritage assets such as historic buildings, scheduled monuments, industrial heritage and	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.

TITLE	YEAR	SPATIAL SCALE	LEAD	OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS	IMPLICATIONS FOR LDP
				historic parks, gardens and demesnes. It provides a policy to maintain and enhance the standard of a wide range of community facilities in Northern Ireland including cultural, educational, social, health, built heritage and leisure facilities and the restoration and creation of wildlife habitat.	
Living Places - An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for NI	2014	NI	DfI	Aims to establish the key principles behind good place making to inform those involved in the process of managing (stewardship) and making (design) urban places, with a view to raising standards across Northern Ireland. The focus of the guide is urban areas, by which is meant all of our cities, towns, villages and neighbourhoods. It recognises the wider economic, cultural and community benefits of achieving excellence in the stewardship and design of these important places, be they existing or newly proposed.	Principles inform spatial, design and policy measures that can be incorporated in the LDP to maximise contribution to strengthening society, protecting cultural heritage, promoting well-being, enhancing access and creating economic growth.
Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (and Addendum ATC)	1999	NI	DfI	This PPS sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage.	Retention of this will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	1995	NI	NI Executive	Article 3 of this Order provides for the scheduling of monuments for protection. Monuments are selected for scheduling on the basis of published criteria, which are found in Annex B of Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999).	Scheduled monuments will be considered in preparing LDP policies.
Strangford Lough and Lecale Heritage Management Strategy 2013 -2018	2013	Local	Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership	The landscape, built heritage and natural environment of Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are fundamental to the well-being and vibrancy of local communities. Our heritage attracts and interests visitors, and generates wealth. For these reasons, as well as for their intrinsic value, we must work together to protect and enhance our heritage, while fostering appropriate human activities and developments.	This is a non-statutory plan however the aims of this plan should be taken into account in LDP preparation. The LDP can help to support the aims of the plan.

APPENDIX 5: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL GUIDE FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL PREFERRED OPTIONS PAPER

This Appraisal Guide was used on our appraisal days. During finalisation of the scoping report, some small changes were made to Key Sustainability Issues. These did not affect the appraisal prompts or outcome of the appraisal.

Key Issues and Appraisal Prompts

1. The objective for sustainable development is to improve health and well-being .
<p>Rationale</p> <p>Public policy seeks to increase healthy life expectancy, reduce preventable deaths, improve mental health and reduce health inequalities. Evidence shows that there is a need to address obesity, increase physical activity and reduce inequalities in health. It is also necessary to provide for the needs of an aging population and minimize the detrimental impacts of noise. This can be achieved by creating an environment that is clean and attractive; encourages healthy lifestyles; protects tranquil and quiet areas and enables access to health care facilities for all.</p>
<p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 2039, the population of the District is projected to have increased from its 2014 level by 15.7% or 27,458 significantly higher than the population increase projected for NI. Population trends indicate an ageing population with potentially a higher number of older dependents e.g. the number of people aged 85 and over is expected to grow from 3000 in 2014 to over 8000 by 2039. An increase in the proportion of older people in the population will increase the requirement for care. There is a need to meet the future needs for care and support for older people at home or in communal homes and to improve access to health services, other facilities and services. Participation rates in physical activity are higher than the NI average however they are significantly lower than recommended minimum levels. There is a need to promote and incentivise regular participation in physical activity through provision of and ensuring good accessibility to sports facilities, open space, green infrastructure and walking and cycling routes. Newry, Mourne and Down has a very accessible natural environment with forest parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other open spaces with many walking and cycling trails. Less than half of children in NI walk or cycle to school. There is a particular need for children to have accessible play in places where they feel safe. There will be an increasing need to create accessible means for older people to engage in physical activity to prolong their healthy lives. Development should be sited and designed to connect with public open space, walking and cycling routes and other recreational facilities where possible. Levels of adult obesity in NI and the UK are high by global standards, reflecting poor diet and a relatively sedentary lifestyle. Obesity in children is slightly lower than the NI average, however over one fifth of P1 children and over one quarter of Year 8 children were overweight or obese in 2010-2012. While mental health indicators on average show similar levels to NI there is evidence of poorer mental health in the most deprived part of the council. Noise and environmental quality are not identified as being significant adverse effects at present however they can impact on health and therefore environmental quality should be improved, or sustained where it is good, to minimise adverse health impacts. Road safety for all users should be a key consideration of planning and design. The location of and access to emergency services can impact on response times. Rural areas require accessibility to general practice and non-emergency healthcare services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally measures of health are better for the council however there are inequalities in health and well-being with most measures of health being significantly worse in the most deprived areas. ▪ Good spatial planning can reduce health inequalities by providing a high standard of design and place making, open space, capacity for any additional services required and accessibility. ▪ Need to plan the relative location of industry and housing, open space and public facilities to minimise use conflicts. ▪ Significant parts of the District have an increased probability of the incidence of Radon at actionable levels.
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Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Improve access to health care b) Reduce response times for the emergency services c) Provide opportunities for and encourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity for all ages d) Create open space with public access e) Increase social contact and intergenerational contact (including family cohesion and care) f) Provide suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability g) Maintain good air quality h) Avoid or reduce noise impacts that may affect health i) Improve ability to reach schools and workplaces by active travel j) Reduce the risk of traffic accidents	k) Reduce access to health care l) Increase response times for the emergency services m) Discourage healthy lifestyles and physical activity n) Reduce open space with public access o) Decrease social contact and intergenerational contact p) Shortage of suitable accommodation for those with long term health problems or disability q) Decrease in air quality r) Increase noise impacts that may affect health s) Make it harder to reach schools and workplaces via active travel t) Increase the risk of traffic accidents

2. The objective for sustainable development is to strengthen society	
Rationale	
Regional policy is directed towards improving community relations and creating a safe society which is more united. Success will be represented by places which are inclusive, respect culture and identity, promote social integration and create a sense of pride. They will also be designed to feel safe and to reduce opportunity for crime or anti-social behaviour.	
Key Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some areas, particularly villages, have seen substantial growth in recent years, there is a need to ensure that facilities meet the needs of the population. ▪ Levels of deprivation vary widely throughout the council area and there is a marked division between lower income areas to the west and more prosperous areas to the east. ▪ Rural communities have relatively good access to urban areas, however some of their populations may not have good proximity to services. ▪ Some parts of the District have populations which predominantly reflect one religion or political opinion. ▪ Low income levels is notable, particularly to the west of the District. ▪ There is a need to provide appropriate shared space and apply place making to make areas inclusive for all backgrounds and income levels. ▪ There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability. ▪ The community is not ethnically diverse although it is slightly more so than NI as a whole. A higher proportion of residents at the last census were from the Republic of Ireland and the District has a higher proportion of Irish Travellers than NI. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Promote inclusion of all groups b) Retain, create, or enhance shared space c) Increase accessibility to shared space d) Promote positive social interaction e) Give rural communities appropriate access to facilities and services f) Reduce the factors causing inequalities g) Meet identified needs that will reduce inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities	h) Inhibit inclusion of all groups i) Shared space reduced or deteriorates j) Decrease accessibility to shared space k) Decrease positive social interaction l) Rural communities less access to facilities and services m) Exacerbate the factors causing inequalities n) Maintains or increases inequalities experienced by the most deprived communities

3. The objective for sustainable development is to provide good quality, sustainable housing.	
Rationale	
The population is growing and therefore there is ongoing need for new housing in locations that meet regional policy, are accessible and balance the needs of society and the environment. The make-up of households is changing therefore design needs to meet long term requirements with good quality build to be sustainable. This objective should reduce homelessness and ensure decent, affordable homes with a mix of types.	
Key Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newry City, Downpatrick Town and the NMD local towns have a significant housing shortfall. ▪ Social housing need remains at a very high level across Newry, Mourne and Down. ▪ Future housing needs will therefore include a mix of house tenures and types including smaller house types. ▪ A large portion of the social housing waiting list comprises single and small family households and the predominance of single and smaller households will mean a significant requirement for one and two bedroom dwellings. ▪ There will be an increased need to accommodate those with disability and the elderly. People may be more likely to stay in a home long term if it meets their changing needs and facilities and amenities that they wish to use are as accessible as possible through their lives. ▪ All new housing should aim to provide lifetime homes that are accessible and adaptable to all and help to support healthy lifestyles. ▪ In 2011, 43-46% of households in Newry, Mourne and Down were in fuel poverty– defined as one that needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth. ▪ The local housing market is slowly recovering following the economic crash in 2007 and affordability in the council area has much improved. However, affordability remains an issue for first time buyers who continue to have difficulties in securing mortgages. ▪ Housing provision should enable social cohesion in families and communities and promote vibrancy of settlements. ▪ Rural housing continues to contribute to overall housing supply. The challenge for the Plan is to allocate an appropriate level of housing for the rural area and a planning policy to manage it. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enable/encourage a variety of household types and size b) Enable/encourage affordable social housing c) Help to reduce homelessness d) Meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, couples, retired people, disabled e) Provide housing which meets locally identified needs f) Reduce the number of unfit homes g) Help to fill any vacant dwellings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Inhibits a variety of housing types b) Does not promote affordable social housing c) May increase homelessness d) Does not meet the needs of specific groups e.g. single people, couples, retired people, disabled e) Housing provision does not meet local needs f) Doesn't help to reduce number of unfit homes or use vacant dwellings

4. The objective for sustainable development is to enable access to high quality education

Rationale

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

Key Issues

- In some parts of our council area, a decline in pupil numbers will have implications for the sustainability of existing schools.
- Sharing facilities has been recognised as a way to promote a more cohesive and tolerant society and make better use of the resources available to education.
- Although the council area has a high level of educational achievement at all levels, this is not consistent between DEAs.
- There is a level of further education enrolment that is below the average level for Northern Ireland.
- This is a level of higher education enrolment that is above the average level for Northern Ireland.
- Consistent level of take up within the council area for Training for Success and Apprenticeships NI programmes.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve education level and employability of the population b) Promote access to education c) Promote access to skills training d) Help rural communities access education and skills training e) Improve opportunities for multiple use of facilities f) Help educational establishments to provide modern sustainable accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g) Does not help improve education level and employability of the population h) Decrease access to education and skills training i) Makes rural communities access education and skills training harder j) Under use of public facilities k) Inhibit provision of suitable educational facilities

5. The objective for sustainable development is to enable sustainable economic growth.

Rationale

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

Key issues

- Identifying and zoning appropriate land for development is a vital part of creating the right conditions to create and sustain economic activity that meets local employment needs whilst considering opportunities for regeneration.
- In selecting land for development, it is important to provide sites with quality environments that are readily accessible to the key transport corridors.
- Proposed new employment locations should be readily accessible by active travel and/or public transport.
- The Council area has seen a decrease in primary sector and manufacturing jobs in recent decades. National and regional trends indicate an ongoing shift towards tertiary sector jobs. The Council and relevant statutory bodies should work with local providers of education and training to identify and address any local skills shortfalls and develop tailored learning to ensure its population has the skills and training to meet future demand.
- There is a need to ensure that the Council area is attractive to investors, and higher skilled people, by supporting the vitality and vibrancy of town centres and the wider area.
- Within the Council area there is a vibrant rural entrepreneurial spirit within the villages and open countryside. It is important that the Plan provides policy that can facilitate sustainable rural businesses.
- Kilkeel and Warrenpoint harbours are important contributors to the local economy. The RDS has identified Warrenpoint (along with Newry) as the 'South Eastern City Gateway' – a strategically important transport interchange. Connectivity is a key aspect in the support, growth and development of the harbours.
- The diversity, vibrancy and vitality of town centres can be supported and enhanced through the new LDP.
- Tourism in NMD is a potentially important contributor to growth of the regional economy. The needs of tourists and the tourism industry should be balanced with protecting the assets of the destination.
- NMD has a number of natural assets which are particularly suited to activity tourism (golf, angling, hiking/walking, cycling/mountain biking, beaches and other water-based activity). It also has a strong built and cultural heritage foundation for cultural tourism.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support innovation and competitiveness within the local economy b) Ensure sufficient land supply in appropriate locations for economic growth c) Support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. d) Support enhancement of the skills base. e) Help make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest f) Make the best use of location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Does not promote innovation and competitiveness within the local economy l) Does not support land in appropriate locations for economic growth m) Does not support creation of a range of job types that are accessible, especially to areas of deprivation. n) Does not support enhancement of the skills base. o) Does not help make the Council area a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest

g) Ensure the vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres can be improved	p) Does not make the best use of location along major transport corridors.
h) Increase the number of people coming to the Council area to work	q) Vitality and vibrancy of city and town centres may deteriorate.
i) Maximise economic benefits of sustainable tourism	r) Does not increase the number of people coming to the Council area to work
j) Effects are spread throughout the year	s) Does not enable use of tourism assets.
	t) Effects are seasonal /restricted to summer months

6. The objective for sustainable development is to manage material assets sustainably.

Rationale

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

Key Issues

- Improving infrastructure across rural areas for the needs of rural communities, rural services and rural businesses is a strategic priority.
- It is important to support renewable wind energy development whilst also safeguarding areas that are considered to be of particular scenic value and also reducing potential impacts on neighbouring properties.
- There are concerns regarding the proliferation of single turbines and resulting visual intrusion, safety and the increasing size and massing of turbines.
- New private forms of renewable energy development are likely to increase in use in the Newry, Mourne and Down area over the plan period.
- Grid reinforcement is required to facilitate the growth of renewable energy generation.
- The District's location provides opportunities to create physical links to the electricity network in the Republic of Ireland.
- The impact of existing or proposed waste management facilities should be considered when zoning land for development and ensuring incompatibility of adjacent land uses is avoided.
- The Council should take account of the potential effects of new telecommunications development, and any necessary enabling works, on visual amenity and environmentally sensitive features and locations.
- The District's coast has potential to support a range of renewable energy types. Any form of renewables development should be approached with respect to protecting and conserving the environment including the landscape.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Sufficient telecommunications can be provided or are feasible b) Electrical infrastructure is fit for purpose c) Enables renewable energy production/connections d) Supports development of renewables e) Increases reusing/recycling/composting rates f) Makes reusing/recycling/composting easier g) Reduces waste production per household h) Uses/encourages the proximity principle for location of material assets i) Reduces the amount of derelict/contaminated land	j) Existing telecommunications poor or unlikely to become available k) Adequate electrical infrastructure unavailable or unfeasible l) Infrastructure not fit for purpose m) Halts development of renewables n) Unlikely to improve recycling rates or make recycling easier o) Does not adopt the proximity principle for location of material assets p) Doesn't take advantage of derelict/contaminated land

7. The objective for sustainable development is to protect physical resources and use sustainably.	
Rationale	
Minerals, geothermal energy, land and soil are resources which require protection from degradation and safeguarding for future use. Sustainable agriculture, tourism and sustainable use of minerals and geothermal energy can help to support the economy.	
Key Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minerals should be protected from inappropriate development and a proactive approach taken to safeguard the future of mineral development in the District. There may be scope for mineral development within Areas of Constraint providing key sites are avoided and development would not unduly compromise the integrity of the area. Small-scale sand extraction has been a problem in coastal areas such as Tyrella and highlights the need to control the extraction of sand/gravel from within the coastal zone. The District has a number of adits, shafts and working mines that should be given appropriate consideration when planning the location of future development, particularly where these are located in proximity to settlements. Where mineral deposits exist across administrative boundaries consideration should be given to neighbouring authorities proposed approach to mineral development. The mineral prospecting licences presently issued within the Council area indicate potential for silver and gold operations. There is potential for extraction of precious metals within the area, however, resources these remain untouched. The Mourne mountains have been identified as an area where there is potential for geothermal energy located in the deep granitic igneous rock. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Avoids/minimises loss of greenfield sites b) Maintains or enhances soil quality/avoids soil erosion c) Earth science features can be protected d) Enables the minerals industry to operate sustainably e) Enables materials to be locally sourced f) Considers minerals across Council boundaries g) Enable future use/benefit of quarries h) Enables potential future use of geothermal energy i) Potential for sub-surface planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j) Increases loss of greenfield sites k) Does not maintain/enhance soil quality/soil erosion likely l) Earth science features unlikely to be protected m) Reduces the ability for minerals industry to operate sustainably n) Considers minerals only within the Council area o) Does not protect potential future use/benefit of quarries p) Inhibits the future use of geothermal energy q) Sub-surface planning unlikely due to geology

8. The objective for sustainable development is to encourage active and sustainable travel.

Rationale

There is a common goal to reduce traffic emissions and congestion which means reducing car use and increasing other forms of transport. Better access to public transport and opportunities for active travel may make travel more affordable with added health benefits and also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Measures that help reduce car use and improve accessibility to encourage a shift to travel by public transport, walking and cycling will contribute to this goal.

Key Issues

- A number of main road routes in the District experience congestion.
- Downpatrick and Newry DEA's have the shortest distance to their nearest bus-stop on average. By ward, Newtownhamilton and Crossmaglen have the longest distance to their nearest bus-stop.
- The A1 linking Newry with Belfast and Dublin is the only road in the council area identified as a key transport corridor within the Strategic Transportation Network for Northern Ireland. There are no motorways within the council area.
- Almost four-fifths of householders own a car or van, and road travel is the dominant mode of transportation.
- However, almost one in five households in the council area did not own a private vehicle in the Census of 2011. The availability of public transport and active travel options is particularly important for access to key services and facilities for less able people, the elderly and communities in areas of deprivation.
- 3 main park and ride sites are available in the District at Newcastle/Clough, Sheepbridge, Newry and Cloghogue, Newry.
- 77% of journeys to work place and place of study use the road network.
- Over one fifth of residents travel 20 km or more to their place of work.
- A significant proportion of the District's population live outside the main hubs. This creates challenges for connectivity.
- Bus services are essential for children who travel to school.
- Very low level reported use of public transport, particularly rail.
- A number of potential greenway routes exist within the council area and there is an existing and extensive greenway linking Newry and Craigavon.
- It is important for the Council to consider local transport links and good access provision to key tourist attractions. There is a proposed new Mourne and Strangford Lough Coastal path being developed in partnership with Ards and North Down Borough Council.
- Parts of the National Cycle network run through the council area including on-road sections and some traffic free sections for example from Scarva to Newry along the canal.
- Warrenpoint Harbour located on Carlingford Lough is the 2nd busiest general cargo port in Northern Ireland and the fifth on the island of Ireland.
- It is important to plan a transport system with routes and travel options that will help to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by reducing journey times and integrating public and active transport options.
- A spatial approach to the provision of public transport and active travel options could help to ensure adequate provision in the most deprived areas where the households are less likely to have access to own private vehicles.
- Measures such as park and ride/share facilities, accessible greenways and active travel networks, are needed to help people shift their reliance away from the private car and on to other modes of travel like public transport, walking and cycling.
- There are already a significant number of people car sharing and car-pooling as well as working from home, which helps to reduce GHG emissions from transport and maintain air quality.

- There is expected to be an increase in electric vehicles and demand for electric charging points. 22 Ecar charging points have now been installed mainly on public sector controlled sites across the council area.
- There is potential to link local level active travel routes to local and regional recreational routes, including the Ulster Way, and to develop strategic level networks for both walking and cycling.
- Potential greenway projects could help to integrate active travel options into local areas for residents and visitors and reduce cars on the road, promote health and well-being, and maintain or improve local air quality.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Will help reduce traffic congestion	f) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion
b) Encourage modal shift to active travel and/or public transport	g) Does not promote modal shift to active travel and/or public transport
c) Improve access to and efficiency of public transport	h) Unlikely to improve access to and efficiency of public transport
d) Will benefit those without access to a vehicle	i) Unlikely to benefit those without access to a vehicle
e) Retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes	j) Does not retain, create, or enhance walking or cycling routes

9. The objective for sustainable development is to improve air quality.	
Rationale	
Air pollution has serious impacts on human health as well as degrading the natural environment. This objective can be achieved through reducing sources of air pollution. Where air pollution cannot be totally excluded careful siting of development should avoid impacts on sensitive receptors.	
Key Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The council area has 2 active Air quality Management Areas, these are: Newry (Urban Centre) AQMA for Nitrogen dioxide, and Newry Canal Street Air Quality Management Area for particulate matter (PM10). ▪ Some areas of the council are smoke controlled areas. ▪ The Council should have regard to a future transport system that uses electric charging points and electric or hybrid vehicles in the transition toward no diesel or petrol vehicles. ▪ Reasonable and improved access to an adequate amount of public transport is required across the Council, including rural areas, to help reduce transport emissions and improve air quality. ▪ A modal shift in behaviour to help encourage people away from relying on the car for journeys to work and opt for alternative transport options would help to reduce emissions and may improve air quality. ▪ When planning the location of new developments alongside existing or proposed land uses, it is important to consider future air quality in both rural and urban areas. ▪ Measures to help reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector could help improve air quality in certain areas. ▪ Support for renewables in appropriate locations could help reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Will help achieve AQMA objectives b) Likely to improve air quality c) Able to reduce traffic congestion d) Will encourage other modes of transport to the car e) Promotes/supports/enables projects/behaviour that will improve air quality f) Able to avoid/reduce air pollution g) Will avoid increase of ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)	a) Unlikely to help meet AQMA objectives b) Unlikely to improve air quality c) Unlikely to reduce traffic congestion d) Maintains/increases car use e) Inhibits/stops projects/behaviour that will improve air quality f) Likely to increase air pollution g) Likely to increase ammonia emissions (near to sensitive receptors)

10. The objective for sustainable development is to reduce causes of and adapt to climate change.

Rationale

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

Key Issues

- Coastal infrastructure, particularly ports and harbours, are at risk from rising sea levels, storm surges and a consequential increase in the height of onshore waves.
- It is important to protect habitats, including floodplains and peatlands, which act as natural mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change.
- Many parts of the coastline within the Council area are vulnerable to coastal erosion.
- Climate change projections indicate that an increase in relative sea levels around the NI coastline coupled with an increase in the storminess of the weather will lead to more extensive and frequent coastal flooding.
- There is a need for the District to futureproof itself for a low carbon future in anticipation of future energy needs and climate change effects.
- Two regionally significant renewable energy resource zones have been identified in the coastal region of Newry, Mourne and Down District.
- It is important to consider the need to improve electrical infrastructure within the Council area to accommodate new grid connections for renewable energy sources and enable more small-scale production.
- Agriculture is a significant contributor to GHG emissions and opportunities to reduce emissions within the scope of the LDP need to be considered.
- Planning could help encourage efficient building design to reduce GHG emissions.
- Planning could also promote adaptation measures like sustainable drainage systems and green infrastructure.
- There is a need to provide active and sustainable travel options across the Council area to help reduce reliance on the car and reduce emissions.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Will reduce greenhouse gas emissions b) Likely to reduce energy consumption c) Likely to reduce the need to travel by vehicle d) Increases/supports/promotes/enables renewable energy e) Enables/promotes public transport, walking/cycling. f) Helps reduce consumption/waste production and increases recycling g) Protects floodplains h) Protects peatlands and other natural assets that act as attenuation features. i) Incorporates measures to adapt to climate change j) Reduces the risk of damage to property from storm events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Likely to increase greenhouse gas emissions l) Unlikely to reduce energy consumption m) Unlikely to reduce vehicle use n) Restricts/inhibits/detracts from renewable energy o) Maintains reliance on vehicles and discourages public transport, walking/cycling. p) Encourages consumption and increases waste levels q) Removes/damages/reduces the extent or holding capacity of floodplains r) Removes/damages/reduces peatlands and other natural assets that act as attenuation features. s) Does not consider adaptation for climate change t) Does not reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events

11. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, manage and use water resources sustainably.

Rationale

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

Key Issues

- River water quality is significantly lower than the NI average in the Council area. Just 14% of river waterbodies in the Council area met 'good' water quality status (NI average 31.2%).
- All of the shellfish production areas in Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour failed to meet Water Framework Directive microbiological targets in 2017. 6/7 areas in Strangford and Carlingford Lough achieved the target.
- Marine water quality at Strangford Lough, Carlingford Lough and the Mourne Coast is not meeting 'good' standard.
- Bathing water quality is excellent at three out of four of the Council's bathing beaches. Newcastle's bathing water rated only 'sufficient' in 2016 and 'good' in 2015.
- Development may lead to contaminated runoff which may increase pollution of waterbodies.
- Developments without access to mains sewers can incorporate sewage treatment on site. However, it is important that there is capacity for safe disposal of treated discharges and for maintenance of the treatment system to ensure that it remains effective in the long term.
- Other wastes may also cause water pollution at the point where they are used or disposed of, e.g. wastes from livestock production, food processing or primary treatment such as sewage or anaerobic digesters.
- Newry, Warrenpoint, Newcastle and Downpatrick are identified as significant flood risk areas and there are four other settlements at moderate risk of flooding.
- Constructed flood alleviation and defence measures are expensive and should be avoided.
- It is predicted that the risk and extent of flooding, particularly coastal flooding, will be increased by climate change.
- Development should be planned to avoid areas at significant risk from flooding, now or in the future, or where development may increase the flood risk elsewhere.
- Development may lead to changes in the rate of surface water runoff, or the capacity of a receiving watercourse may be altered which in turn has the potential to increase flood risk.
- There are benefits in retaining and restoring natural flood plains and watercourses as a form of flood alleviation - this can support objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- A safety issue arises because legal requirements relating to impounded water have not been fully implemented in legislation. There are considered to be risks in potential inundation zones below reservoirs.
- Sustainable drainage (SuDS) measures could be incorporated and maintained in new development and redevelopment or regeneration schemes.
- Plan proposals should be compatible with the Flood Risk Management Plans published by Rivers Agency in December 2015.
- Development in general requires a water supply therefore can increase demands for sources, treatment and distribution infrastructure. This can be offset by measures to make more efficient use of water.
- Seasonal fluctuations in population numbers due to tourism causes additional pressures on water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Water treatment and the supply of drinking water is not a constraint on development in this Council.

- The larger wastewater treatment works generally have good capacity. There are some constraints on WwTW provision for small settlements. This may limit or delay potential for development.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improve the quality of surface and ground water to meet objectives b) Lead to more efficient use of water c) Minimise risks from flooding d) Avoid the need for flood defence e) Protect or enhance floodplains f) Maintain water flows for good ecological quality g) Protect aquatic food resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h) Reduce quality of surface and ground water i) Fail to meet water quality objectives j) Lead to waste of water k) Increase risks from flooding (now or in future) l) Risk creating a need for flood defence m) Reduce the extent or holding capacity of floodplains n) Water flows/temperature not suitable for good ecological quality. o) Unsustainable impacts on aquatic food resources

12. The objective for sustainable development is to protect natural resources and enhance biodiversity.

Rationale

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

Key Issues

- There are three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the area reflecting the regional importance of landscapes and natural heritage. High levels of visitors and recreation can place pressures on habitats and local road networks.
- The District has a long and varied coastline much of which is designated to protect coastal and marine habitats.
- Coastal erosion and flooding need to be taken into account today and in the context of climate change when planning for development.
- Wetlands are an important feature of our area and some may be vulnerable to small scale development.
- Local development pressure from rural housing and renewables is evident in some parts of the Council which may impact on environmental designated areas.
- The Council has a statutory duty to further biodiversity conservation within its functions.
- A new Local Biodiversity Action Plan is in preparation which will highlight our priorities for biodiversity.
- The LDP can help identify and protect green and blue networks to provide wildlife corridors and amenity for residents and visitors and it can also protect areas that are important for providing ecosystem services.

Appraisal Prompts

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Protects and/or enhances designated sites and their buffers	e) Unlikely to protect or enhance designated sites or their buffers
b) Protects and/or enhances local biodiversity	f) Unlikely to protect or enhance local biodiversity
c) Protects/enhances/incorporates green/blue infrastructure (G/BI)	g) Removes/damages/excludes green/blue infrastructure (G/BI)
d) Supports/provides ecosystem services	h) Negatively impacts on ecosystem services

13. The objective for sustainable development is to maintain and enhance landscape character.	
Rationale	
International and national policies seek to conserve the natural character and landscape of the coast and countryside and protect them from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development. This objective seeks to maintain the character and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes and to protect and enhance open spaces and the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors.	
Key Issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Newry, Mourne & Down District Council area contains 3 AONBs which cover 55.7% of the District. These landscapes have been recognised as being of regional or local importance. ▪ The District has a variety of landscapes including 25 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), some of which are shared with neighbouring council areas. There are 5 Regional Landscape Character Areas and 7 Regional Seascape Character Areas. The District is also home to a number of Areas of High Scenic Value. ▪ Areas identified as being vulnerable to change within the District include ; all of the Mournes AONB, in particular the high Mournes, the entirety of the Ring of Gullion AONB and the southern portion of the Strangford and Lecale AONB. ▪ Development pressure exists in regards to rural dwellings with development pressure most prevalent along the coast and Mourne foothills to the north despite the added protection of being located within an AONB. ▪ The District has been subject to an increase in turbine applications in recent years and as a result has led to piecemeal development of single wind turbines in some areas. ▪ Large parts of the coast are designated nature sites, due to their productive and biologically diverse ecosystems – such as mudflats, sand dunes, reefs and cliffs and therefore protection of this resource must be given careful consideration. ▪ The District's coast has potential to support a range of renewable energy types but any form of renewables development should be approached with respect to protecting and conserving the environment including the landscape. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
a) Continue to protect areas designated for landscape b) Minimise any visual intrusion c) Protect and/or enhance the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors d) Avoid major impacts on coastal views e) Sensitively integrate new development to protect and enhance local distinctiveness f) Able to appropriately consider any impacts on neighbouring landscape designations including AONBs	g) Negatively impact on areas designated for landscape h) Increase any visual intrusion i) Detract from the setting of prominent features, settlements and transport corridors j) Negatively impact on coastal views k) New development not integrated to enhance local distinctiveness l) Unable to consider relevant landscape related management plans or landscape designations

14. The objective for sustainable development is to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Rationale

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

Key Issues

- The historic environment and cultural heritage play a role in maintaining and enhancing the sense of place in our settlements and rural locations which can be supported by building design recognising historic environment evidence in both urban and rural locations.
- The historical and archaeological interest connected to St Patrick is of regional significance for tourism.
- Heritage assets are at risk from neglect, decay, development pressures and vacancy.
- 'Buildings at Risk' should continue to be identified and efforts made by the relevant authority to maintain their regular use and/or support their restoration.
- The innovative reuse of existing historic building stock should be promoted. Low carbon buildings are possible through the use of sympathetic materials. Climate change resilience measures can be added.
- The Council area's rich cultural and heritage assets can contribute to a high quality built environment that helps to create attractive places for living, investing in and visiting.
- The Council area contains centres, villages and towns which each have a unique sense of place, and character. Protecting this sense of place aspect has benefits for people and their pride in their community.
- Protecting built heritage features and recognising their value extends beyond listing and enforcement. Consideration should be given to the setting of those features, along with the scale and context of surrounding buildings.
- The Council area has an immensely rich archaeological heritage. This could be further explored through identifying new Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- The setting and landscape of the ASAs and any potential new ASAs should be preserved. Many archaeological settings are associated with particular landscapes, such as hill tops, ridges and drumlins.
- Undesignated marine Heritage Assets such as Shipwrecks and Submerged Landscape Sites, whilst not statutorily protected, must be given appropriate evaluation and consideration.
- Regionally important historic buildings, such as Castle Ward, are set in a natural environment. The natural and built environment can add value to each other.
- The Council area has a rich industrial heritage through cereals milling, flax production and tanning, its 18th and 19th Century transport engineering and defence heritage associated with World Wars I & II.
- Further opportunities could be explored to link heritage assets with tourism and to encourage use / reuse of resources for community / education activities.
- Appreciating the value of built heritage should also apply to new buildings.
- There is ongoing loss of certain non-designated heritage assets such as historic farmsteads and buildings in the countryside, industrial and defence heritage, and historic shopfronts in some towns and settlements. Non-designated buildings which are of heritage or architectural importance in the context of overall landscape, townscape or heritage value should be recognised for their role in conserving these settings.
- Conservation Areas in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Newry, Rostrevor, Saintfield and Warrenpoint are in areas designated as Significant Flood Risk Areas/Areas for Further Study and parts may be at risk of flooding both with and without the effects of climate change.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be opportunities to maintain or reflect historic routeways and townland boundaries. Traffic pollution, air quality and noise pollution may adversely affect the historic environment. 	
Appraisal Prompts	
Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect and conserve built and cultural heritage b) Enhance built and cultural heritage c) Allow 'sense of place' to be conserved in townscape and rural settings and protect local distinctiveness d) Allow archaeological features to be assessed, recorded and preserved e) Preserve and enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets f) Support access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment g) Enable assessment of impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements h) Provide opportunities for cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Loss of built and cultural heritage j) Lose 'sense of place' in townscape and rural settings and reduce local distinctiveness. k) Archaeological features not assessed, recorded and preserved l) Damage the setting of cultural heritage assets m) Reduce access to, interpretation of and understanding of the historic environment n) Impacts of development on complex and extensive archaeological sites adjacent to settlements not understood o) Decrease opportunities for cultural activities

APPENDIX 6: CONSULTATION BODY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPING REPORT TEMPLATE

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
General Comments	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<p>We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.</p> <p>A number of baseline data sources and relevant strategies/reports are detailed in the Local Development Plans, DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information Guidance available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/development-plan-evidence-guide-documents.</p> <p>There is likely to be some overlap between the information required for the SEA assessment and the information that is gathered for technical LDP papers such as Countryside Assessments. However, it should be noted that we have not reviewed technical reports as part of this scoping consultation and there may be additional significant environmental issues affected by new development that should be considered in the environmental report such as cumulative loss of habitat or changes to air quality, both urban and rural.</p> <p>The scope and level of detail of information in the SEA should be proportionate to the content and purpose of the plan. Whilst regional or district based trends and indicators may help to assess certain high level and strategic aspects of the plans more detailed and spatially specific information would be required to assess other elements of the plan in particular any aspects of the plan with a spatial dimension or influence.</p> <p>The Development Plan Practice Note for Sustainability Appraisal incorporating SEA was produced by the former Department of the Environment in 2015. This document is intended to guide users through the key requirements of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA and deals primarily with procedures as well as good practice. Some of its content may be useful when developing the SEA documents associated with the LDP such as Preferred Options papers. https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practicenotes/dp_practice_note_4_sa.pdf</p>	<p>Noted, data referred to in https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/daera-environmental-evidence-guide-may-2017.pdf has been accessed and, where available, information at Council level has been sourced. The need to access more spatially specific information to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Plan strategy.</p>
Natural Resources	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<p><u>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</u></p> <p>We are broadly content with the envisaged layout of the SEA report template.</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of Biodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure and Landscape within the scope of the Natural Resources SEA topic. We would expect that this will also include priority habitats and species. There are significant interactions between Biodiversity and the topics Health & Well-being, Physical Resources, Water, Air, Landscape and Climatic Factors.</p>	<p>The interactions between this topic and other objectives has been noted and section 5.12.1 updated. Appendix 7 provides baseline information about European and Ramsar sites. The need to access more spatially specific information (e.g. priority</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>We acknowledge that most of the information required to inform the SEA will have been collected as part of the preparation of technical papers such as the Countryside Assessment.</p> <p><u>Baseline Evidence</u></p> <p>Information sources include: NIEA Natural Heritage Digital datasets which includes protected sites and priority habitats https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets</p> <p>Northern Ireland State of the Environment Report 2013 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013</p> <p>Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2017 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmentalstatistics-report-2017</p> <p>National Ecosystems Assessment, Chapter 18 on Northern Ireland http://uknea.unepwcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m%2BvhAV3c9uk%3D&ta</p> <p>Priority species records can be obtained from the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR). These can be accessed by contacting CEDaR, National Museums NI, 153 Bangor Road, Cultra, Holywood, BT18 0EU. Website: http://www.nmni.com/cedar</p>	species and non-designated priority habitat) to inform spatial designations is noted and will be considered at Plan Strategy
Natural Resources	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<p><u>Marine</u></p> <p>We advise that marine planning sits alongside and interacts with terrestrial planning systems. When taking any decision which relates to any function capable of affecting (or which might affect) the marine area, which is not an authorisation or enforcement decision, Section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and Section 8 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, require a public authority to have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents.</p> <p>Appropriate marine policy documents include the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS) and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (when adopted).</p> <p>This means that in preparation of the Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan and all of its associated documents, including this Scoping Report, you (working on behalf of the Council as the public authority), must ensure that this Scoping Report has regard to the UK Marine Policy Statement (as the current marine policy document).</p> <p>Careful attention must be paid to the UK MPS, as this document has the equivalent standing consistent with that of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS).</p> <p>Specific comments are outlined below:</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Details of the strategic context referred to have been included in Section 4.3.5 and Appendix 4 and/or Water or Natural Heritage topics where available.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Reference to the NI Marine Plan will be updated once it is published.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is suggested that the objectives for sustainable development (page 1) include the marine aspect. MCG - Marine Coordination Group is listed in the Glossary but this term is not evident within in the document. Given the Council area shares a significant boundary with the marine area it is suggested that the marine area is reflected within the Connected principle under Section 3.2 and within Section 3.3. Given the Council has a legal responsibility to have regard to marine policy documents, it is advised that reference to the UK MPS is included within Section 4.2, 5.2 and 5.3 (and Appendix 4). The UK MPS sets out the framework for taking decisions that affect the marine area. As marine planning policy, it sits alongside and interacts with terrestrial planning policy. Marine issues should not be limited to 'environmental' related SA topic areas. Consequently, you are advised to have regard to the policies contained within the UK MPS for each of the SA topics listed in Table 5.1 to ensure the scope is appropriate. It is suggested that baseline information I evidence base on the marine area can be obtained from the SA Scoping Report for the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, which is available on the DAERA website at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/marine/marine-planning <p>We welcome the document's recognition of 'maritime' heritage assets under 14. Historic Environment and Cultural Resources (p. 16). This definition should be inclusive of boat finds and shipwrecks, prehistoric archaeological remains and aircraft losses and further recognise the potential importance of non- designated sites as per the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and emerging regional Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. Marine planning and its associated obligations need to be appropriately considered within the LDP not just for Natural Resources (see Key Sustainability Issues, p. 33) but also for cultural heritage resources.</p> <p>Information on the location of all archaeological/historic sites held in the Monuments and Building Record (MBR) of Northern Ireland can be obtained by contacting the MBR Team at mbr-enquiries@communities-ni.gov.uk. Information available from the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record can also be found online at: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/sites-and-monuments-record. The SEA should also recognise the potential impact upon sites and features that are otherwise unrecorded and not just designated and recorded sites and features. In other words there needs to be clear recognition of the potential importance of newly discovered sites and features that may arise as a result of activities.</p>	<p>Noted and will address at Plan Strategy No longer in glossary.</p> <p>This had been address in the Connected principle, now section 2.2.</p> <p>This has been addressed in sections 3.2, 4.3.5 and Appendix 4.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Added.</p> <p>Added.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>The SEA should consider the potential effects of plan activities in relation to current understanding of submerged cultural heritage in the context of international and national protection measures, planning policy and best practice industry guidance. The SEA should recognise the potential for impact on marine archaeology arising from proposed activities in marine and intertidal areas and that site-specific surveys may be necessary before development decisions can be taken to prevent any loss to the marine archaeological resource.</p> <p>Relevant policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and elements of the historic landscape in marine and intertidal areas include: PPS 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage and Addendum; Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS); Marine Policy Statement (MPS) and the emerging Marine Plan for NI. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) also supports the conservation and protection of cultural heritage, whilst recognising heritage as key tourism and recreational assets. The SEA should also recognise the Annex or 'Rules' of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001) as being 'best practice' policy for underwater archaeology (in line with the rest of the UK).</p> <p>The SEA should include the heading of Bathing Water Directive under section 6.11.2 (page 24) to ensure this topic is addressed when the review of baseline information is carried out.</p> <p>The SEA should highlight that all construction or deposition works below the Mean High Water Spring Tide (MHWST) mark are subject to licensing under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Developments in the intertidal area may require both planning permission and a marine licence. Further information may be obtained from the Marine Licensing Team, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division, 1st Floor, Klondyke Building, Gasworks Business Park, Cromac Avenue, Belfast BT7 2JA, Tel: 028 90569247.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>This is covered in section 5.11.1.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
Air Quality	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	We would suggest that air quality could also go against other SEA objectives apart from just 'Air', for example, objectives 1, 8 and 9 (p16, s5.1).	Air quality is acknowledged in these objectives, however not addressed in detail. Table 4.1.1 has therefore not been amended.
Noise	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<p>We note that 'Noise' is one of the 'Health and Well-being' topics. Considerations should include:</p> <p>Noise maps for Northern Ireland that the Department has produced which can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise</p> <p>Relevant guidance and standards for noise as well as the Noise Policy statement: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/noise</p>	Noise mapping data has been sourced and presented in the Health and Well-being section. There are no Quiet Areas in the Borough.

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/noise-policy-statement-ni.PDF The presence and location of any Quiet Areas.	
Historic Environment	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<p><u>Historic Environment</u></p> <p>We note and welcome the inclusion of Historic Environment issues as a heading in your scoping template document and in Strategic Objective 14.</p> <p>In general HED recommend the terms "historic environment" and "heritage asset(s)" be used as opposed to terms such as built/cultural heritage/built and archaeological heritage, throughout your plan strategy. These terms better encompass the full suite of heritage assets including structures, archaeology and landscapes and would provide some consistency through the documents.</p> <p>The National Monuments and Buildings Record for Northern Ireland contains a great deal of information on the historic environment and Historic Environment Division (HED) encourage local authorities to utilize this resource in LDP preparation. We would highlight the following GIS spatial data evidence bases which are critical for use in your scoping exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic environment heritage assets, including Scheduled and State Care monuments - The attached link https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets makes available spatial evidence on a wide variety of heritage assets, including scheduled monuments, afforded statutory protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 and Listed Buildings, afforded protection under Article 80 of The Planning Act (NI) 2011. Further datasets are available on the Sites and Monuments Record, Industrial Heritage, Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes, Battlesites, Defence Heritage, ASAls and AAPs. Please ensure to recheck our datasets to download up to date versions as they are subject to change as new assets are designated or recognised. Note, the SEA should also recognise the potential impact on heritage assets that are otherwise unrecorded and not just designated and recorded sites and features, i.e. there needs to be clear recognition of the potential importance of newly discovered heritage assets that may arise. Marine historic environment - GIS spatial datasets can be requested from Rory McNeary, rory.mcneary@daera-ni.gov.uk The Gazetteer of Nucleated Historic Settlements (information on request from HED - draft copy attached). This is the result of a programme of work 	<p>Noted, the section on Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage has been expanded to reflect this input. Noted.</p> <p>Information is summarised however it is not considered proportionate to include very detailed information at this strategic stage of plan preparation. It will inform spatial considerations at a later stage. Information on marine and submerged archaeology has been sourced from DAERA.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>undertaken by HED to identify historic settlement centres and from these in some cases, areas of archaeological potential, identifying new ones and potentially modifying others. While the zones are in draft it will nonetheless be a useful tool going forward in the LOP process. We will in due course supply some text in relation to each zone identified and the history of the settlement. HED can provide spatial data, on ASAI, AAPs and Candidate ASAs upon request. An Excel spreadsheet outlining the AAPs in your area is attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping. We also highlight the many other sites of heritage interest in your district, which are not yet listed in our records. These include historic boundaries such as townland and parish boundaries and some later historic cemeteries. <p>The evidence used in populating your scoping report should cross reference to assessments and LDP documentation which your Council area has already prepared (e.g. countryside assessment). The report should identify key characteristics of the historic environment and also demonstrate consideration, understanding and awareness of international conventions, as well as local legislation and policies which provide protection for the historic environment in Northern Ireland. A document of particular worth in the preparation of your LDP would be the published "<i>An Archaeological Survey of County Armagh</i>" and "<i>Strangford Lough -An archaeological survey of the maritime cultural landscape</i>".</p> <p>HED highlight the importance of recognizing the relationship of the historic environment to other headings including health and wellbeing, education and economic growth (e.g. tourism, traditional skills training), and sustainable use of physical resources. In relation to the compatibility matrix in Appendix 3 of your report we comment that provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives - For example, new housing can sometimes lead to dereliction of historic stock, or large schemes might adversely impact on previously unrecorded archaeological remains. In relation to Appendix 2 we highlight that historic environment and landscape are intertwined as each have Influenced the evolution of the other.</p> <p>We further point out the very large number of strategic heritage assets in your area. Highlights include State Care Monuments including sites like Narrow Water Castle, Greencastle and Inch Abbey, the Craigmore Viaduct, the historic towns of Newry and Downpatrick, both are some of Ireland's most ancient and historic towns, and the many listed buildings, scheduled monuments and sites</p>	<p>This document was not easily available to SES, and will be addressed at Plan Strategy.</p> <p>Appendix 3 is updated to reflect the comment that provision of good quality housing has an uncertain relationship and is not always compatible with the historic environment objectives.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>such as the Newry Canal. Several of the settlement patterns in your district have their origins in the medieval period and the town of Downpatrick, affiliated with Ireland's best known saint, merits specific consideration as a settlement where complex and extensive below ground archaeological remains as well as historic fabric incorporated into later structures, are known to exist. Co-operation cross boundary will be important to maintain historic integrity of ancient landscape characteristics and connections such as those which extend across Carlingford and Strangford Lough.</p> <p>As well as the existing ASAI in your area HED have also consulted the Historic Monuments Council on the identification new candidate ASAI at Greencastle and at Slieve Gullion.</p> <p>We stress the opportunity that the local development plan presents to realise the potential of the historic environment in your district, for economic, social and health and environmental benefits.</p> <p>HED maintain an independent role in relation to the drafting of LDPs and emphasise the importance of authorities being able to demonstrate how they have utilized the evidence on the historic environment in characterizing their landscape, and in considering zonings for development and forms of mitigation such as appropriate designation or key site requirements.</p>	
Water Quality	DAERA: NIEA 18/12/2017	<p>NIEA note that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) has been identified within the draft SEA Scoping template. It is key that the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Local Development Plan takes the WFD and statutory River Basin Management Plans into consideration and the achievement of the objectives therein. As a public body, the council has a duty to have regard to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the river basin management plan for that district; and (b) any supplementary plan published under regulation 16 in exercising their duties. <p>River Basin Management is a key element in implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD), taking an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. Revised River Basin Management plans were published in December 2015.</p> <p>The plans relevant to your area will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Neagh Bann River Basin management Plan Summary (December 2015) ■ North East River Basin management Plan Summary (December 2015) 	<p>Noted, information on water quality specific to the Council was obtained from NIEA and incorporated in the Water section.</p> <p>Flooding has been addressed under the water and climatic factors topics and was fully considered in appraisal.</p> <p>The RBMPs and FRMPs were reviewed and information incorporated into the scoping at a proportionate scale for this stage of the Plan process. SES will retain the main reference to flooding within the Water chapter, with the agreement of DfI Rivers Agency.</p>

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>Updated information on the water quality classifications of surface waters and groundwaters in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Council area should be obtained from nieawaterinfo@daera-ni.gov.uk</p> <p>As part of the River Basin Planning process a Programme of Measures has been established to detail the improvements required to meet 'Good' status, the actions required and the delivery mechanisms. The programme of measures aims to address the key pressures by concentrating efforts on those pressures that pose the greatest threat to the water environment. From pressure assessments conducted we have identified two significant sources of pressure preventing water bodies from achieving good status in the Neagh Bann and North East RBD. These are diffuse pressures from agricultural sources and point source pressures from WWTWs and industrial discharges.</p> <p>Other pressures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - diffuse and point source pollution - pollution arising from a number of other sources including forestry, sediment urban catchments, quarries & mines, waste & contaminated land and chemicals; - water quantity and flow - taking too much water from rivers, lakes and groundwater which causes problems for wildlife, reduces the amount of water available for people to use and affects the environmental ecology; - the physical condition of the water environment - man made changes to the natural habitat of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters, for example flood defences and weirs, and changes to the natural river channels for land drainage and navigation. These modifications alter natural flows, may cause excessive build-up of sediment, increase erosion, reduce the quality of habitats and may also present a barrier to fish movement; - invasive alien species - the negative effects on the health of the water environment and native plants and animals from those species originating outside Northern Ireland and introduced to the Northern Ireland water environment; and - other pressures - factors that affect fish populations and habitat not captured above. <p>The Programmes of Measures have been brigaded under topics and each of the documents are available from the DAERA web-site, under the following Programme of Measures topic headings: Agriculture; Sewage & Industry; Forestry; Sediment; Urban Catchment; Quarries & Mines including Oil & Gas exploration; Waste & Contaminated land; Chemicals; Abstraction & Flow Regulation; Morphology; Invasive Alien Species; and Fisheries. The SA/SEA should be proportionate in assessing these measures against the likely impact of Local Development Plan documents. A full list of the measures has been</p>	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>included as an Annex to this letter, for ease of future reference.</p> <p><u>Waste Water Treatment Provision</u> A technical paper for the LDP (or the SA/SEA) should identify all the waste water treatment works (WWTW's) and sewerage networks in your Council area and assess them against their current capacity, and environmental performance, and their predicated capacity during the lifetime of the Local Development Plan. This information should be aligned with Northern Ireland Waters infrastructure investment strategy set out in their price Control processes and the Long Term Water Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (to be published 2016) ▪ PC15 (NIW's draft expenditure plan 2015-2021). <p>This information should be used proportionately in the different stages of the LDP SA/SEA process.</p> <p>At some stage in the process suitable mitigation measures may be required to ensure the zoning of land and the timing of the release of that land for development is aligned with the availability of suitable waste water treatment infrastructure to service the developments to ensure there is adequate protection for the water environment.</p> <p>We would recommend the water topic should be split to form a topic on water quality and resources, and a separate topic on flood risk.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Drainage Systems</u> The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) states that the planning system should help to mitigate and adapt to climate change by, among other actions, working with natural environmental processes, for example through promoting the development of green infrastructure and also the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.</p> <p>In managing development, particularly in areas susceptible to surface water flooding, planning authorities should encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) as the preferred drainage solution. Such systems are widely used in other UK jurisdictions and have been shown to be more effective than traditional piped drainage in reducing surface water flooding as well as providing other environmental, economic and social benefits. Furthermore, using permeable materials for hard landscaped surfaces in new developments can reduce soil sealing.</p>	

SA Topic	Date	Comments	How addressed
		<p>Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) recommends that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are incorporated, and where appropriate, into the drainage design of all new developments for the environmental management of rainfall / surface water drainage.</p> <p>Temporary SuDS can also be used during the construction phase as pollution prevention measures for silt management and to prevent erosion. Where possible these should be retained or adapted as part of the final permanent site drainage solution.</p> <p>Surface water should be dealt with as close as possible to where it falls as rain (source control) and the use of two or more SuDS components can be used for the optimal solution to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Manage rainfall to mimic natural drainage by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ reducing runoff rates; □ reducing additional runoff volumes and frequencies; and □ encouraging natural groundwater recharge. ■ Minimise impacts on quantity and quality of runoff by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ reducing pollution and protecting the quality of receiving waters; □ preventing direct discharge of spillage; and □ reducing the volume of surface waste runoff to sewers. ■ Maximise amenity and biodiversity opportunity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ contributing to the amenity and aesthetic value of the development; □ and providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity. <p>Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.</p>	

APPENDIX 7: HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT BASELINE REPORT

Introduction

The requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment is introduced in Section 1.7.1 of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is an iterative process carried out in parallel with Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation and will be updated in line with knowledge of potential Plan effects and any changes relating to European sites. This report provides a long list of sites for which effects of the Plan will be reviewed. These will be considered in the context of how they are connected with the LDP area and potential effects of the LDP on its own and in combination with other Plans and Projects.

This screening takes a precautionary approach. There will be no conceivable effect on many of the long listed sites, for example on those that are over 10km away and have no ecological or infrastructure connection, therefore a number of these sites will be excluded from further consideration at the next stage of assessment. It must be emphasised that only some of the potential impacts may arise. Measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate for impacts will be incorporated into the Plan where necessary and feasible, or proposals amended to avoid adverse effects on site integrity. These will be taken into account in preparing the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.

The policies and spatial zonings proposed within the Plan will be assessed to determine whether any of the potential impacts could materialise as a result of the Plan. This will consider the source of potential impacts, any pathways to European sites and whether the impact could have a significant effect on site selection features, their conservation objectives and site integrity along with any avoidance and mitigation measures identified in the course of assessment and Plan preparation. The evidence in Table A.7.1 and further evidence available at each stage of assessment will be taken into account.

Table A.7.1: Evidence to inform baseline data and further Habitats Regulations Assessment

JNCC Standard Data Forms	JNCC Standard Data Forms ¹ generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on 22/12/2015.
NIEA Conservation Objectives	The most recent NIEA Conservation Objectives for each site found on DAERA website ² .
Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2013 Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2013 ³ and Appropriate Assessment Report on the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 ⁴ .
Spatial Data Local Government	LPS Administrative Boundaries LGDs 2012 13/10/2014
Spatial Data European and Ramsar sites	NIEA Data Layers for designated and proposed European and Ramsar sites

¹ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=4>

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity-land-and-landscapes/protected-areas>

³ Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report https://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/development_plans/devplans_az/bnm_2015.htm

⁴ Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 Appropriate Assessment Report https://www.planningni.gov.uk/ardsdown_2015.htm

Overview

This is a summary of the long list of sites to be considered, how they are connected to the LDP area and potential issues. The sites listed are those for which there is a potential pathway allowing a connection with the Plan area. In total 35 sites are listed, eleven Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), one candidate SAC, seven Special Protection Areas (SPAs), two proposed SPAs, seven Ramsar sites and two proposed Ramsar sites. Three further SACs and two SPAs are located in the Republic of Ireland. All sites within 15km of the LDP area (Figure A7.1) were considered. The sites are listed in Table A.7.2 and their locations relative to the Plan area are shown in Figures A.7.1 – A.7.4

All Maps: Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right.

Definitions of each type of connection follow:

Within or Adjacent

This means all or part of the European or Ramsar Site is within or directly adjacent to the Plan area. There are 30 designated sites within or directly adjacent to the LDP area. Just over a third (11) of all the sites within or adjacent to the LDP area are coastal or marine sites associated with Carlingford Lough, Strangford Lough, Dundrum Bay and Killough Bay. These coastal and marine sites share a boundary with roughly two thirds of the district's coastline. The largest terrestrial site is the Eastern Mourne SAC, which extends across 75km². The next largest terrestrial site, Slieve Gullion SAC, is around 6km². Generally speaking, the boundaries of the Ramsar sites are coincident with the associated SAC or SPA, however it is not known whether this will be the case for the two proposed Ramsar sites.

Ecological

This applies where the European or Ramsar Site is ecologically connected to the Plan area. Ecological connections include linkages by ecological corridors such as river systems; hydrological links between the LDP area and peatland or wetland sites; known areas of land in the LDP area which are regularly used by birds which also use a SPA; and sites that form part of the freshwater ecosystem to which the LDP area is connected. All the sites that are partly or wholly in the LDP area are ecologically connected. There may be non-designated areas which support species from designated sites in or beyond the LDP area and this includes whooper swan flight paths along parts of the coastline between Killough and Newcastle. These are also considered to have an ecological connection. There are some more distant sites which have been included as they are downstream of Newry, Mourne and Down. For example, parts of the River Lagan catchment are in the district. The River Lagan flows in to Belfast Lough, which is subject to several current and proposed designations.

Within 15km

This criteria identifies European or Ramsar sites which are outside the LDP area, but are within 15km of it. This brings a further seven sites into consideration. Most of these sites, including the four sites in the Republic of Ireland, have a hydrological connection with the LDP area and therefore effects are possible. The Outer Ards SPA and Ramsar has no direct hydrological connection with the LDP area, however the qualifying species may also use or depend on other wetland sites that are within the LDP area.

By Infrastructure

These are sites where the European or Ramsar Site is connected by infrastructure with the Plan area. Infrastructural connectivity is related to the potential linkage of sites to the LDP area by infrastructure services such as water abstraction or waste water discharges. There is one NIW water supply zone in

the district (ZS0810 Castor Bay Tandragee) which is supplied from an abstraction site outside the district - Lough Neagh. The Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA and Ramsar site are therefore also linked by infrastructure. The connection between water supply and European sites will be examined further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

Waste water treatment works (WwTW) may discharge into or upstream of designated sites and could have impacts if there was insufficient capacity for treatment. At January 2018 there were 72 settlements in the district served by 'large' WwTWs. Of these, 34 settlements have capacity available and new connections permitted. Nineteen settlements have limited capacity and restrictions are in place on new connections. Nine settlements have no capacity and new connections are refused. No data is available for ten settlements. In the absence of any works being undertaken to increase capacity, the number of settlements with 'Reasonable Capacity' will reduce significantly. Therefore there are potentially significant constraints on growth and careful consideration also needs to be given to housing not serviced by WwTW. This will be assessed further in the Habitats Regulations Assessment at Plan Strategy.

Table A.7.2: Potential pathways between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and European Sites for effects

European Site Name	Connection with Plan area				Potential Pathways (Summary of features)
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infrastructure	
Aughnadarragh Lough SAC	●	●			<i>Marsh fritillary butterfly</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Ballykilbeg SAC	●	●			<i>Marsh fritillary butterfly</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Belfast Lough Ramsar		●			<i>Waders</i> Nearest point 15.1 km from LDP area. Part of River Lagan catchment is within LDP area therefore there is a hydrological connection. Impacts which cause a major deterioration of water quality may adversely affect this site.
Belfast Lough SPA		●			<i>Waders and seabirds</i> Nearest point 15.7 km from LDP area. Part of River Lagan catchment is within LDP area therefore there is a hydrological connection. Impacts which cause a major deterioration of water quality may adversely affect this site.
Belfast Lough Open Water SPA		●			<i>Great crested grebe</i> Nearest point 15.8 km from LDP area. Part of River Lagan catchment is within LDP area therefore there is a hydrological connection. Impacts which cause a major deterioration of water quality may adversely affect this site.

European Site Name	Connection with Plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Carlingford Lough SPA	●	●			<i>Breeding and wintering seabirds</i> Immediately offshore and partly within LDP area. Also functional habitat inland of site. Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. May be adversely affected by increases in waste water discharges in the north western region of the Lough and the Newry River in particular.
Carlingford Lough SPA Proposed Marine Extension	●	●			<i>Breeding terns</i> Immediately borders the LDP area (offshore). Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other wetland sites that are within the LDP area. Discharges from wastewater have potential to impact the marine environment.
Carlingford Lough Ramsar Site	●	●			<i>Wetland habitat supporting an important assemblage of seabird species, in particular breeding terns and wintering geese</i> Immediately offshore and partly within LDP area. Also functional habitat inland of site. Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. May be adversely affected by increases in waste water discharges in the north western region of the Lough and the Newry River in particular.
Carlingford Lough SPA (ROI)		●	●		<i>Wetland habitat and wintering geese</i> Offshore from LDP area (nearest point 2km). Potential for direct impacts or hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other wetland sites that are within the LDP area. Discharges from wastewater have potential to impact the marine environment.
Carlingford Mountain SAC (ROI)	●	●			<i>Heath, grassland and fen / bog habitat</i> Shares a boundary with the LDP area. Potential for direct impacts or aerial pathways for effects. Hydrological pathways are unlikely, as the site is at a higher elevation than the LDP area.
Carlingford Shore SAC (ROI)		●	●		<i>Shoreline habitats</i> Nearest point 2 km from LDP area. Several river catchments in the LDP area drain in to Carlingford Lough meaning that there is a hydrological connection.
Derryleckagh SAC	●	●			<i>Inter-drumlin wetland and oak woodland</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.

European Site Name	Connection with Plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Derryleckagh proposed Ramsar Site	●	●			<p><i>Not yet published, assumed to be the same as Derryleckagh SAC: Inter-drumlin wetland and oak woodland</i></p> <p>Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.</p>
Dundalk Bay SAC (ROI)		●	●		<p><i>Saltmarsh and estuary habitats, shoreline vegetation.</i></p> <p>Nearest point 3.3km. Hydrologically connected to the LDP area through the Castletown, Flurry and Fane river basin catchments. Potential for effects via hydrological or aerial pathways. Discharges from wastewater have potential to impact the marine environment.</p>
Dundalk Bay SPA (ROI)		●	●		<p><i>Wetland habitat supporting large numbers of breeding and wintering seabirds</i></p> <p>Nearest point 3.3km. Hydrologically connected to the LDP area through the Castletown, Flurry and Fane river basin catchments. Potential for direct effects via hydrological or aerial pathways. Discharges from wastewater have potential to impact the marine environment. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other wetland sites that are within the LDP area.</p>
Dundrum Bay proposed Ramsar site	●	●			<p><i>Not yet published, assumed to be the same as wetland features of Murlough SAC: intertidal wetlands and salt marsh</i></p> <p>Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.</p>
East Coast Marine Proposed SPA	●	●			<p><i>Seabirds</i></p> <p>Part of the site immediately borders the LDP area (offshore). Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater have potential to impact the marine environment. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other marine sites that neighbour the LDP area.</p>
Eastern Mourne SAC	●	●		●	<p><i>Heaths, active blanket bog</i></p> <p>Within the LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Encompasses an abstraction area for drinking water. Major increases in demand for water should be considered.</p>
Hollymount SAC	●	●			<p><i>Native species woodland and wet woodland</i></p> <p>Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.</p>

European Site Name	Connection with Plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infrastructure	
Killough Bay SPA	●	●			<i>Wintering brent geese</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Potential links through disturbance. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other wetland sites that are within the LDP area.
Killough Bay Ramsar Site	●	●			<i>Wintering brent geese</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Potential links through disturbance. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other wetland sites that are within the LDP area.
Lecale Fens SAC	●	●			<i>Alkaline fens</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA				●	<i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species.</i> Nearest point 25.5km but connected by infrastructure. Castor Bay WTW abstracts from Lough Neagh and supplies drinking water to a small portion of the LGD. Major increased demand for water abstraction may impact on habitats or prey species on which features depend.
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar Site				●	<i>A number of wintering and breeding bird species, wetlands, rare invertebrates, plants and pollan (fish).</i> Nearest point 25.5km but connected by infrastructure. Castor Bay WTW abstracts from Lough Neagh and supplies drinking water to a small portion of the LGD. Major increased demand for water abstraction may impact on habitats or prey species on which features depend.
Murlough SAC	●	●			<i>Sand and mudflats, saltmarsh and sand dune habitats, marsh fritillary butterfly and seals.</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Common seal may range into waters adjacent to LDP area that are beyond the site boundary. Discharges from wastewater have the potential to impact the marine environment. Development of hard structures on the coast may influence coastal processes and sand dune formation.
North Channel Candidate SAC		●	●		<i>Harbour porpoise</i> Offshore site 4.3km from LDP area at nearest point. Also potential links through pollution and disturbance. Qualifying features may also use or depend on other marine sites or habitats that neighbour the LDP area.

European Site Name	Connection with Plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Outer Ards SPA		●	●		<i>Waders and seabirds</i> Nearest point 1.7km from LDP area. Potential for aerial or indirect hydrological pathways for effects. Potential links through disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend. Discharges from wastewater have the potential to impact the marine environment.
Outer Ards Ramsar Site		●	●		<i>Intertidal wetland supporting wintering geese and waders</i> Nearest point 1.7km from LDP area. Potential for aerial or indirect hydrological pathways for effects. Potential links through disturbance or to habitats elsewhere on which features depend. Discharges from wastewater have the potential to impact the marine environment.
Rostrevor Wood SAC	●	●			<i>Oak woodland</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Slieve Gullion SAC	●	●			<i>Heath</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.
Strangford Lough SAC	●	●			<i>Intertidal and subtidal habitats, seals</i> Partly within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater have potential to impact the marine environment. Common seal may range into waters adjacent to LDP area that are beyond the site boundary. Development of hard structures on the coast may influence coastal processes.
Strangford Lough SPA	●	●			<i>Habitat supporting a large assemblage of waterbirds including seabirds and waders</i> Partly within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater have the potential to impact the marine environment.
Strangford Lough Ramsar Site	●	●			<i>A variety of wetland features including saltmarsh and freshwater habitats and plants. Waterfowl and seabirds.</i> Partly within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects. Discharges from wastewater have the potential to impact the marine environment.
Turmennan SAC	●	●			<i>Transition mire and quaking bog</i> Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.

European Site Name	Connection with Plan area				Potential Pathways <i>(Summary of features)</i>
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	Within 15 km	By Infra-structure	
Turmennan Ramsar Site	●	●			<p><i>Lowland valley mire</i></p> <p>Within LDP area. Potential for direct impacts, in addition to hydrological or aerial pathways for effects.</p>

Figure A.7.1: SACs in or within 15km of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

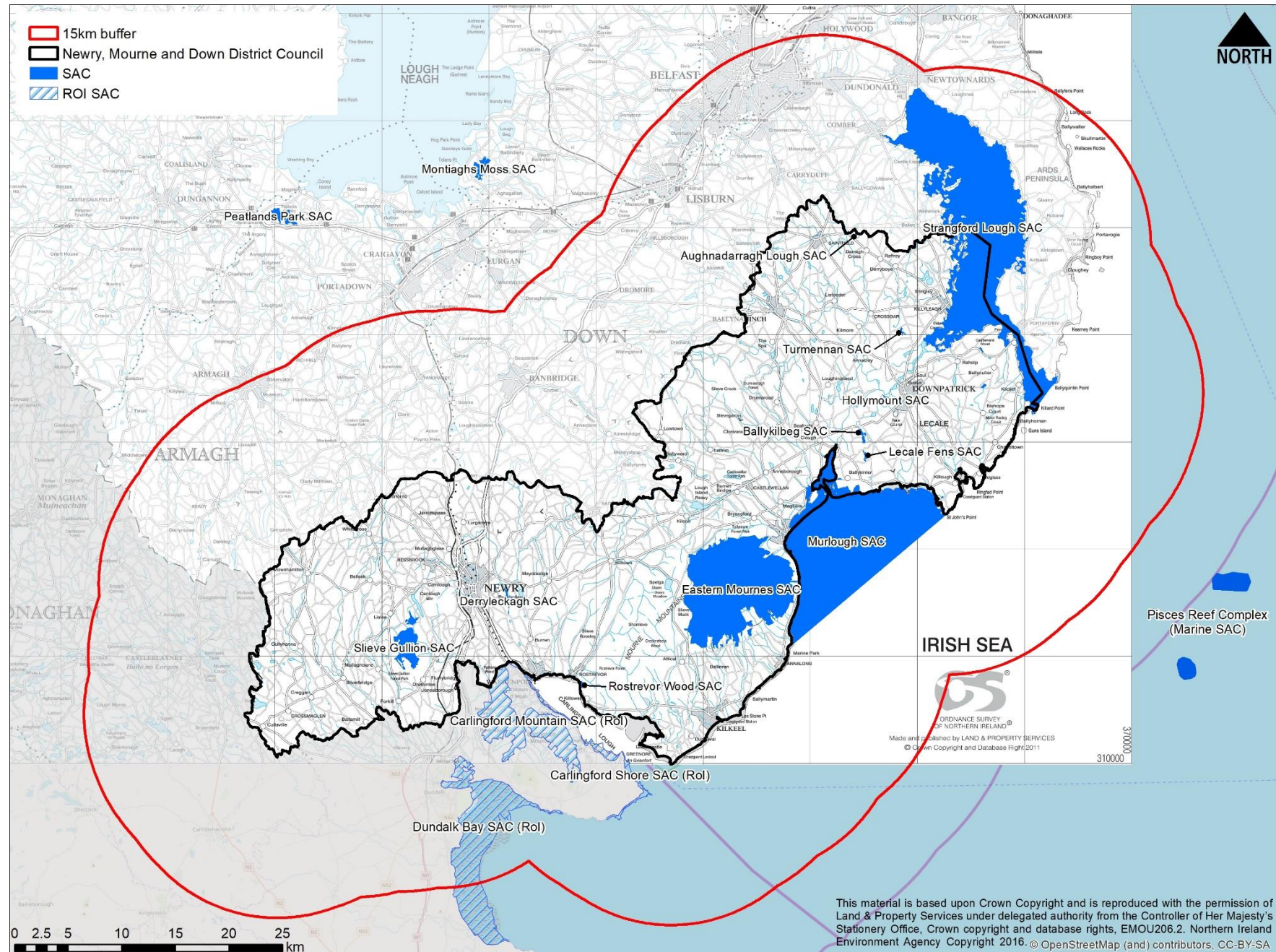
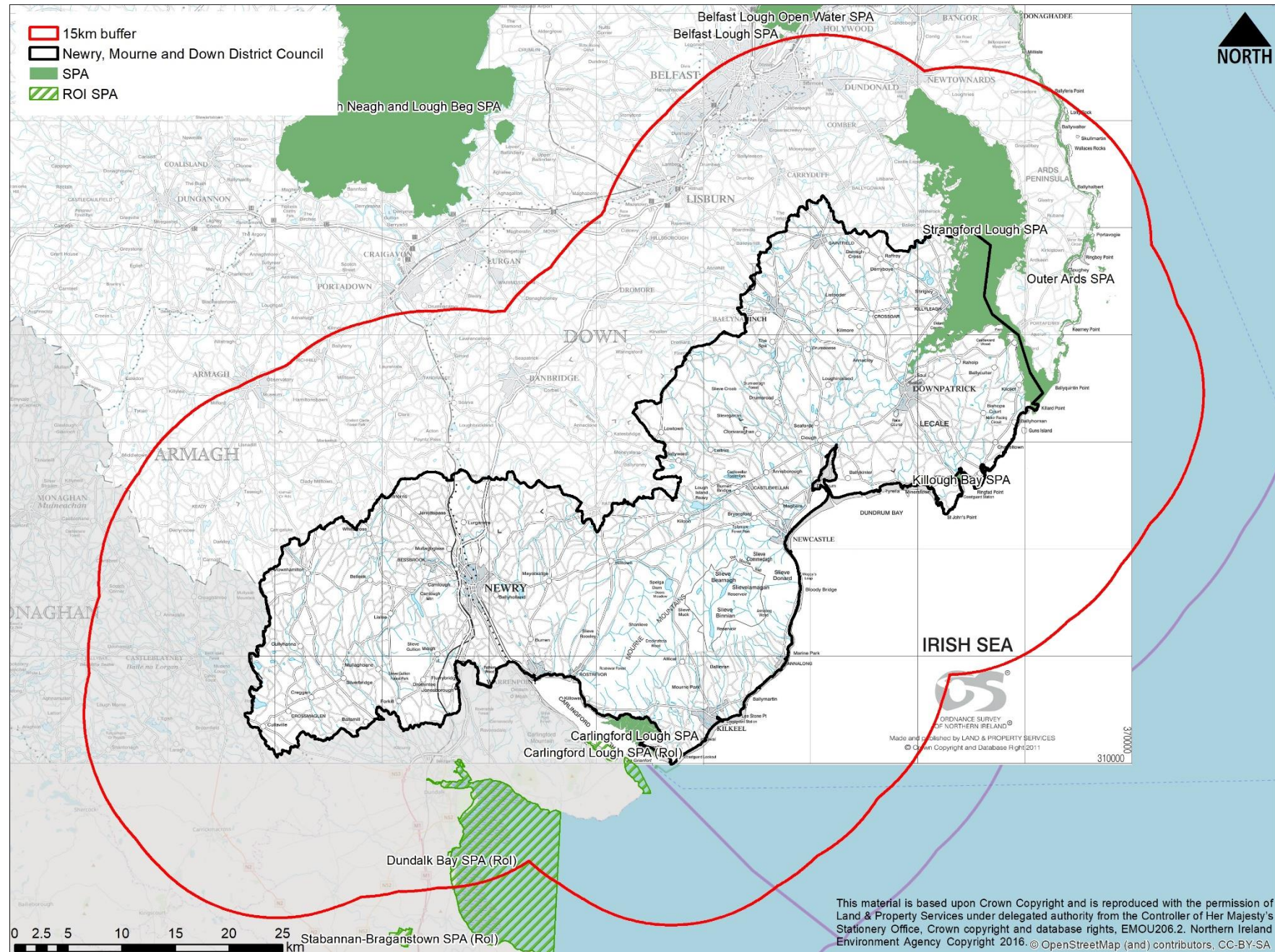


Figure A.7.2: SPAs in or within 15km of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



15km buffer
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Ramsar sites

LOUGH NEAGH & LOUGH BEG RAMSAR SITE

BELFAST LOUGH RAMSAR SITE

STRANGEFORD LOUGH RAMSAR SITE

OUTER ARDS RAMSAR SITE

TURMENAN RAMSAR SITE

KILLOUGH BAY RAMSAR SITE

CARLINGFORD LOUGH RAMSAR SITE

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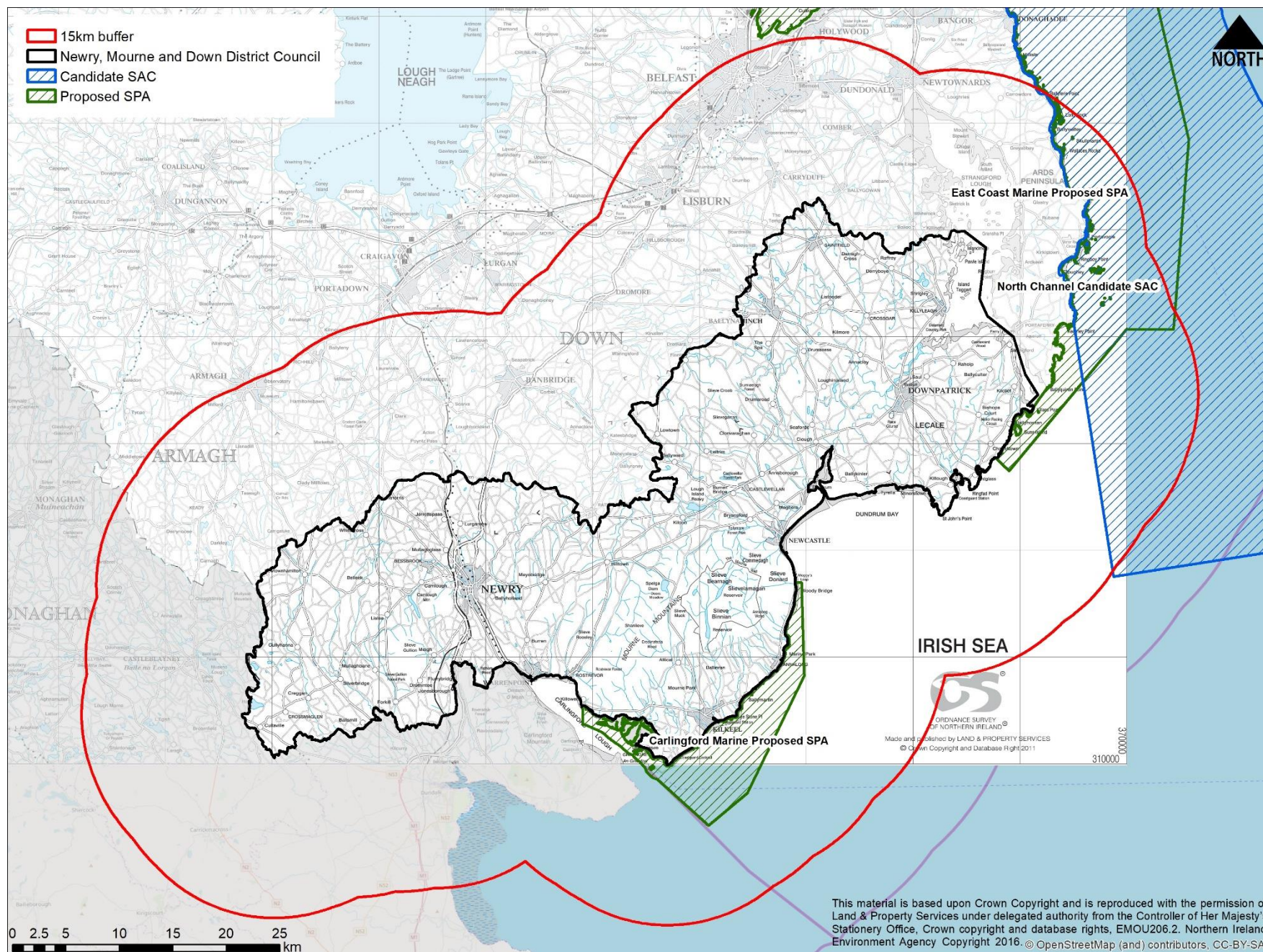
0 2.5 5 10 15 20 25 km

310000

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Figure A.7.4: Proposed SPAs and candidate SAC



Overall Potential Impacts

More detailed description follows in Table A.7.3 of potential development impacts that could arise as a result of the LDP. As more details of impacts that may arise through LDP delivery emerge these will be assessed in relation to European sites and their features. Note that this is a full list and some of the effects listed may not apply to the selection features of sites connected with the Plan area.

Table A.7.3: Potential development impacts to be assessed in relation to European sites

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
Loss, fragmentation, damage of habitats and / or species	Construction activities associated with LDP could lead to the loss, fragmentation (or obstruction of movement) or damage of habitats and / or species through:
	Direct land take and / or land clearance and the use of machinery/materials.
	Direct and indirect impacts resulting from the construction and operation of built development and required infrastructure.
	Impacts caused during repair and maintenance activities for built development and required infrastructure.
	Direct impacts associated with mineral development in the Plan area.
	Removal, fragmentation or physical changes to important connectivity features could create barrier effects to species, alter habitat availability or ecological functioning or result in changes in breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour.
Disturbance: physical, noise, lighting	Noise or activity during construction and operational activities could have adverse impacts on sensitive species (marine mammals and birds in particular).
	Increased lighting from construction or additional built development could: create barrier effects to species; result in changes in species breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour; or increase predation.
Biological Disturbance: invasive species, human disturbance	Sensitive habitats and species may experience adverse impacts from the introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species through construction activities and associated machinery, movement of soils and waste or from garden escapes.
	Increased human activity (including recreation; increase in pet ownership; increased incidence in fires) close to sensitive habitats and species may cause disturbance that could impact negatively on these features and lead to displacement of sensitive species from certain locations.
Contamination of land	Waste arising from the operation of developments associated with LDP could cause contamination of land which could have a direct detrimental impact on sensitive habitats or species or indirect impacts if subsequent emissions to water occur.
Emissions by air	The construction and operation of developments associated with LDP (in particular industrial developments) have the potential to generate chemical and dust emissions and could make a contribution to acid rain or nutrient deposition resulting in significant adverse impacts to animals and sensitive habitats for example they could cause localised smothering of vegetation or potential health issues in animals e.g. birds.

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the implementation of LDP
	Increased traffic generation could lead to increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which could have localized impacts on sensitive habitats or species.
Emissions by water and changes to hydrology	There is potential for an increased transport of chemical contaminants reaching the aquatic environment during the construction and operation of development associated with the LDP. This could range from transportation of fuels to cleaning or waste water treatment materials and associated drainage and discharges into watercourses. Changes to water quality can have harmful effects on fish, invertebrates, and vegetation, e.g. as a result of lowered oxygen levels.
	Surface run off and sediment release from construction works and operational activities associated with LDP can increase sediment deposition and turbidity within aquatic systems. This can adversely impact on associated wildlife by causing shading effects that can inhibit Plant and algal growth and smother organisms thereby limiting productivity and survival.
	Water abstraction from streams or lakes required for construction and operation of developments associated with LDP could have physical impacts on water levels, fish species at intakes, affect populations of fish or alter the configuration or availability of breeding gravels.
	Construction and operation of development associated with BDLP could alter the hydrology of sensitive habitats and species by either increasing or decreasing runoff or water percolation into aquifers.
	Increased demands on waste water treatment works or for septic tanks could lead to increased nutrient enrichment of waterbodies which could change water quality and increase eutrophication. This in turn could have a harmful effect on the ecological functioning of these systems.

List of Abbreviations in HRA

LDP	Local Development Plan
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the government of each country in whose territory the site lies.
SCI	Sites of Community Importance are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government of each country.
cSAC	Candidate SACs are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted.
pSAC	Possible SAC
SPA	Special Protection Area
pSPA	Proposed SPA
Ramsar	Sites listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance adopted at Ramsar, Iran in 1971. As a matter of policy these sites are treated in the same way as European sites.
ROI	Republic of Ireland

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